

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 1 of 76

[1- Governor Noem to Tribes: Remove All Checkpoints](#)

[2- Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller](#)

[5- Miss SD Competition Postponed Until 2021](#)

[6- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)

[7- May 8th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)

[9- Mother's Day Balloons](#)

[10- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)

[11- Weather Pages](#)

[14- Daily Devotional](#)

[15- 2020 Groton Events](#)

[16- News from the Associated Press](#)



Governor Noem to Tribes: Remove All Checkpoints

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today sent letters to Chairman Harold Frazier of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and President Bear Runner of the Oglala Sioux Tribe demanding that checkpoints be removed from State and US Highways. If the checkpoints are not removed within the next 48 hours, the State will take necessary legal action.

"We are strongest when we work together; this includes our battle against COVID-19," said Governor Noem. "I request that the tribes immediately cease interfering with or regulating traffic on US and State Highways and remove all travel checkpoints."

On April 8, 2020, the US Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (DOI) issued a memorandum regarding South Dakota tribal government authority to close or restrict travel on State and US Highways. The memo makes it clear that tribes must consult with the state of South Dakota and enter into an agreement with the state before closing or restricting travel on State or US Highways. Neither consultation nor agreement among the tribal and state government occurred. Regardless, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Oglala Sioux Tribe established checkpoints on State and US Highways to control and restrict non-tribal member travel.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2020 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 2 of 76

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Most of the numbers held steady today with some showing definite decreases; this is a good turn going into a weekend where we're never sure how the reporting will go.

We're at 1,290,500 cases in the US. The increase, both in raw number and percentage, has been fairly steady for four days, but this, although I would characterize it as steady, is slightly down. NY leads with 335,804 cases, a decrease in rate of growth. NJ has 135,454 cases, which is pretty steady. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: MA – 75,333, IL – 73,688, CA – 64,304, PA – 57,501, MI – 46,319, FL – 39,191, TX – 37,800, and CT – 32,411. These ten states account for 70% of US cases. 6 more states have over 20,000 cases, 8 more have over 10,000, 11 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 IL, IN, CA, NC, CT, MS, GA, and SC. States where new case reports are increasing include FL, OH, TX, VA, LA, WA, MD, and TN. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MI, NJ, CO, MA, RI, PA, and DE. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 77,276 deaths in the US. Today the rate of growth has declined for a second consecutive day and is back under 2000 new deaths reported. NY has 26,358, NJ has 8952, MA has 4702, MI has 4393, PA has 3724, IL has 3262, CT has 2874, CA has 2649 and LA has 2154. There are 6 more states over 1000 deaths, 6 more over 500, 16 more + DC and PR over 100, and 13 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

A lot of states have begun to relax restrictions, and more will in the next few weeks. These actions are mostly not in accordance with federal government guidelines issued by the White House because states have not yet met the benchmarks set for easing these. I am not here to debate the wisdom and/or necessity for doing that, just to discuss what we do next as individuals in response to changing conditions.

Here's the thing: Even if cases are on a downward trend where you live, they're not on a downward trend everywhere. And even if they were on a downward trend everywhere, that doesn't mean the virus is gone. It's still in your community, lurking in unsuspecting hosts who are shedding it and leaving it around for others to find. The population is still largely (most estimates are at least 90%) susceptible. That means, as soon as we start mingling again, there will be more cases and more deaths. This is not some expert's opinion, and it's not a matter of politics; it's a fact. The elderly and those with chronic conditions remain at high risk and will likely need to continue sheltering in place for a long time to come; but anyone of any age can get very ill with this and anyone of any age could die from it. This picture isn't going to change until we have an effective vaccine or at least 2/3 of us become infected, recover, and develop antibodies. In that latter scenario, of course, not everyone who is infected will recover at all; tens or even hundreds of thousands more of us would die. Either way, we're looking at a year or so, minimum.

Now, no one thinks we can just leave things as they are, businesses and schools closed, people sheltering in place, forever. We know domestic violence is on the rise, mental health crises have spiked, suicides have increased, and the economic downturn has been sharp. If we reopen too fast, more people will die than needed to; but also, if we wait too long, more people will die than needed to. And fact is, however you may feel about it, places are going to reopen; so we're looking at a need to limit exposure for at least a year, likely longer. We need more testing, and we need it last week. And we need an all-hands effort to limit transmission. A lot of that will depend on the decisions and actions of individuals, which is why this next is important on an individual level to each of us.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 3 of 76

The Atlantic pulled together three public health and environmental engineering experts to discuss how you might change your behaviors as your states open up over the next few weeks and months. It's a long read, so I have summarized the high points for you here.

- (1) Continue to maintain the six-foot distance—or more where practical.
- (2) Continue hand hygiene, avoiding touching your face, wearing a mask, and staying home if you're sick.
- (3) Make informed decisions about what is safe for you and for others. Because many states are reopening without having met the White House's guidelines for doing so, you may have to make an individual decision about the level of risk you can tolerate or the level of risk to which you are willing to expose others. Particularly if your personal risk status is high, then you may have to take additional precautions as we see what happens next; the risks for you could increase for a while as cases increase. Keep an eye on the numbers in your area and be prepared to adjust your own level of caution if you see much change in those numbers. Also remember that, if case counts spike, this is a signal you should have started being more careful a couple of weeks ago. Let that guide your choices.
- (4) Going for a walk or a picnic with a friend is considered fairly safe, as long as you maintain social distance—still six feet or more. If you choose to begin visiting friends and family, social distance there as well. Better to stay outdoors on a patio or lawn; if you're going to be indoors, open the windows and provide good ventilation. This is not a guarantee of safety, but it helps. Still no handshakes, hugs, cuddling, pats on the back, etc. I wish I had better news on that front, but I do not.
- (5) Consider carefully before letting children visit grandparents, especially if the grandparents are over 55. If you choose to permit a visit, it definitely should take place outdoors and while maintaining social distance. No hugging for sure.
- (6) If you get together with friends, bring your own food (and blanket if it's a picnic). Food itself is not the concern here as a vehicle for transmission, but shared serving utensils and such are. You don't want to be touching the same items as others who do not live in your household.
- (7) Keep the crowd size below 10, less if you must, to permit enough space for proper distancing.
- (8) Skip church unless it is a properly distanced outdoor gathering. Be particularly careful about this if you're older or high-risk. And don't have singing. Turns out singing is a super high-risk activity—forceful expelling of air and deep inhalation are a bad combination in a crowd these days. There have been some serious outbreaks among choir members, and there have been deaths as a result. Current guidance for church choirs is not to have them singing at all.
- (9) Add to your "bubble" only cautiously, if at all. (Your bubble includes people you're going to interact with at distances of less than six feet, spend time with indoors, break other rules with.) Consider that when you add anyone to your bubble, you are also adding everyone that person has had close contact with; so "vet" that person first. Better to avoid adding people if you can, but if you're struggling with feeling isolated, you may decide the benefit outweighs the risk. If so, proceed carefully.
- (10) If you're going to do any dating, maintain social distance, especially if you're not in a serious relationship. If you later decide things are going to be more serious, at some point you're going to have to make a decision about adding your dating partner to your bubble; but until then, sorry, you should forego a goodnight kiss—or even old-fashioned hand-holding.
- (11) Approach eating out with caution. Servers in restaurants should be wearing masks, and so should customers until it's time to eat. Tables should be widely spaced. Do not try this if you're at high risk, and be aware there is no really completely safe way to do this. Once again, consider the level of risk you can tolerate. If you do eat out, tip generously; those folks serving you are taking enormous risks to do so, much greater than yours by eating out. And remember you can also support local businesses without endangering their employees by getting take-out.
- (12) If you're shopping, continue to exercise all the precautions you've been using. Shopping is not super high-risk, but when weighed against the benefit, it's hard to think of most shopping beyond groceries and medications as an essential activity. I would still think about using curbside service where possible; even

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 4 of 76

small local shops are beginning to offer this sort of order-ahead-and-pick-up service, so there's a way to support them through this difficult time without taking chances. This just doesn't seem like a great time to go on a leisurely stroll through your favorite mall. If you're shopping, still plan to get in, buy what you need, and get out.

(13) If you choose to get a haircut, exercise caution. Both you and the hairdresser or barber should wear masks, although you may have to remove yours temporarily if the elastic is in the way. If you're high-risk, consider getting used to a shaggy look. If you want to support your local salon, stop in and buy products; you can leave your mask on and be quick about that.

(14) If you need dental work that cannot wait, of course, you'll go to the dentist. Routine check-ups and cleaning are more problematic. Most experts believe dental offices have solid procedures for minimizing the risks of transmitting infections, but the fact remains you cannot have dental work done while wearing a mask. Especially if you're high-risk, consider postponing.

(15) Tattooing, while not exactly an essential service, is generally considered to be relatively low-risk as long as both artist and client are wearing masks.

(16) Public transit is probably best avoided if you have a choice. If you can avoid it, you'll not only reduce your own risk, but you'll also make it safer for those who must use it by reducing crowding. Wear a mask, maintain distance, and use hand sanitizer when you disembark.

(17) Travel should be limited to very important trips—going to see a dying relative and such. Driving, if it can be completed in a day, is probably safer than flying, although if the airline is requiring masks for everyone on the plane, then the risk drops considerably. Also, consider the opportunities for exposure when driving if you stop for restrooms, food, and if it's a multi-day drive, overnight stays. In general, though, it's best to avoid traveling if you can. In addition to personal risk, there is the possibility of spreading the infection from one part of the country where it is more prevalent to another where it is not. Why would you do that?

(18) These experts had no issue with going to the beach or the pool as long as you maintain distance. Water is not considered to be a means of transmission at all. Be aware, however, that public restrooms and concession stands in these locations may be crowded, and that increases risk.

(19) Movies are more problematic, even with distancing, because a lot of people are going to share the air in an enclosed room for a fair period of time. Wear a mask if you choose to go, and do not go if the theater is at all crowded. Or find a drive-in; those are newly popular at the moment. Indoor concerts were not advised at all.

(20) Taking your kids to the park received mixed reviews from experts. Children aren't great at distancing, and lots of hands touch the structures on a playground. If you choose to go, children should wear masks and wash their hands afterward, and you should be alert to extended conversations with other children and find a way to gently break those up. Summer camp really received mixed reviews—from no way, no how, to no big deal if it's day camp. No one thought overnight camp was a good plan.

So there's a rundown of activities you are now or soon may be free to engage in. Make a considered decision based on your risk factors and your tolerance for risk and for the chance you might expose others.

And remember, slowing transmission is critical. The farther out into the future we push cases, the better off we all are. We've talked a lot about doing so to reduce pressure on the health care system so patients don't die simply because hospitals cannot care for them all; but there are other benefits to pushing cases forward. For example, the later someone gets sick, the more we'll know about what treatments work, increasing their likelihood of surviving. This also buys us more time to get our testing and contact tracing program up and running so we can get a handle on where the sources of infection are and do something about them; this has a prayer of helping only if the number of cases is manageable. Keeping down the number of Covid-19 patients needing care increases the probability other patients with other conditions can receive good care too. And we can also use the time this buys us to stockpile medical equipment and PPEs, test reagents and drugs. That will be good for patient survival and for the economy.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 5 of 76

And here we are approaching the end of another week, my tenth chronicling this catastrophe. I live in a place where this infection has not yet touched me personally. No one I know has died from this or even been sick. All I've experienced is some inconvenience. Someone said to me today that this is hard to take seriously when no one you know has suffered from it. That's true: It is, but expect that to change. I will be most surprised if anyone, by the time this is over, will escape so lightly, no matter where you live. If today you're still unscathed, count your blessings; if you're not, I am sorry for that. Meanwhile, if you have a place to shelter, if you have food to eat, if you're getting by, remind yourself to be grateful. If you're healthy and if those you love are healthy, remember that not everyone is as lucky as you are. And even if things are difficult right now, it will help to look at all you have instead of what you've lost. Gratitude is a healthy mental approach to life, especially during hard times. And while you're busy feeling grateful, look around you for someone who is not so lucky, someone who's lost more in this than you have, someone who's struggling, and find a way to touch that person's life. You have in your hands great power to do good. So take those hands and do that while you're still lucky and able.

I wish you all well going into the weekend. Stay healthy, and come back around again tomorrow. I'll be here.

Miss SD Competition Postponed Until 2021

May 8, 2020, Hot Springs, SD - The Miss America Organization announced Friday that the 2021 Miss America competition, previously scheduled for December, would be postponed until next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result of this announcement, the South Dakota Scholarship Foundation board voted to also postpone the Miss South Dakota and Miss South Dakota's Outstanding Teen competition to the Spring of 2021.

Executive Director of the South Dakota Scholarship Foundation, September Kirby, said the board is discussing options for current Miss South Dakota, Amber Hulse, and Miss South Dakota's Outstanding Teen, Payton Steffensen, to fulfill their duties until the next state competition in 2021. Kirby also said any local titleholders who qualified to compete this year would still be allowed to compete at the state competition in 2021.

Miss South Dakota Amber Hulse says she is supportive of the decision to postpone the state competition. "While it is disappointing to have to wait and see who the next woman will be to join the Miss South Dakota sisterhood, there is a silver lining. This decision gives the Miss South Dakota organization an opportunity to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and gives the next Miss South Dakota the iconic crowning moment and experience she deserves surrounded by her friends and family."

The 2021 Miss South Dakota competition will be held May 27-29 in Brookings. For updates on the Miss South Dakota Scholarship Organization and the 2021 state competition, visit <http://www.misssd.org>.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 6 of 76

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	May 6	May 7	May 8
Minnesota	7,851	8,579	9,365	10,088
Nebraska	6,438	6,771	7,190	7,831
Montana	456	456	456	458
Colorado	17,364	17,830	18,371	18,827
Wyoming	452	479	483	490
North Dakota	1,266	1,323	1,371	1,425
South Dakota	2,721	2,779	2,905	3,144
United States	1,204,475	1,228,609	1,256,972	1,286,833
US Deaths	71,078	73,431	75,670	77,280

Minnesota	+617	+728	+786	+723
Nebraska	+355	+333	+419	+741
Montana	+8	0	0	+2
Colorado	+457	+466	+541	+456
Wyoming	+8	+27	+4	+7
North Dakota	+41	+57	+48	+54
South Dakota	+53	+58	+126	+239
United States	+23,841	+24,134	+28,363	+29,861
US Deaths	+2,144	+2,353	+2,239	+1,610

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 7 of 76

May 8th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from Dept. of Health Lab records

Brown County is experience the fourth highest testing rate in South Dakota and as a result, there are more positive cases. Grant County has been moved to minimum to moderate. The spike in the state total is coming from the mass testing event held earlier this week in Sioux Falls with over 3,000 tests being administered. Today, Minnehaha reported 203 positive cases and Lincoln had nine more.

North Dakota reported two more deaths as that state's total is now 33.

South Dakota:

Positive: +239 (3,144 total) (113 more than yesterday)

Negative: +940 (18,149 total)

Hospitalized: +11 (247 total) - 76 currently hospitalized (6 more than yesterday)

Deaths: 31 total

Recovered: +41 (2069 total)

Active Cases: 1044 (198 more than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett 17, Brule +4 (66), Butte +3 (76), Campbell 12, Custer +3 (63), Dewey 50, Edmunds 28, Gregory 34, Haakon 18, Hanson -1 (31), Harding 1, Jackson +1 (13), Jones 6, Kingsburgy +4 (83), Mellette +2 (18), Perkins 8, Potter 36, Tripp +1 (63), unassigned +14 (493).

Brown: +14 positive (at least 3 more from DemKota), +2 recovered (36 of 107 recovered)

Clark: +1 positive (2 total)

Clay: +2 positive (9 total)

Hughes: +1 positive (15 total)

Lake: +1 positive (5 total)

Lincoln: +9 positive (180 total)

Meade: +1 positive (3 total)

Minnehaha: +203 positive, +35 recovered (1691 of 2535 recovered)

Moody: +3 positive (14 total)

Pennington: +1 positive (18 total)

Stanley: +1 recovered (7 of 8 recovered)

Todd: +1 positive (8 total)

Union: +2 positive, +3 recovered (22 of 50 recovered)

COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Active Cases	1044
Currently Hospitalized	76
Recovered	2069
Total Positive Cases*	3144
Total Negative Cases*	18149
Ever Hospitalized**	247
Deaths***	31

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

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 1,634 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 54 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,425. NDDoH reports two new deaths.

State & private labs have reported 42,501 total tests & 41,076 negatives.

714 ND patients are recovered.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 8 of 76

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	1	1	46
Beadle	21	19	210
Bennett	0	0	17
Bon Homme	4	4	119
Brookings	14	13	406
Brown	107	36	728
Brule	0	0	66
Buffalo	1	1	19
Butte	0	0	76
Campbell	0	0	12
Charles Mix	5	4	113
Clark	2	1	62
Clay	9	6	175
Codington	15	14	539
Corson	1	1	24
Custer	0	0	63
Davison	7	5	348
Day	10	2	67
Deuel	1	1	90
Dewey	0	0	50
Douglas	1	1	33
Edmunds	0	0	28
Fall River	2	1	72
Faulk	1	1	23
Grant	2	0	59
Gregory	0	0	34
Haakon	0	0	18
Hamlin	2	2	80
Hand	1	1	26
Hanson	0	0	31
Harding	0	0	1
Hughes	15	9	273
Hutchinson	3	3	110

Hyde	1	1	18
Jackson	0	0	13
Jerauld	6	5	42
Jones	0	0	6
Kingsbury	0	0	83
Lake	5	4	157
Lawrence	9	9	219
Lincoln	180	124	1657
Lyman	3	2	45
Marshall	1	1	58
McCook	4	3	112
McPherson	1	1	23
Meade	3	1	335
Mellette	0	0	18
Miner	1	1	23
Minnehaha	2535	1691	8041
Moody	14	4	107
Oglala Lakota	1	1	56
Pennington	18	10	1063
Perkins	0	0	8
Potter	0	0	36
Roberts	11	5	147
Sanborn	3	3	42
Spink	3	3	104
Stanley	8	7	44
Sully	1	1	15
Todd	8	1	103
Tripp	0	0	63
Turner	18	15	162
Union	50	22	266
Walworth	5	5	60
Yankton	29	23	506
Ziebach	1	0	6
Unassigned****	0	0	493

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	1466	15
Male	1678	16

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	251	0
20-29 years	562	0
30-39 years	724	0
40-49 years	597	1
50-59 years	543	4
60-69 years	301	5
70-79 years	77	4
80+ years	89	17

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 9 of 76



1



2

Mother's Day Balloons
Call/Text Paul at 397-7460
or Tina at 397-7285
Delivery available on Sunday.
\$6 each
Price includes delivery and tax
Ask about getting a gift certificate from a
Groton Business for your mom!



4



5



3



7



8



6



10



11

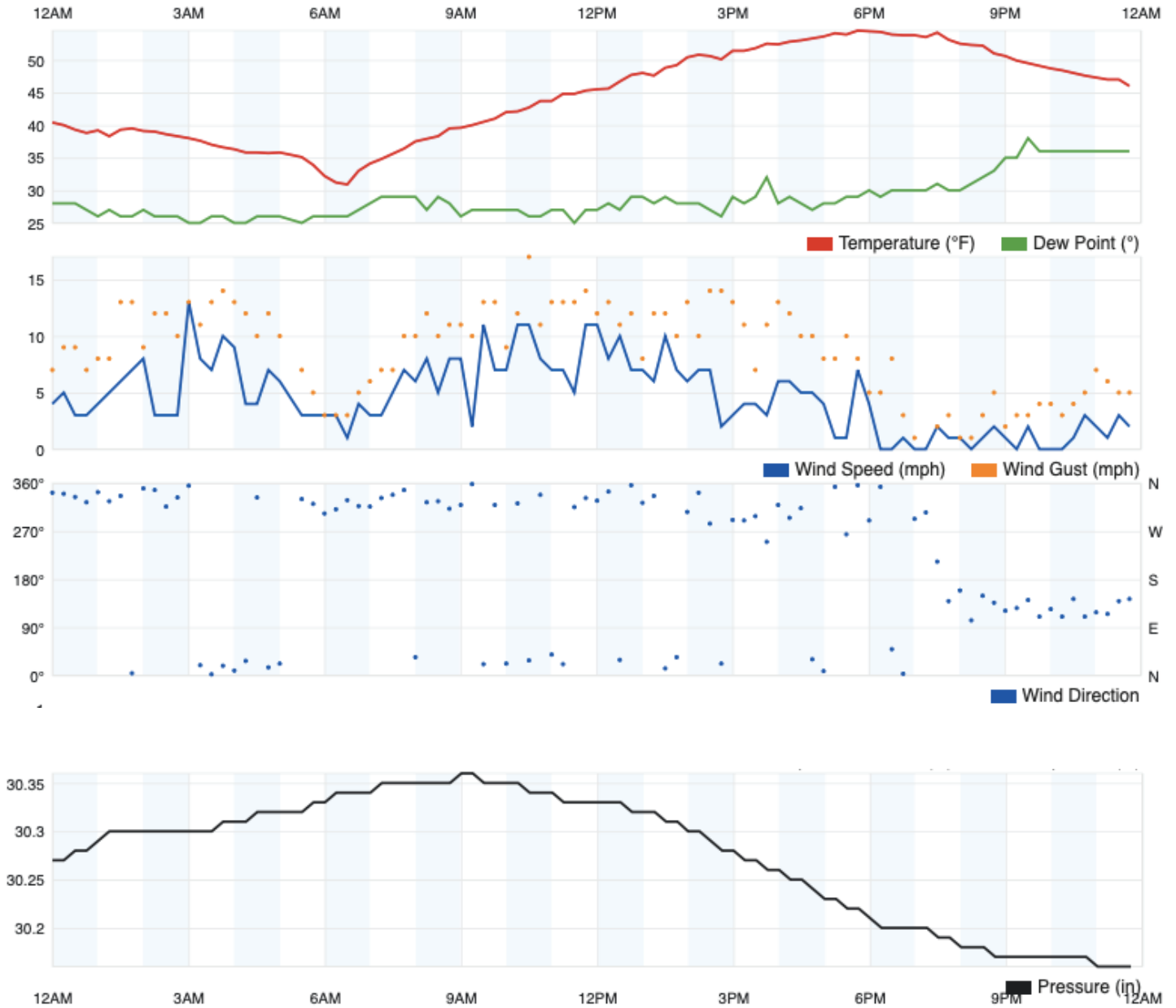


9

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 10 of 76

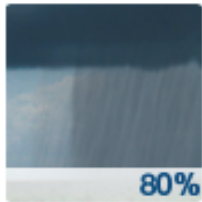
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 11 of 76

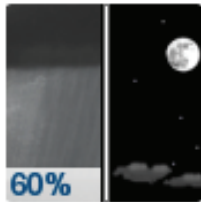
Today



Showers and Breezy

High: 53 °F ↓

Tonight



Showers Likely and Blustery then Mostly Clear

Low: 28 °F

Sunday



Sunny then Partly Sunny and Breezy

High: 47 °F

Sunday Night



Partly Cloudy then Frost

Low: 27 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 49 °F



Cold, Rainy, and Windy Today
Light Snow Possible in Northeast SD,
Western MN Later this Evening
Check out the latest forecast at
www.weather.gov/abr



Today

45 to 55°

- Temps Falling in the Afternoon
- Wind Gusts of 40 to 50 mph.
- Highest Winds Along the Missouri River

Sunday

40 to 50°

- Breezy with Northerly Winds

5/9/2020 4:48 AM

A low pressure system crossing the region today will bring showers, gusty northwesterly winds, and cold temperatures. Wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph will be possible, with the strongest winds occurring along and west of the Missouri River. Temperatures will fall this afternoon, with a mixture of rain and snow possible in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota this evening.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 12 of 76

Today in Weather History

May 9, 1999: Torrential rains of two to five inches fell in Lyman County during the late evening hours which caused flash flooding on Medicine Creek. The KOA Campgrounds near Kennebec were flooded including the main facility. Several roads were also flooded and damaged along Medicine Creek. Storm total rainfall in Kennebec was 3.40 inches. Also, a weak F0 tornado touched down briefly three miles south of Reliance with no damage reported. Winds gusting to 70 mph knocked over a 4000-bushel holding bin near Revillo.

1918: An F4 tornado moved across Floyd, Chickasaw, and Winneshiek Counties in northeast Iowa from two miles north of Pearl Rock to Calmar. Two people died east of Calmar when the tornado was a mile wide. Losses in and near Calmar totaled \$250,000. Overall, this tornado killed seven people and injured 15 others.

1933: An estimated F4 tornado moved through Monroe, Cumberland, and Russell Counties in Kentucky along a 60-mile path. The town of Tompkinsville, KY was the hardest hit with 18 people killed. Overall, 36 people lost their lives.

1966: Record snows fell in the northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, including 3.1 inches at Pittsburgh and 5.4 inches at Youngstown Ohio. Snow also extended across parts of New York State with eight inches reported in the southern Adirondacks.

