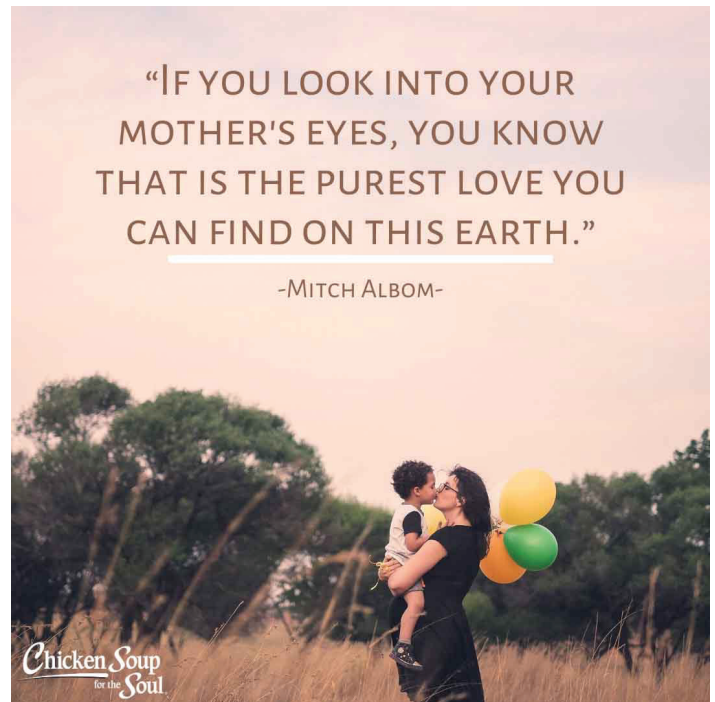


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- [18- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [19- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
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## Church Services on-line

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)

Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

St. John's Lutheran Church (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church-GrotonSD-ELCA-636505039852208/>)

United Methodist Church: (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, has resumed services at 10:30 a.m. People will stay in their vehicles and listen to the service on their FM radio.

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont / Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden - will have a podcast posted. <https://anchor.fm/paul-irvin-kosel>

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

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

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## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

EPHESIANS 6:18



Medieval-era rendering

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Numbers 4, what color was the cloth draped over the Ark of the Covenant? *White, Black, Gold, Blue*

3. "The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days" is from what Book's 15:20? *Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms*

4. From Daniel 5, who was so scared that his knees knocked together? *Moses, Belshazzar, Solomon, Lot*

5. Who paid Delilah to betray the mighty Samson? *The Pharaoh, Abdi, Lords of the Philistines, Jeuz*

6. In which city were 85 priests slain? *Gezer, Nob, Shechem, Aphek*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Blue; 3) Job; 4) Belshazzar; 5) Lords of the Philistines (rulers); 6) Nob.

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

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by Healthy Exchanges

### American Cheese Meatloaf

Here is a wonderful new version of one of our favorite comfort foods to try. We predict that it will become a favorite in your family too.

- 16 ounces extra-lean ground turkey or beef
- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon dried fine breadcrumbs
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat tomato soup
- 1 teaspoon prepared yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 (3/4-ounce) slices reduced-fat American cheese

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine meat, breadcrumbs, onion, green pepper and 1/3 cup tomato soup. Mix well to combine. Pat mixture into prepared loaf pan. Bake for 45 minutes.

3. Stir mustard, parsley flakes and black pepper into remaining tomato soup. Spread soup mixture evenly over partially baked meatloaf. Evenly arrange cheese slices over top. Bake for an additional 15 minutes or until meatloaf is cooked through and cheese is melted.

4. Place loaf pan on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Cut into 6 servings. Freezes well.

• Each serving equals: 200 calories, 8g fat, 17g protein, 15g carb., 484mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Starch.

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**CHARACTER PROFILE:**

## SECRET AGENT X-9

WRITTEN BY DASHIELL HAMMETT AND ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX RAYMOND, "SECRET AGENT X-9" FIRST APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS ON JANUARY 22, 1934.



YOU ARE MR.....?  
YES--YOU CAN CALL ME DEXTER --- IT'S NOT MY NAME BUT IT'LL DO

DURING RAYMOND'S TENURE ON "SECRET AGENT X-9" HE WORKED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON TWO OTHER COMIC STRIPS...

...INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURER "JUNGLE JIM" AND A SCI-FI STRIP CALLED "FLASH GORDON."

## FLASH GORDON

5-3 BY JIM KEEFE

JUST AS AGENT X-9 PREPARES TO PLACE AN EXPLOSIVE ON THE SPACE PORTAL, THE DEVICE OPENS... UNLEASHING A DYNAMO OF FURY!



DUROK... THIS TASER DELIVERS 50,000 VOLTS OF POWER. LET HIM GO.



ZASK!



MY TURN...



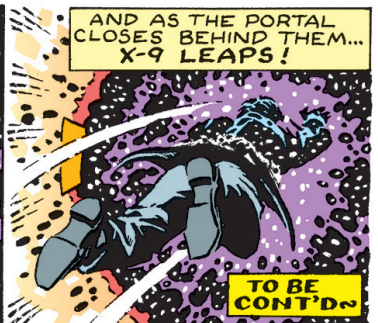
KRAK!



DALE..



NO!



AND AS THE PORTAL CLOSES BEHIND THEM... X-9 LEAPS!

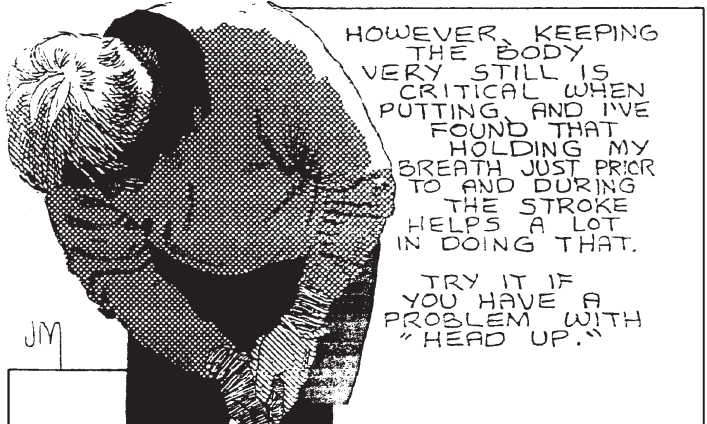
TO BE CONT'D

### Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



SOMEONE ONCE ASKED ME HOW I BREATHED DURING THE GOLF SWING.

IT ISN'T SOMETHING I'VE EVER CONCERNED MYSELF WITH - OR WANT TO



HOWEVER, KEEPING THE BODY VERY STILL IS CRITICAL WHEN PUTTING, AND I'VE FOUND THAT HOLDING MY BREATH JUST PRIOR TO AND DURING THE STROKE HELPS A LOT IN DOING THAT.

TRY IT IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH "HEAD UP."

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## Joint Pain Not Usual Statin Side Effect

**DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 69-year-old white male. I take one 20-mg pravastatin per day to manage my cholesterol. One of the side effects is joint pain. Are you aware of a substitute that does not have this joint pain side effect? — H.L.**

**ANSWER:** Statins are one of the most common medicines used, and although they have relatively few side effects, so many people take them that there are many reported untoward effects.

Muscle aches are common. Muscle breakdown is serious and, fortunately, rare. But joint aches are not a common side effect. In the package insert, “arthritis” is listed in less than 1% of people.

Of all the statins, pravastatin tends to have relatively few side effects. It is metabolized differently from how the others are, so have a discussion with your doctor about taking a different statin, such as atorvastatin (Lipitor). Lipitor is much more potent than pravastatin (Pravachol), so the dose you will need is likely to be much lower.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH: What is your opinion on screening for ovarian cancer in a woman with a family history (in my case, a sister)? One gynecologist stressed an annual ultrasound, while the other discouraged me from doing so. I am worried that if I wait until symptoms develop, the cancer might be pretty advanced. — W.**

**ANSWER:** I really understand why people with increased risk for ovari-

an cancer are interested in screening. Unfortunately, we still don’t have any screening tests, such as an ultrasound or CA-125 blood test, that are good enough to recommend yet. I hope this changes soon. Promising work is progressing.

Consider genetic testing for a familial cancer syndrome, such as BRCA or Lynch syndrome. People with one of these cancer syndromes are at high enough risk that screening may be of benefit, and there are ongoing studies to help identify the best strategy. Speak to your gynecologist about a referral to a genetic counselor. If you test negative for these genetic syndromes, you are at lower risk (but unfortunately, even low-risk women still may get ovarian cancer).