1990: The 1990 Machilipatnam Cyclone was the worst disaster to affect Southern India since the 1977 Andhra Pradesh cyclone. This category four on the Saffir-Simpson scale had a severe impact on India, with over 967 people reported having been killed. Over 100,000 animals also died in the cyclone with the total cost of damages to crops estimated at over \$600 million (1990 USD).

1995: An F3 tornado produced \$10 million in damages along its 40-mile path across central Illinois. The tornado caused significant damage in Cantrall where three homes were destroyed, 10 had significant damage, and 11 had minor damage. The roof and interior of a grade school suffered extensive damage. The tornado passed about 2 miles southeast of the new NWS Office in Lincoln, Illinois.

1977 - A late season snowstorm hit parts of Pennsylvania, New York State, and southern and central New England. Heavier snowfall totals included 27 inches at Slide Mountain NY and 20 inches at Norwalk CT. At Boston it was the first May snow in 107 years of records. The heavy wet snow caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. The homes of half a million persons were without power following the storm. (9th-10th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Lightning struck some trees about 150 yards away from a home in Alabama, and followed the driveway to the home. The charge went through the house and burned all the electrical outlets, ruined appliances, and blasted a hole in the concrete floor of the basement. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather spread from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Eugene OR and Salem OR. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A massive cyclone in the central U.S. produced severe thunderstorms from eastern Texas to the Upper Ohio Valley. A strong (F-3) tornado ripped through Middleboro KY causing more than 22 million dollars damage. Thunderstorms in east central Texas produced hail three and a half inches in diameter at Groesbeck, and near Fairfield. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the south central U.S. produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 62 mph at Mira LA, and during the morning hours drenched Stuttgart AR with five inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. during the evening hours, mainly from southeastern Missouri to southwestern Indiana. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, including two strong (F-2) tornadoes in southern Illinois. Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 85 mph at Orient IL, and to 100 mph at West Salem. Thunderstorms drenched northeastern Illinois with up to 4.50 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

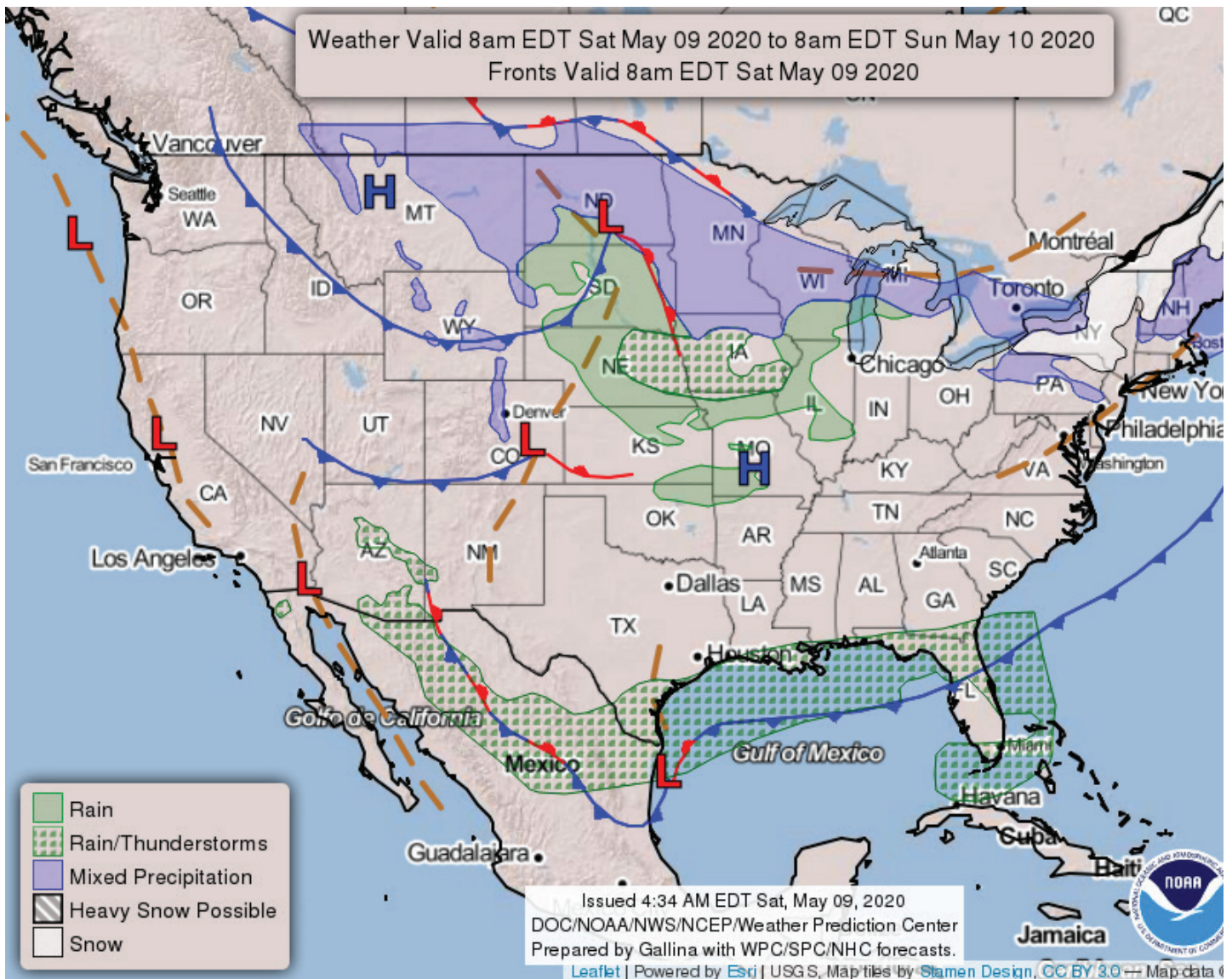
Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 13 of 76

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 54 °F at 5:11 PM
Low Temp: 31 °F at 6:22 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 10:28 AM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 93° in 1992
Record Low: 21° in 1966
Average High: 67°F
Average Low: 42°F
Average Precip in May.: 0.81
Precip to date in May.: 2.25
Average Precip to date: 4.84
Precip Year to Date: 4.15
Sunset Tonight: 8:51 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:09 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 14 of 76



GIVING IN OR GROWING IN HIM?

We all have had days filled with discouragement and disappointments. Perhaps more than we care to recall. Often they are used by the devil to defeat and destroy us.

Think of discouragement. It comes from being dissatisfied with things in the past, a distaste of our present situation or quite possibly a distrust of the future. When we allow ourselves to become discouraged, we are surrendering our courage to what we have allowed to overcome us. Discouragement is a signal from God that the devil is trying to take away the hope He has given us in Christ. When we feel discouraged we need to take away the "d" and replace it with an "H" and call for "His-courage" to enable us to be victorious.

We also need to realize that our disappointments are, in fact, His-appointments! Nothing enters our life by chance - only by and through Christ. Often when things do not go as we intended them to go, we consider them to be one of life's disappointments. However, what we need to realize is that God Himself is intervening in our life. He is attempting to get our attention. He wants us to make an adjustment to what we are doing with our lives or our thoughts or our intentions that are not in line with the plans He has for us.

Not everything that happens to us can be considered "good" at the time it happens or is happening - but, one day, everything will eventually be "good" for us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to believe that You love us too much to abandon us, care for us too much to harm us, and too gracious to keep what we need from us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 15 of 76

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

Sioux Falls bike shop deals with backlog during pandemic

By PATRICK ANDERSON Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Chad Pickard closed his Sioux Falls bike shop for two days this week just to catch up on a backlog of requests from people looking to have their ride serviced.

While so many Sioux Falls retailers and restaurants are losing business during the COVID-19 crisis, Spoke-N-Sport has experienced an influx of extra requests during an already busy time of year.

Pickard, who owns Spoke-N-Sport, said closing the store was a way to give his staff a mental health break while allowing them to get more customers back out riding as the weather improves.

"Spring is always a busy time for us and always somewhat stressful," Pickard told the Argus Leader. "But we're doing about twice as much service as we've ever done."

A couple of weeks of warmer weather contributed to Spoke-N-Sport's recent rush of service requests. Meanwhile, some of Pickard's part-time workers are balancing responsibilities in their other jobs that have been more affected by the pandemic. He has firefighters, nurses and a pastor on staff, Pickard said.

The extra requests are coming in as more Sioux Falls residents look to stay active. Gyms are closed, organized sports have been pushed back and even pick-up games at the local parks have been discouraged. Families instead have embraced outdoor activities like walks and bike rides to stay active.

Customers usually come in with similar sentiments about needing to get back on two wheels — about pulling an old bike out from storage or needing to get themselves or the kids out and about, Pickard said.

"There was a time when every kid learned how to ride a bike, and those kids are now adults and they remember how much they loved it," Pickard said. "So let's do it again. Let's dig it out of the garage. Let's find a new one."

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

05-20-22-61-70, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 2

(five, twenty, twenty-two, sixty-one, seventy; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$231 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

South Dakota high court upholds verdict in hospital case

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's high court upheld a jury's verdict that a children's specialty hospital was not negligent in restraining a student and documenting it.

The South Dakota Supreme Court said that a Minnehaha County court didn't abuse its discretion when it excluded evidence from the trial, the Argus Leader reported Thursday.

In 2013, Neil and Debbie Graff sued then Children's Care Hospital and Schools, now LifeScape, after their son lived there as a student.

The Graffs accused staff of using a prone restraint more than 130 times, causing their son emotional stress, according to the lawsuit. A prone restraint requires a person to be on the floor face-down, while holding their arms and legs. A technique that was later prohibited under administrative rules. The lawsuit said that the school didn't properly document the restraints or inform his parents about them.

The boy was diagnosed with global developmental delays and autism. He was at the facility from March to September of 2010.

A jury voted in favor of Children's Care in 2018. Hospital staff testified that restraints were used when he was acting out in an aggressive manner and dangerous to himself or others.

The Graff family appealed, saying the circuit court should have allowed the jury to see Department of Health surveys. But the circuit court said the surveys only showed "deficiencies in record-keeping done by CCHS" and would be damaging.

The justices said they were also missing a full jury trial transcript of the case, arguing the lack of one "looms large in this appeal," and that it "prevents their assessment of prejudice."

Graff family attorney Luce told the justices that the hospital's attorney was going to provide the transcript. But Children's Care's attorney Mark Haigh said it was the Graffs' responsibility.

Noem tells tribes to open roads, calls Smithfield workers

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Friday told tribes to take down road checkpoints they had set up to keep out unnecessary visitors because of concerns over the coronavirus.

The Republican governor said she would take legal action if the tribes didn't remove the checkpoints in 48 hours. Two tribes — the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe — set up the checkpoints last month in an attempt to lock down their reservations amid fears infections could decimate members. The move sets up a potential legal showdown between a governor who has avoided sweeping stay-at-home orders and tribes that assert their sovereign rights allow them to control who comes on reservations.

The tribes have taken stronger action than the state because they are concerned the virus could overwhelm fragile health care systems that serve many people with underlying health problems. They are still allowing essential businesses on to the reservations and said the checkpoints were set up to keep out tourists or other visitors who could be carrying coronavirus infections.

"I request that the tribes immediately cease interfering with or regulating traffic on US and State Highways and remove all travel checkpoints," Noem said in a statement.

Her spokeswoman Maggie Seidel said the checkpoints are illegal and the tribes should have taken them down last month after the Bureau of Indian Affairs said that tribes can close or restrict traffic on roads, but only if they get the permission of the owner of the road. A statement from the governor's office said the tribes have not consulted or gotten an agreement from the state.

But the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe said that it had met with local, state and federal officials to discuss the checkpoints and will not take them down.

Tribal chairman Harold Frazier issued a statement addressing Noem, saying, "You continuing to interfere in our efforts to do what science and facts dictate seriously undermine our ability to protect everyone on the reservation."

Chase Iron Eyes, a spokesman for Oglala Sioux president Julian Bear Runner, said he expected the tribe to defend its rights as a sovereign nation to keep out threats to their health.

"We'd be interested in talking face to face with Governor Noem and the attorney general and whoever else is involved," he said.

The governor also held calls with Smithfield employees on Thursday and Friday as the pork plant where hundreds of employees were infected reopens after being shuttered for more than three weeks.

Noem's spokesman Ian Fury said she spent about two hours speaking with employees in total and that the governor's office had reached out to every employee at the plant.

But an organization advocating for Smithfield employees disagreed. South Dakota Voices for Justice said in a statement that employees who were invited to the call were "handpicked by corporate HR."

The organization said it was still asking Noem to meet with advocates, along with employees, "so we can work together to ensure worker safety and Smithfield's return to producing products essential to our nation's food supply."

After the Department of Health held a mass testing for Smithfield employees and their family members this week in Sioux Falls, officials reported a spike in confirmed cases of coronavirus on Friday with 239

new infections.

State Epidemiologist Josh Clayton said health officials have not been able to sort out which test results came from the mass event, but said it was likely the spike in confirmed cases came from those results. A total of 203 of the confirmed cases were reported in Minnehaha County, which contains most of Sioux Falls.

Officials reported no new deaths from the virus, though 31 people have died statewide so far. Another 3,144 have tested positive, but the actual number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested and people can be infected without feeling sick.

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.

Some blame meatpacking workers, not plants, for virus spread

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — As coronavirus hotspots erupted at major U.S. meatpacking plants, experts criticized extremely tight working conditions that made the factories natural high risk contagion locations. But some Midwestern politicians have pointed the finger at the workers' living conditions, suggesting crowded homes bear some blame.

The comments — including a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice's remark that an outbreak didn't seem to have come from "regular folks" — outraged workers and advocates who slammed them as elitist and critical of immigrants, who make up a big share of America's meatpacking workforce.

And the remarks stood in contrast to public U.S. outpourings of gratitude for other essential workers like police officers, health care professionals and grocery store workers. The union that represents most packing plant workers on Friday estimated at least 30 have died of the virus.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, generated ire last month when discussing the closure of a Smithfield pork plant in Sioux Falls that infected 1,000 employees and people who came in contact with the workers, saying "99% of what's going on today wasn't happening inside the facility."

The spread of the virus happened "more at home, where these employees were going home and spreading some of the virus because a lot of these folks who work at this plant live in the community, the same building, sometimes in the same apartment," she said on Fox News.

Noem's comments created a foundation for blaming virus outbreaks on the meatpackers' home lives instead of conditions at plants, where employees often worked shoulder to shoulder with little to no protective gear as U.S. virus cases surged, said Taneeza Islam, who runs the refugee and immigrant support group South Dakota Voices for Peace.

Her group organized a letter to Noem to ask "her to listen to the people who have been directly impacted because she has not done that yet, which is very telling about her position in terms of being on the side of the people or being on the side of business."

Noem wasn't alone. Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, also a Republican, took heat for remarks last month about "people concentrated together" after a meatpacking plant virus outbreak in his state.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar cited crowded meatpacking worker living conditions in a call last week with members of Congress, according to a story first reported by Politico. Agency spokesman Michael Caputo on Thursday defended Azar's remarks as "nothing more than a statement of the obvious."

Achut Deng, a Sudanese refugee who works at the Sioux Falls plant, said after Noem's remarks that the comments offended her, calling them "ridiculous."

Many of Smithfield's Sioux Falls employees live in well-maintained apartment complexes near the plant, some in multi-generational homes so older family members can be cared for. Others have single-family units. Deng, who was infected and recovered, believes she caught the virus at the plant because she lives only with her three children who have been out of school.

In Wisconsin, Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Roggensack appeared to downplay the impact of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 19 of 76

an outbreak at the JBS Packerland beef plant in Green Bay while hearing arguments on a lawsuit seeking to strike down the state's stay-at-home order. Coronavirus cases in Brown County, where Green Bay lies, jumped from 60 to about 800 in two weeks, a state government lawyer told justices this week.

"These were due to the meatpacking, though," responded Roggensack, part of the court's conservative majority. "That's where Brown County got the flare. It wasn't just the regular folks in Brown County."

Christine Neumann Ortiz, executive director of the Wisconsin-based Latino advocacy group Voces de la Frontera, said Roggensack's comments "reflected elitist disdain for workers."

"It shows she considers their lives less worthy," Ortiz said.

Court spokesman Tom Sheehan said Roggensack was prohibited by court rules from responding.

Many U.S. meat plant workers are Latino but in recent years, particularly in the upper Midwest, African immigrants have taken meatpacking jobs. About 40 languages are spoken by workers at the Sioux Falls plant, the Centers for Disease Control has said.

Ortiz said many Latino and immigrant families with workers in the sector "are very family-oriented" and that could contribute to the virus' spread. But she insisted that the greater threats are workplace conditions and policies she claimed encourage workers to come in sick and do not provide enough worker virus testing.

In South Dakota, Noem said she made her meatpacking company worker living condition comments after the Sioux Falls plant closed and public health officials' focus shifted to stopping the outbreak where the workers lived.

She agreed to speak personally with some meatpacking workers after advocacy groups made the demand. Those calls, organized through Smithfield, were scheduled for Thursday night and Friday.

In Nebraska, meatpacking worker advocates disputed Ricketts' suggestion that an outbreak could have happened because of crowded worker households at the Tyson Foods beef plant in Dakota City, where hundreds were infected.

"The governor's statement that this is a community issue is completely untrue," said Rose Godinez, legal counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska, and the daughter of retired meatpacking workers.

She said plant workers told her that most employees who tested positive own or rent their homes and in general do not live in crowded, small dwellings.

Godinez said Ricketts' comments appeared aimed at "trying to deflect some of the companies' failures."

President Donald Trump last week ordered meat companies to stay open, and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue on Friday issued a statement applauding "the safe reopening" of major plants in 10 states.

The United Food and Commercial Workers said in response that the administration is rushing to reopen plants without assuring worker safety, citing at least 30 worker deaths and more than 10,000 workers infected. A Centers for Disease Control report last week cited 20 deaths and nearly 5,000 infections, while noting that some states didn't provide data.

The union is calling on the White House to mandate a range of safety recommendations by the CDC for meat plants and monitor them to make sure they're enforced.

Associated Press writers contributing to this report: Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Grant Schulte in Lincoln, Nebraska; Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska; Scott McFetridge in Des Moines, Iowa; Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington and Doug Glass in Minneapolis.

Bison transfers planned for US park, Indian reservation

By **MATTHEW BROWN** Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Hundreds of wild bison would be transferred from federal lands to a South Dakota American Indian Reservation and a North Dakota national park as a first step in the latest initiative to restore the burly animals to Western U.S. lands that they once roamed by the millions, federal and tribal officials said Friday.

Up to 200 American bison, also known as buffalo, would be transferred to South Dakota's Rosebud Sioux Reservation this fall, with plans for a herd of 1,500 within five years, according to tribal officials and the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 20 of 76

World Wildlife Fund, which is helping pay for the effort.

An unspecified number of bison also would be moved from Colorado's Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge to Theodore Roosevelt National Park within the next few months. Those animals would be studied to see how much they integrated with an existing herd at the park in western North Dakota.

For the Lakota Indians of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, the transfer represents a chance to reclaim some of the tribe's historical ties to bison that were lost when the huge herds that once migrated across their homeland were killed off by white settlers more than a century ago.

The animals will roam a 44-square-mile expanse of prairie grassland known as the Wolakota Buffalo Range and provide the tribe with both food and cultural sustenance, said Wizipan Little Elk, CEO of the Rosebud Sioux Economic Development Corporation.

"In our creation story, buffalo and humans emerged from the same place," Little Elk said. "At one point they took care of us, and now it's our turn to take care of them. ... When the buffalo is stronger, we will be stronger as well."

The transfers are being coordinated with the U.S. Department of Interior.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Thursday announced a 10-year initiative to advance bison restoration efforts that have been slowed by worries about the animals spreading disease and opposition from some ranchers, who see bison as potential competition for grazing space.

As many as 30 million to 60 million bison once roamed across most of North America, according to federal wildlife officials. Mass slaughters drove them to near extinction by the late 1800s. Today there are roughly 11,000 wild bison on public lands in 12 states.

Details on where the animals would come from were still being worked out. The U.S. government manages bison herds in Yellowstone National Park, Wind Cave National Park, Montana's National Bison Range and other locations.

Yellowstone is home to one of the largest remnant populations of the animals. Park administrators have been trying for years to expand a program to send portions of those bison herds to tribes or other suitable locations.

Hundreds of thousands of bison that have been interbred with cattle are raised on private ranches in the U.S. and Canada for their meat.

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter: @matthewbrownap

Technical colleges plan for on campus fall semester

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's four technical colleges plan to resume on-campus operations this fall, with face-to-face teaching and learning.

The South Dakota Board of Technical Education said Friday colleges will continue with online instruction for the spring and summer semesters.

Board Chairman Dane Dykhouse said the system will seek advice from experts when making plans for the fall.

"The system will continue to seek advice from experts in public health, epidemiology, and emergency management, as we make decisions to safely and appropriately prepare for the fall semester," said Dykhouse. "The health of our students, faculty, and staff is paramount."

Board officials said the technical college presidents and their staff are making plans to implement campus protocols required to address the ongoing public health challenge of COVID-19. More specific plans will be announced by the colleges in the coming weeks and months.

The board supports Lake Area Technical College, Mitchell Technical College, Southeast Technical College, and Western Dakota Technical College.

Little Richard, flamboyant rock 'n' roll pioneer, dead at 87

By KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Little Richard, the self-proclaimed “architect of rock ‘n’ roll” whose piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour irrevocably altered popular music while introducing black R&B to white America, has died Saturday. He was 87.

Pastor Bill Minson, a close friend of Little Richard’s, told The Associated Press that Little Richard died Saturday morning. Minson said he also spoke to Little Richard’s son and brother.

Minson added that the family is not releasing the cause of death.

Born Richard Penniman, Little Richard was one of rock ‘n’ roll’s founding fathers who helped shatter the color line on the music charts, joining Chuck Berry and Fats Domino in bringing what was once called “race music” into the mainstream. Richard’s hyperkinetic piano playing, coupled with his howling vocals and hairdo, made him an implausible sensation — a gay, black man celebrated across America during the buttoned-down Eisenhower era.

He sold more than 30 million records worldwide, and his influence on other musicians was equally staggering, from the Beatles and Otis Redding to Creedence Clearwater Revival and David Bowie. In his personal life, he wavered between raunch and religion, alternately embracing the Good Book and outrageous behavior.

“Little Richard? That’s rock ‘n’ roll,” Neil Young, who heard Richard’s riffs on the radio in Canada, told biographer Jimmy McDonough. “Little Richard was great on every record.”

It was 1956 when his classic “Tutti Frutti” landed like a hand grenade in the Top 40, exploding from radios and off turntables across the country. It was highlighted by Richard’s memorable call of “wop-bop-a-loo-bop-a-lop-bam-boom.”

A string of hits followed, providing the foundation of rock music: “Lucille,” “Keep A Knockin’,” “Long Tall Sally,” “Good Golly Miss Molly.” More than 40 years after the latter charted, Bruce Springsteen was still performing “Good Golly Miss Molly” live.

The Beatles’ Paul McCartney imitated Richard’s signature yelps — perhaps most notably in the “Wooooo!” from the hit “She Loves You.” Ex-bandmate John Lennon covered Richard’s “Rip It Up” and “Ready Teddy” on the 1975 “Rock and Roll” album.

When the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened in 1986, he was among the charter members with Elvis Presley, Berry, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Sam Cooke and others.

Few were quicker to acknowledge Little Richard’s seminal role than Richard himself. The flamboyant singer claimed he paved the way for Elvis, provided Mick Jagger with his stage moves and conducted vocal lessons for McCartney.

“I am the architect of rock ‘n’ roll!” Little Richard crowed at the 1988 Grammy Awards as the crowd rose in a standing ovation. “I am the originator!”

Richard Wayne Penniman was born in Macon, Georgia, during the Great Depression, one of 12 children. He was ostracized because he was effeminate and suffered a small deformity: his right leg was shorter than his left.

The family was religious, and Richard sang in local churches with a group called the Tiny Tots. The tug-of-war between his upbringing and rock ‘n’ roll excess tormented Penniman throughout his career.

Penniman was performing with bands by the age of 14, but there were problems at home over his sexual orientation. His father beat the boy and derided him as “half a son.”

Richard left home to join a minstrel show run by a man known as Sugarloaf Sam, occasionally appearing in drag.

In late 1955, Little Richard recorded the bawdy “Tutti Frutti,” with lyrics that were sanitized by a New Orleans songwriter. It went on to sell 1 million records over the next year.

When Little Richard’s hit was banned by many white-owned radio stations, white performers like Pat Boone and Elvis Presley did cover versions that topped the charts.

Little Richard went Hollywood with an appearance in “Don’t Knock the Rock.” But his wild lifestyle re-

mained at odds with his faith, and a conflicted Richard quit the business in 1957 to enroll in a theological school and get married.

Richard remained on the charts when his label released previously recorded material. And he recorded a gospel record, returning to his roots.

A 1962 arrest for a homosexual encounter in a bus station restroom led to his divorce and return to performing.

He mounted three tours of England between 1962 and 1964, with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones serving as opening acts. Back in the States, he put together a band that included guitarist Jimi Hendrix — and later fired Hendrix when he was late for a bus.

In 1968, Richard hit Las Vegas and relaunched his career. Within two years, he had another hit single and made the cover of Rolling Stone.

By the mid-1970s, Richard was battling a \$1,000-a-day cocaine problem and once again abandoned his musical career. He returned to religion, selling Bibles and renouncing homosexuality. For more than a decade, he vanished.

"If God can save an old homosexual like me, he can save anybody," Richard said.

But he returned, in 1986, in spectacular fashion. Little Richard was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and appeared in the movie "Down and Out in Beverly Hills."

A Little Richard song from the soundtrack, "Great Gosh A'Mighty," even put him back on the charts for the first time in more than 15 years. Little Richard was back to stay, enjoying another dose of celebrity that he fully embraced.

Macon, Georgia, named a street after its favorite son. And Little Richard was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In August 2002, he announced his retirement from live performing. But he continued to appear frequently on television, including a humorous appearance on a 2006 commercial for GEICO insurance.

Richard had hip surgery in November 2009 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and asked fans at the time to pray for him. He lived in the Nashville area at the time.

Former Associated Press Writer Larry McShane continued to this report.

NY's Cuomo criticized over highest nursing home death toll

By JIM MUSTIAN, JENNIFER PELTZ and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has won bipartisan praise for rallying supplies for his ravaged hospitals and helping slow the coronavirus, is coming under increasing criticism for not bringing that same level of commitment to a problem that has so far stymied him: nursing homes.

In part-lecture, part-cheerleading briefings that have made him a Democratic counter to President Donald Trump, Cuomo has often seemed dismissive and resigned to defeat when asked about his state leading the nation in nursing home deaths.

"We've tried everything to keep it out of a nursing home, but it's virtually impossible," Cuomo told reporters. "Now is not the best time to put your mother in a nursing home. That is a fact."

Residents' relatives, health care watchdogs and lawmakers from both parties cite problems with testing and transparency that have prevented officials — and the public — from grasping the full scale of the catastrophe.

And they are second-guessing a state directive that requires nursing homes take on new patients infected with COVID-19 — an order they say accelerated outbreaks in facilities that are prime breeding grounds for infectious diseases.

"The way this has been handled by the state is totally irresponsible, negligent and stupid," said Elaine Mazzotta, a nurse whose mother died last month of suspected COVID-19 at a Long Island nursing home. "They knew better. They shouldn't have sent these people into nursing homes."

Of the nation's more than 25,000 coronavirus deaths in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, more

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 23 of 76

than a fifth of them — about 5,300 — are in New York, according to a count by The Associated Press, and the toll has been increasing by an average of 20 to 25 deaths a day for the past few weeks.

"The numbers, the deaths keep ticking up," said MaryDel Wypych, an advocate for older adults in the Rochester area. "It's just very frustrating."

Cuomo faced criticism at a recent briefing for saying that providing masks and gowns to nursing homes is "not our job" because the homes are privately owned.

"It was such an insensitive thing to say," said state Assemblyman Ron Kim, a Queens Democrat who noted that it wasn't until just this past week that New York and neighboring states announced a plan to combine forces to buy protective gear and medical supplies for nursing homes.

"If we had focused on that early on," he said, "we could have saved a lot of lives."

Cuomo's administration defended its response to the crisis, saying it has provided more than 10 million pieces of protective equipment to nursing homes and created a database of 95,000 workers who have helped out in hundreds of New York homes.

"This was an overwhelming situation for everyone," said Jim Malatras, who serves on the governor's COVID-19 task force. "There were deaths and it's unfortunate. But it doesn't mean we weren't aggressive."

One key criticism is that New York took weeks after the first known care home outbreaks to begin publicly reporting the number of deaths in individual homes — and still doesn't report the number of cases. By the time New York began disclosing the deaths in the middle of last month, the state had several major outbreaks with at least 40 deaths each, most of which were a surprise to the surrounding communities and even some family members.

"They should have announced to the public: 'We have a problem in nursing homes. We're going to help them, but you need to know where it is,'" said former New York Lt. Gov. Betsy McCaughey, a Republican who now heads the nonprofit Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths. "Instead, they took the opposite tack: They hid it."

Further, there has been a lack of testing in several recent New York outbreaks, including one that killed 98 residents, many of whom died with COVID-19 symptoms without ever being tested.

Unlike West Virginia, New York has not mandated testing in its more than 1,150 nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Nor has Cuomo followed the lead of such states as Maryland, Florida, Tennessee and Wisconsin in dispatching National Guard teams to homes to conduct testing, triage and some care.

To be sure, it's difficult to gauge the impact of such actions. While those states reported fewer nursing home deaths than New York, several have a larger share of nursing home deaths out of their state's totals than New York's 25 percent.

"No state is doing even close to an adequate job," said Elaine Ryan, AARP's vice president for state advocacy.

New York has faced particular scrutiny for a March 25 state health department directive requiring nursing homes to take recovering coronavirus patients.

"A number of nursing homes have felt constrained by the order and admitted hospital discharged patients without knowing what their COVID status was," said Chris Laxton, executive director of the Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. "This order made an already difficult situation almost impossible."

At the time, the state was concerned about freeing up enough hospital beds for the sickest patients as cases surged. But critics have suggested nursing homes were already overwhelmed and a better solution might have been sending them to the virtually empty Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, which was retrofitted to treat COVID-19 patients, or an even less utilized Navy hospital ship that has since left Manhattan.

As the virus was racing through his nursing home, the head of Brooklyn's Cobble Hill Health Center frantically emailed state health officials April 9 asking just that.

"Is there a way for us to send our suspected covid cases to the Javitz center or the ship?" Donny Tuchman wrote.

Tuchman said he was denied permission. Eventually, more than 50 residents at his home would die.

Added the lawmaker Kim: "We could have figured out how to isolate these folks. We failed to do that."

Rich Azzopardi, a senior advisor to Cuomo, said controversy over use of the convention center and the

hospital ship is a "red herring" because patients discharged to nursing homes were "outside of what the feds would accept" at those facilities.

A state Health Department spokeswoman added the state is not tracking how many COVID-infected patients were admitted to nursing homes under the directive but homes should not take on new patients if they are "not medically prepared" to meet their needs.

"Throwing in new residents who may or may not have been stable at that point could not possibly have been to the benefit of any facility," said Dr. Roy Goldberg, medical director of the Kings Harbor Multicare Center, a nursing home in the Bronx that has so far seen 56 deaths.

Associated Press reporter Candice Choi and investigative news researcher Randy Herschaft contributed to this report from New York.

Russia, Belarus mark Victory Day in contrasting events

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin marked Victory Day, the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, in a ceremony shorn of its usual military parade and pomp by the coronavirus pandemic.

In neighboring Belarus, however, the ceremonies went ahead in full, with tens of thousands of people in the sort of proximity that has been almost unseen in the world for months.

Putin on Saturday laid flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier just outside the Kremlin walls and gave a short address honoring the valor and suffering of the Soviet army during the war.

Victory Day is Russia's most important secular holiday and this year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary, but the Red Square military parade and a mass procession called The Immortal Regiment were postponed as part of measures to stifle the spread of the virus.

The only vestige of the conventional show of military might was a flyover of central Moscow by 75 warplanes and helicopters.

The ceremony was the first public appearance in about a month for Putin, who has worked remotely as the virus took hold.

In his speech, he did not mention the virus — Russia has nearly 200,000 confirmed cases — or how its spread had blocked the observances that were to be a prestige project for him.

But he promised that full commemorations would take place.

"We will, as usual, widely and solemnly mark the anniversary date, do it with dignity, as our duty to those who have suffered, achieved and accomplished the victory tells us," he said. "There will be our main parade on Red Square, and the national march of the Immortal Regiment — the march of our grateful memory and inextricable, vital, living communication between generations."

The sharply reduced observances this year left a hole in Russia's civic and emotional calendar. The war, in which the Soviet Union lost an estimated 26 million people including 8.5 million soldiers, has become a fundamental piece of Russian national identity.

Beyond the stern formalities of the Red Square military parade and smaller parades in other cities, Russians in recent years have turned out in huge numbers for the Immortal Regiment processions, when civilians crowd the streets displaying photographs of relatives who died in the war or endured it. Russian officials routinely bristle at criticism of the Red Army's actions in the war, denouncing the comments as attempts to "rewrite history."

An online substitute for the processions was taking place Saturday and many people are expected to display relatives' photos from their balconies and windows in the evening.

A full military parade of some 3,000 soldiers was held Saturday in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, which has not imposed restrictions to block the virus' spread despite sharply rising infection figures. Tens of

thousands of spectators, few of them wearing masks, watched the event.

President Alexander Lukashenko, who has dismissed concerns about the virus as a "psychosis," said at the parade that Belarus' ordeal in the war "is incomparable with any difficulties of the present day."

Belarus's more than 21,000 recorded infections is higher than in neighboring Ukraine and Poland, both with populations about four times the size.

In the capitals of Latvia and Estonia, both former Soviet republics with large ethnic Russian populations, small groups were seen arriving throughout the day to lay flowers on Soviet war memorials.

Yuras Karmanau in Minsk, Belarus, and Jari Tanner in Helsinki contributed to this report.

Follow AP's coverage marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe at <https://apnews.com/WorldWarII>

The Latest: Spain PM says coronavirus 'has not disappeared'

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on the coronavirus pandemic. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Spain's prime minister says coronavirus 'has not disappeared.'
- Lack of food cited at India quarantine center, migrants flee.
- Belarus hosts large military parade despite sharply rising infections.

MADRID — Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez says loosening the nearly two-month lockdown will be for naught if people don't obey social distancing rules.

He reminded Spaniards on Saturday, two days before 51% of the nation of 47 million will be allowed to sit at outdoor cafes, "the virus has not disappeared."

On Monday, many regions not as hard hit by the virus will permit gatherings of up to 10 people and reopen churches, theaters, outdoor markets and other establishments with limits on occupancy.

Madrid and Barcelona will stay under stricter confinement. Two-meter social distancing rules remain in effect.

"The struggle goes on and will last until we find a vaccine," Sanchez said. "Meanwhile, we have to live with the virus, that is why we must reinforce our health care system and strengthen its capabilities."

Sánchez and Spain's army have warned of possible surges in the coming months.

Spain's health ministry reported 179 new confirmed deaths on Saturday, increasing the death toll to 26,478. A month ago, Spain was averaging 900 daily deaths.

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican Museums are gearing up to resume visits to the Sistine Chapel, Vatican Gardens and papal estate outside Rome after a two-month coronavirus lockdown.

New protocols will require reservations in advance, protective masks and likely afternoon and evening visiting to stagger crowds.

The Vatican hasn't announced a reopening date for the museums. The head of the Vatican City State that oversees the museums, Bishop Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, suggested Saturday it might not be ready to coincide with the May 18 reopening of Italian museums.

But he says the Vatican was finishing the installation of scanners to check temperatures of museum visitors and preparing protocols for tours of the Vatican Gardens and the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo on Lake Albano.

The Vatican Museums usually receive 7 million visitors a year and are the main source of income funding the Holy See bureaucracy. Vergez says the museums have a "solid" economic foundation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 26 of 76

The Vatican, a city state in the center of Rome, imposed a lockdown in tandem with the rest of Italy, which was the first European country hit hard by COVID-19. This week, Italy began a cautious and gradual reopening.

PATNA, India — About 70 people fled from a quarantine center in the Indian state of Bihar's Nawada district, alleging poor facilities and lack of food.

They are among the tens of thousands of migrant workers who left India's cities when a nationwide virus lockdown was imposed March 25, walking toward their home villages fearing starvation if they remained.

Local TV broadcast images of the migrants running from the center with their belongings on Saturday. As many as 150 migrants are quarantined at Aadarsh Inter School at Sirdala block in Nawada district, about 90 kilometers (56 miles) from the state capital of Patna.

District magistrate Yashpal Meena says 50 of the migrants fled after one of the occupants tested positive for COVID-19. He says at least 15 were found and brought back to the center.

India's pace of infection has spread in recent days since Prime Minister Narendra Modi partly lifted the lockdown to ease the economic hardships on migrant workers. The government is running special trains to give immigrants rides back home after 14 days in quarantine.

India has reported just under 60,000 positive cases of COVID-19 and 1,981 deaths.

LONDON -- The U.K.'s coastguard says it received the highest number of calls for assistance since the coronavirus lockdown began on March 23.

It says there were 97 incidents or 54% more than the average of 63 recorded for the previous month. The coastguard is typically used to help rescue swimmers or people in boats.

Matt Leat, duty commander with the Coastguard, says he understood why people may have been "tempted" to go seaside on a recent warm public holiday. But he adds it's "really vital" to observe stay-at-home orders and social distancing.

He urged people to exercise locally and "stretch your legs, not our resources."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to extend most of the coronavirus lockdown restrictions for another three weeks when he addresses the nation on Sunday.

MINSK, Belarus — Tens of thousands of people have turned out in the capital of Belarus despite sharply rising coronavirus infections to watch a military parade celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

Belarus has not imposed wide-ranging restrictions to halt the virus' spread. Authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed concerns about it as a "psychosis."

At Saturday's parade of some 3,000 soldiers, Lukashenko says Belarus' ordeal in the war "is incomparable with any difficulties of the present day."

Some aged war veterans in the stands at the parade wore masks, but in general there were few masks seen among the throng of spectators. Belarus, a country of about 9 million, has recorded more than 21,000 cases of coronavirus infection.

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas says Europe must acknowledge that it "wasn't well-prepared" for the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement marking Europe Day, Maas says initially most countries, including Germany, were focused on coping with the outbreak at home.

While defending the national response as "necessary, in order to safeguard our ability to act and then also help other," Maas says the European Union had "grown in the crisis."

The EU's sluggish response has given way to cross-border medical aid, a massive financial support package and coordinated scientific research programs.

Maas called the solidarity provided by EU member states "unique in the world," adding Germany wants

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 27 of 76

the bloc to emerge from the crisis stronger. Berlin takes over the six-month rotating presidency of the 27-nation EU on July 1.

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin has marked the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II in a ceremony shorn of its usual military parade and pomp by the coronavirus pandemic. Putin laid flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier just outside the Kremlin walls and gave a short address honoring the valor and suffering of the Soviet army during the war.

Victory Day is Russia's most important secular holiday. This year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary. The Red Square military parade and a mass procession called The Immortal Regiment were postponed as part of measures to stifle the spread of the virus.

The only vestige of the conventional show of military might was a flyover of central Moscow by 75 warplanes and helicopters.

SEOUL, South Korea — Seoul has shut down more than 2,100 nightclubs, hostess bars, and discos after dozens of infections were linked to clubgoers who went out last weekend as the country relaxed social distancing guidelines.

The measures imposed by Mayor Park Won-soon on Saturday came after the national government urged entertainment venues around the nation to close or otherwise enforce anti-virus measures, including distancing, temperature checks, keeping customer lists and requiring employees to wear masks.

Park says the entry bans on the facilities will be maintained until the city concludes the infections risks as meaningfully lowered.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier said 18 fresh cases were reported in the 24 hours to midnight Friday, all but one of them linked to a 29-year-old man who visited three clubs in Seoul's Itaewon district last Saturday before testing positive on Tuesday.

But Park says 16 more cases were confirmed in Seoul alone in the following hours since. He said this brought the total number of infections linked to clubgoers to 40 — 27 in Seoul, 12 in neighboring Incheon and Gyeonggi province towns, and one in the southern port city of Busan.

The KCDC, which compiles data from local governments, couldn't immediately confirm Park's numbers.

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A federal court has halted the Kentucky governor's temporary ban on mass gatherings from applying to in-person religious services.

The temporary restraining order issued Friday prevents Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's administration from enforcing the ban on mass gatherings at "any in-person religious service which adheres to applicable social distancing and hygiene guidelines."

The ruling sided with the Tabernacle Baptist Church, but applies statewide. Two other federal judges had previously ruled the ban was constitutional. But also on Friday, one of those judges in a separate order granted Maryville Baptist Church an injunction allowing in-person services at that specific church.

Beshear had previously announced that places of worship could hold in-person services starting May 20, as part of a broader plan to gradually reopen the state's economy. Earlier Friday, he outlined reopening requirements, including limiting attendance at in-person services to 33% of building occupancy capacity.

Beshear's office had not issued a statement on the injunctions as late Friday

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana's governor says the state will have 250 workers in place by the end of next week to contact people infected with the new coronavirus and track down people they have been in close contact with.

Such "contact tracing" is a key factor in whether the state will be able to start easing restrictions and closures of businesses.

Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards is under increasing pressure from Republican officials to restart Louisiana's economy. Increased testing is also a factor, and Edwards said the state plans to complete a

total of 200,000 tests for the month of May.

Edwards said the state has signed contracts with two companies that will establish the contact tracing system. That will bolster the 70 contact tracers currently working. The state expects to eventually hire as many as 700 contract tracers if needed.

Edwards' current emergency order, banning gatherings of more than 10 people and closing many non-essential businesses, expires May 15. He plans to announce Monday whether the restrictions will be extended.

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

Lawns are the new wedding venue in the age of coronavirus

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Love in the age of coronavirus sometimes requires a lawn.

Couples with dashed wedding plans due to lockdown restrictions have been tying the knot on those tidy green spreads instead, including at least one loaner.

Danielle Cartaxo and Ryan Cignarella were supposed to get married in West Orange, New Jersey, on April 11 at a venue with sweeping views of the New York City skyline. Rather than abandon their Easter Weekend nuptials, they headed outdoors.

The tricky part was finding a lawn. The two live in Wayne, Pennsylvania, about 100 miles away, but they had a marriage license issued in West Orange, where Cartaxo lived until she was 5.

"We still felt like at the end of the day making that commitment to each other was important and we didn't want to wait," Cartaxo said.

But they were barred from marrying in a public space. That's where a stranger, Janice Berman, comes in. A friend contacted Berman, and she offered her front lawn, with a few yellow spring blooms on one of her bushes as backdrop.

"My husband played the 'Wedding March' for them on a speaker," Berman said. "We watched from the porch. It was really fun. They were so sweet."

The couple's maid of honor and best man attended at a safe distance, as did Cartaxo's parents. The bride, in a short white dress, held a bouquet. A small, handwritten "Just Married" sign marked the occasion. They'll have a party later.

"You have to be grateful in times like this," Cignarella said. "Sometimes when you put goodness out into the world it kind of comes back to you."

In Muskego, Wisconsin, Kalee and Tim Gbur weren't in need of a borrowed lawn. They used their own for their wedding on April 18.

They had originally hoped to marry last October, but Kalee's paternal grandmother fell ill and died in December at 101. Her grandparents' wedding anniversary was April 18, and her chosen venue, a grand hotel nearby, was free on that date.

Then the pandemic struck and the couple's plans were scuttled once again. What was once supposed to be a big affair with more than 250 guests was moved to their lawn.

"We went through weeks of trying to decide. Should we move our date altogether? Should we keep it April 18? I said, 'You know what, I don't want to give up our date. I want to honor my grandma,'" Kalee said.

They were going to keep it small and simple. Then her mother and sister stepped in with balloons and a huge "Just Married" sign with their names in their wedding colors, purple and gray. Loved ones decorated their cars and stood in the street, honking their horns in celebration. A neighbor built a wooden backdrop adorned with tea candles and flowers.

Somebody else provided a white plastic aisle runner.

"When we were doing this we were like, this is just not going to be what we wanted, but it actually ended up being better than what we wanted. It really touched our hearts seeing everybody there, just coming together," Tim said. "I wouldn't change a thing."

With social distancing in place, and high wind blowing, Kalee's not sure exactly what their impromptu guests actually heard during the ceremony.

"They were pretty far," she laughed.

While nonstop global news about the effects of the coronavirus has become commonplace, so, too, are the stories about the kindness of strangers and individuals who have sacrificed for others. "One Good Thing" is an Associated Press continuing series reflecting these acts of kindness.

US governors aim to boost production of medical supplies

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Frustrated by scarce supplies and a chaotic marketplace amid the coronavirus outbreak, some U.S. governors are seeking to bolster their home-state production of vital medical and protective equipment to ensure a reliable long-term source for state stockpiles.

The efforts come as states have been competing against each other, the federal government, hospitals, emergency responders and even other countries to get items such as N95 masks, gloves, medical gowns and hand sanitizer — often paying higher-than-usual prices because of the high demand.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. got much of its medical supplies from China. But China limited exports earlier this year amid its own fight against the virus, which began there. When the federal stockpile ran short, states that had only minimal supplies were left scrambling to try to buy needed equipment.

"We always hear about overseas — it's cheaper to do it in China, it's cheaper to do it in other countries," Missouri Gov. Mike Parson told The Associated Press. "But one thing we've learned about this whole deal is we need to be dependent on ourselves. ... If we can do it here in Missouri, I think it would be well-worth the extra money."

Governors in Florida, Indiana and Massachusetts — all, like Parson, Republicans — made similar statements this week, as states start to shift from triaging current needs to planning for a potential second wave of the coronavirus or some unknown future disease. While numerous U.S. companies have shifted production lines temporarily to make needed supplies, some states are looking for a long-term commitment.

The efforts align with a common campaign theme of Republican President Donald Trump, who has railed against American companies that moved jobs overseas. Trump has particularly accused China of unfair trade practices.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, one of Trump's closest allies, said at a press conference that one of the biggest problems the state faced when trying to obtain personal protective equipment is that much of it was manufactured in China and is slow to arrive.

"All this stuff should be made in the United States and not in China. We don't want our health destiny resting in the hands of a communist dictatorship," DeSantis said. "We would certainly welcome any of the manufacturing of the masks, the PPE kits, whatever you are doing. Come to Florida."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said in a statement to the AP that it "always encourages strengthening local capacity before requesting national assistance." If states can get personal protective equipment through their own producers or donations, they may not need to request as much from the federal government, FEMA said.

To highlight the need for more local manufacturing, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker toured a plant that has been working with his administration to adjust its textile production lines to make isolation gowns for health care workers. Though U.S. labor costs remain higher than in many foreign countries, he said the in-state production ultimately could be more affordable.

"The cost of getting a product from here to any place in Massachusetts is profoundly cheap," Baker said at the Merrow Manufacturing plant in Fall River, Massachusetts. "But the cost right now of getting that kind of a product from anywhere else in the world to the U.S. and then to Massachusetts? Very high."

An AP review of more than 20 states last month found that before the coronavirus outbreak, many had only a modest supply of N95 masks, gowns, gloves and other medical equipment that, in some cases,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 30 of 76

were well past their expiration dates. The insufficient stockpiles stemmed from a variety of factors — a decline in public health funding, an assumption that more supplies could be quickly obtained when needed and a belief that the federal government could come to the rescue with its Strategic National Stockpile.

But the federal stockpile also proved insufficient, and states rapidly depleted their reserves.

Parson said he wants Missouri to build up a 30- to-60-day supply of personal protective equipment, which he said could help spur demand for new in-state manufacturers.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, announced this week that 19 local manufacturers will produce up to 1 million face shields over the next five weeks to add to the Ohio Department of Health stockpile.

When Honeywell announced plans last month to start making N95 face masks at a Phoenix facility, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey quickly announced that more than 6 million of those masks would go to the Arizona Department of Health Services over the next year to distribute to local health and safety agencies. The Arizona facility, when paired with another new Honeywell production site in Rhode Island, is expected to make about 20 million N95 masks a month.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said the coronavirus crisis provides “a huge opportunity” to build a supply chain for personal protective equipment in Indiana that not only could fulfill the state’s needs but also be sold elsewhere.

“This is a state (where) we make things; we always have,” Holcomb said. “This is a time that allows us to move into this field like maybe no other time.”

Associated Press writers Jonathan J. Cooper in Phoenix; Tom Davies in Indianapolis; Steve LeBlanc in Boston; Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio; and Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

Outbreaks in Germany, S. Korea show the risks in easing up

By NICOLE WINFIELD, VANESSA GERA and JOE McDONALD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — South Korea’s capital closed down more than 2,100 bars and other nightspots Saturday because of a new cluster of coronavirus infections, and Germany scrambled to contain fresh outbreaks at slaughterhouses, underscoring the dangers authorities face as they try to reopen their economies.

Elsewhere, Belarus, which has not locked down despite increasing case numbers, saw tens of thousands of people turn out to mark Victory Day, the anniversary of Nazi Germany’s defeat in 1945. That was in contrast to Russia, where a muted event took place over an empty Red Square.

Around the world, the U.S. and other hard-hit countries are wrestling with how to ease curbs on business and public activity without touching off a deadly second wave of infection.

Germany and South Korea have both carried out extensive testing and contact tracing and have been hailed for avoiding the mass deaths that have overwhelmed other countries. But even there, authorities have struggled with finding the balance between saving lives and saving jobs.

In South Korea, where a decline in new cases had prompted the government to loosen up, Seoul shut down thousands of nightclubs, hostess bars and discos after dozens of infections were linked to clubgoers who went out last weekend as the country relaxed its social-distancing guidelines.

Many of the infections were linked to a 29-year-old man who visited three nightclubs before testing positive.

Health officials in Germany faced outbreaks at three slaughterhouses in what was seen as a test of the government’s strategy for dealing with any resurgence of the virus as restrictions are eased.