You certainly should be vigilant for even mild symptoms of ovarian cancer; these are nonspecific and may include abdominal discomfort, bloating or swelling. Urinary urgency (a sense of needing to get to the bathroom right away) also should prompt a visit to your gynecologist, more so than in people without a family history.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH: Is it possible that when immersed in water, you absorb it through your skin? Whenever I spend more than 30 minutes in the pool, I later have to urinate more than when I don’t spend time in the water. Can the absorbed water travel to kidneys? Can the chemicals added to pool water do some damage? — E.M.**

**ANSWER:** Water is not absorbed to any appreciable effect when the body is immersed. The reason you urinate more may be due to unnoticed swallowing of pool water, which is very common in swimmers.

Don’t worry about the chlorine in pool water. The amount of chlorine is similar to or only a bit higher than most tap water, and is not enough to be dangerous.

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

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1. Which duo was originally called Two Tons O’ Fun?

2. What is most notable about “It Doesn’t Matter Anymore” and “Raining in My Heart”?

3. Which group started as the Rhythm and Blues Quartet?

4. Who had a No. 1 hit with “Johnny Angel”?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “She was more than a woman, a goddess for all to see, All I ever needed was her right here loving me.”

### Answers

1. The Weather Girls. They started as backup singers, then found their own path to success with a name change and the release of “It’s Raining Men” in 1982.

2. Those were the last two songs released by Buddy Holly before he was killed in a plane crash in 1959. J.P. Richardson (the Big Bopper) and Ritchie Valens also died in the crash.

3. The Spencer Davis Group. They made the name change in 1964 because Davis was the only one who liked to do interviews.

4. Shelley Fabares, in 1962. She spent her teenage years playing the daughter on “The Donna Reed Show” (1958-64).

5. “Faded Pictures,” a collaboration between R&B singers Case and Joe. The top 10 song appeared on the soundtrack for the 1998 film “Rush Hour.”

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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



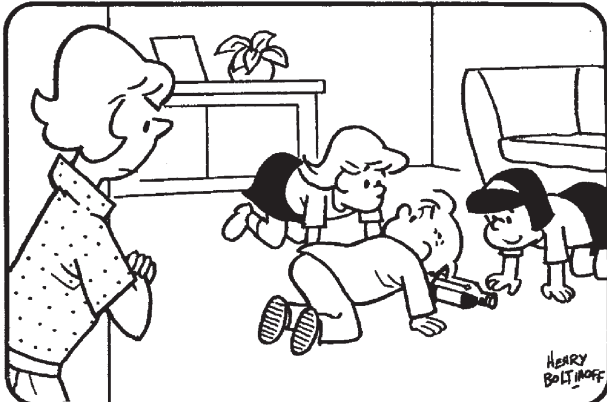
## GRIN and BEAR IT



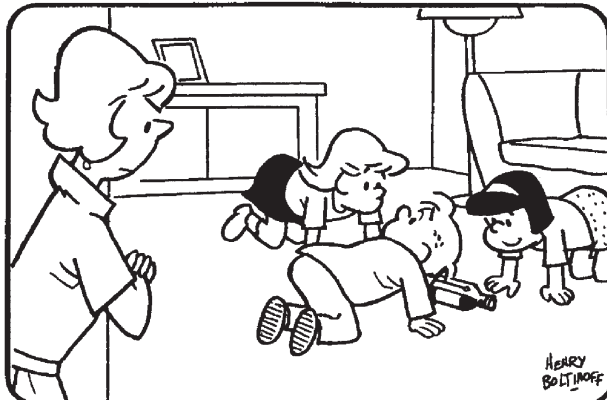
"He's changed, but not to what I tried to change him to!"

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant is missing. 2. Flame is added. 3. Woman's blouse is different. 4. Lamp is added. 5. Girl's skirt is different. 6. Woman's earring is added.

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- If you have a stubborn stain on the driveway or garage floor, try oven cleaner. Spray the spot and cover it (to keep pets out) and then let it sit for several hours. Give it a good scrub and rinse with the hose. It might just do the trick!

- “I have a tip for you. When pouring water in your coffee pot, use a 4-inch funnel by placing it in the tank. Helps from spilling water. Pour slowly!” — *P.T. in Illinois*

- Three ways to honor veterans on Memorial Day: pause for the National Moment of Remembrance (3 p.m. local time), a minute-long pause to remember those who lost their lives in service to our country; donate flowers or place flowers on the graves of veterans in your local cemetery; listen to the stories of veterans through StoryCorps’ oral history project ([storycorps.org/discover/military-voices](http://storycorps.org/discover/military-voices)).

- “Here’s a recipe tip from my broth-

er’s man cave: Take a can of beer and mix it with a cup of barbecue sauce. Add a couple drops of hot sauce if you’re feeling spicy. Use the mix to marinate chicken thighs for several hours before slapping them on the grill. He says the beer helps the chicken absorb the flavor, and he must be right, because it’s so yummy.” — *E.D. in Arkansas*

- Clean hairbrushes and combs by soaking them in a baking soda/water solution. Put them bristles down in a large cup and add the solution. Don’t do this to wood handle brushes.

- “Here’s a convenient way to measure oil and not have to wash an inconveniently shaped measuring cup: Label a glass jar with marks for common kitchen measurements: 1/4, 1/3, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4 and 1 cup. So easy.” — *J.K. in Vermont*

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

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## RIDDLE CARD



1. What did the thief get for stealing a calendar?
2. When is a boy like a pony?
3. When does a ship tell a falsehood?
4. When is a cliff like a fish?

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

1.	H					N
2.		H				N
3.			H		N	
4.				H	N	
5.			N			H
6.	N					H
7.	N					H

FIND THE BIG WORDS?

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the seven eight-letter words that fit into the framework above. The letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for:

- |                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Frontier clothing.         | shun + poem |
| 2. A type of pickle.          | hers + king |
| 3. A sailing vessel.          | corn + shoe |
| 4. Tuna hate them.            | fish + hens |
| 5. A card game.               | lone + chip |
| 6. What an archaeologist does | thus + near |
| 7. Unrivaled person or thing. | shun + once |

Answers: 1. Homespun, 2. Cheekins, 3. Schooner, 4. Fishers, 5. Pinchle, 6. Unearths, 7. Nonesuch.

### WILD SPELLING!

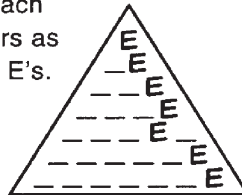
Using the letters P and A, can you spell a five-letter word that is the name of an animal?



Answer: The letters "P" and "A" spell PANDA!

**THE "E" PYRAMID!** Pictured at right is a word pyramid. Each word, as you go down the pyramid, contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all of the E's. Here are some hints, from the top down:

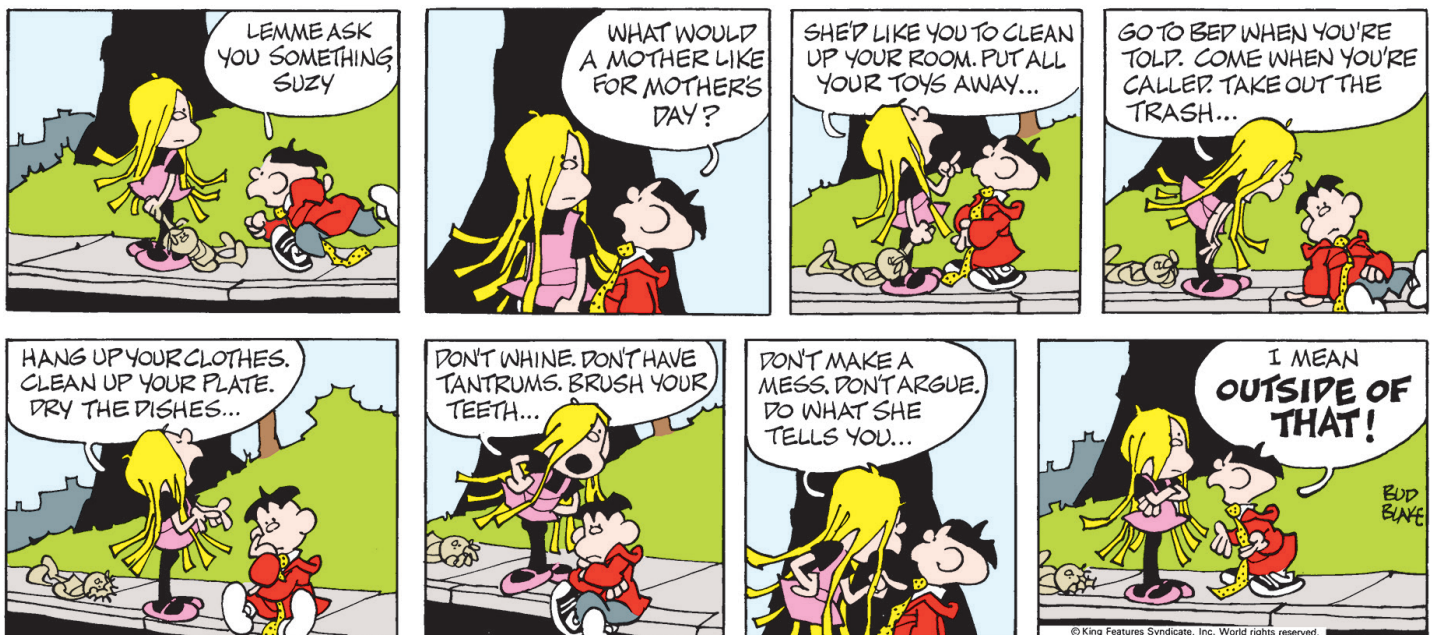
- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A vowel (given).        | 5. More depressed.       |
| 2. In reference to.        | 6. To rob.               |
| 3. To feel regret.         | 7. A muttered complaint. |
| 4. Unsophisticated person. |                          |