Meanwhile, governments came under fresh scrutiny over their handling of the crisis.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Europe must acknowledge that it “wasn’t well-prepared” for the outbreak. In the U.S., internal government emails obtained by The Associated Press show that a decision to shelve detailed advice from the nation’s top disease control experts for reopening communities during the epidemic came from the highest levels of the White House.

Worldwide, the virus is confirmed to have infected over 3.9 million people and killed more than 275,000,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 31 of 76

according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University based on data reported by governments.

Hard-hit Italy saw people return to the streets for their traditional aperitivos and revel in fine weather as restrictions there have eased. In some cases, people went too far for the authorities.

Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala warned that "a handful of crazy people" were putting the city's economic recovery at risk, and threatened to shut down the city's trendy Navigli district after crowds of young Milanese were seen out at aperitivo hour ignoring social-distancing rules.

In Rome, the Campo dei Fiori flower and vegetable market was bustling Saturday morning, the first weekend Italians were allowed outside for more than just work and necessities. The Campo piazza, long a center of nightlife, has also come back to life at the evening aperitivo hour.

But confusion about what is now allowed and what is not created frustration for business owners.

Carlo Alberto, owner of the TabaCafe, an Argentine empanada bar that was selling cocktails to a few customers Friday, said that since reopening this week he had been threatened with a fine by the police because of the crowds that had formed in front of his bar.

"Am I supposed to send them home? They need a guard here to do that," he said. "The laws aren't clear, the decree isn't clear. You don't know what you can do."

Elsewhere, Pakistan allowed shops, factories, construction sites and some other businesses to reopen Saturday, while more than 1,600 new cases and 24 deaths were reported. Prime Minister Imran Khan said the government is rolling back curbs because it can't support millions of families that depend on daily wages.

The government warned that controls will be reimposed if the public fails to follow social-distancing guidelines.

Others imposed new restrictions: Kuwait, in the Middle East, announced a lockdown from Sunday through May 30.

Spaniards learned Friday night that health authorities will allow regions that have demonstrated their hospitals are prepared to handle a second wave of infections to scale back their lockdowns.

In parts of Spain, mostly heavily rural regions, bars and restaurants will be allowed to open up 50% of their outdoor seating on Monday, and churches, theaters and museums can also reopen with limits on attendance.

But Madrid and Barcelona, the country's largest cities, both badly hit by the virus, will remain locked down.

"The pandemic is evolving favorably, but there is a risk of another outbreak that could generate a serious catastrophe," Spanish health official Fernando Simón said Saturday. "Personal responsibility is vital."

The outbreak forced Russian President Vladimir Putin to mark Victory Day without the usual pomp of a military parade in Moscow's Red Square.

This year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary. Instead, Putin laid flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier, and a show of military might was limited to a flyover of 75 warplanes and helicopters.

Belarus, though, held a military parade in front of big crowds in the capital, Minsk, despite sharply rising coronavirus infections. Belarus has not imposed restrictions to halt the virus' spread, and authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed concerns about it as a "psychosis."

Gera reported from Warsaw, Poland, and McDonald from Beijing. Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

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

AP FACT CHECK: Trump is not credible on virus death tolls

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Truth can be a casualty when President Donald Trump talks about deaths from the coronavirus in the United States.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 32 of 76

He's claimed that the United States is on par with Germany in keeping down COVID-19 deaths, which is not the case in mortality reports. He's brushed off projections that deaths in his country will double from earlier forecasts, misrepresenting how the numbers were calculated.

These distortions emerged over the past week alongside his relentless bragging about the U.S. testing system, which failed in the crucial early weeks and remains globally subpar. Pushing to get the country back to normal, Trump also suggested that children are safe from the coronavirus, ignoring the several thousand kids known to have been sickened by it, some gravely.

A look at his remarks and how they compare with the facts:

DEATH COUNTS

TRUMP on pandemic deaths: "Now, Germany — we're very close to Germany. We have a very good relationship with Germany. Germany has done very good. They have a very low mortality rate like we do. We have a low mortality rate also." — remarks Thursday in meeting with Gov. Greg Abbott, R-Texas.

THE FACTS: The U.S. is not in Germany's league in this regard.

The U.S. is experiencing far more reported COVID-19 deaths as a proportion of its population than is Germany. The U.S. has reported COVID-19 deaths at a rate of 234 per 1 million people. For Germany, that rate is 90 deaths per million. The U.S. surpasses many other countries in reported deaths per million, too, and it leads the world in deaths from the virus overall.

Because countries track COVID-19 deaths somewhat differently, exact conclusions can't be reached when comparing nations.

The mortality rate is a different measure from deaths per million. It refers to what percentage of people who get the disease die from it.

The answer is as yet unknown, and there are several reasons for that.

First, the count changes every day as new infections and deaths are recorded. More important, every country is testing differently. Knowing the real denominator, the true number of people who become infected, is key to determining what portion of them die.

Some countries, the U.S. among them, have had trouble making enough tests available. A test shortage means the sickest get tested first. Even with a good supply of tests, someone who's otherwise healthy and has mild symptoms may not be tested and thus go uncounted.

TRUMP: "And, frankly, if you took New York out of the equation, we would really have a low mortality rate." — remarks with Abbott.

THE FACTS: New York, being part of the U.S., cannot be subtracted from it to make the numbers look better.

It's true that New York has experienced far more COVID-19 deaths than has any other state.

TRUMP, asked about a White House-endorsed model now showing 134,000 deaths from the coronavirus by August, doubling its previous prediction: "Those projections are with no mitigation. We are doing mitigation." — remarks to reporters Tuesday.

THE FACTS: That's incorrect. The projections by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation do take into account social distancing and other mitigation, which have begun to be loosened in several states at Trump's urging.

The institute, based at the University of Washington, said its revised estimates released Monday reflect the recent reopening of many states and relaxing of social distancing restrictions. Its initial estimates assumed longer stay at home orders lasting through May.

"The revised projections reflect rising mobility in most U.S. 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," the institute said.

"Our model now assumes that mandates that are currently still in place and have not been scheduled to be relaxed will stay in place through at least August 4," it added on its website. Officials on the White House coronavirus task force have praised the institute's work and cited its research in their briefings.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 33 of 76

TESTING

TRUMP: "In any event, we have great testing capacity, and have performed 6.5 million tests, which is more than every country in the world, combined!" — tweet Monday.

THE FACTS: This was not remotely true when he said it and it's no closer to the truth now.

The U.S. has tested far fewer people than all other countries combined. It also lags dozens of countries in testing its population proportionally.

Together, just three countries — Russia, Germany and Italy — had reported more tests than the U.S. when Trump tweeted.

That remains the case. As of late Friday, the U.S. had reported conducting more than 8.3 million tests since the pandemic began. That compared with more than 18.7 million tests by the other countries in the top 10 of the testing count.

The U.S. was followed by Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Britain, India, France, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

CHILDREN & COVID-19

TRUMP: "With young children and children, we'd like to see the schools open early next season and on time. It's incredible how the — it's very unique how the children aren't affected, but people that have problems and older people are — can be very badly hurt, injured, or die from this problem." — remarks with Native leaders Tuesday in Phoenix, Arizona.

TRUMP: "You see how well children seem to do. It's incredible. We realize how strong children are, right?" — remarks with nurses Wednesday.

TRUMP: "It affects older people. It infects — if you have any problem — heart, diabetes, even a little weak heart, a little diabetes, a little — this thing is vicious, and it can take you out, and it can take you out very strongly. But children do very well." — remarks May 3 on Fox News.

THE FACTS: His suggestion that children are in the clear is false. To say they "do very well" with the disease is more accurate, based on what is known so far. His implication that the risk is limited to the old and sick is incorrect.

It's true kids get sick less often than do adults and tend to be less ill when they do get sick. But his statements overlook severe COVID-19 illnesses and at least several deaths of children in the U.S. And they gloss over the fact that kids can spread disease without showing symptoms themselves.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied the pandemic's effect on different ages in the U.S. early on and reviewed preliminary research in China, where the coronavirus started. It said social distancing is important for children, too, for their own safety and that of others.

"Whereas most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious COVID-19 illness resulting in hospitalization still occurs in this age group," the CDC study says.

At the beginning of April, the CDC analyzed nearly 150,000 laboratory-confirmed U.S. COVID-19 cases and found nearly 2,600 children with the disease. Since then the number of confirmed cases overall in the U.S. has rocketed, making the April findings very preliminary.

The pediatric cases that were found at the time, though relatively few, spanned all ages of childhood. The median age of children sick with COVID-19 was 11. More than 5%, perhaps as many as 20%, required hospitalization.

People 18 to 64 were by far the largest age group sickened by the virus — 76% of the confirmed cases studied by the CDC. COVID-19 was not and is not limited to the oldest people, even if they are the most vulnerable age group.

Associated Press writers Luran Neergaard and Meghan Hoyer contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

Georgia man's death raises echoes of US racial terror legacy

By AARON MORRISON and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — Many people saw more than the last moments of Ahmaud Arbery's life when a video emerged this week of white men armed with guns confronting the black man, a struggle with punches thrown, three shots fired and Arbery collapsing dead.

The Feb. 23 shooting in coastal Georgia is drawing comparisons to a much darker period of U.S. history — when extrajudicial killings of black people, almost exclusively at the hands of white male vigilantes, inflicted racial terror on African Americans. It frequently happened with law enforcement complicity or feigned ignorance.

The footage of Arbery's death was not the only thing that rattled the nation's conscience. It took more than two months for his pursuers — who told police they suspected he was a burglar — to be arrested and taken into custody. That is fueling calls for the resignation of local authorities who initially investigated the case and reforms of Georgia's criminal justice system.

"The modern-day lynching of Mr. Arbery is yet another reminder of the vile and wicked racism that persists in parts of our country," said the Rev. James Woodall, state president of the Georgia NAACP. "The slothfulness and inaction of the judicial system, in this case, is a gross testament to the blatant white racial privileges that permeates throughout our country and our institutions."

The case appeared frozen as it was handled by police in the small city of Brunswick.

After the video emerged on social media this week, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took one day after launching its probe Wednesday to arrest Gregory McMichael, 64, and his son, Travis McMichael, 34. They are jailed on murder and aggravated assault charges and did not have lawyers as of Friday who could comment on their behalf.

Several hundred people crowded outside the Glynn County Courthouse on Friday to mark what would have been Arbery's 26th birthday, with many saying it's too soon to celebrate because the case must still go before a grand jury that will decide whether to indict the McMichaels.

Arbery's killing reminds some of Emmett Till, a black teen from Chicago who was kidnapped in 1955 in Mississippi, lynched and dumped in a river after he was falsely accused of whistling at a white woman. An all-white jury acquitted the white men accused of killing Till, who was 14. His death helped fuel the civil rights movement and brought about the eventual passage of federal civil rights protections.

During Friday's protest, demonstrator Anthony Johnson said he sees echoes of Till and others. Arbery "died because he was black like the rest of them did. For no reason," Johnson said.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper Jones, has said she thinks her son, a former high school football player, was jogging for exercise before he was killed.

Gregory and Travis McMichael told police they suspected Arbery was the same man recorded by a security camera committing a break-in. When they saw Arbery running on a Sunday afternoon, the McMichaels grabbed guns, got into a pickup truck and pursued him.

Video footage shows a runner grappling with a man armed with a shotgun. Shots are fired and the runner staggers and falls. A Georgia Bureau of Investigation statement said the McMichaels confronted Arbery with two firearms and that Travis McMichael fatally shot Arbery.

Arbery's death has drawn sharp reactions and expressions of sadness across the U.S. A Change.org petition calling for justice hit over 700,000 signatures on Friday, President Donald Trump called the video "very disturbing" and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said it was like seeing Arbery "lynched before our very eyes."

The Players Coalition, a racial justice group made up of professional athletes, sent a letter Friday to the FBI and prosecutors requesting a federal investigation into Arbery's death.

"The absence of justice is ever present," said Malcolm Jenkins, a safety for the New Orleans Saints and

the foundation's co-founder. "Another black life has been taken by a bullet and the slaying justified by white fear."

Others joined demands from Arbery's family for the resignations of local law enforcement authorities. Before the case was turned over to special prosecutor Tom Durden, Glynn County District Attorney Jackie Johnson and Ware County District Attorney George Barnhill recused themselves because of their connections to the McMichaels. Gregory McMichael was an investigator for Johnson's office before retiring last year and before that served as a local police officer.

Johnson and Barnhill "must be held accountable for their shameless dereliction of duty," said Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and a former head of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division during President Barack Obama's administration. She also called on the Justice Department to investigate Arbery's killing under the federal hate crimes statute.

While likening Arbery's death to a lynching may seem like an apt comparison, doing so isn't sufficient for understanding why the man's death is a tragedy, said Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative. The organization has cataloged more than 4,400 racial terror lynchings in the U.S. that took place between Reconstruction and World War II.

"Law enforcement did nothing about lynchings for a century," Stevenson said. "It should be a national priority to eliminate this kind of racial terror so that we do more, not less, when someone like Ahmaud Arbery is killed in this manner."

He added: "Our nation continues to underestimate the painful burden that has been placed on black people and the traumatic injury we continue to aggravate when our justice system refuses to hold accountable perpetrators of unnecessary violence if they are white and invoke some public safety defense."

The shooting of Arbery has also been compared to the 2012 case of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black Florida teenager shot and killed by a neighborhood watch volunteer.

The shooter, George Zimmerman, who is white and Hispanic, suspected without evidence that Martin was casing the area for burglaries. Zimmerman was not charged initially after claiming self-defense under Florida's "stand your ground" law, which provides immunity to people who use lethal force out of fear for their lives.

Phillip Agnew, an organizer with the Movement for Black Lives, said vigilantism involving black victims has been "driven by hate, resentment and generations-old racial anxiety."

"We need to make people afraid to do something like this to other people," Agnew added. "And until we do that, this is going to continue to happen."

Morrison reported from New York and is a member of The Associated Press' Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>.

Not giving it up cold turkey: Bird hunters just winging it

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

FALMOUTH, Maine (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic has canceled dozens of spring traditions, from college basketball's Final Four to Easter Sunday services, but there's one rite that's going on largely unfettered — turkey hunting.

Every state except Alaska, which is the only state with no turkeys, hosts a spring turkey hunt each year. The birds, whose domesticated cousins grace Thanksgiving tables from Hawaii to Maine, are among America's greatest conservation success stories.

The hunt is taking on a new look in some parts of the country this year due to social distancing laws. Many states, including Maine, are requiring out-of-state residents to self quarantine for two weeks when they enter the state. That functionally eliminates out-of-state hunters from coming to the Pine Tree State to bag a bird.

Other states, including Kansas, have suspended the sale of turkey permits to non-residents to reduce

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 36 of 76

spread of the coronavirus. Some have suspended the need to register a bird after shooting it.

But all 49 states are going ahead with turkey hunts in some form or another, said Mark Hatfield, national director of conservation services for the South Carolina-based National Wild Turkey Federation. That even includes Hawaii, where the birds aren't native but were introduced in the 1960s.

In Maine, hunter Joel Pitcher said he expects a good season, though it won't be as social an affair as it has been in the past.

"I'm not just going to go with a bunch of buddies, like I normally would. It cuts into it that way. Somebody might call and say hey what are you doing tomorrow? Hunting turkey? That's not going to happen," Pitcher said.

Turkey hunting takes place every spring in part to control the population of the birds, which were once numbered in only the tens of thousands before repopulation efforts brought them back. The population rose to 1.3 million in the early 1970s and is now more than 6 million, Hatfield said.

The turkeys have become so successful that in some parts of the country they're overpopulated and can cause nuisances, such as the traffic disruptions that sometimes emerge in suburban Boston when a flock of the birds decides to mill around in the road. A continued hunt is important to manage the population, Hatfield said.

The earliest hunts began in March and some last until June. Hatfield said it's difficult to know how successful this year's hunt will be, but with many hunters laid off or furloughed or simply working from home, they might have more opportunities to participate in what is traditionally a weekend activity. Early season hunters seemed to be having a very successful year, he said.

"That person may say, 'Well I'm going to turkey hunt more. I used to be able to turkey hunt more on the weekend, now I can do it during the week.' It could increase the harvest of resident hunters," Hatfield said.

Two million turkey hunters bagged about 665,000 birds in spring 2014, the most recent year for which statistics are available, Hatfield said. The biggest harvests were in Pennsylvania and Missouri, while Georgia and Texas also had large hauls, he said.

In Vermont, it appears that more hunters are taking part in the spring turkey hunting season this year than last year. In late April, 13% more young hunters participated in the annual youth turkey hunt, based on license sales, and it appeared that 23% more resident adult hunters bought turkey licenses for the start of the spring season, which opened May 1, said Mark Scott, the director of wildlife for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

"We can't confirm for sure if this will mean more turkey hunters given that maybe hunters are buying their license earlier than normal," he wrote in an email. "But based on increased youth participation we feel there is more interest; and we are optimistic that we will see more people getting out into Vermont's woods and fields."

But in Kansas, the suspension of non-resident turkey permits has hurt business for Randy Lyons, the owner of Randy's Turkey Hunting Adventure in the northwestern part of the state. He said he has "zero clients this year." It is a side business for him, and he normally has five or six clients.

"The virus definitely hasn't helped. Most of the time we rely on out-of-state hunters," Lyons said.

In New Hampshire, state wildlife biologist Allison Keating said the state has experienced a slight increase in turkey license sales for both adults and youth compared to this time last year.

The state launched an online registration system so hunters can register their birds online, as opposed to having to do it in person. More than 100 turkeys were registered on the first day of the state's weekend for youth hunters, she said.

Associated Press writers Pat Graham in Denver, Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire, Lisa Rathke in Montpelier, Vermont, and Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas contributed to this report.

Coronavirus takes a toll in Sweden's immigrant community

By DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The flight from Italy was one of the last arrivals that day at the Stockholm airport. A Swedish couple in their 50s walked up and loaded their skis into Razzak Khalaf's taxi.

It was early March and concerns over the coronavirus were already present, but the couple, both coughing for the entire 45-minute journey, assured Khalaf they were healthy and just suffering from a change in the weather. Four days later, the Iraqi immigrant got seriously ill with COVID-19.

Still not able to return to work, Khalaf is part of the growing evidence that those in immigrant communities in the Nordic nations are being hit harder by the pandemic than the general population.

Sweden took a relatively soft approach to fighting the coronavirus, one that attracted international attention. Large gatherings were banned but restaurants and schools for younger children have stayed open. The government has urged social distancing, and Swedes have largely complied.

The country has paid a heavy price, with 3,175 fatalities from COVID-19. That's more than 31 deaths per 100,000 population, compared with about 8 per 100,000 in neighboring Denmark, which imposed a strict lockdown early on that is only now being slowly lifted.

Inside Sweden's immigrant communities, anecdotal evidence emerged early in the outbreak that suggested that some — particularly those from Somalia and Iraq — were hit harder than others. Last month, data from Sweden's Public Health Agency confirmed that Somali Swedes made up almost 5 percent of the country's COVID-19 cases, yet represented less than 1 percent of its 10 million people.

Many in these communities are more likely to live in crowded, multigeneration households and are unable to work remotely.

"No one cares for taxi drivers in Sweden," said Khalaf, who tested positive and was admitted to a hospital when his condition deteriorated. Despite difficulties breathing, the 49-year-old says he was sent home after six hours and told his body was strong enough to "fight it off."

In Finland, Helsinki authorities warned of a similar over-representation among Somali immigrants in the capital — some 200 cases, or about 14%, of all confirmed infections. In Norway, where immigrants make up nearly 15% of the general population, they represent about 25% of confirmed coronavirus cases.

"I think a pandemic like this one, or any crisis will hit the most vulnerable people in society the most wherever in the world, and we see this in many many countries," said Isabella Lovin, Sweden's deputy prime minister, in an interview with The Associated Press.

Noting that the virus was spreading faster in some crowded Stockholm suburbs, Lovin said the city is providing short-term accommodation to some people whose relatives are vulnerable.

Sweden, Norway and Finland recognized early failings in community outreach in minority languages and are seeking to fix this. The town of Jarfalla, outside Stockholm, has had high school students hand out leaflets in Somali, Persian, French and other languages, urging people to wash their hands and stay home if sick.

With Sweden's relatively low-key approach to fighting the virus that relies mainly on voluntary social distancing, there are concerns the message has not reached everyone in immigrant neighborhoods.

"It's important that everyone living here who has a different mother tongue gets the right information," said Warda Addallah, a 17-year-old Somali Swede.

Anders Wallensten, Sweden's deputy state epidemiologist, said officials have worked harder on communicating with such groups "to make sure they have the knowledge to protect themselves and avoid spreading the disease to others."

But teacher and community activist Rashid Musa says the problem runs much deeper.

"I wish it were that easy — that you needed to just translate a few papers," he said. "We need to look at the more fundamental issue, which is class, which is racism, which is social status, which is income."

"The rich have the opportunity to put themselves into quarantine, they can go to their summer houses," Musa said.

A key government recommendation for individuals to work from home if possible is harder in marginal-

ized areas where many have jobs in the service sector.

"How can a bus driver or a taxi driver work from home?" Musa asked.

Evidence of this disparity can be found in anonymous data aggregated by mobile phone operator Telia, which has given the Swedish Health Authority information about population mobility. By comparing the number of people in an area early in the morning with those who traveled to another area for at least an hour later in the day, Telia estimates how many go to work and how many stay home.

"We do see certain areas that are maybe more affluent with a bigger number of people working from home," said Kristofer Agren, the head of data insights for Telia. Data shows a 12 percentage point difference between Danderyd, one of Stockholm's most affluent suburbs, and Botkryka, one with the highest percentage of first- and second-generation immigrants.

"Many of our members have contracted the coronavirus," said Akil Zahiri, who helps administer the mosque on the outskirts of Stockholm. "But you do the best you can."

Zahiri spoke to the AP as he sat alone in Sweden's largest Shiite mosque coordinating a video call with the congregation to pray for a member who died of COVID-19. The sound of prayer crackled through the computer, breaking the silence in the empty hall.

During Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast during the day, the mosque canceled all public events. Zahiri reminded the congregation to take part in social distancing, urging them to stay home for the Iftar, the daily breaking of the fast after sunset, and to avoid sharing food with friends.

Associated Press writers Jari Tanner in Helsinki, Finland, and Mark Lewis in Stavanger, Norway, contributed.

Being ostracized: Virus leaves its mark for UK's elderly

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — From resounding applause to ostracization and isolation.

That's essentially the journey Lt. Cmdr. Robert Embleton, who served 34 years in Britain's Royal Navy, took by ambulance when discharged from Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, southwestern England, on April 8 following his near-month sickness with COVID-19.

Arriving at his retirement home, he immediately went into self-isolation with his wife of 55 years, Jean, who has shown no symptoms of the virus. Soon after, Embleton realized he was carrying some new baggage — the stigma of the virus. He even considered buying a bell to warn of his presence.

"I was regarded as a sort of leper, a plague carrier. Some people when they spotted me, they recoiled," the 79-year-old told The Associated Press. "I was particularly regarded as a menace."

That's some contrast to his final moments at Derriford Hospital, when the "somewhat embarrassed" Embleton received a round of applause from all the front-line staff from the cleaners to the doctors.

Embleton, who received an MBE honor from Queen Elizabeth II in 1993 for outstanding service to the Royal Navy, thinks the lockdown rules are too strict for some elderly people. He understands the need to shield those elderly with underlying health conditions, but says others should be treated with much more "common sense."

The prospect of this type of stigmatization was something he had discussed in Derriford with the 57-year-old Poorna Gunasekera when they were in a ward together recovering from the virus.

Gunasekera, who unbeknownst to Embleton was a doctor and had been treated by three of his former students, thanks the former naval officer for "single-handedly" lifting his spirits. The fact that Embleton had visited Gunasekera's hometown of Kandy, Sri Lanka, forged a connection, and the two have reconnected on Facebook since their brushes with death.

"I've always been a morale officer," Embleton explains.

Gunasekera remembers that all four in the ward shared the same anxiety — of becoming fresh sources of outbreaks after leaving the hospital.

"It is a dreadful fear and we expected to be somewhat stigmatized, and that would be normal because I suppose I would do the same if the roles were reversed," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 39 of 76

Time is a great healer and the stigma slowly abates. On a gloriously sunny early spring Sunday afternoon, there was a breakthrough.

As is his wont for a traditional Sunday lunch, Embleton decided to open one of his finest bottles of wine — a Châteauneuf-du-Pape — and offered a glass to the lady next door, who is also 79.

"Then, blinking in the sunshine, all along the top floor, the others came out with their glasses filled and gave all a wave and a smile," he said. "Cheer and optimism."

British charities for the elderly, like Age U.K., have heard similar tales and hope that a ramped-up testing program will provide some reassurance.

"It just adds another layer of tragedy to the situation that residents who recover — something that should be celebrated as a much-needed piece of good news — are feeling isolated and ostracized as a result," said Ruthe Isden, head of health influencing at Age U.K.

The ostracization may now have gone, but the isolation may be in its infancy, especially if social distancing restrictions on the elderly remain in place for longer, until a vaccine is, if ever, produced. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has also recovered from COVID-19, is set to extend the lockdown restrictions on Sunday, bar a couple of minor tweaks.

Embleton says the lockdown is "sapping the equanimity and self-confidence" of most elderly people and is "increasingly intolerable" for those like him who have no underlying health conditions and who are hugely active members of their local communities.

"It is not right to treat all old people as children, incapable of assessing risk," he said.

Luckily, both he and Jean have the upheavals and separation of the naval years to help them get through the weeks and months ahead.

Embleton said the isolation reminds him of the time he spent aboard the HMS Galatea, a Leander-class frigate, near the Arctic Circle, during the Cod War of 1976 — confrontations between Britain and Iceland over North Atlantic fishing rights.

"Doing things like a best part of the year in the Arctic, just you and your ship, it's rather like being in the over-70s lockdown for COVID-19," he said.

"You start thinking differently, you've got to get on with it, you won't be going home, you won't be seeing your family."

The same applies for Jean, who endured her husband's brush with death in self-isolation at home.

"It's not pleasant but as a serviceman's wife, particularly a naval wife, then you get used to these periods of time that you are on your own so I probably weathered it rather better than some people," she said.

"I was brought up to think that husbands went away and that they came back."

Well, Lt. Cmdr. Robert Embleton did come back and he's planning a lot more long walks, gym workouts and drinking fine wines.

And hopefully before he turns 80 in November.

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

Roy Horn of Siegfried & Roy dies from coronavirus at 75

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Roy Horn of Siegfried & Roy, the duo whose extraordinary magic tricks astonished millions until Horn was critically injured in 2003 by one of the act's famed white tigers, has died. He was 75.

Horn died of complications from the coronavirus on Friday in a Las Vegas hospital, according to a statement released by publicist Dave Kirvin.

"Today, the world has lost one of the greats of magic, but I have lost my best friend," Siegfried Fischbacher said in the statement. "From the moment we met, I knew Roy and I, together, would change the world. There could be no Siegfried without Roy, and no Roy without Siegfried."

He was injured in October 2003 when a tiger named Montecore attacked him on stage at the Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas. He had severe neck injuries, lost a lot of blood and later suffered a stroke. He underwent lengthy rehabilitation, but the attack ended the long-running Las Vegas Strip production.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 40 of 76

The darker-haired of the flashy duo, Horn was credited with the idea of introducing an exotic animal — his pet cheetah — to the magic act.

"Roy was a fighter his whole life including during these final days," Fischbacher said. "I give my heartfelt appreciation to the team of doctors, nurses and staff at Mountain View Hospital who worked heroically against this insidious virus that ultimately took Roy's life."

The two became an institution in Las Vegas, where their magic and artistry consistently attracted sellout crowds. The pair performed six shows a week, 44 weeks per year.

They returned to the stage in February 2009 for what was billed as their one and only comeback performance, to raise funds for the new Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas. The brief performance, which included Montecore, became the basis of an episode of the ABC television show "20/20."

Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher, both natives of Germany, had first teamed up in 1957 and made their Las Vegas debut a decade later. Siegfried & Roy began performing at the Mirage in 1990.

When they signed a lifetime contract with the Mirage in 2001, it was estimated they had performed 5,000 shows at the casino for 10 million fans since 1990 and had grossed more than \$1 billion. That came on top of thousands of shows at other venues in earlier years.

"Throughout the history of Las Vegas, no artists have meant more to the development of Las Vegas' global reputation as the entertainment capital of the world than Siegfried and Roy," Terry Lanni, chairman of MGM Mirage, the casino's parent company, said after the attack.

The pair gained international recognition for helping to save rare white tigers and white lions from extinction. Their \$10 million compound was home to dozens of rare animals over the years. The white lions and white tigers were the result of a preservation program that began in the 1980s.

"The good news is that the white tigers and white lions are going into the 21st century," Horn said in a 1999 interview with The Associated Press. "The bad news is that if we don't do something about the tigers in the wild, they will disappear."

Siegfried & Roy's show, incorporating animal antics and magic tricks, included about 20 white tigers and lions, the number varying depending on the night. The show also had other exotic animals, including an elephant.

"Their show is so fast-paced the viewer has time only to gasp before the next dazzlement," an Associated Press reviewer wrote in 1989 when they brought their act to New York.

"A white car drives on stage — as Liberace used to do — bringing a mother white tiger and three cubs. Roy rides an elephant, which disappears, then reappears. At the end, a 650-pound white tiger climbs atop a globe. With Roy on his back, they're pulled into the air."

"It's a Las Vegas show and it's nonstop entertainment. New Yorkers aren't too sophisticated for this."

A later spectacular developed for the Mirage opened with a flashy "Star Wars" scenario and Horn and Fischbacher arriving in their own mini space capsules. Another segment had Horn sitting atop a 30-foot (9.1-meter) pyramid that was "destroyed" by an explosion and fire, leaving him levitated high above the stage.

It was halfway during a performance Oct. 3, 2003, when Horn was alone on stage with the tiger that it suddenly lunged at him.

Horn, who had turned 59 that day, had never been injured during a show before, "not a scratch, not by an animal," Bernie Yuman, the pair's longtime manager, said at the time.

He said he thought Montecore, a 7-year-old male, got distracted by something in the audience and Horn was trying to calm him. Horn himself said later that he fainted and the tiger was trying to help him by dragging him offstage, though animal experts disputed that possibility.

An investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture explored a variety of theories but was unable to reach a conclusion on what caused the tiger to attack. In its final report, the USDA also said the show's producers had failed to protect the audience because there was no barrier separating the exotic animals from the crowd.

In October 2006, three years after the attack, Horn and Fischbacher attended their induction into the

Las Vegas Walk of Stars. Horn's speech was sluggish at times and he walked a bit slow, but he called the event "a deeply emotional experience."

Born in Nordenham, Germany, Horn met Fischbacher on a cruise ship in 1957. Fischbacher performed the magic tricks, while Horn became his assistant, eventually suggesting using the cheetah in the act.

They honed their animal-magic show in small clubs in Germany and Switzerland in the mid-1960s. Their break came in a Monte Carlo casino when an agent in the audience invited them to Las Vegas. The pair made their debut at the Tropicana hotel-casino in the late 1960s.

The illusionists became popular in the 1970s, receiving their first star billing in 1978 as headliners of the Stardust's "Lido de Paris." Their show "Beyond Belief" opened in 1981 at the Frontier and played to thousands over seven years.

When Horn and Fischbacher became U.S. citizens in 1988, an elated Horn said, "Being an American means all the things we believe in."

Horn once hand-fed a white lion cub born prematurely, starting with an eyedropper. But when a cub was donated to a zoo, Horn said he was heartbroken.

"When you love something, the hardest thing is to let it go," he said. "But this is what Siegfried and Roy do. We live our dreams, and we fulfill our destiny."

Funeral services will be private, with an expected public memorial.

Online:

<http://www.siegfriedandroy.com>

'Fear kills:' WWII vets recall war, reject panic over virus

ROMAN KUTUKOV and YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

YAKUTSK, Russia (AP) — On the 75th anniversary of the allied victory in the World War II, The Associated Press spoke to veterans in ex-Soviet countries and discovered that lessons they learned during the war are helping them cope with a new major challenge — the coronavirus pandemic. As they recalled the horrors of the war, they also talked about how strength and tenacity were key to survival both then and now. Here is some of their testimony.

'GIVING IN TO PANIC IS LIKE SURRENDERING TO THE ENEMY'

For Russian World War II veteran Valentina Efremova, the coronavirus pandemic is like going through the war all over again.

After the war, the 96-year-old said, "our lives were improving, year after year. And suddenly there's this pandemic, which is like another war ... this time, a biological one."

But Efremova knows better than to panic and believes the outbreak — just like the Nazis back in the 1940s — will be defeated in the end. "Giving in to panic is like surrendering to the enemy," she said.

Efremova served as a nurse in field hospitals on the front lines of the Red Army throughout the war and the apartment she shares with her daughter in Russia's Far Eastern city of Yakutsk is decorated with numerous war-time photos. Dozens of medals weigh heavily on her jacket.

A 17-year-old high school student, she lived with her family in a small town north of Moscow when the Nazis attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. It was a nice summer, she recalls, and everyone was planning their vacations.

"And then, like a bombshell, Molotov's (the USSR's foreign minister) announcement came: On June 22, at 4 a.m., the war started. Hitler attacked us," Efremova said.

Efremova was first drafted to dig trenches outside Moscow. After several weeks, she volunteered to help out the army medics and started working in field hospitals. "I'd never had anything to do with medicine, not to mention the horror of seeing mutilated men — both young and old," she said.

She worked as a military nurse for the next four years, moving around the country with her division. She tended wounds, fed and dressed soldiers, played guitar and sang to her patients. "They would sing

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 42 of 76

along," she said. "They seemed no longer in as much pain. They seemed at home."

By the end of the war, she carried three war wounds, including one that makes her limp to this day.

Efremova was having lunch not far from Kaliningrad in Western Russia on May 9, 1945, when she heard gun shots. Efremova's first thought was that it was yet another Nazi attack, but it turns out it was Russian officers firing shots into the air, celebrating victory.

Efremova remembers the joyous moment to this day and says that marking the 75th anniversary of Victory Day is important to Russian veterans. For many of them, it could be the last one.

She is used to celebrating the occasion with lots of guests in the house. On Saturday, they are planning a small parade outside her window. She realizes there might not be that many such celebrations left.

"We're the last remaining veterans," she said.

FIGHTING SPIRIT HASN'T DIMMED

The coronavirus does not scare Anatoly Grakovich.

The 91-year-old who fought the Nazis as a teenage member of partisan formations in Soviet Belarus intends to take part in Belarus' Victory Day commemorations on Saturday.

The country has not imposed restrictions despite a growing number of confirmed infections and will hold a large parade in Minsk to mark the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Grakovich began working with the partisans in 1942 at the age of 13, first as a courier for weapons and eventually as a fighter.

"Children are less afraid of death. I did not feel fear, there was excitement. Only after the war, I began to realize that I was walking along the edge," Grakovich said.

In 1943, he was wounded in his hand during an operation to attack Nazis near the village of Oputok.

"The partisans were hungry and ate the bark of trees all the time, but a wound in the arm and pain helped me to forget about food. Then I realized that there can only be one pain," he recalled.

Grakovich said he never counted how many Germans he killed, but said he "cried with joy" at saving villages from the occupiers.

"There was a lot of death and filth in the war, but more often it's the bright moments that come to mind," he said.

On participation in the parade, he said that "our president says that we don't need to be afraid of the virus, it's all panic."

"War teaches us that fear kills worse than disease. I was not afraid of diseases then, I'm not afraid even now," he said.

Karmanau reported from Minsk, Belarus,

Follow AP's coverage marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe at <https://apnews.com/WorldWarII>

'It's gone haywire': When COVID-19 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 43 of 76

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 counties 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-19. 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-19 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-19 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 44 of 76

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 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-19 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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 45 of 76

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.

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.

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.

By time the Tolberts' funeral arrived, so many had been lost to COVID-19 that Rev. Willard Weston had

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 46 of 76

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 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-19, then from grief. She had hoped it was all a bad dream.

Then she woke up.

AP writer Katrease Stafford and data editor Meghan Hoyer contributed.

Feeling your pain? Virus reaches into the lives of Congress

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A husband coughing up blood. A sister close to death. Another friend felled by the coronavirus.

The beat against Congress has always been that its members are out of touch with average Americans. But that's not true when it comes to the brutality of COVID-19 and its march across boundaries of wealth, education and power. Despite their privilege, at least one senator and seven House members have reported testing positive for the disease.

Like so much of the world, lawmakers are experiencing a humbling dose of fear, sorrow, anger and isolation. The result is a wide and deep imprint on the same Congress charged with helping a traumatized

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 47 of 76

nation.

"Everyone by now knows someone that had it," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., whose husband, John Bessler, recovered from a frightening coronavirus infection that sent him to the hospital. "Even if the person didn't get really sick, they all know how scary it is. They know how scared they were."

There are signs that the misery sparked acts of kindness between Republicans and Democrats after years of little cross-aisle contact. "We're texting friends," Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., said of "light texts" he and Rep. Ben McAdams, D-Utah, exchanged after both suffered and recovered from the virus. "Several of us check up on each other now. So it's been nice."

Washington nice, perhaps, for the moment.

However unifying on a human level, the crisis is posing fraught policy questions. Searing disputes loom over how to spend trillions more and whether to protect businesses from lawsuits as the nation reopens. Oversight investigations are just spinning up on the administration's virus response.

Still off in the murky future but influencing everything: the November elections, with control of the House, Senate and White House at stake.

Trump is continuing to lead with vitriol, resuming his practice of calling the speaker of the House "crazy Nancy." Nancy Pelosi is blaming Republicans for ignoring the science of the virus's spread. Republicans are complaining that she held up cash infusions for small businesses. All sides in a recent Twitter spat bickered over who "walked away from bipartisanship" on China, where the pandemic began.

And round it goes, even as everyone in the political world strives to project empathy. The task is especially tall for the nation's 45th president, who is not known for feeling other people's pain.

"I don't think anybody can feel any worse than I do about all of the death and destruction that's so needless," said Trump, challenged recently on his handling of the crisis as the death toll stretched past 70,000. This week, the virus touched his inner circle, too, when a valet tested positive after being in the same room with the president.

In key ways, America's representatives in Washington aren't much like America. Lawmakers make at least \$174,000 a year and get health insurance courtesy of taxpayers. They're far wealthier than most people and tend to have loftier educations. So their policy debates on health care for the masses and other help for the "average person" can often sound abstract and academic.

But on the coronavirus, empathy isn't a stretch.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., lost a brother to the virus. House Financial Services Chair Maxine Waters, D-Calif., dedicated the last relief bill, which she had quietly helped write, to a sister she said was dying of the coronavirus in Missouri. Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Pa., lost her mother-in-law to the disease. Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-Mich., reported that she'd just heard "another dear friend" had passed away.

"I stand here today with my heart broken," she said last month on the House floor.

On Thursday, his mask pulled down while he spoke, Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., mused about the virus's reach and speed.

"I'm a well-off U.S. senator," Kaine said at a health committee hearing, the first since March 3. "I know four people who have died of coronavirus since we were last together."

In sections of the country where the virus was slow to spread, lawmakers said the difficult conversations revolve around the financial straits of families who can't work because of closures.

"It's devastating," said Rep. Larry Bucshon, R-Ind., a heart surgeon whose district includes 19 counties. The anxiety in his district, he said, centered around closures like the one at a Toyota assembly plant in Princeton, which has been dark since late March. State statistics on Friday said surrounding Gibson County had seven positive cases of the coronavirus and zero deaths.

Bucshon's medical training tells him closing may have been smart, but his conversations with constituents tell him it may be time to reopen. The decision is a weighty one.

"You're going to find not many politicians (who) say, 'Hey, flip the switch back on,'" Bucshon said in a recent interview. "Because imagine if they open that Toyota plant with 6,000 employees, and they have 200 deaths in the next month." Local news reports say the facility will begin a slow reopening next week.

Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez represents Queens, the hottest of coronavirus hot spots in part because of the population density of the New York City borough. She's spent many of her days, face mask on, helping deliver food while staying in touch with constituents on social media.

"I'm feeling it," she said during a Zoom call in recent weeks. She said she's lost organizers, and one of the people in her office lost a parent to the virus. "I'm worried about my family in Puerto Rico. I'm worried about my mom. ... I'm trying to figure out, you know, do I bring her to New York, which has a worse situation?"

Klobuchar said she's noticed a few changes in her approach since her family's harrowing bout with the virus. For one, she understands the isolation. John came down with the virus while he was in Washington and she was home in Minnesota. He endured its rigors, which included coughing up blood and driving to the hospital alone, to avoid infecting her and their family.

"I started calling more and more, and he doesn't answer sometimes," she recalled. "It was just getting scarier and scarier."

She's "obsessed" with improving testing because it took six days to get her husband's results back. She also wants to require every state to allow voting by mail after watching people in Wisconsin risk their lives to vote last month.

"People were so mad," she said. "That personal experience that I had is replicated all over the country. That's part of why you see the visceral reaction."

Follow Kellman at <http://www.Twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Historic unemployment rate upends Trump's reelection bid

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE, JOSH BOAK and BILL BARROW** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The record unemployment rate reported on Friday captured the pain of a nation where tens of millions of jobs suddenly vanished, devastating the economy and forcing President Donald Trump to overcome historic headwinds to win a second term.

Just a few short months ago, Trump planned to campaign for reelection on the back of a robust economy. That's a distant memory after more than 20 million jobs were lost in April, leading to an unemployment rate of 14.7%, the highest since the Great Depression.

There's no parallel in U.S. history for the suddenness or severity of the economic collapse, which is ravaging some states that are crucial to Trump's victory. The president is now tasked with convincing voters that the catastrophic jobs losses were the result of the pandemic — not his management of the public health crisis. He also argues that he deserves another chance to rebuild what the virus destroyed.

"What I can do: I'll bring it back," Trump told Fox News on Friday. "It's fully expected. There's no surprise. Everybody knows that. Even the Democrats aren't blaming me for that."

Bringing back jobs quickly won't be easy.

Backdated statistics show that unemployment reached as high as 25% in 1933 during the Great Depression. A broader calculation of unemployment from April's jobs report suggests the rate might be nearly that high now, as the 14.7% rate doesn't include people who left the labor force or still consider themselves employed despite not working. But the efforts needed to contain the spread of the coronavirus have caused much more rapid job loss than during the 1930s.

"The last time we had unemployment rates in this neighborhood, it took us five years to get there," said Erica Groshen, an economist at Cornell University and former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "This time, we will have achieved that in two months."

The suddenness of the crisis has been a shock to Americans, who will be looking for reassurance from Trump.

"The White House can make the point that the collapse was not the result of economic policies but an unprecedented global pandemic," said Kevin Madden, a Republican strategist who was a senior adviser on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. "But they need to look forward, too: Present a detailed

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 49 of 76

roadmap, restore people's confidence and pledge to work with Democrats and Republicans alike."

Many of the layoffs are classified as temporary, which means workers could get recalled as the outbreak subsides and the unemployment rate would fall. But it's unlikely to immediately return to the 3.5% that Trump was celebrating, as consumer spending might be slow to recover and businesses and workers adjust to changes forced by the disease.

Until recently, the Trump campaign planned to use the spring to hammer its Democratic opponent with negative ads while touting the president's handling of a strong economy. But after the pandemic ignited on American shores, the reelection team has grown increasingly worried about the president's standing in a series of key battleground states including Michigan, Wisconsin and Florida.

Kevin Pierce's experience is a warning to Trump. The 24-year-old was a restaurant marketer in Miami who received zero state or federal benefits after a byzantine application process.

"Two applications, and I still have no idea what's going on," he said, arguing that Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis should be punished at the polls. "They both just seem to not care about what's going on and strictly want to build themselves up. I think it's on Trump. His administration didn't take the proper steps."

But Jeremy Anders, a barber who hasn't been able to cut hair since March because of Pennsylvania's shutdown orders, said he will still vote for Trump in November.

"He's made mistakes and I think he's too much of an egotist, but I'm still going to vote for him," said Anders, 36, who lives in the small town of Martinsburg.

The urgency to restart the economy has fueled Trump's push to reopen locked-down states, even though some in his inner circle express worry because the national infection rates, if the New York City area is removed, continue to rise. There has also been debate about supporting a federal bailout of state and local governments, which account for about 20 million jobs, and, if they don't receive funding, will surely have to cut workers.

"It was under President Trump's leadership that the economy reached unprecedented heights in the first place, and he is the best choice to help us rebuild the economy again," said campaign spokeswoman Sarah Matthews.

History suggests Trump faces hurdles ahead.

The president in office during the onset of Great Depression, Herbert Hoover, was routed in his 1932 reelection bid. Voters also cast out other recent incumbents who presided over sluggish economies, including Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush, while Barack Obama was elected in 2008 after Republicans took the brunt of the blame for the collapse of the financial markets that fall.

If that happens again, the GOP isn't just worried about keeping the White House. Voters who reject Trump may also turn against Republican candidates for Congress. That's especially concerning for Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, which has been trending Democratic in recent years, and could cause problems for GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Martha McSally in Arizona, where close presidential races are expected.

For his part, Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has ramped up the intensity of his economic pitch amid the pandemic slowdown. Reacting to the jobs report, he used an online address to blister Trump for economic "failings that have been present since Day One but are coming into sharp relief in the current crisis."

Though typically overshadowed by Trump's megaphone, Biden argues the administration offers a false choice between reopening the economy and limiting the casualties of the coronavirus. The balance, Biden says, is a national plan for testing and tracing. And he cast Trump as caring only about the wealthiest Americans, evidenced by Republicans' nearly \$2 trillion tax cut in 2017 and the president's emphasis on the stock market as "the only metric he values."

"Conventional wisdom would say 'It's the economy, stupid,'" said Adrienne Elrod, a Democratic strategist who was senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. "If good, a president gets reelected. If not, he loses,"

Boak reported from Baltimore. Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Tamara Lush in

St. Petersburg, Fla., Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pa. and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Coronavirus strikes staffers inside the White House

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and **AAMER MADHANI** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary has the coronavirus, the White House said, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week.

President Donald Trump, who publicly identified the affected Pence aide, said he was "not worried" about the virus spreading in the White House. Nonetheless, officials said they were stepping up safety protocols for the complex.

Pence spokeswoman Katie Miller, who tested positive Friday, had been in recent contact with Pence but not with the president. She is married to Stephen Miller, a top Trump adviser. The White House had no immediate comment on whether Stephen Miller had been tested or if he was still working in the White House.

Katie Miller had tested negative Thursday, a day before her positive result.

"This is why the whole concept of tests aren't necessarily great," Trump said. "The tests are perfect but something can happen between a test where it's good and then something happens."

The positive test for the senior Pence aide came one day after White House officials confirmed that a member of the military serving as one of Trump's valets had tested positive for COVID-19.

Six people who had been in contact with Miller were scheduled to fly with Pence on Friday to Des Moines, Iowa, on Air Force Two. They were removed from the flight just before it took off, according to a senior administration official.

None of those people were exhibiting symptoms, but were asked to deplane so they could be tested "out of an abundance of caution," a senior administration official told reporters traveling with Pence. All six later tested negative, the White House said.

The official said staff in the West Wing are tested regularly but much of Pence's staff — which works next door in the Executive Office Building — are tested less frequently. Katie Miller was not on the plane and had not been scheduled to be on the trip.

Pence, who is tested on a regular basis, was tested Friday. Miller tweeted she was "doing well" and looked forward to getting back to work.

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said the administration was stepping up mitigation efforts already recommended by public health experts and taking other unspecified precautions to ensure the safety of the president.

Meadows said the White House was "probably the safest place that you can come," but he was reviewing further steps to keep Trump and Pence safe.

The White House requires daily temperature checks of anyone who enters the White House complex and has encouraged social distancing among those working in the building. The administration has also directed regular deep cleaning of all work spaces. Anyone who comes in close proximity to the president and vice president is tested daily for COVID-19.

"We've already put in a few protocols that we're looking at, obviously, to make sure that the president and his immediate staff stay safe. But it's not just the president, it's all the workers that are here ... on a daily basis," Meadows said.

Trump's valet's case marked the first known instance where a person who has come in close proximity to the president has tested positive since several people present at his private Florida club were diagnosed with COVID-19 in early March. The valet tested positive Wednesday.

The White House was moving to shore up its protection protocols to protect the nation's political leaders. Trump said some staffers who interact with him closely would now be tested daily. Pence told reporters Thursday that both he and Trump would now be tested daily as well.

Madhani reported from Chicago. AP writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump says 'no rush' on more aid as jobless crisis grows

By ZEKE MILLER and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he's in "no rush" to negotiate another financial rescue bill, even as the government reported that more than 20 million Americans lost their jobs last month due to economic upheaval caused by the coronavirus.

The president's low-key approach came Friday as the Labor Department reported the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression and as Democrats prepared to unveil what Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer calls a "Rooseveltian-style" aid package to shore up the economy and address the health crisis.

Some congressional conservatives, meanwhile, who set aside long-held opposition to deficits to pass more than \$2 trillion in relief so far, have expressed reservations about another massive spending package.

"We've kind of paused as far as formal negotiations go," Larry Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council told reporters Friday. He said the administration wanted to let the last round of recovery funding kick in before committing to hundreds of billions or more in additional spending. "Let's have a look at what the latest round produces, give it a month or so to evaluate that."

Kudlow added that talks were in a "lull" and that administration officials and legislators would "regroup" in the next several weeks.

Still, White House aides are drawing up a wish-list for a future spending bill, including a payroll tax cut, liability protection for businesses that reopen and potentially billions in infrastructure spending.

Kudlow added that the White House was also considering allowing businesses to immediately expense the costs of modifying their facilities to accommodate public safety measures necessary to reopen. The notion was brought up on a call with House members advising the White House on reopening plans Thursday evening and drew bipartisan support.

"We're in no rush, we're in no rush," Trump told reporters Friday during an event with House Republicans. He called on Democratic-controlled House to return to Washington, adding, "We want to see what they have."