Answers: 1. e, 2. re, 3. rue, 4. rube, 5. bluer, 6. burgle, 7. grumble.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Work units
- 5 Urban carrier
- 8 Wanders
- 12 Hoodlum
- 13 Bobby of hockey
- 14 Leave out
- 15 Atmosphere
- 17 With skill
- 18 Godlike
- 19 Indefinite interval
- 21 To and —
- 22 Regimen
- 23 Sheepish comment
- 26 Mess up
- 28 Manicurist's concerns
- 31 Mater preceder

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
			21				22					
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 33 Insult (Sl.)
- 35 Nike slogan, "Just —"
- 36 Unpaid bills
- 38 1960s Pontiac
- 40 Homer's neighbor
- 41 Faraway fleet?
- 43 Actress Thurman
- 45 Help
- 47 Least adorned
- 51 Physicist Niels
- 52 Food of the gods

- 54 Tourney situations
- 55 Wire measure
- 56 Soda fountain treat
- 57 Right on the map?
- 58 Snoop
- 59 Arctic diving birds

### DOWN

- 1 "Zounds!"
- 2 Jim of sports radio
- 3 Asian desert
- 4 Express disdain nasally
- 5 Massachusetts city
- 6 Joan of —
- 7 The staff of life
- 8 Proceed
- 9 Drive
- 10 Pickling herb
- 11 Eyelid woe
- 16 Ireland
- 20 Victory
- 23 Evil
- 24 Brewery product
- 25 Surprise attacks
- 27 Tractor-trailer
- 29 Falsehood

- 30 Norm: Abbr.
- 32 Originally
- 34 Unshaven, in a way
- 37 "Mayday!"
- 39 Mr. Sharif
- 42 Postage buy
- 44 Scent
- 45 Singer Lane
- 46 Protein-rich bean
- 48 Birthright barterer
- 49 Symbol of smoothness
- 50 Body pics
- 53 Russian space station

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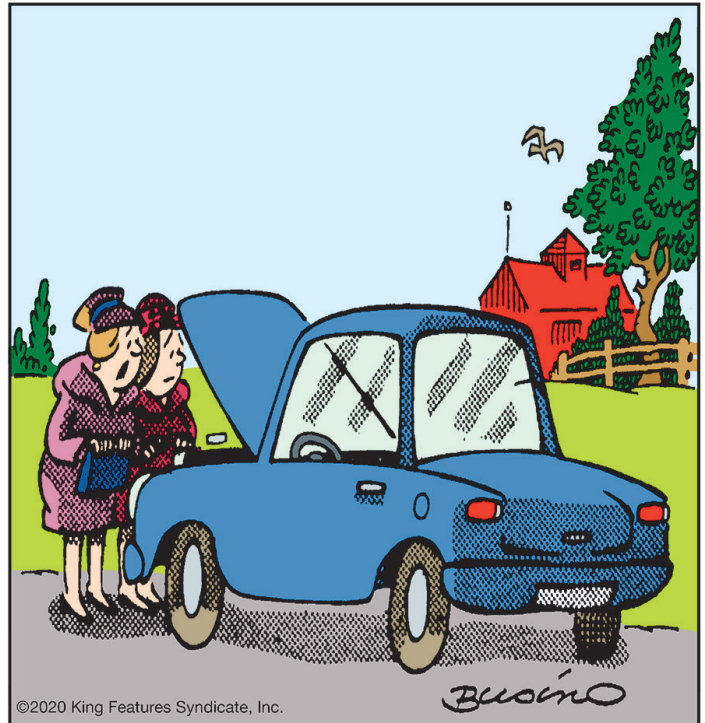
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

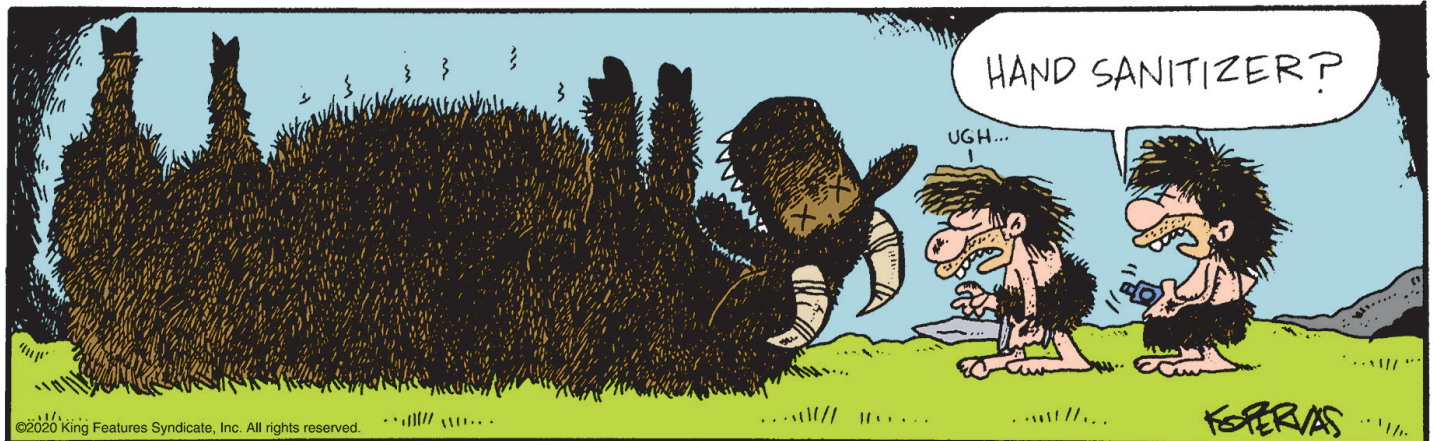
## LAFF - A - DAY



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. *Buscino*  
 "If my husband were only here, I'm sure I could tell HIM how to fix it."