The emerging Democratic bill is expected to include eye-popping sums, centered on nearly \$1 trillion that states and cities are seeking to prevent mass layoffs as governments reel from the one-two punch of skyrocketing costs from the pandemic and dismal tax receipts in the shuttered economy.

The package being compiled by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi -- the fifth from Congress in a matter of weeks -- draws on requests from governors for \$500 billion, and from cities and counties for up to \$300 billion to prevent widespread layoffs of police, fire and other frontline workers during the pandemic.

"No one could look at today's jobs report, the highest unemployment since the Great Depression, and say we should hit the pause button on further government action," Schumer said in a statement.

He compared Trump and his GOP allies in Congress to former President Herbert Hoover, who is often seen as failing to respond adequately to that crisis. "We need a big, bold approach now to support American workers and families," Schumer said.

But the package has had little input from Republicans and is finding scant support, even as some in the party support certain provisions, including the local aid.

Pelosi acknowledged Trump hasn't been a party to the negotiations, telling CSPAN Friday, "I don't have any idea what the president does."

While Trump initially indicated he'd be amenable to helping state and local governments, he's increasingly listening to conservative voices within his administration and on Capitol Hill arguing it would be an unwarranted "bailout" for 'fiscally irresponsible' jurisdictions.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also said it's time to press "pause" on more spending as Congress assesses the unprecedented outlays so far.

In particular, McConnell has led resistance to the state "bailouts," even as his home-state of Kentucky

is among those staring down budget red ink. Republicans argue the top priority in the next package should be approving liability protections to shield businesses that re-open from what he warns will be an "epidemic" of lawsuits.

Trump aides believe they have bought themselves some leverage on the state and local assistance matter with a rule change announced by the Treasury Department last week that allows states to use funding they received in early relief packages to assist first responders.

"States can use the money for policemen, firemen, first responders, without limits," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Fox Sunday.

He added, "But the president is very clear: We're looking to help states, but we're not bailing out states' finances."

Despite Trump's comments, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said to reporters regarding the new phase of relief: "I think it's important for us to move and look at a phase 4. The president thinks so, too, so those negotiations will happen."

AP Exclusive: Docs show top WH officials buried CDC report

By JASON DEAREN Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The decision to shelve detailed advice from the nation's top disease control experts for reopening communities during the coronavirus pandemic came from the highest levels of the White House, according to internal government emails obtained by The Associated Press.

The files also show that after the AP reported Thursday that the guidance document had been buried, the Trump administration ordered key parts of it to be fast-tracked for approval.

The trove of emails show the nation's top public health experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spending weeks working on guidance to help the country deal with a public health emergency, only to see their work quashed by political appointees with little explanation.

The document, titled "Guidance for Implementing the Opening Up America Again Framework," was researched and written to help faith leaders, business owners, educators and state and local officials as they begin to reopen. It included detailed "decision trees," or flow charts aimed at helping local leaders navigate the difficult decision of whether to reopen or remain closed.

White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany said Friday that the documents had not been approved by CDC Director Robert Redfield. The new emails, however, show that Redfield cleared the guidance.

This new CDC guidance — a mix of advice already released along with newer information — had been approved and promoted by the highest levels of its leadership, including Redfield. Despite this, the administration shelved it on April 30.

As early as April 10, Redfield, who is also a member of the White House coronavirus task force, shared via email the guidance and decision trees with President Donald Trump's inner circle, including his son-in-law Jared Kushner, top adviser Kellyanne Conway and Joseph Grogan, assistant to the president for domestic policy. Also included were Dr. Deborah Birx, Dr. Anthony Fauci and other task force members.

Three days later, CDC's upper management sent the more than 60-page report with attached flow charts to the White House Office of Management and Budget, a step usually taken only when agencies are seeking final White House approval for documents they have already cleared.

The 17-page version later released by The AP and other news outlets was only part of the actual document submitted by the CDC, and targeted specific facilities like bars and restaurants. The AP obtained a copy Friday of the full document. That version is a more universal series of phased guidelines, "Steps for All Americans in Every Community," geared to advise communities as a whole on testing, contact tracing and other fundamental infection control measures.

On April 24, Redfield again emailed the guidance documents to Birx and Grogan, according to a copy viewed by The AP. Redfield asked Birx and Grogan for their review so that the CDC could post the guidance publicly. Attached to Redfield's email were the guidance documents and the corresponding decision trees — including one for meat packing plants.

"We plan to post these to CDC's website once approved. Peace, God bless r3," the director wrote. (Red-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 53 of 76

field's initials are R.R.R.)

Redfield's emailed comments contradict the White House assertion Thursday that it had not yet approved the guidelines because the CDC's own leadership had not yet given them the green light.

Two days later, on April 26, the CDC still had not received any word from the administration, according to the internal communications. Robert McGowan, the CDC chief of staff who was shepherding the guidance through the OMB, sent an email seeking an update. "We need them as soon as possible so that we can get them posted," he wrote to Nancy Beck, an OMB staffer.

Beck said she was awaiting review by the White House Principals Committee, a group of top White House officials. "They need to be approved before they can move forward. WH principals are in touch with the task force so the task force should be aware of the status," Beck wrote to McGowan.

The next day, April 27, Satya Thallam of the OMB sent the CDC a similar response: "The re-opening guidance and decision tree documents went to a West Wing principals committee on Sunday. We have not received word on specific timing for their considerations.

"However, I am passing along their message: they have given strict and explicit direction that these documents are not yet cleared and cannot go out as of right now — this includes related press statements or other communications that may preview content or timing of guidances."

According to the documents, CDC continued inquiring for days about the guidance that officials had hoped to post by Friday, May 1, the day Trump had targeted for reopening some businesses, according to a source who was granted anonymity because they were not permitted to speak to the press.

On April 30 the CDC's documents were killed for good.

The agency had not heard any specific critiques from either the White House Principals Committee or the coronavirus task force in days, so officials asked for an update.

"The guidance should be more cross-cutting and say when they should reopen and how to keep people safe. Fundamentally, the Task Force cleared this for further development, but not for release," wrote Quinn Hirsch, a staffer in the White House's office of regulatory affairs (OIRA), in an email to the CDC's parent agency, the Department of Health and Human Services.

CDC staff working on the guidance decided to try again.

The administration had already released its Opening Up America Again Plan, and the clock was ticking. Staff at CDC thought if they could get their reopening advice out there, it would help communities do so with detailed expert help.

But hours later on April 30, CDC's Chief of Staff McGowan told CDC staff that neither the guidance documents nor the decision trees "would ever see the light of day," according to three officials who declined to be named because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

The next day, May 1, the emails showed, a staffer at CDC was told "we would not even be allowed to post the decision trees. We had the team (exhausted as they are) stand down."

The CDC's guidance was shelved. Until May 7.

That morning The Associated Press reported that the Trump administration had buried the guidance, even as many states had started allowing businesses to reopen.

After the story ran, the White House called the CDC and ordered them to refile all of the decision trees, except one that targeted churches. An email obtained by the AP confirmed the agency resent the documents late Thursday, hours after news broke.

"Attached per the request from earlier today are the decision trees previously submitted to both OIRA and the WH Task Force, minus the communities of faith tree," read the email. "Please let us know if/when/how we are able to proceed from here."

Associated Press reporter Zeke Miller contributed to this story from Washington.

Flynn dismissal a surprise? AG Barr in sync with Trump

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he didn't know the Justice Department was planning to drop its case against his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

But it didn't really matter.

The extraordinary action underscored the extent to which Trump and Attorney General William Barr have been in sync in their views on the federal Trump-Russia investigation — with or without communicating about it. Barr himself has openly challenged the decisions of predecessors and his own prosecutors. He's launched internal probes to investigate the investigators.

Trump is emphatically welcoming the Flynn action. He has relentlessly railed against the special counsel's inquiry into his 2016 campaign's contacts with Russia — which the Flynn case grew out of — and was eager for news in his favor to shift voters' focus away from his administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic that has crippled the U.S. economy.

Beyond that, the decision to dismiss the Flynn case had the effect not only of undoing a key prosecution from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Trump's winning campaign, but also of sparing the president from having to make a politically charged pardon decision in the current election year.

The sudden action on Flynn has produced familiar divisions in public opinion. Trump allies cheered the results, while Democrats and some current and former Justice Department officials expressed dismay.

"Bill Barr is a man of unbelievable credibility and courage," Trump said during a Friday telephone interview on "Fox & Friends" where he devoted substantial time to the news. "And he's going to go down in the history books."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi agreed about going down in history but for a different reason. She said, "Attorney General Barr's politicization of justice knows no bounds."

Trump suggested Friday that more surprises could be afoot, saying "a lot of things are going to be told over the next couple of weeks." He said the "jury's still out with regard" to FBI Director Chris Wray.

If Trump was upset for political reasons about the case of Flynn, the Justice Department says Barr was troubled by legal issues. Those include what he believes were irregularities in the FBI's 2017 interview of Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to agents about his conversations with the Russian ambassador.

The department points out the dismissal recommendation was made not by Barr but by Jeff Jensen, the U.S. attorney in St. Louis whom Barr appointed to review the handling of the case. Once the recommendation was made, senior leadership felt "duty-bound" to move to dismiss it. Jensen's review continues.

However, the dismissal was just the most recent example of Barr challenging conclusions from the Russia investigations in ways that have stirred criticism. Mueller privately criticized him last year for not adequately capturing the severity of the special counsel's findings in the Trump-Russia investigation in Barr's four-page letter summarizing the probe's conclusions. Barr has said he doesn't believe there was sufficient evidence for the FBI to open a full investigation, and that the FBI launched "an intrusive investigation of a U.S. presidential campaign on the thinnest of suspicions."

In February, he overruled prosecutors in the case of Trump ally Roger Stone, on grounds that they had recommended excessive prison time. He appointed one U.S. attorney to examine the origins of the Russia investigation — now a criminal investigation — and another to look into the Flynn case specifically.

The entire Stone trial team quit the case, and in a likely sign of dissent Thursday, Flynn prosecutor and Mueller team member Brandon Van Grack withdrew shortly before the filing was submitted.

The Flynn outcome was startling in multiple ways, not least because the Justice Department rarely undertakes internal reviews of its own prosecutions — let alone cases in which a defendant has pleaded guilty.

The Jan. 24, 2017, interview of Flynn came at a pivotal juncture, as the FBI scrambled to untangle potential ties between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin. Agents knew from a transcript of Flynn's call with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak that Flynn had discussed U.S. sanctions with Kislyak, but were distressed that White House officials were publicly insisting otherwise and scheduled an interview with him.

"The idea that it wasn't appropriate to go do some interview of Flynn, and that the basis of the investi-

gation was somehow untoward, is obviously remarkable and unbelievable at the same time," said former Justice Department prosecutor Ryan Fayhee.

Flynn, a retired Army lieutenant general, would later be ousted from the White House, with officials saying he lied to them.

But the Justice Department now says there was no basis to question Flynn, especially since agents were prepared to close their investigation into him weeks earlier after finding nothing to suggest he had committed a crime.

The department also suggests the FBI erred by not advising Flynn that it was a crime to lie, even though the agency said less than two years ago it wasn't required.

Some current and former officials say there are less extreme remedies for issues like the ones the department identified. The department, for instance, could have supported Flynn's bid to withdraw his guilty plea.

But a senior Justice Department official said the department believes concerns about the FBI's conduct — one of the agents who interviewed Flynn was later fired for derogatory text messages about Trump during the investigation — would have made it difficult to win at trial had a judge agreed to withdraw the plea. That official was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

One Justice Department prosecutor not involved in the case expressed bewilderment about the decision, especially since it involved walking away from a guilty plea and conviction.

The prosecutor, who also spoke only on condition of anonymity, said the persistent attacks on the FBI have given defense lawyers ammunition to attack federal investigators as corrupt, and have exposed political divisions inside Justice Department offices that are meant to be apolitical.

As for Flynn, he responded to the news by posting a video of his grandson holding an American flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Longtime friend Tom Heaney said Flynn felt vindicated and was relieved by the decision.

"He feels like a huge weight has been lifted off him," Heaney said. "For all of us, we were never doubting the fact that he was innocent."

Associated Press writer Michelle R. Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

US unemployment surges to a Depression-era level of 14.7%

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The coronavirus crisis has sent U.S. unemployment surging to 14.7%, a level last seen when the country was in the throes of the Depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt was assuring Americans that the only thing to fear was fear itself.

And because of government errors and the particular way the Labor Department measures the job market, the true picture is even worse. By some calculations, the unemployment rate stands at 23.6%, not far from the Depression peak of nearly 25%.

The Labor Department said Friday that 20.5 million jobs vanished in April in the worst monthly loss on record, triggered by coast-to-coast shutdowns of factories, stores, offices and other businesses.

The breathtaking collapse is certain to intensify the push-pull across the U.S. over how and when to ease stay-at-home restrictions. And it robs President Donald Trump of the ability to point to a strong economy as he runs for reelection.

"The jobs report from hell is here," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, "one never seen before and unlikely to be seen again barring another pandemic or meteor hitting the Earth."

On Wall Street, stocks pushed higher as investors reckoned that the worst of the job losses are over. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained more than 455 points, or close to 2%.

Worldwide, the virus has infected at least 3.9 million people and killed over 276,000, including more than 77,000 in the U.S., according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University based on official data. White House officials announced that Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary has the coronavirus, the second person at the complex known to test positive this week, and said safety protocols were being stepped up.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 56 of 76

The unemployment report indicated that the vast majority of those laid off in April — roughly 75% — consider their job loss temporary, a result of businesses that were forced to close suddenly but hope to reopen and recall staffers.

Whether most of those workers can return anytime soon, though, will be determined by how well policymakers, businesses and the public deal with the health crisis. Economists worry it will take years to recover all the jobs lost.

The meltdown has occurred with startling speed. In February, unemployment was at a more than 50-year low of 3.5%, and the economy had added jobs every month for a record 9 1/2 years. In March, unemployment was 4.4%.

"In just two months the unemployment rate has gone from the lowest rate in 50 years to the highest rate in almost 90 years," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial.

Nearly all the job growth achieved during the 11-year recovery from the financial meltdown has now been lost in one month.

Leslie Calhoun lost his job cleaning Atlantic City, New Jersey, casinos after 20 years. He, his wife, their two daughters and his sister-in-law are surviving on his wife's paycheck from a medical facility as he wrestles with an unemployment system that has paid him nothing since he applied in March.

"The bills are piling up," he said. "We're eating a lot of ramen noodles and hot dogs. What I wouldn't give for a nice meal of baked chicken and steak, some fresh vegetables."

The last time unemployment was this high was in 1939 at the tail end of the Depression, before the U.S. entered World War II.

Trump, who faces the prospect of high unemployment rates through the November election, said the figures were "no surprise" and later added that he's in "no rush" to negotiate another financial rescue bill.

An emerging Democratic aid package is expected to include eye-popping sums, centered on nearly \$1 trillion that states and cities are seeking to prevent mass layoffs as governments reel from the one-two punch of skyrocketing pandemic costs and dismal tax receipts in the shuttered economy.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has projected that the jobless rate will still be 9.5% by the end of 2021.

As bad as Friday's numbers were, they don't capture the full magnitude of the devastation.

In a sort of footnote, the Labor Department acknowledged that its survey-takers erroneously classified millions of Americans as employed in April even though their employers had closed down. If they had been counted correctly, unemployment would have been nearly 20%, the government said.

However, the Labor Department doesn't change the results submitted by its survey-takers because that could be seen as political manipulation.

Also, people who are out of work but aren't actually looking for a new job are not officially counted as unemployed. An estimated 6.4 million people fit that description last month, probably because they saw little prospect of finding work given the shutdowns.

Counting them as unemployed would push the rate up further, to almost 24%, according to calculations by economist Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute.

Though some businesses are beginning to reopen in certain states, factories, hotels, restaurants, resorts, sporting venues, movie theaters and many small businesses are still largely shuttered. The government is dispensing nearly \$3 trillion to help households and businesses pull through, including \$1,200-per-person relief checks and an extra \$600 in weekly unemployment benefits.

Trump has pushed aggressively to get businesses up and running again amid warnings from health experts that easing up too soon could lead to a deadly second wave of infections.

Critics of the coronavirus response have included Dr. Rick Bright, who was ousted from a government research agency after raising concerns over use of an unproven drug that Trump touted as a remedy for COVID-19. Federal investigators found "reasonable grounds" that he was punished for speaking out and should be reinstated, his lawyers said.

As Election Day nears, the president will be judged on how he handles not just the economic crisis but

the health one.

Just months ago, the Trump campaign planned to hammer its Democratic opponent this spring with negative ads while touting the strong economy. But since the outbreak, the re-election team has grown increasingly worried about Trump's standing in key states such as Michigan, Wisconsin and Florida. More than one-fifth of Michigan's workers are on unemployment.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, meanwhile, has seized on the crisis as part of his overall attempt to cast Trump as caring only about the wealthiest Americans.

In Europe, this week the Bank of England projected that Britain will see its biggest annual economic decline since 1706. Unemployment in the 19-country eurozone is expected to surpass 10% in coming months as more people are laid off. That figure is expected to remain lower than the U.S. rate, in part because millions of workers in places such as France and Germany are staying on payrolls with the help of government aid that covers much of their salaries.

Over the past seven weeks, an estimated 33.5 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits. Friday's job-loss report is based on a mid-April survey of businesses and households and takes into account the hiring surge at companies like Amazon and many grocery stores.

Minorities and poor people have suffered the most from the shutdown. Job losses were especially severe among Latinos, whose unemployment rate leaped to 18.9% from 6% in March. The African-American rate jumped to 16.7%, while for whites it rose to 14.2%.

AP Writers Jonathan Lemire, Josh Boak and Wayne Parry contributed to this story.

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

VP Pence's press secretary tests positive for coronavirus

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary has the coronavirus, the White House said Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week.

President Donald Trump, who publicly identified the affected Pence aide, said he was "not worried" about the virus spreading in the White House. Nonetheless, officials said they were stepping up safety protocols for the complex.

Pence spokeswoman Katie Miller, who tested positive Friday, had been in recent contact with Pence but not with the president. She is married to Stephen Miller, a top Trump adviser. The White House had no immediate comment on whether Stephen Miller had been tested or if he was still working out of the White House.

Katie Miller had tested negative Thursday, a day before her positive result.

"This is why the whole concept of tests aren't necessarily great," Trump said. "The tests are perfect but something can happen between a test where it's good and then something happens."

The positive test for the senior Pence aide came one day after White House officials confirmed that a member of the military serving as one of Trump's valets had tested positive for COVID-19.

Six people who had been in contact with Miller were scheduled to fly with Pence on Friday to Des Moines, Iowa, on Air Force Two. They were removed from the flight just before it took off, according to a senior administration official.

None of those people were exhibiting symptoms, but were asked to deplane so they could be tested "out of an abundance of caution," a senior administration official told reporters traveling with Pence. All six later tested negative, the White House said.

The official said staff in the West Wing are tested regularly but much of Pence's staff — which works next door in the Executive Office Building — are tested less frequently. Katie Miller was not on the plane

and had not been scheduled to be on the trip.

Pence, who is tested on a regular basis, was tested Friday. Miller tweeted she was "doing well" and looked forward to getting back to work.

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said the administration was stepping up mitigation efforts already recommended by public health experts and taking other unspecified precautions to ensure the safety of the president.

Meadows said the White House was "probably the safest place that you can come," but he was reviewing further steps to keep Trump and Pence safe.

The White House requires daily temperature checks of anyone who enters the White House complex and has encouraged social distancing among those working in the building. The administration has also directed regular deep cleaning of all work spaces. Anyone who comes in close proximity to the president and vice president is tested daily for COVID-19.

"We've already put in a few protocols that we're looking at, obviously, to make sure that the president and his immediate staff stay safe. But it's not just the president, it's all the workers that are here ... on a daily basis," Meadows said.

Trump's valet's case marked the first known instance where a person who has come in close proximity to the president has tested positive since several people present at his private Florida club were diagnosed with COVID-19 in early March. The valet tested positive Wednesday.

The White House was moving to shore up its protection protocols to protect the nation's political leaders. Trump said some staffers who interact with him closely would now be tested daily. Pence told reporters Thursday that both he and Trump would now be tested daily as well.

Madhani reported from Chicago. AP writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

White father, son charged with murder in Ahmaud Arbery case

By RUSS BYNUM and KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — The white father and son stood quietly Friday as the judge read murder and aggravated assault charges against them in the fatal shooting of a black man who was running through their Georgia neighborhood. In just a few minutes, their first court appearance was over. It was a moment that many in Ahmaud Arbery's community had waited more than two months for, as a series of prosecutors declined to bring charges against the men.

Earlier in the day — on what would have been Arbery's 26th birthday — a boisterous crowd of several hundred people, most wearing masks to protect against the coronavirus, gathered outside the Glynn County courthouse for about 90 minutes and sang "Happy Birthday" in his honor.

With the coronavirus dominating the news and drastically altering Americans' lives, Arbery's shooting initially drew little attention outside Brunswick, about 70 miles (115 kilometers) south of Savannah. The working-class port city of about 16,000 also serves as a gateway to beach resorts on neighboring St. Simons and Sea Islands.

The Satilla Shores neighborhood where Arbery was killed on Feb. 23 lies at Brunswick's edge, with comfortable brick and stucco homes nestled next to marshland. A wooden cross and flowers left as a memorial near the spot where Arbery died was decorated with foil birthday balloons Friday.

A video of the shooting shared widely on social media Tuesday thrust the case into the national spotlight and prompted widespread outrage. The investigation led by local authorities had seemed stalled and, amid the national uproar, a prosecutor specially appointed last month asked the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to get involved. On Thursday evening, the GBI announced the arrests of Gregory and Travis McMichael.

Though the arrests were welcomed, Arbery's family and their supporters expressed frustration at the long wait and fears that the justice system will fail them.

Gregory McMichael, 64, and Travis McMichael, 34, told police they pursued Arbery, with another person recording them on video, after spotting him running in their neighborhood. The father and son said they

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 59 of 76

thought he matched the appearance of a burglary suspect who they said had been recorded on a surveillance camera some time before.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper Jones, has said she thinks her son, a former high school football player, was just jogging in the Satilla Shores neighborhood before he was killed.

Some of the encounter was apparently recorded in two 911 calls, with a dispatcher trying to understand the problem.

"There's a black male running down the street," a caller says.

"I just need to know what he was doing wrong," the dispatcher responds, in part.

In a second call six minutes later, someone can be heard yelling "Stop. ... Dammit. Stop." Then, after a pause, "Travis!"

Arrest warrants for Gregory and Travis McMichael filed in court Friday confirmed, as the initial police report stated, that Travis McMichael "pointed and discharged a shotgun ... at Ahmaud Arbery." But there were no new details.

The felony murder charges against the McMichaels mean that a victim was killed during the commission of an underlying felony, in this case aggravated assault. The charge doesn't require intent to kill. A murder conviction in Georgia carries a minimum sentence of life in prison, either with or without parole.

In a letter to Glynn County police in early April, a prosecutor previously assigned to the case outlined reasons he believed there was "insufficient probable cause to issue arrest warrants" in the case. Waycross District Attorney George E. Barnhill argued that the McMichaels' actions were legal under Georgia laws on citizen's arrests, the open carry of guns and self-defense.

The leaked video shows a black man running at a jogging pace. The truck is stopped in the road ahead of him, with one of the white men standing in the pickup's bed and the other beside the open driver's side door.

The running man attempts to pass the pickup on the passenger side, moving just beyond the truck, briefly outside the camera's view. A gunshot sounds, and the video shows the runner grappling with a man over what appears to be a shotgun or rifle. A second shot can be heard, and the runner can be seen punching the man. A third shot is fired at point-blank range. The runner staggers a few feet and falls face down.

"They did not arrest the killers of Ahmaud Arbery because they saw the video," Arbery family attorney Ben Crump said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press. "They arrested the killers of Ahmaud Arbery because we saw the video, the public saw the video and it went viral. It was shocking. People were astonished."

Crump blasted the handling of the case by the local police and prosecutors, and said he wants the GBI to "investigate the entire case from top to bottom."

Gregory McMichael retired last year as an investigator for Glynn County District Attorney Jackie Johnson, and the connection caused her to recuse herself. Barnhill then got the case before recusing himself under pressure from Arbery's family because his son works in Johnson's office.

"All that matters is what the facts tell us," Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vic Reynolds said Friday, saying "every stone will be uncovered."

Addressing the question of racial intent, Reynolds noted that Georgia has no hate crime law. That has prompted many civil rights activists to call for a federal investigation.

"The work is just beginning," John Perry, president of the Brunswick NAACP chapter, told the crowd gathered outside the courthouse Friday morning. "We can't stop now. We can't lose focus and we've got to make sure the prosecution gets done."

Anthony Johnson, 40, said Arbery was his neighbor for about a decade. He said he wants to see the McMichaels get the same treatment in the legal system as black defendants.

"Just arresting them, that ain't doing nothing," Johnson said. "We want them convicted. We want them sent to prison for life."

Brumback reported from Atlanta.

10 takeaways from the worst jobs report in US history

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Brutal. Horrific. Tragic.