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



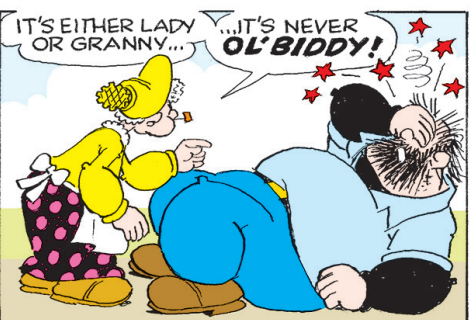
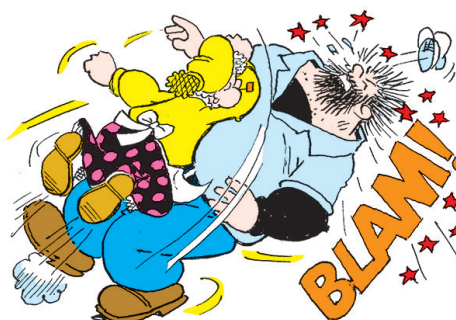
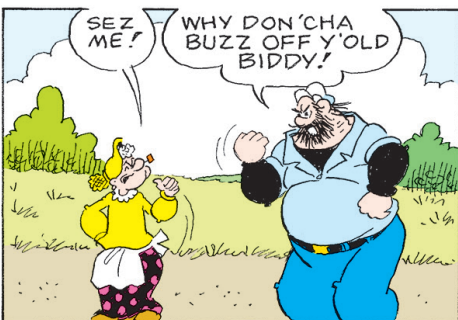
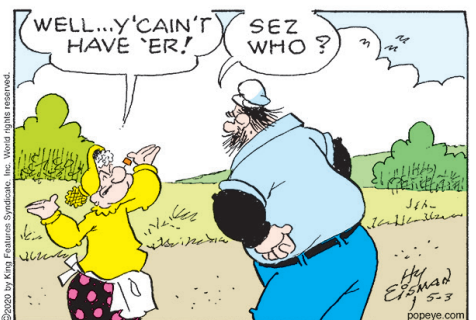
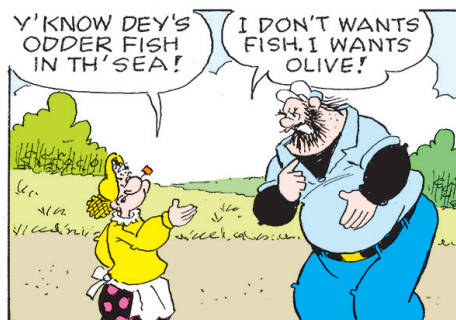
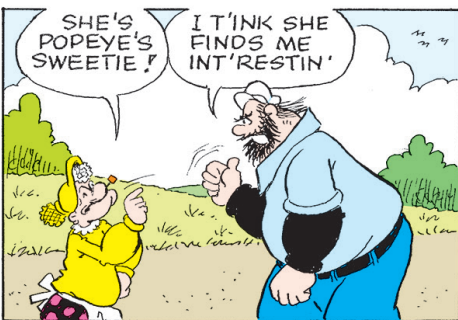
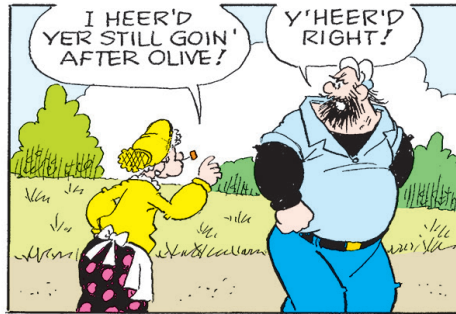
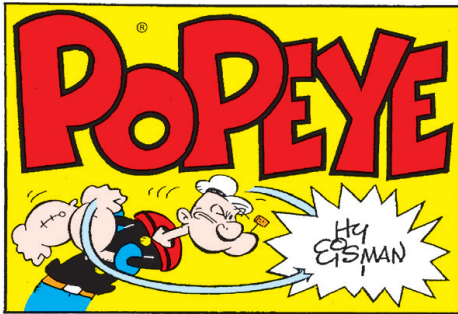
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KOPERVAS



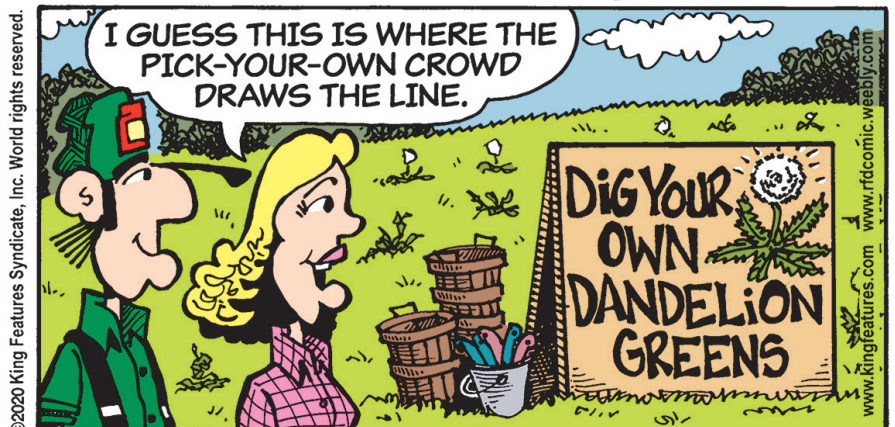
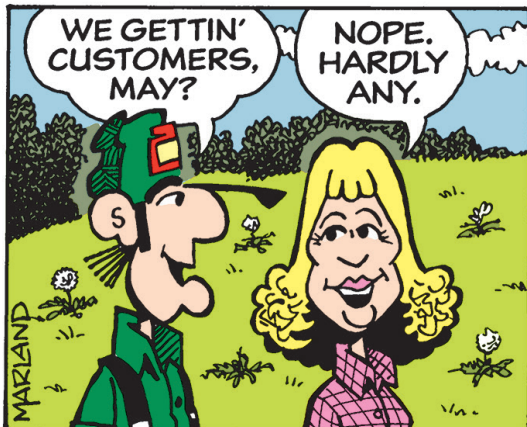
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland





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Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

**Our Story:**  
SO BEGINS THE FINAL LEG OF VAL'S LONG HOLIDAY FROM COURT. WHILE ALETA CONTINUES TO SCHOOL THE BEASTMEN ...

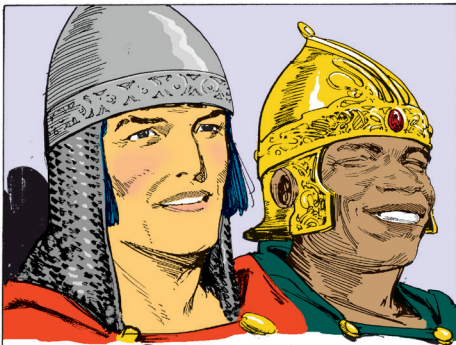


... VAL AND BUKOTA MAKE LAST-MINUTE PLANS FOR THE AB'SABAN'S PRESENTATION AS AMBASSADOR TO CAMELOT.



EVERYTHING HERE IS NEW TO NUDDER, BUP AND IG. THEY MANAGE TO HEED THEIR QUEEN'S WORDS, UNTIL THEIR ATTENTION IS YANKED AWAY BY A POWERFUL VISION.

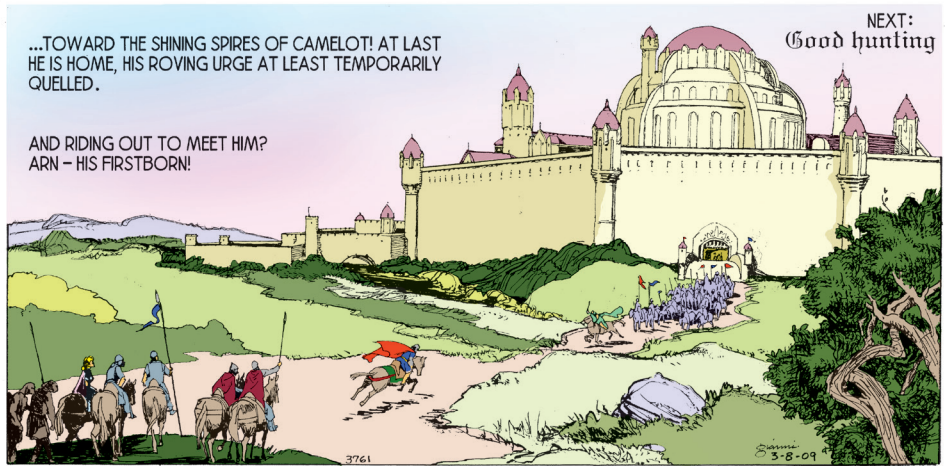
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VAL SPIES THIS VISION, TOO. FOR HIM IT IS A THING OF COMFORTING BEAUTY - AN OLD FRIEND. HE URGES HIS STEED INTO A GALLOP...

...TOWARD THE SHINING SPIRES OF CAMELOT! AT LAST HE IS HOME, HIS ROVING URGE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY QUELLED.

AND RIDING OUT TO MEET HIM? ARN - HIS FIRSTBORN!



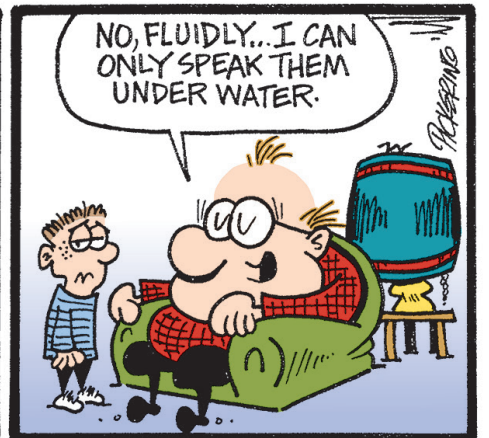
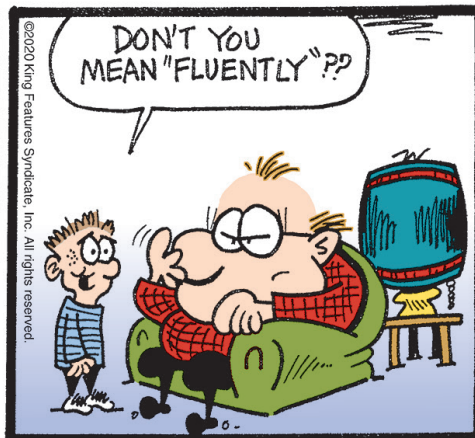
NEXT:  
Good hunting

3761

5-8-09

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Help Fill the Hours With an E-Reader

I don't often recommend specific products in this column, but there's one that many of us could use right now: a Kindle.

The Kindle is a handheld reading device, also called an e-reader, that holds thousands of books. Books can be downloaded into a Kindle — both books you buy (or read for free) from Amazon, and free books from your local library. With Amazon's Kindle Unlimited, for \$9.99 a month, you can read as many books as you like, or many books are \$2.99 or less.

For the device itself, consider the Kindle Paperwhite. Go to Amazon and read the reviews, questions and technical specs, such as WiFi versus WiFi+Cellular Connectivity, audio capability and storage size.

If you already have a tablet, you can read e-books as well. You'll need an

app, available for free on Amazon, if that's where you're going to order books. In the search box on Amazon, type in Kindle app.

The biggest difference between reading on a tablet and reading on a Kindle is this: The Kindle has one purpose, which is reading. The screen doesn't have a glare (unlike the shiny glass on a tablet), and you can easily increase the size of the type font.

If you want to download free books from your library, either onto a Kindle or a tablet, you can likely get help if you need it. Many libraries are technically closed now (the public can't go in), but staff are still there, some of them specifically to offer technical help. Call to ask for the specific e-reader app they use.

Last week I gave you a puzzle to solve and promised the answer: What is the next letter in this sequence? O T T F F S S \_ \_

Answer: E ... as in One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight.

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1. What former New England Patriots tight end was the host of WWE's "WrestleMania 36" event?

2. In 2014, who became the first to drive the No. 3 car in the NASCAR Cup Series since Dale Earnhardt at the 2001 Daytona 500?

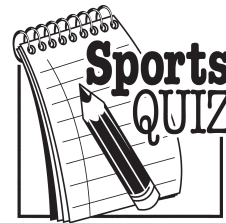
3. What player — nicknamed the "Clown Prince of Basketball" — had his No. 36 jersey retired by the Harlem Globetrotters in 2001?

4. Who is the only player inducted into both the Arena Football Hall of Fame (2011) and the Pro Football Hall of Fame (2017)?

5. Three-time Indianapolis 500 champion Helio Castroneves also was the Season 5 winner on what ABC TV competition series?

6. What former Major League Baseball player had a 44-game hitting streak as a member of the Cincinnati Reds in 1978?

7. WebstUR is the mascot for what university's athletic teams?



by Ryan A. Berenz

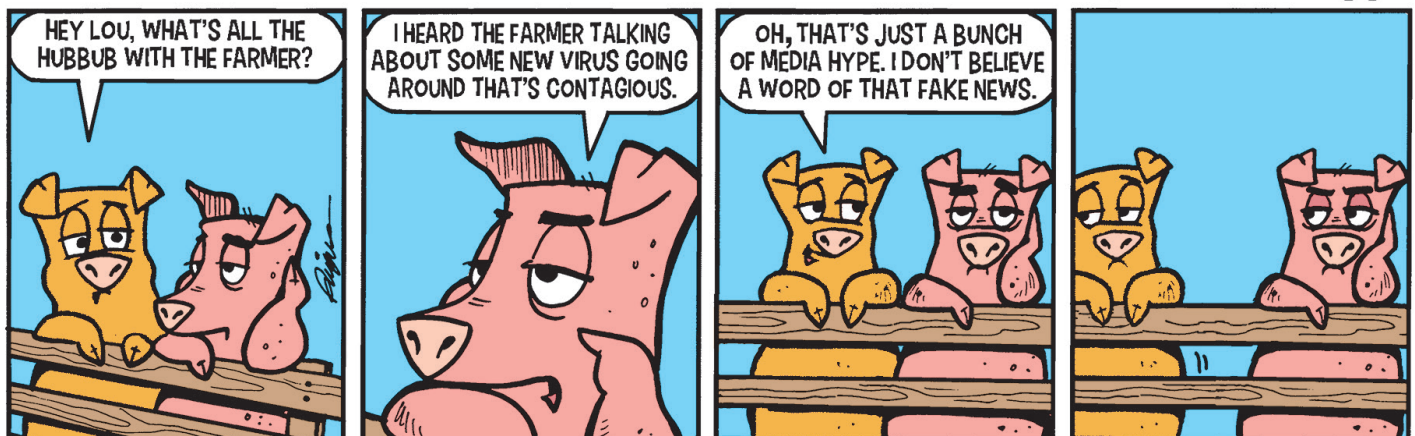
## Answers

1. Rob Gronkowski.
2. Austin Dillon.
3. Meadowlark Lemon.
4. Kurt Warner.
5. "Dancing With the Stars."
6. Pete Rose.
7. The University of Richmond Spiders.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



## A Letter to Our 2020 Graduates

I'll say it right off the bat, the Class of 2020 graduation looks different than those of the past – that's no secret. Graduating amid a pandemic shouldn't make your day any less special, though. A graduation day is still something to celebrate and all of South Dakota knows our 2020 graduates worked hard to get to where they are.

When I look back on my graduation day from T.F. Riggs High School and the University of South Dakota, I'm ashamed to admit, but if I'm being honest, I don't remember the commencement speaker or who I was sitting next to. While, I may not remember the minute details, I still carry with me the lessons from my years in college and high school.

The memories of high school and college go beyond just one day. For me, most of my memories were made in the classroom and during extracurricular activities. It's hard to appreciate your education when you're in the thick of it – but I promise, when you're an old man like me, you'll look back on those days fondly.

Last year, I had the opportunity to go to high school senior Addison Miller's graduation party – he mailed an invitation to my office and I showed up. I'm disappointed I won't get to do that for any of you this year.

As a 2020 graduate you'll have a more interesting story than most of us when it comes to graduation day. The changes and experiences you've faced during the last few months will likely shape education and learning for years to come – you are a part of history.

So even if the day itself didn't go quite how you expected, you should be incredibly proud of your accomplishment, because South Dakota is sure proud of you.

Congrats Grads!

Congressman Dusty Johnson

### 3 Weeks Ago

### 2 Weeks Ago

### Last Week

### This Week

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

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

Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
1,133,069 US
216,582 Spain
209,328 Italy
183,500 United Kingdom
168,518 France

Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
1,309,541 US
223,578 Spain
218,268 Italy
216,525 United Kingdom
198,676 Russia



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## China Must be Held Accountable for Spread of COVID-19

As our entire lives continue to be disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, many South Dakotans are increasingly frustrated by the impact it's having on our businesses, our jobs, our children and our social lives. While we continue to do our part to flatten the curve and deal with the immediate health crisis, many are also asking how the COVID-19 virus spread in the first place and whether it could have been prevented.

To answer this, we first look to the origin of the virus. Overwhelming evidence suggests the COVID-19 virus was released from a lab in China's Wuhan province. In late 2019, reports began to surface that COVID-19 cases were popping up in Wuhan. While there is no evidence to suggest the virus was manmade at this time, federal officials are continuing to investigate the details of its spread. The virus may have leaked out of the lab accidentally. However, China's cover-up that took place afterward was purposeful.

Rather than containing the spread of COVID-19, the Chinese government was more concerned about suppressing information to the public and running a public relations campaign to save face and protect its economy. According to a study by the University of Southampton in England, worldwide COVID-19 cases could have been reduced by 95 percent had China responded to the outbreak three weeks earlier.

Instead, China's government waited weeks before even alerting the world to the seriousness of the pandemic. They did this by kicking journalists out of the country to prevent bad press, lying about the fact that COVID-19 could be spread by human-to-human transfer, lying about the number of COVID-19 cases within their borders, and banning travel within China but still allowing Chinese citizens to travel abroad, thereby spreading the virus to other countries.

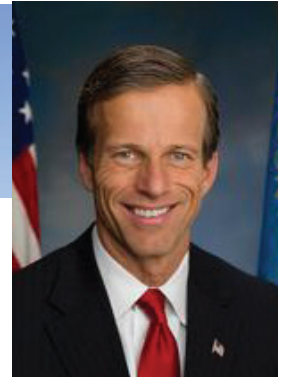
Even more concerning, the Chinese Communist Party also persuaded the World Health Organization (WHO) to be complicit in the false facts and data China was providing to the world. Part of the WHO's core mission is to "publish and disseminate scientifically rigorous public health information" and to "improve health" across the globe. Yet, they failed to verify the information coming out of China that could have saved lives and prevented the spread, despite China's long history of lying and deceiving the world for its own gain. President Trump recently made the decision to halt funding to the WHO until an assessment is completed on the role the WHO played in covering up and mismanaging the crisis. I agree with the president.