Choose your description. The April jobs report showed, in harrowing detail, just how terribly the coronavirus outbreak has pummeled the U.S. economy. Most obviously, there's the 14.7% unemployment rate, the highest since the Great Depression. And the shedding of more than 20 million jobs, by far the worst one-month loss ever.

But Friday's jobs report from the government contains 42 pages about just how far the job market has tumbled, along with hints of what to watch for — eventually — in a possible recovery.

Here are 10 major takeaways from the April jobs report:

EVEN WORSE THAN IT LOOKS. REALLY.

The unemployment rate is catastrophically bad. Based on backdated estimates, the rate hasn't been higher since 1939. But the scary thing is that the April figure actually downplayed how bleak things are.

Heidi Shierholz, the former chief economist for the Labor Department, noted on that 6.4 million people who were out of work in April didn't look for a job and so weren't even counted as unemployed. Include them and the unemployment rate jumps to roughly 19%, she tweeted.

An additional 7.5 million workers appear to have been mistakenly classified as "employed, not at work" when they were actually jobless last month and should have been counted as unemployed, said Shierholz, who now works at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. Add them into the mix and the unemployment rate screeches up to 23.6% — not far below the all-time unemployment peak of roughly 25% from 1933.

WORKERS STILL HOPEFUL

Of the roughly 20.6 million people who lost jobs in April, roughly three-fourths described their unemployment, perhaps optimistically, as "temporary." This means that more than 18 million Americans expect to return to their workplaces soon. Even if they all regained their jobs quickly — something almost no one expects — the unemployment rate would likely dip below 10% but still remain high.

Most economic forecasts expect any rebound to be much slower than the coronavirus-induced collapse, which arrived suddenly and violently. Temporary layoffs could quickly become permanent. Major stores such as Neiman Marcus and J.Crew have filed for bankruptcy protection. Restaurants deprived of revenues are starting to announce permanent closures. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the unemployment rate will be 11.7% in the final three months of this year, an indication that many jobs will not return by then.

EPOP? WHAT'S THAT?

Before the viral outbreak, about 60% of all U.S. adults — everyone from students to working-age people to retirees — were employed. This figure is known as the "employment-to-population ratio," or EPOP.

The EPOP sank in April to 51.3%, its lowest level on record. For African-Americans and people with only high school diplomas, it dropped below 50%. This figure might be more instructive in some ways than the unemployment rate, which reflects whether people who are out of a job are looking for a new one.

The EPOP, by contrast, simply measures the proportion of adults who are working. And with it now showing that barely half of American adults is employed, the economy will struggle to improve unless the ratio rises.

BLEAK TIMES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Perhaps no group has suffered as dramatic a reversal of fortune as foreign-born workers. Their unemployment rate was 2.7% a year ago, even lower than the rate for native-born Americans. But it jumped to 16.5% in April as 5.7 million immigrants lost jobs compared with a year ago.

The main reason is that immigrants work disproportionately in occupations that have been especially devastated by the viral outbreak — from hotels and restaurant work to cleaning services and construction. These job losses matter for the recovery, because immigrants, who are critical to those industries, might move elsewhere if tighter restrictions are imposed on their work visas.

Republican Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Ted Cruz of Texas, Charles Grassley of Iowa, and Josh Hawley of Missouri sent a letter Thursday to President Donald Trump that seeks to suspend guest worker

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 61 of 76

visas for a year. With fewer immigrants, the pool of potential workers in those hard-hit industries would shrink — a risk for an eventual recovery that will depend on how quickly jobs can be restored.

COLLEGE PAYS OFF

College graduates were far more likely to keep their jobs in April. Their unemployment rate was 8.4%. That's still high, but it's significantly lower than the national average of 14.7%. People with college and advanced degrees entered the recession with a big advantage: They held jobs that made it easier to work from home.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 41.7% of people with an advanced degree worked from home on an average day in 2018. And slightly more than a third of people with a college degree did so. But just 11.9% of high school graduates worked from home. That limitation made them more vulnerable to layoffs.

WE'RE WORKING LESS

Not surprisingly, the job losses mean that the United States as a whole is working fewer hours. The index of total hours worked has collapsed 15% from a year ago. This matters because it cuts to the heart of how an economy grows: Economies expand only if more people are working or if the people who are working become more productive.

FEWER PEOPLE HOLDING MULTIPLE JOBS

Over the past two months, 2.6 million people have lost their second or third jobs. These people are still counted as employed, but they've lost a chunk of their incomes. There were nearly 8.1 million people who held multiple jobs in February. By April, that total had plummeted to 5.5 million.

NEARLY 1.2 MILLION DISABLED AMERICANS LOST JOBS

African-Americans, Latinos and high school graduates were each more likely to suffer job losses than the national average. But people with disabilities also faced harsh challenges in April. Nearly 1.2 million of them lost jobs, and their unemployment rate reached 18.9%.

These losses were a troubling reversal of the gains that disabled workers had been making in recent months as the benefits of what was the longest expansion in American history was finally reaching them.

CONSUMERS RETREATING

No sector suffered as severe a decline as retail and leisure and hospitality. The job losses there point to the dizzying falloff in consumer spending as a result of stay-at-home orders, and they hint at the devastation that could persist for years.

Retailers shed a stunning 2.1 million jobs last month. Theaters, concert halls and the sports industry lost 217,000. The film and recording industries cut 216,500 jobs as production stopped. Over the past two months, nearly half the 12 million jobs at restaurants and bars have disappeared.

Collectively, all this points to much less consumer spending and enormous uncertainty about whether or when it might recover. Economists expect the U.S. retail sales report for April being released next week will show a monthly decline of 10% after an 8.4% fall in March.

PAY GROWTH A FALSE FLAG

In any typical jobs report, April's average pay gains would look fantastic: Average hourly earnings jumped 7.9% from a year ago. This would normally be greeted by high-fives from economists and from lawmakers up for re-election. But it's really a disturbing sign. Average pay rose that much only because the lowest-paid workers lost their jobs and were excluded from the calculation.

Consider what happened with all those layoffs at bars and restaurants: Average wages actually surged 9.4% because the highest paid workers kept their jobs. Likewise, pay at retailers climbed 8.8%.

By contrast, average hourly earnings in the information sector — which includes telecommunications and contains fewer low-wage jobs — increased only 3.1%.

No charges for family of boy who drove car onto highway

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The family of a 5-year-old boy who drove the family car onto a Utah highway won't face criminal charges, authorities said Friday.

His teenage sister was watching him while his parents worked, and he swiped the keys while she was asleep in hopes of traveling to California to buy a Lamborghini, officials said.

Prosecutors reviewed the case, but didn't see any evidence of neglect, said Weber County Attorney Chris Allred.

Adrian Zamarripa was pulled over Monday by a Utah Highway Patrol trooper who spotted the SUV swerving on Interstate 15 in Ogden at 32 mph. He thought the driver might need medical attention.

The boy was sitting on the edge of his seat to reach the brake pedal. He told the trooper he was going to California to buy a Lamborghini, then showed the officer his wallet carrying \$3 in cash.

His parents picked up the boy and the car, and as the story picked up steam he even got a ride in the luxury sports car from a local Lamborghini owner.

Colombian company creates bed that can double as coffin

By CÉSAR GARCÍA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A Colombian advertising company is pitching a novel if morbid solution to shortages of hospital beds and coffins during the coronavirus pandemic: combine them.

ABC Displays has created a cardboard bed with metal railings that designers say can double as a casket if a patient dies.

Company manager Rodolfo Gómez said he was inspired to find a way to help after watching events unfold recently in nearby Ecuador.

Families in the coastal city of Guayaquil waited with dead loved ones in their homes for days last month as COVID-19 cases surged. Many could not find or were unable to afford a wood coffin, using donated cardboard ones instead.

"Poor families don't have a way of paying for a coffin," Gómez said.

Gómez said he plans to donate 10 of his new beds to Colombia's Amazonas department, where resources are in short supply. So far there is no indication whether the beds will be put to use and no orders have been placed.

The Bogota-based company is usually at work on advertisements but has been mostly paralyzed over the last month as Colombia remains on lockdown. The South American nation has reported nearly 9,500 confirmed cases of the virus.

The beds can hold a weight of 330 pounds (150 kilograms) and will cost about \$85 each, Gómez said. He said he worked with a private clinic on the design, which he hopes will be put to use in emergency clinics that might become short on beds.

At least one doctor was skeptical of how sturdy a cardboard bed might be. He also warned that any corpses should first be placed in a sealed bag before being put in a cardboard coffin to avoid potentially spreading the disease.

VIRUS DIARY: Searching for sanity in tiny moments of joy

MARTHA IRVINE Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — We meet for a memorial service by video conference because that's how it must be done these days. It feels strange, but there also is comfort as I scan the faces of the many colleagues who've come to celebrate the life of an editor and friend who succumbed to the coronavirus. Among other things, his brother tells us about a magazine Nick created when they were kids. He called it "Ha Ha."

I imagine Nick's wry smile. Sometimes, amid unspeakable sorrow, there are slivers of joy.

I have clung to those moments, however fleeting, as this pandemic continues to test us. A friend, a former war correspondent who's seen more horror than I could imagine, tells me that's how it should be in times of crisis. Don't focus only on the losses, she advises, or you'll go crazy.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 63 of 76

Obsessing about the story is a hazard of our trade. Even though I've tried to stop reading news a few hours before bedtime, I'm often not sleeping well. I worry about the families of the sick and dead, about those who've lost jobs — about the world into which one member of my own extended family recently arrived, with another soon expected.

As a parent, I yank myself from that rabbit hole often.

I look for respite in the connection and community we're managing to create — at home and often from a distance — and even when the technology that makes some of it possible is wonky or draining.

I listen to my spouse, a teacher, taking Chicago school students on a virtual field trip to a national park in Alaska.

"Wow, look at that!"

"What's down there?"

I stop what I'm doing and absorb this little victory. These middle-schoolers, not always an easy crowd, are genuinely giddy to be doing this, some of them on Chromebooks provided by their school so everyone can attend.

Not long after, we get the news that Illinois schools will not have in-person classes for the rest of this school year.

Our own eighth-grader tears up and retreats to her room. When she and her sister abruptly left school several weeks ago, she didn't realize it would be her last day in the classroom with many of the kids she's known since preschool.

Somehow, there will be an eighth-grade graduation or a party. Or something. "But it won't be the same," she laments. It's hard to argue with that.

An hour later, she is in the kitchen making crepes. Since she was tiny, she has soothed herself by cooking, as many of us are doing now.

We awaken to spring snow — something that I, a northern Michigan girl, enjoy more than most. But even I take more pleasure in the sunny day that follows.

As my family posse bikes together, I think about those who live in each home we pass. White ribbons are tied around a row of maple, linden and ash trees as a show of support for frontline medical workers.

Who else has no choice but to work outside the home? Who is sick? Who's running out of money? Who's fallen into the darkness, and who has stayed there?

It's difficult not to feel guilty about being, at least so far, among the lucky. But I know Nick would tell me to count my blessings and keep moving.

"Virus Diary," an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus saga through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Follow Martha Irvine, an AP national writer and visual journalist, on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/irvineap>

Job market meltdown hits most vulnerable workers hardest

By JOSH BOAK, ALEXANDRA OLSON and MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writers

BALTIMORE (AP) — As the coronavirus rampaged across the U.S. economy, it slashed a cruel path of job losses, reduced hours and hardships for America's most vulnerable workers.

The 20.5 million jobs lost in April fell disproportionately on African Americans, Latinos, low-wage workers and people with no college education. Friday's jobs report from the government — the worst on record — exposed the deep seams of inequality within the world's wealthiest nation and the threat they pose to an eventual economic recovery.

The paradox is that if the economy is to fully bounce back, those same workers will need to be restored to jobs at restaurants, hotels, offices, factories, warehouses, medical facilities and construction sites. The flow of commerce hinges on their ability to deliver packages, cook meals, run clinics, provide public transportation and clean and maintain buildings. And their income, though typically low, supports the consumer spending that fuels most U.S. economic activity.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 64 of 76

"This represents a huge loss for the productive capacity of the economy," said Stephanie Aaronson, director of economic studies at the Brookings Institution. "The economy is smaller and grows much less quickly when these workers are isolated from employment."

African Americans are more likely to die from the virus. Latinos and non-college graduates are heavily concentrated in low-wage occupations, including jobs that have helped keep the nation fed and safe during the pandemic. Those groups were also among the first to lose their jobs as the economy crashed at a speed unrivaled in modern American history.

For April, while the overall U.S. unemployment reached 14.7%, the rate for African Americans was 16.7%. For Latinos, it was an all-time high of 18.9%. For workers with only a high school diploma, a record 17.3%. For immigrants, 16.5%.

By contrast, the unemployment rate for white Americans was 14.2%. And just 8.4% of college graduates — who often enjoy the flexibility to work from home — were unemployed.

Latinos likely suffered disproportionately from the layoffs because they are more likely to work in the leisure and hospitality sectors — at hotels, restaurants and bars — where job cuts have been especially brutal, noted Gbenga Ajilore, an economist at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank.

"This shows that when the economy recovers, we have to be intentional about tackling the structural barriers that limit the employment outcomes of these groups," Ajilore said.

The vast magnitude of the layoffs has laid bare the inequalities that endured long before the viral outbreak.

President Donald Trump frequently highlighted the job gains achieved by minorities during his first three years in office, pointing to them as evidence that his administration was bridging the nation's wealth gap. But the pandemic has shown that the 11-year expansion did not provide much financial cushion to these workers, many of whom are now struggling to buy food and pay their housing bills.

Among them is Erika Romero, a native of El Salvador who abruptly lost her job last month as a janitor at the Postal Square Building in Washington. Romero was left without health insurance or the ability to pay most of the monthly mortgage on the Maryland home she shares with her husband, their two daughters, her adult son and both sets of grandparents.

Her husband had his daytime job reduced to three days a week, and his overnight cleaning job was cut. She has received one unemployment check so far, not nearly enough to support her substantial family.

"Where am I going to look for work in this epidemic?" said Romero, who lives in the United States on a temporary protected status after an earthquake struck El Salvador. "It's just unfair."

More than 100 members of Romero's union have died of the coronavirus, and 20,000 others have lost jobs, according to the local Service Employees International Union, which represents 175,000 janitors, security guards, doormen and other property service workers. Many lack legal status in the United States, said Jaime Contreras, vice president of the local union.

"Those workers can't apply for unemployment," he said. "They don't get the stimulus money. They are left in the dark. To me, that is a huge mistake because this pandemic knows no legal status."

Seven of the country's top cleaning companies are pushing Congress for payroll protection in the form of grants and tax credits. They warn that it could take weeks or months to rebuild their workforce at the very time when demand for professional cleaning could surge as schools, stadiums, gyms and other public spaces re-open.

"The last thing we want to do is have to rebuild the skilled network back up just as we get more demand," said Josh Feinberg, chief strategy officer for ABM Industries, a contract cleaning company.

Many minorities who work in the construction sector and restaurant industry, for example, have developed specialized skill sets. Last month, construction companies cut a stunning 975,000 workers, a record monthly loss.

At the same time, retailers cut 2.1 million jobs. Administration and waste services dropped 1.5 million. Restaurants and bars shed an unprecedented 5.5 million jobs.

Alex Tellez was working as a bartender and server at a Chicago steakhouse when he was told by a manager in mid-March to file for unemployment aid. Born in Mexico, Tellez had steadily moved up in the restaurant industry over 23 years, earning up to \$60,000 year to support his wife and two daughters, ages

3 and 5. But now he has fallen several thousand dollars into credit card debt to support his immediate and extended family.

Tellez, 43, is considering a career change. He doesn't see how the restaurant industry can survive a future with social distancing rules and precautions in place indefinitely.

"As a bartender, I can't serve you unless you're one or two feet away from me," he said. "It breaks my heart that I might have to leave. I love being in the industry. It's a passion of mine."

Olson and Anderson reported from New York.

What's that behind you? On virus-era TV, home backdrops star

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

Those who saw conservative commentator Bill Kristol on television one recent night may not remember what he said. But they'll never forget the magnificent mess of a bookcase behind him.

And there's a growing army of viewers with just one question after tuning into any number of interviews that political commentator John Heilemann has given in recent weeks: What fruit is in those bowls over his shoulder?

Ever since the coronavirus forced pundits, reporters, analysts and sports figures to speak to the masses from their dens, living rooms and kitchens, television has given us a peek at the famous and not-so-famous — a glimpse we never got when they were in the studio.

Watching TV these days is giving the viewers the same feeling that potential homebuyers get when they walk into a house for sale and head straight to the living room to check out the books and albums.

"It gives people a little more of a personal connection with the people on television. And when you have a personal connection with someone you usually pay a little more attention to what they're saying," said Darlene Schwieterman, a 71-year-old retired human resources manager in Vancouver, Washington, who has been particularly impressed with former U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill's kitchen.

Kelly Justice, a bookstore owner in Richmond, Virginia, couldn't agree more. Except for the part about paying attention.

"I don't think I heard a word he said," Justice recalled of a recent night when she was far more interested in Stephen Colbert's bookshelf than anything happening on his show. But, she pointed out, "I know exactly what he would need if he came into the store."

Matt Guthrie, a high school history and literature teacher in Phoenix, jokes that the pandemic has allowed him to satisfy a lifelong fascination with what people are reading without getting off his couch: "I get to be all judgmental about what they're reading, think, 'Oh, that's crap.'"

Schwieterman, Justice and Guthrie have company. In a matter of weeks, the number of followers of a new Twitter page that judges online decor called "Room Rater" has skyrocketed to more than 145,000.

On the site, rooms are graded on a 10-point scale. The harshest criticism gravitates to those in front of blank walls that look to the Room Rater like hostage videos. Also getting low marks: things that probably should remain hidden — like what appears to be Beto O'Rourke's basement. "Oh, dear god," writes the Room Rater. "Organizing rescue mission. Blink twice if you can hear me."

"Room Rater" co-creator Claude Taylor thinks he's tapped into a desire to peek behind a curtain that's been around long before Dorothy ever met the Wizard of Oz. "It's a window into who these people really are," he said.

It doesn't hurt that this window is being opened at the exact time when going to movies, baseball games or restaurants is off the table for many.

"People who obsessively watch cable television now obsessively get to peek into the homes of the people they watch obsessively," said Heilemann, editor-in-chief of "The Recount." He says it all adds up to an "intimacy" that wasn't there before.

That intimacy was on display during last month's NFL draft, typically held in a public place with players dressed in their finest darting onto a stage like stars accepting Oscars the minute their names are an-

nounced.

This year, though, produced a look at NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's den and the living rooms of players, coaches and executives. They even got a look at a bathroom in one coach's home — complete with someone who apparently forgot to close the door.

The ratings were the best they've ever been. Yes, people are hungry for sports, but perhaps the pad-locked stadiums don't explain everything.

"What people are looking for, hungry for, is something that appears spontaneous and behind the scenes," said Irving Rein, a professor of communication studies at Northwestern University. "You are seeing these players in a natural setting, seeing what kind of life produced these star players."

The online rooms have also created a connection between interviewees and viewers. Take New York Times reporter Peter Baker. After Room Rater commented that the picture hook behind him had no picture, Baker tweeted that he had been sufficiently shamed and asked his wife to put something on the wall. The move impressed Room Rater enough to raise Baker's score (before dropping it again because one picture was hanging from the back of a door).

Others are more proactive.

CNBC analyst Bob Pisani has taken to subbing out his posters of the Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and other rock stars with each appearance. During the NFL draft, analyst Desmond Howard made sure that when it was his turn to talk, a different record album was in view.

And Singaporean academic and former diplomat Kishore Mahbubani wants everyone to know he now recognizes that positioning himself for an interview so that one copy of his new book, "Has China Won?" could be seen over his left shoulder and another over his right was a bit much. "I learned my lesson," he said after critical comments from friends.

Kristol relocated to a "more presentable" living room for subsequent appearances, though he said the move from his study prompted emails that asked him what kind of message was he trying to send with the book about Mozart behind him. Still, that one appearance prompted a suggestion from family members to use some of this time at home to tidy up his study.

"I think I should so I can find things better," he said. "Not too much, but a bit of cleaning."

Heilemann has taken a different tack. "Limes and jalapeno peppers," he tweeted when questions about what was behind him popped up on Room Rater. And, he admitted in an email to the AP: "Yes, I do sometimes switch the fruit around (and add the occasional Easter egg) just to mess with the home-backdrop obsessives."

Grit and red wine: Famous war photographer beats virus at 97

By **RICHARD DREW** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Vaccaro's mother died in childbirth, and at a tender age he also lost his father to tuberculosis. By age 5, he was an orphan in Italy, enduring beatings from an uncle. As an American GI during World War II, he survived the Battle of Normandy.

Now, a celebrated wartime and celebrity photographer at age 97, he is getting over a bout with COVID-19. He attributes his longevity to "blind luck, red wine" and determination.

"To me, the greatest thing that you can do is challenge the world," Vaccaro said. "And most of these challenges I win. That's what keeps me going."

Vaccaro's grit carried him into a lifetime of photography that began as a combat infantryman when he stowed a camera and captured close to 8,000 photographs of mundane and horrific moments.

One of his famous images — "Kiss of Liberation" — showed a U.S. sergeant giving a kiss to a French girl at the end of the Nazi occupation.

He was the subject of a 2016 HBO documentary, "Under Fire: The Untold Story of PFC Tony Vaccaro," and his images are displayed in such museums as the Pompidou Center in Paris and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Vaccaro documented the reconstruction of Europe and returned to the United States, where he became

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 67 of 76

a fashion and celebrity photographer for magazines including Look, Life and Harper's Bazaar.

He has fond memories of his subjects and their larger-than-life personalities, including Sophia Loren, John F. Kennedy, Enzo Ferrari, Georgia O'Keeffe and Pablo Picasso.

He and Picasso "got along like two brothers." But the artist wouldn't relax during their photo shoot, so Vaccaro tricked him by pretending that his camera was broken and that his shots weren't real.

"He kept posing like male models. I didn't like that," Vaccaro said. "I wanted real photography to be real photography. Honest photography. And that's what it turned out to be."

Vaccaro lives in Queens, a New York City borough ravaged by the coronavirus, and next to his son Frank, his twin grandsons and his daughter-in-law Maria, who manages his archive of 500,000 photographs.

He might have caught the virus in April from his son or while walking in their neighborhood, his daughter-in-law said.

He was in the hospital for only two days with mild symptoms and spent another week recovering.

Then he surprised everyone by getting up and shaving.

"That was it," she said. "He's walking around like nothing happened."

The family is working on another documentary that looks at his life before and after the war, but the pandemic has stopped production because it's not safe to bring a film crew into the apartment.

"We joke that Tony survived COVID-19 because he wants to tell the rest of his story," said Maria Vaccaro. But it also has reminded him of his good fortune.

"I really feel I have luck on my back," he said. "And I could go anywhere on this Earth and survive it."

Associated Press writer John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio, contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: 70% of US Olympic sports applied for PPP funds

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — At least 70 percent of U.S. Olympic sports organizations have applied for government funds during the coronavirus pandemic, a stark financial reality that underscores the frailties within the world's most dominant Olympic sports system.

The Associated Press surveyed 44 of the country's national governing bodies (NGBs) — the organizations charged with operating programs from the grassroots through the Olympic levels in sports that run the gamut from badminton to basketball.

All but four of the 36 NGBs that responded said they had applied for assistance from the Paycheck Protection Program. Not all the organizations revealed how much they received, but those who did have been approved for a cumulative total of about \$12 million.

Beginning next July, when the delayed Summer Olympics are scheduled to start, U.S. NGBs will send a total of around 1,150 athletes to two Olympics and two Paralympics over the span of seven months. While Mikaela Shiffrin, Noah Lyles and the U.S. basketball teams are on solid financial footing because of their star power and marketability, the U.S. will depend on dozens of lesser-known athletes to dominate the medals table in Tokyo and at the Winter Games in Beijing. It puts the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the NGBs on an urgent track to fund all the potential medalists, many of whom haven't been able to train properly for months.

"There's a very, very real and dire financial situation in sport," said Sarah Hirshland, the CEO of the USOPC, which oversees the NGBs. "And certainly, the sports organizations we work with closely are feeling revenue pain. And it's immediate."

The results of the survey were eye-opening, not only because of the sheer number of NGBs that applied but also because the request for federal money counters the long-held and distinctly American tradition of not using taxpayer money to pursue Olympic glory.

Sports federations in most other countries are buttressed by government financial assistance. The U.S. team, which has amassed a world-leading 653 medals in Summer and Winter games since 2000, relies on broadcast fees, sponsorships, charitable donations and revenue from programming and memberships.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 68 of 76

But without the revenue generated by normal day-to-day business — to say nothing of an NBC cash infusion of at least \$170 million that would've come into the USOPC coffers this year had the Tokyo Games not been postponed — the financial model of the U.S. Olympic sports system is imperiled.

Last month, Hirshland said the USOPC board was aiming to trim this year's expenses by as much as 20%. It has committed to sparing the NGBs from the cutting block for 2020, but also warned that a full cancellation of the Olympics — a possibility not being ruled out — would be "devastating" for U.S. sports.