While China's nefarious activity on the world stage is not new, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the seriousness of their destabilizing behavior. We will explore ways in which we must begin to limit China's ability to impact us in a future column.

Worldwide, nearly four million cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, with more than 250,000 deaths. We continue to pray for those we lost and their families. In addition to the human cost, the world economy is at a standstill. In the U.S. alone, more than 33 million have filed unemployment since the pandemic began to spread. Businesses across the state and nation are seeing record losses after closing their doors for weeks on end.

As resilient Americans, I have no doubt we'll bounce back stronger than ever. But if it weren't for China's nefarious activity, it's unlikely we would be in this position in the first place. The actions taken by China's government to cover-up the virus and its spread aren't just negligence – they are criminal in nature. China must be held accountable.

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



## America Doesn't Give Up

During times of crisis, Congress is an essential industry for the American people. That's why I'm glad the Senate recently returned to Washington to continue doing the people's business in a safe and responsible way. While walking the halls of the Capitol isn't quite like it used to be, the Office of the Attending Physician and the Senate Rules Committee should be applauded for developing a plan so senators and staff can do our jobs while also complying with the appropriate coronavirus guidelines.

During the weeks I was working from home, I was able to stay connected with South Dakotans and my congressional colleagues. I learned more about Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, and Facebook Live than I ever imagined would be necessary. I'm glad I had those opportunities, but there are certain parts of my job that simply cannot be replicated when I'm not in Washington. Members of Congress have an obligation to rise to the occasion when the country needs them to show up and lead, and now is one of those times.

We have important work to do, especially when it comes to monitoring the ongoing congressional response to the pandemic, but keeping people safe is our top priority. We all have a responsibility to do our part to help slow the spread. That's why while I returned to Washington to vote, participate in committee hearings, and meet with colleagues, I asked a vast majority of my staff to continue to telework. They have proven that despite the obstacles this virus has presented, they can still represent the people of South Dakota as effectively as ever, even while working remotely. I'm thankful for the long hours they've put in on behalf of our state and nation, and I'm proud, as always, of their desire to serve.

In the Capitol, senators, members of the press, police officers, and other support staff have been wearing masks and doing their part to stay physically separated. We extended votes to avoid having members congregate in the Senate chamber, and we did simple things like open all of the chamber doors so senators weren't forced to unnecessarily touch common surfaces. In committee hearings, the daises were extended so there was a full six feet between each senator, we drastically reduced the number of people who were in the room, and senators could appear by video instead of in person.

I've been proud to support multiple coronavirus relief measures that are helping American businesses, workers, and farm and ranch families. For example, we created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that's designed to keep as many people as possible employed throughout this crisis. In South Dakota alone, more than 18,000 small businesses have received more than \$1.5 billion in PPP loans. I wish so many small businesses, including farmers and ranchers, didn't need to rely on this lifeline, but with this kind of demand, it's proven its value.

As this pandemic continues, Congress will do whatever it can to support the American people, but there's a limit to how much Washington can spend. We owe it to taxpayers – the people whose money we're spending – and to the generations of Americans whose futures we're mortgaging to get this right. That's why before we consider new spending or creating new programs, I believe it's essential to ensure the money we've already spent and the programs we've already created are working as intended.

Perseverance is the American way – a patriotic-like stubbornness that for generations has prevented any situation, no matter how difficult, from getting the best of our nation. That's why when I say we will rise from this challenge, stronger and better prepared for what lies ahead, I mean it.

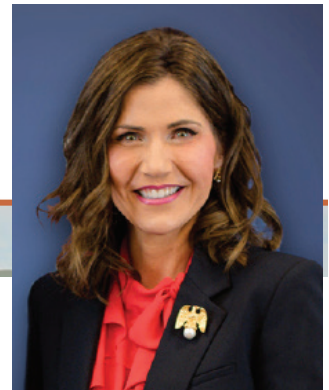
America doesn't give up. We lead. We inspire. We succeed. We always have, and we always will.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## A Message and a Thank You

I have two things that I'd like to share with you this week: a message about South Dakota tourism, and a personal thanks to a dear friend of mine.

1. National Travel and Tourism Week is a time to recognize the important impact tourism has on our state and our nation. This year's National Travel and Tourism Week theme centers around the "Spirit of Travel."

Our friends and neighbors in the tourism industry could use support and encouragement. COVID-19 has hit South Dakota tourism hard. In 2019, 14.5 million visitors came to The Mount Rushmore State. They spent 4.1 billion dollars and supported more than 55,000 jobs. Our economy depends on tourism, but those numbers will likely be down for 2020. I cannot stress enough how critical the tourism industry will be in getting our economy back up and running once people feel safe traveling again.

"Great Faces, Great Places" is South Dakota tourism in a nutshell. People choose to make lifelong memories visiting South Dakota's iconic landmarks like Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse. They also remember the smiling faces of South Dakotans. Let's take this week to celebrate every great face and great place that makes our state incredible.

Our tourism industry is resilient. If we come together and support each other, the spirit of travel will be back stronger than ever. To all of you who work in the tourism industry, we are praying for you during this difficult time. Thank you for all your work to welcome visitors to South Dakota.

When the time is right to travel again, I encourage South Dakotans to take time to explore your own backyard, travel our great state, make long-lasting memories, and support South Dakota's tourism industry. Let's all work to keep the "Spirit of Travel" alive and well.

2. Earlier this week, I accepted Kim Vanneman's resignation as our State Secretary of Agriculture. I want to thank her for years of service to our state.

Kim has been a longtime friend. She and I have worked on agriculture policy in the state of South Dakota for almost twenty years, and I don't know of a better advocate for agriculture. She has worked hard to make sure that farmers and ranchers are supported and that we have the ability to pass our operations on to the next generation.

Kim says it's time to return to her own family's agriculture operation. While Kim's title is going to change, she is going to continue to be a valuable adviser to me and an advocate for South Dakota agriculture. I can't thank her enough for her willingness to come into our administration and lead the Department of Agriculture. She will be missed.

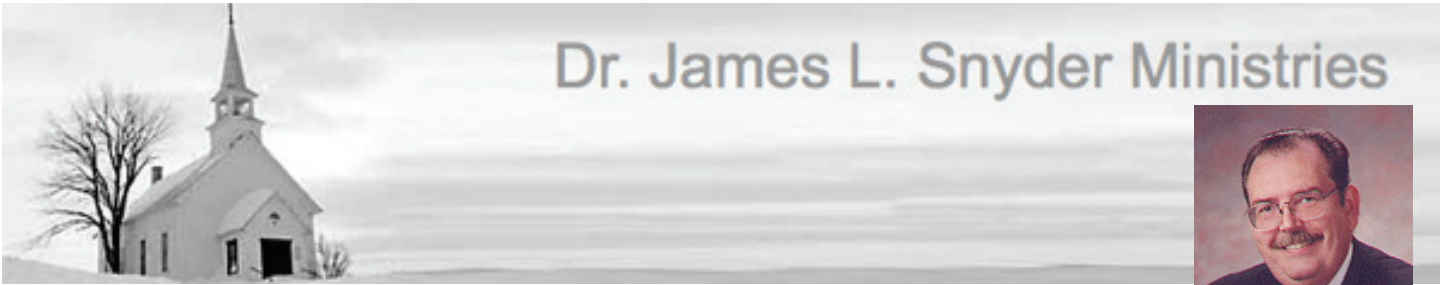
Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden will be filling in as Interim Secretary. He'll be focused on helping South Dakota agriculture fight this pandemic, particularly by helping livestock producers gain market access and deal with supply chain bottlenecks.

South Dakotans continue to encourage me each and every day. Remember, together, we'll get through this difficult time.



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## When Everything Fails, It's Over

During this time of seclusion, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly has spent some significant time binge-watching some of those Hallmark mystery movies. After a while, they all look alike, but my wife loves them, therefore, so do I.

The other night as we were watching, one of the characters was a very old, grouchy, mean-looking woman who had nothing nice to say about anybody. I usually groan whenever I saw her.

In the middle of the movie, my wife looked at me and said, "Does that woman remind you of anybody?" Whenever my wife asked me a question, I never know if it is a trick question or if she is looking for information. Most of the time, she is not looking for information. Therefore, I responded in the negative.

"Just look at her," my wife explained, "doesn't she remind you of Aunt Flora?"

I paused for a moment and then responded, "Oh, my goodness. She sure does."

I wished she would not have brought that subject up. I had not thought of Aunt Flora for years. I only knew her for the last 10 years of her life.

Aunt Flora was a very grouchy, complaining old woman. She could find a dark cloud in every burst of sunshine. No matter how good a situation might be, she could find the bad in it and exploit it.

Not only was she grouchy, but she was the neighborhood gossip. She knew things a few days before they actually happened. If you did not want anybody else to know, you certainly did not tell Aunt Flora.

What Aunt Flora did not know was, when you wanted the whole community to know something, you whispered it into Aunt Flora's ear.

I never spent too much time with her, but I remember one time she gave me some advice.

"Sonny," she couldn't remember my name, "when everything fails, it's over." I cannot tell you how many times I heard her say that.

If anybody knew anything about failure, it was her. As far as I know, and I could be wrong, she had three failed marriages. Knowing her as I knew her at the time, I can fully understand why her marriages failed.

I often thought it would be great to find one of those ex-husbands and talk about what he thought about my aunt Flora. I am sure I would have had several ears full of material. As far as I know, nobody knew where those husbands were. I do not think I am going to dig any deeper than that.

During a commercial in the movie we were watching, I talked to my wife about my aunt Flora in the kind of person she was. My wife knew Aunt Flora for a relatively short time, but you only had to meet her once to know what she was really all about.

"Do you know who Aunt Flora reminded me of?"

I stared at my wife a little bit, shook my head, and said, "No. Who does she remind you of?"

I was prepared for a whole lot of comparisons.

Thinking for a moment, she finally said, "Aunt Flora reminds me of Job's wife in the Old Testament."

That sure got me thinking. Never for once did I think that Aunt Flora was anywhere close to some Bible character.

However, as we talked about it, I begin to see her point of view. Aunt Flora was certainly a modern-day Mrs. Job.

You remember the story in the Old Testament. The story of Job and all of the conflict, problems and disaster that came down upon him. He did not know what was coming, did not know when it was coming or why it was coming, but all kinds of problems

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surrounded him.

Amid those problems, Mrs. Job comes to her husband and says, "Curse God, and die" (Job 2:9). I cannot imagine any wife saying such a thing to her husband. Yet, that is exactly what old Aunt Flora would have done. Who knows, maybe she did say that many times to her ex-husbands.

I do not know how Job really got through all his problems, particularly when he did not have a wife to support him. I think she had the same attitude as Aunt Flora.

What I like about Job was, despite his wife's encouragement to give up, Job said something that amazes me. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15a).

Job did not hold to the same ideas as Mrs. Job or Aunt Flora, which says, "When everything fails, it's over."

Talking with Aunt Flora, I would always come away discouraged and depressed. She had not a positive thing to say about anything or anybody. If you were on a high and you wanted to find a way down, just spend time with Aunt Flora.

While we were talking about Aunt Flora, I happen to think of one of my favorite verses in the Bible. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

In one way, Aunt Flora was right. When everything fails, it's over. But not the way she thought. Looking at it from Job's point of view, when everything fails, it is time for God to do what only God can do.



We will be distributing individual sets containing 100% grape juice and a single, unleavened communion wafer.

## *It's Holy Communion Sunday at the Pierpont Church*

5 p.m., Sunday, May 10, 2020

Stay in your vehicle and listen  
to the message on your FM radio.

This week's message based on John 14:1-14.

? Call/Text Pastor Paul at 605-397-7460



## *100th Birthday*

Marion Jensen will be celebrating  
His 100th Birthday on May 10th

Greetings may be sent to:

**Marion Jensen**

**Box 26**

**Conde, SD 57434**

**A surprise drive by for May 10th  
Gather at the Conde Fire Hall at 1:30 pm  
Drive by at 2:00 pm**





## South Dakota's uncounted unemployed workers taking brunt of COVID-19 hardships

**Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch**

Stacey Twiggs is one of the "uncounted" unemployed people in South Dakota.

Twiggs, 35, is a massage therapist from Black Hawk who has seen COVID-19 turn her life upside down. She hasn't gotten sick, but the pandemic has destroyed her once-thriving business, forced her to live off credit cards and put her in fear of becoming homeless.

And yet, Twiggs isn't counted among the record number of people who are officially listed as unemployed in South Dakota amid the pandemic, and she is not able to obtain unemployment benefits.

Twiggs is one of an unknown number of South Dakotans who are out of work, but who cannot get state unemployment benefits because they were self-employed or did not qualify for any reason. These uncounted, unofficially unemployed workers are suffering from a loss of income but do not have easy access to government assistance, and some are turning to charities or friends for help.

With state unemployment benefits unattainable, Twiggs and others have tried to get help from federal emergency programs aimed at helping the jobless stay afloat. But applying for those programs must be done through the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation and can be complicated. And because the state has been fielding more than 5,000 new applications for benefits each week, actually getting money can take some time.

"It's been a crazy, wild adventure trying to get help," said Twiggs.

As many as 14 million Americans who could qualify for some type of unemployment compensation are not receiving assistance, according to a survey published April 28 by the Economic Policy Institute.

According to the survey, some workers were stalled by complicated paperwork or frustrated with over-worked state labor agencies. Others were paid under the table or didn't make enough money the year before seeking benefits to qualify for compensation.

The high number of uncounted unemployed people has led government officials to understate the depth of the employment challenges in South Dakota and the nation, and could have implications in regard to creation of emergency programs or funding initiatives to aid those who have lost their livelihoods.

The ability to craft meaningful, well-targeted assistance programs is also hampered by a lack of data collection by government agencies, including in South Dakota, where officials don't track unemployment by age, gender, race, industry or location.

Federal surveys that look at some of that information are conducted only once a month. The March federal survey missed the initial surge of new virus-driven unemployment claims; the April survey is expected May 8.

By excluding people from official employment data, the state is not presenting an accurate picture of overall unemployment to the public and policymakers, said state Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel.

"You're fudging the numbers; you're not being truthful about the situation," Maher said. "They always



**Stacey Twiggs**

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say South Dakota's unemployment rate is 2% or 3%, but even before the virus hit, your unemployment rate was probably closer to 10%."

The lack of good data has "skewed" the state's ability to accurately track unemployment and fully understand what is happening in the marketplace, said Maher, the owner of an insurance agency who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee. That could affect the state's ability to help people or react in a crisis, Maher said.

"You wonder, what does that population look like that is falling through the cracks and not being tracked?" Maher said.

No one really knows what the total unemployed population actually looks like in South Dakota. The state does not track people who don't get benefits or those who are considered to have left the labor force.

Some workers are dropping out of the state and national labor forces and thus out of the unemployment conversation altogether. Those so-called "discouraged workers" get placed in the same population category as stay-at-home parents, full-time students and retirees, despite being able to work and having bills to pay.