The level to which NGBs rely on USOPC funding varies, based largely on their sizes. Even without any USOPC-related cuts in 2020, some of these organizations are teetering on the edge of financial solvency -- missing millions in revenue from events, membership dues, clinics and other fee-based operations that keep organizations and their sports, running. A survey earlier this year estimated they would endure a collective revenue shortfall of \$121 million from February through June because of COVID-19-related shutdowns.

"We all are exposed, but to be really candid, it's probably what it should be," said Max Cobb, the president of US Biathlon, who also leads the NGB Council in the U.S. "We're all nonprofit organizations. We put all the revenues back into our sports programs. In only a few cases have NGBs been able to develop a significant contingency fund."

A number of NGBs didn't divulge the full details of their requests. Those that did received amounts ranging from \$2.5 million (US Ski and Snowboard) down to \$75,000 (USA Badminton).

A plurality of those who responded received loans in the mid-six figures. Those amounts reflect the modest sizes of the organizations, many of which have fewer than a dozen employees who are responsible for all aspects of their sports, from nurturing Olympic dreams to tending to the grassroots tentacles that grow in towns and cities across the country and, eventually, produce Olympians.

Some examples:

--USA Cycling, one of the first NGBs to announce it was cutting staff, did not give a dollar amount but said it received enough from the PPP to cover four weeks of staffing and overhead costs.

--USA Swimming received \$1.6 million to cover payroll. That NGB is reliant largely on membership-related fees and doesn't expect to know the full impact of COVID-19 until the fall, when the bulk of its membership renewals come up.

--USA Gymnastics made an undisclosed number of furloughs and cut pay, but because it is in bankruptcy in the aftermath of the Larry Nassar sex-abuse case, it was not eligible for the federal program.

The USOPC, always wary of asking the government for cash, directed NGBs to look into securing funds from the government program. All efforts, Hirshland said, have been geared toward "supporting sports at a community level and supporting the (grassroots) pipeline" that leads to elite sports.

The push for government help in Olympic circles is part of a larger debate as to whether sports should be going after this money at all, given the massive devastation in the economy. The Los Angeles Lakers received a \$4.6 million loan but gave it back after a public backlash.

Olympic organizations don't have the huge, long-term TV and sponsorship deals that make pro teams and leagues profitable. Annual revenue for an average NBA team in 2018-19 was \$292 million. Only three NGBs cleared more than \$50 million in 2018.

Also contributing: AP Sports Writers Tim Reynolds, Ron Blum, Will Graves, Teresa Walker, Pat Graham, Howard Fendrich, Doug Ferguson, Jay Cohen, Bernie Wilson, Dave Skretta, Jimmy Golen,

UN: Live animal markets shouldn't be closed despite virus

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization said Friday that although a market in the Chinese city of Wuhan selling live animals likely played a significant role in the emergence of the new coronavirus, it does not recommend that such markets be shut down globally.

In a press briefing, WHO food safety and animal diseases expert Peter Ben Embarek said live animal markets are critical to providing food and livelihoods for millions of people globally and that authorities should focus on improving them rather than outlawing them — even though they can sometimes spark

epidemics in humans.

"Food safety in these environments is rather difficult and therefore it's not surprising that sometimes we also have these events happening within markets," Ben Embarek said.

He said reducing the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans in these often overcrowded markets could be addressed in many cases by improving hygiene and food safety standards, including separating live animals from humans. He added that it is still unclear whether the market in Wuhan linked to the first several dozens of coronavirus cases in China was the actual source of the virus or merely played a role in spreading the disease further.

Ben Embarek said investigations are continuing in China to pinpoint the animal source from which COVID-19 jumped into humans but that studies have since found other species are susceptible to the disease, including cats, tigers, ferrets and dogs. Identifying other vulnerable species will allow certain interventions to be put in place to prevent future outbreaks. "We don't want to create a new reservoir in animals that could continue to create infections in humans," he said.

Ben Embarek said it might take considerable time to identify the original animal source for the new coronavirus, explaining that extensive studies need to occur first, involving health officials carefully interviewing many of those infected in the early stages of the outbreak, to narrow down what their interactions with animals were before they fell sick. Scientists would then need to take samples from animals to find a close match to the coronavirus circulating in humans.

To date, China has not invited WHO or other external experts to be part of that investigation. Ben Embarek said China likely has the necessary expertise to conduct such studies and WHO has not noted any problems in China's willingness to collaborate with others.

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

Lost your job? Here's what you need to know

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER** and **SARAH SKIDMORE SELL** Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 33.5 million Americans have lost their jobs and applied for unemployment benefits in the past 7 weeks — a stunning record high that reflects the near-complete shutdown of the U.S. economy.

On Friday, the government said the U.S. unemployment rate hit 14.7% in April, the highest rate since the Great Depression. As recently as February, the unemployment rate was just 3.5%, a 50-year low.

For those who have lost jobs, it's a frightening time. Bills need to be paid. Do they qualify for unemployment benefits? How fast will the money arrive?

Here are some questions and answers:

HOW CAN I GET UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS?

Workers who have lost their jobs or income through no fault of their own should immediately file a claim for unemployment aid through their state labor departments. The benefit program is administered by state agencies. Most states are encouraging people to request benefits online or, if necessary, over the phone.

I'VE HEARD THE SYSTEM IS OVERWHELMED BY REQUESTS.

Yes, several state websites initially crashed and phone lines were jammed as agencies faced a surge of applicants and new eligibility rules.

Things have improved some as states have brought on extra workers and expanded hours to accept calls. The pressure has also eased as more people make their way through the system. However, there may still be a wait.

All the same, people who have lost jobs or whose income has been hurt by coronavirus should keep trying. It does take time to process a claim, potentially several weeks, but benefit payments are retroactive: Eligible workers will receive benefits from the date they lost their jobs, regardless of when they file.

HOW CAN I MAKE THE PROCESS OPERATE MORE SMOOTHLY?

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 70 of 76

Have all your information ready. This includes contact information for all your employers from the past 18 months, your Social Security number and documentation of your income, such as from tax forms or pay stubs.

HOW LARGE ARE THE UNEMPLOYMENT AID CHECKS?

They vary sharply by state. Mississippi provides the lowest amount, \$235 a week. Massachusetts pays \$823 a week, the highest.

I HEARD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING AN EXTRA \$600 A WEEK.

Yes. After problems with state computer systems had slowed the distribution of federal benefits for many laid-off workers, all 50 states are now paying the \$600 extra weekly benefit that the federal government included in a relief package enacted in late March.

I'M SELF-EMPLOYED. WILL I QUALIFY?

Yes, that is one of the changes made by the \$2.2 trillion economic rescue package signed into law by President Donald Trump. If you are self-employed, a contractor or a gig worker, you are now eligible to claim unemployment benefits.

I WASN'T LAID OFF, BUT MY EMPLOYER CUT MY HOURS. WILL I QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS?

Yes, you should apply. State rules differ, and it depends how large your income loss is. But in some states, workers whose hours have been sharply cut may be able to claim benefits that would make up for at least some of the lost income. Generally, if your lost pay exceeds what you would receive in unemployment benefits, you may be eligible for aid.

I HAD TO LEAVE WORK BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS BUT WASN'T LAID OFF. WHAT ABOUT ME?

You can potentially receive benefits, too. The U.S. Labor Department said states can make unemployment benefits available to people who are quarantined, who left work because of risk of exposure or to care for a family member.

That said, someone who receives paid sick leave or paid family leave is often still receiving full pay. So according to the Labor Department, that person is not "unemployed" and does not qualify for unemployment benefits.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE \$1,200 CHECKS THE GOVERNMENT IS SENDING OUT? WHEN WILL I GET MINE?

The federal rescue package provides a one-time payment of \$1,200 for all Americans earning less than \$75,000 a year. This money is totally separate from unemployment benefits — and for the jobless, will be in addition to unemployment aid. It will likely be a critical lifeline for many Americans.

The payments begin to phase out at above \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for couples filing jointly and drop to zero for individuals above \$99,000 and couples earning \$198,000. For heads of household with one child, the benefit starts to decline at \$112,500 and falls to zero at \$146,500. Even those who just receive Social Security or other government benefit programs can receive a check.

HOW LONG WILL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS LAST?

The duration varies by state. But the federal relief package adds 13 weeks of coverage for people who have exhausted their existing jobless benefits. Under the emergency legislation, people who exhaust both regular and extended benefits will become eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. People can receive a maximum of 39 weeks of benefits this year from all three sources combined.

WHAT ABOUT GOVERNMENT AID FOR COMPANIES? CAN THAT HELP ME?

It might. Small businesses are eligible for loans that will be forgiven if they keep or rehire people they have laid off. About \$535 billion of loans have been approved as of Thursday, according to the Treasury Department.

Sell reported from Portland, Oregon.

Homicide charges against Indian factory after fatal gas leak

By OMER FAROOQ Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — Indian police on Friday filed charges of culpable homicide, including negligence in handling toxic substances, against a South Korean-owned chemical factory where a gas leak killed 12 people and sickened more than a thousand.

The chemical styrene, used to make plastic and rubber, leaked Thursday from the LG Polymers plant, owned by LG Chem, while workers were preparing to restart the facility after a coronavirus lockdown was eased.

The cause of the leak in the city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh state was still unclear, officials said Friday.

A state administrator, Vinay Chand, said authorities flew in chemicals from a neighboring state to neutralize the gas completely before allowing people to return to their homes.

Chand said 316 people were still being treated in hospitals and were in stable condition. State police chief Damodar Gautam Sawang said 800 people were released after treatment on Thursday.

Styrene gas, a neurotoxin, can immobilize people within minutes of inhalation and can be fatal at high concentrations.

The police charges accuse the plant's operators of endangering the public through negligence. Under Indian law, culpable homicide is classified as killing not amounting to murder. Penalties range from 10 years in jail to life imprisonment.

India's top environmental court also asked LG Polymers India to pay a \$6.6 million penalty because of "damage to life, public health and environment." The National Green Tribunal said the factory appeared to have failed to comply with environmental and safety rules.

The court formed a committee to investigate the accident and identify lapses.

Choi Sang-kyu, a senior spokesman for LG Chem, said LG Polymers India operated the plant "while abiding environmental regulations."

Videos and photos after Thursday's leak showed dozens of people lying unconscious in the streets, with white froth trailing from their mouths. People fled on foot, on motorbikes and in open trucks as police officers, some wearing gas masks, rushed to get people out of their homes.

The scene evoked bitter memories of a gas leak from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in the Indian city of Bhopal in 1984 that killed at least 4,000 people and injured another 500,000, many of whom still have health problems, according to the government.

LG Chem Ltd. is South Korea's largest chemical company and produces a range of industrial products, including petrochemicals, plastics and batteries used in electronic vehicles. It is part of the family-owned LG Corp. conglomerate, which also has an electronics arm that globally sells smartphones, TVs and personal computers.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Friday its ambassador to India had expressed regret and condolences over the gas leak. A ministry statement said the South Korean government is closely monitoring efforts to handle the aftermath.

LG Chem began operating the plant in Vishakhapatnam in 1997. Its Indian operation is one of the leading manufacturers of polystyrene in the country. The Vishakhapatnam plant has around 300 workers.

The coastal city is an industrial hub known for frequent gas leak accidents. In December 2019, a leak from a pharmaceutical company killed two people.

___ Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, and Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Program that collects devices for COVID-19 patients expands

By **RODRIQUE NGOWI** and **MARK PRATT** undefined

NORTHFIELD, N.H. (AP) — It's one of the many cruelties of the pandemic: Many people hospitalized with COVID-19 are cut off from loved ones who are not allowed to visit them, for fear of the disease spreading. Kaya Suner came up with a solution.

The 19-year-old Rhode Island man figured out a way to recycle used smartphones and tablets, getting them into the hands of patients suffering from the virus so they can communicate with friends and family. And the idea has taken off.

"Kaya, you're 19, but you're a superstar, you're a hero," said Gov. Gina Raimondo at a mid-April news conference, after her own son donated an iPad to the cause.

The project was born of Suner's desire to help. The Providence resident considered sewing protective masks, but his parents, both emergency room physicians, inspired him to do more.

He was having an online chat with his mother — they are living apart because as a doctor she is at higher risk of contracting the disease — and she mentioned a critical need for ways for patients dealing with loneliness and isolation, many of them elderly, to stay in touch with loved ones.

"There's no way for these sick patients to communicate with their loved ones due to the visitation ban in hospitals, and it's really unfortunate that that's what's going on, and it's really horrible," he said.

So he and a friend sought donations of used smartphones and tablets to give to those patients.

What started as a simple Facebook plea developed into covidconnectors.org, a website where people can donate "gently used" devices with video capability. The website makes donating easy, even offering step-by-step instructions.

Amazon has stepped up, donating more than 500 devices.

The phones and tablets have been used for everything from celebrating birthdays and meeting new grandchildren to saying final goodbyes, Suner said.

"One family member said that they had someone in the hospital who wanted their last rites read and we were able to get an iPad to them and they had their last rites read to them, which is just like ... it's very touching," he said.

The program has been so successful that the needs of Rhode Island's hospitals have been met, and it is now collecting devices for Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, New Hampshire. Suner hopes to expand into New York soon.

Suner, who plans to attend American University in the fall, is concerned that with some states starting to reopen, people will think there is no need for donations. That couldn't be further from the truth.

"This is still a really, really large issue inside of hospitals," he said.

Mark Pratt contributed from Waltham, Massachusetts.

While nonstop global news about the effects of the coronavirus have become commonplace, so, too, are the stories about the kindness of strangers and individuals who have sacrificed for others. "One Good Thing" is an AP continuing series reflecting these acts of kindness.

Meet 8 people around the world hustling to survive pandemic

By **AYA BATRAWY** and **EMILY SCHMALL** Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — From India to Argentina, untold millions who were already struggling to get by on the economic margins have had their lives made even harder by pandemic lockdowns, layoffs and the loss of a chance to earn from a hard day's work.

The toll for families is hunger and poverty that are either newfound or even more grinding than before. Hunkering down at home to ride out the crisis isn't an option for many, because securing the next meal means hustling to find a way to sell, clean, drive or otherwise work, despite the risk.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 73 of 76

Here are six stories from six corners of the world of people whose lives were upended by the same invisible menace.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Rosemary Páez Carabajal usually pushes a coffee cart on the streets of Argentina's capital, but the lockdown forced her to stop. Páez Carabajal, her blacksmith husband who's also out of work and their two children rent a single room in a two-story brick building for the equivalent of \$119 a month.

Now the cart sits idle in the hall, and the home is stacked with textbooks as the couple try to home-school their lone school-age child, a 7-year-old son.

The coronavirus came at a time of already painful recession in Argentina, with more than a third of its 44 million residents in poverty, according to figures from late 2019.

"When the quarantine was coming," Páez Carabajal recalled, "I said: 'We're all screwed, us day-to-day vendors.'"

NAIROBI, KENYA

Judith Andeka has seen tough times before, but nothing like this.

The 33-year-old widow and mother of five used to earn \$2.50 to \$4 a day washing clothes in Nairobi's Kibera, one of the world's biggest slums. With people not going to work because of restrictions on movement, neighbors can't afford her services.

She's been forced to send her kids to live with relatives who are slightly better off: "I had no choice, because how do you tell a 2-year-old you have no food to give them?"

Each time she goes out looking for food or a chance to earn, she risks being robbed of the few belongings she owns in her shack. Her most prized possessions are a small gas burner and an old black-and-white TV.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

When Budi Santosa lost his job as a cook in a Chinese fast food restaurant, the father of two toddlers became one of nearly 2 million who've been put out of work in Indonesia as a result of the pandemic. Restrictions to contain the virus also impacted the 32-year-old's side job where he earned extra cash moonlighting as a driver.

Santosa hasn't had much time to dwell on his misfortune because he has to think about essentials: food, rent and paying down the debt on his motorcycle. He now averages a little over \$4 a day making deliveries.

"The government told us to stay at home," he said, "but if I stay home my wife and children will have no food to eat."

CAIRO

When the government shuttered traditional coffee shops, or "ahwas" as they're famously called in the Middle East, it cost Hany Hassan his job. He had been earning just \$5 a day, but at least it was enough to feed his family.

"It's a very difficult situation ... We are financially ruined," the 40-year-old father of four said.

With no chance of finding another job in Cairo, he returned to his family and hometown in the province of Minya, south of Cairo. But chances of finding work are slim in the villages, too. He goes out daily looking for a job, but he's come up empty-handed. He's borrowed money to keep his family afloat.

AMMAN, JORDAN

Jordan's wide-reaching lockdown has hit hard in al-Wehdat, a crowded, impoverished refugee camp in the capital. Brothers Mohammed and Khalil Yousef used to scratch out a day-to-day existence as truck drivers hauling construction supplies and produce. Each earned between 10 and 20 dinars, or \$14 to \$28, a day.

Between them they have nine children, all under 16. In Khalil's cement shack, the refrigerator is bare save for some tomatoes, onions and a few bags of pita bread.

After being idled for weeks, they are now only partially getting back to work as some restrictions on

drivers are eased.

Mohammed said residents usually help each other out in hard times, but borrowing from neighbors isn't an option today. "The whole camp is without work now," he said. "Everyone is broke."

LUCKNOW, INDIA

Mahesh and Gita Verma ran a flower stall outside a Hindu temple honoring the monkey god Hanuman in this northern Indian city. When authorities ordered a lockdown, they found themselves indefinitely sidelined just like others in the informal sector, which makes up 85% of India's labor force.

The Vermas and their five children, ages 8 through 20, were already living hand to mouth before the coronavirus. Now they've restricted themselves to mainly potato-based dishes.

Mahesh borrowed money from friends to convert the flower stall into a milk and bread stand, a business exempt from the lockdown restrictions.

Still, "we cannot have food like we used to have," Gita said.

Read more of their stories here.

Associated Press writers Edna Tarigan in Jakarta, Indonesia; Biswajeet Banerjee in Lucknow, India; Samy Magdy in Cairo; Karin Laub in Amman, Jordan; Tom Odula in Nairobi, Kenya; and Débora Rey and Víctor Caivano in Buenos Aires, Argentina contributed to this report.

Butler's prescient sci-fi resonates years after her death

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Novelist N.K. Jemisin was a teenager the first time she read Octavia Butler, and nothing had prepared her for it. It was the 1980s, and the book was called "Dawn," the story of a black woman who awakens 250 years after a nuclear holocaust.

"I remember just kind of being stunned that a black woman existed in the future, because science fiction had not done that before," says Jemisin, whose "The City We Became" is currently a bestseller. "There was just this conspicuous absence where it seemed we all just vanished after a while."

A revolutionary voice in her lifetime, Butler has only become more popular and influential since her death 14 years ago, at age 58. Her novels, including "Dawn," "Kindred" and "Parable of the Sower," sell more than 100,000 copies each year, according to her former literary agent and the manager of her estate, Merrilee Heifetz. Toshi Reagon has adapted "Parable of the Sower" into an opera, and Viola Davis and Ava DuVernay are among those working on streaming series based on her work. Grand Central Publishing is reissuing many of her novels this year and the Library of America welcomes her to the canon in 2021 with a volume of her fiction.

A generation of younger writers cite her as an influence, from Jemisin and Tochi Onyebuchi to Marlon James and Nnedi Okorafor, currently working on a screenplay for the Butler novel "Wild Seed" for the production company run by Davis and her husband, Julius Tennon. Davis, in a recent interview with The Associated Press, said she began reading Butler while attending the Juilliard school 30 years ago.

"I felt included in the narrative in a way I had never felt reading anything before," said Davis, who has a deal with Amazon Studios. "There is something about seeing yourself in the imagination's playground that opens up your world."

Alys Eve Weinbaum, a professor of English at the University of Washington, says Butler broke open a genre "dominated by white men and white readers." She is now praised as a visionary who anticipated many of the issues in the news today, from the coronavirus to climate change to the election of President Donald Trump. In her 1998 novel "Parable of the Talents," the right-wing Andrew Steele Jarret runs for president in 2032 with a message familiar to current readers.

"Jarret insists on being a throwback to some earlier, 'simpler' time. Now does not suit him. Religious tolerance does not suit him," Butler wrote. "There was never such a time in this country. But these days when

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 75 of 76

more than half the people in the country can't read at all, history is just one more vast unknown to them."

Jarret's campaign theme: "Help us to make America great again."

"She (Butler) seems to have seen the real future coming in a way few other writers did," says Gerry Caravan, an associate professor at Marquette University who is co-editing Butler's work for the Library of America. "It's hard not to read the books and think 'How did she know?'"

Butler's own life trained her to think in new ways. Born and raised in Pasadena, California, she was black, poor and stood 6-feet-tall. "I believed I was ugly and stupid, clumsy, and socially hopeless," she once explained. Her feelings of isolation led her to the reading, and writing, of science fiction and fantasy stories even as an aunt told her, "Honey ... Negroes can't be writers."

At a writers workshop in the 1970s, Harlan Ellison read her work and became an early supporter, publishing one of her stories in a science fiction anthology. Her first novel, "Patternmaster," came out in 1976, although it took her years to be able to support herself and for the industry to catch up to her. Jemisin and others remember that the original cover for "Dawn" featured a white woman, making Jemisin all the more surprised when she read the book and realized the protagonist was black.

Through the 1980s and '90s, her readership and reputation grew. She became the first science fiction author to receive a MacArthur "genius grant" and her literary honors included Nebula Awards for "Blood-child" and "Parable of the Talents." She was shy and often reclusive and would describe herself as "A pessimist if I'm not careful, a feminist, a Black, a former Baptist, an oil-and-water combination of ambition, laziness, insecurity, certainty, and drive."

Some admirers have personal memories of Butler. Not long before she died, in 2006, she was the keynote speaker at the Gwendolyn Brooks Conference on Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University. Okorafor was among hundreds in the audience. She had known Butler for years, dating back to a writers workshop where she first read Butler and sought her advice, beginning with a phone conversation.

"She was really kind and she was funny, and I just remember the conversation being really nurturing. She was very down to earth, but it was also like talking to someone who was way up there," Okorafor says. "At the Gwendolyn Brooks conference, I remember how surprised she was at the turnout. The room is packed, this big room with so much love. I just wish she were here now to see how much more she is being honored."

This story has been correct to show that the title of Butler's first book was "The Patternmaster," not "The Patternist," and corrects the spelling of author's last name to Okorafor, not Okarafor.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, May 9, the 130th day of 2020. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

On this date:

In 1712, the Carolina Colony was officially divided into two entities: North Carolina and South Carolina.

In 1864, Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick was killed by a Confederate sniper during the Civil War Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1926, Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett supposedly became the first men to fly over the North Pole. (However, U.S. scholars announced in 1996 that their examination of Byrd's flight diary suggested he had turned back 150 miles short of his goal.)

In 1958, "Vertigo," Alfred Hitchcock's eerie thriller starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, premiered in

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 09, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 301 ~ 76 of 76

San Francisco, the movie's setting.

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon.

In 1965, Russian-born American pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed publicly for the first time in 12 years with a recital at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon made a surprise and impromptu pre-dawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial, where he chatted with a group of protesters who'd been resting on the Memorial steps after protests against the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

Ten years ago: Lena Horne, 92, the enchanting jazz singer known for her signature song, "Stormy Weather," and for her triumph over bigotry that allowed her to entertain white audiences but not socialize with them, died in New York. Dallas Braden pitched the 19th perfect game in major league history, leading the Oakland Athletics in a 4-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Five years ago: North Korea announced it had successfully test-fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in the latest display of the country's advanced military capabilities. Actress Elizabeth Wilson, 94, died in New Haven, Connecticut. Renowned country fiddler Johnny Gimble, 88, died in Dripping Springs, Texas.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he would nominate Patrick Shanahan to be his second secretary of defense; Shanahan had served as acting secretary since the beginning of the year following the resignation of Jim Mattis. (Shanahan would step down weeks later before his nomination went to the Senate, citing a "painful" family situation.) Trump honored the World Series Champion Boston Red Sox at the White House; all of the team's white players attended, but nearly a dozen team members, all players of color, skipped the visit, as did manager Alex Cora, who had expressed frustration with the administration's response to a devastating hurricane in his native Puerto Rico. Pope Francis issued a groundbreaking new church law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 86. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 84. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 83. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 83. Singer Tommy Roe is 78. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 76. Actress Candice Bergen is 74. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 74. Actor Anthony Higgins is 73. Singer Billy Joel is 71. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 71. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 70. Actress Alley Mills is 69. Actress Amy Hill is 67. Actress Wendy Crewson is 64. Actor John Corbett is 59. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 58. Actress Sonja Sohn is 56. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 50. Country musician Mike Myerson (Heartland) is 49. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'toh-POO'leh) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 45. Rock musician Dan Regan (Reel Big Fish) is 43. Actor Daniel Franzese is 42. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 41. Actress Rosario Dawson is 41. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 41. Actress Rachel Boston is 38. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 35. Actress Grace Gummer is 34.

Thought for Today: "Life is a series of collisions with the future; it is not the sum of what we have been, but what we yearn to be." — Jose Ortega y Gasset, Spanish philosopher (born this date in 1883, died in 1955).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.