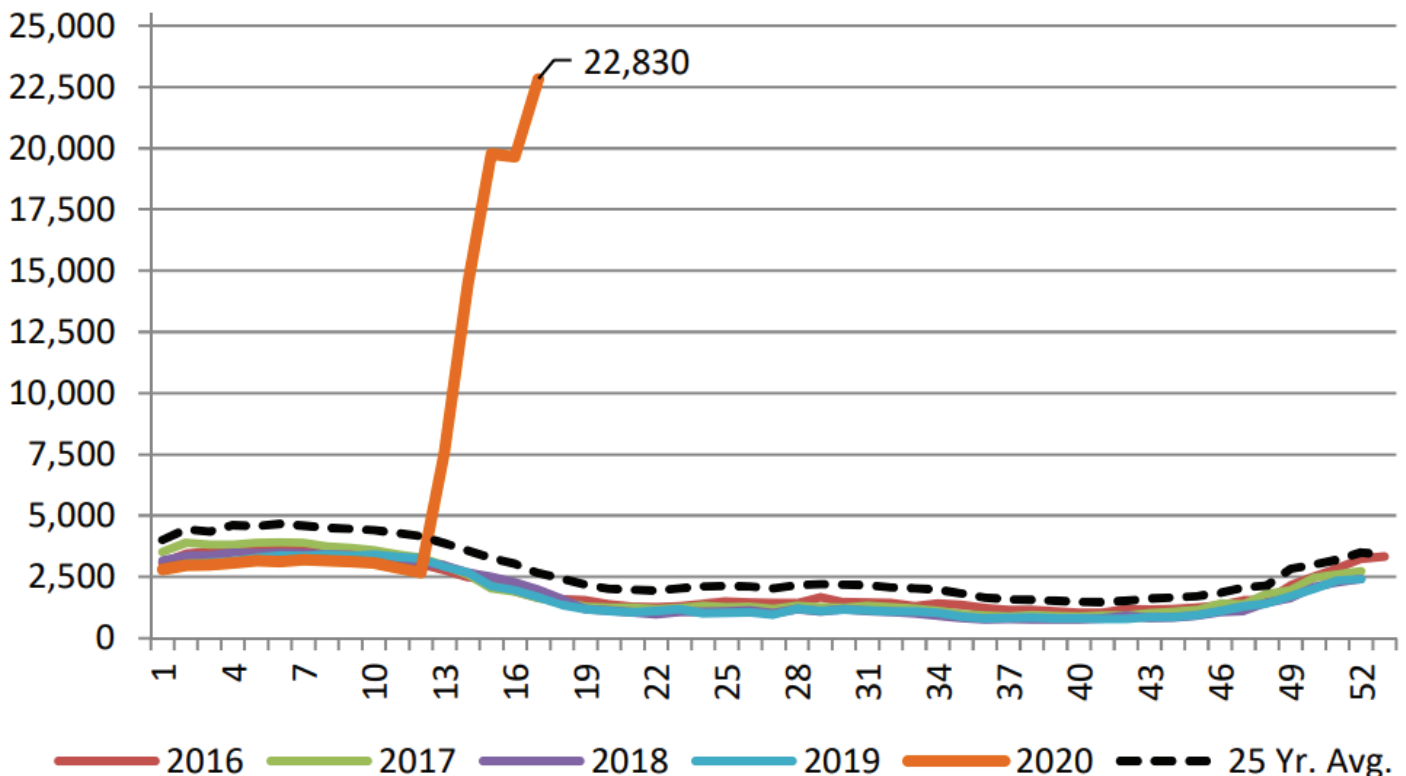
Officially, the number of unemployed South Dakotans was still growing at a record pace during the last week of April. Roughly 5,400 people sought benefits for the first time and 22,830 received ongoing benefits, according to a weekly economic report from the state Bureau of Finance and Management.

Based on the number of continuing recipients and new claims, about 6% of the state's labor force of around 467,600 was either seeking or receiving unemployment benefits by the end of April.

The number of people seeking or receiving benefits was nearly double the 3.3% rate of unemployment reported in South Dakota for the month of March. About 3,756 people sought benefits for the first time for

## SD Continued Claims for Reemployment Assistance

(weekly claims by calendar year)





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the week ending May 2 and 22,707 received ongoing benefits, according to the state's May 7 weekly unemployment report.

**"You wonder, what does that population look like that is falling through the cracks and not being tracked?" -- Sen. Ryan Maher**

The official U.S. unemployment rate shot up more than 10 percentage points in April to 14.7% and more than 20.5 million jobs were lost. April saw the largest month-to-month increase to unemployment and highest unemployment rate the Bureau of Labor statistics has ever recorded.

The national labor force also shrank by 2.5%, meaning hundreds of thousands of more Americans are no longer counted among the ranks of the unemployed. Federal officials reported May 7 that 33.5 million Americans, about 1 in 5 people in the national labor force, have applied for unemployment benefits since the pandemic began.

No data exists on how many South Dakotans have been denied unemployment benefits or haven't sought benefits. The state labor department was too busy processing new unemployment claims to research how many claims the department has denied and for what reasons, Deputy Secretary Dawn Dovre said in response to a request from News Watch.

In the absence of unemployment or other aid, some formerly prosperous workers have slipped into the realm of the needy. In many cases, private charities are stepping up to provide what help they can to South Dakota's hidden unemployed workers.

Through April, Catholic Social Services in Rapid City received 300 applications for cash assistance from the organization's COVID-19 disaster response fund. All told, the organization had paid out \$33,000 to 132 applicants by May 4, said Leon Lunders, the organization's director of disaster relief.

The CSS fund was set up in March specifically to help people who don't qualify for other types of assistance, Lunders said. "The need is very much increased," he said.

As many as 70% of the applications for assistance from CSS came from women, Lunders said.

The high number of women in need was not surprising, he said. The tourism industry and the bars, restaurants and hotels that support tourism have been among the hardest-hit businesses during the pandemic, both in South Dakota and nationwide, and tend to employ more women.

Businesses have either been forced to shut down by local governments or have closed willingly to protect employees and customers. Government recommendations to stay at home have also limited customers for many businesses.

Twiggs was one of the women who sought assistance from CSS. The licensed massage therapist had been bringing in around \$50,000 of annual revenue to her business until the middle of March.

Then, in the span of about one week, Twiggs saw her client list shrink to almost zero. On March 18, she closed her practice indefinitely and gave up the office space she was renting on West Main Street in Rapid City to save money.

"I was a professional woman with my own business and it was thriving. And it's not exactly my fault it shut down," Twiggs said.

Because she was self-employed, Twiggs doesn't qualify for the state's weekly unemployment benefit of about \$351. She might be eligible for the new federally funded \$600 weekly pandemic unemployment assistance created by Congress in late March.

Twiggs said she has had trouble completing the unemployment application and verifying her income, which is required to get the full benefit. Without income verification, Twiggs would only get \$175 per week from the federal program.



**State Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel**

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**South Dakota businesses are starting to re-open, but many restaurants, such as this Culver's restaurant in Rapid City, remained open for takeaway but not for seating as of May 5.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

Since shutting down her business, Twiggs said, she's been living off of credit cards and what little cash she was able to bring in from selling some of her massage equipment. She also tried to donate plasma to earn a little cash for rent but couldn't due to a medical condition. In effect, Twiggs said, she's gone without an income for a month and a half and has barely been able to keep food on her table or a roof over her head.

"I could jump in there and start working, but then I'm putting myself and others at risk [of the virus]," she said. "I don't want to do that. But what other options do I have?"

Now two months behind on the rent for her mobile home, Twiggs is on the verge of eviction. She asked for \$250 of cash assistance from Catholic Social Services to make a partial rent payment for April, but her landlord demanded payment in full and has rejected other offers to pay in install-

ments.

"I can't even take one day at a time," Twiggs said. "I'm taking it on an hour-by-hour basis. Right now my number one thing is, I just need a roof over my head so I have a place where I can figure out what to do with myself. So I can fill out the paperwork. So I can make my phone calls. So I can try and get my situation figured out."

Twiggs, as it turns out, may be on the leading edge of another slow burning crisis brought on by high rates of unemployment — eviction and homelessness.

Renters likely will bear the brunt of the housing challenges, said Breck Miller, Community Relations Coordinator for the Financial Resource Center run by Lutheran Social Services.

The resource center, which helps people stabilize their personal finances, has been helping South Dakotans maintain housing for years, Miller said. The scope of the unemployment problems he and the center's financial counselors are beginning to see is unprecedented.

"People that have been secure in jobs for a long time, or have been able to find employment are struggling with (unemployment) on a level that we haven't seen before," Miller said.

The financial hole that many currently unemployed South Dakotans are digging just to stay afloat may prolong the economic pain and delay any recovery, Miller said.

"Some people will be able to weather that, and some landlords will be gracious and help people through that, and most of our lenders are being gracious and helping people through mortgages," said Miller. "Even with that help, there is still the matter of getting payments caught back up once recovery starts. And that's going to be just as much to wade through, I think, as surviving the moment right now. That's going to be a longer challenge than a lot of people expect."

— News Watch reporter Bart Pfankuch contributed to this report.



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## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Everything's down, a good thing.

We're at 1,315,300 cases in the US. We're back on our downward trajectory. NY leads with 338,519 cases, a decrease in rate of growth for the second consecutive day. NJ has 137,085 cases, which is also down. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: MA – 76,743, IL – 73,008, CA – 65,851, PA – 58,661, MI – 46,735, FL – 39,993, TX – 38,751, and CT – 32,984. These ten states account for 69% 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, GA, CA, MD, FL, IN, TX, and VA. States where new case reports are increasing include OH, WI, WA, MO, AZ, AL, MN, and NE. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MI, NJ, CT, MA, LA, PA, and TN. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 78,718 deaths in the US. Today the rate of growth has declined for a third consecutive day and is holding under 2000 new deaths reported. NY has 26,584, NJ has 9116, MA has 4840, MI has 4526, PA has 3793, IL has 3362, CT has 2932, CA has 2688 and LA has 2194. 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.

Here's some sad news: At least one-third of all deaths in 26 US states have been in long-term care facilities and more than half in 14 of those states, as high as 70% in two states. We should soon have a better picture of the full carnage under a new rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) which requires states to report on this specifically and also to disclose PPE and hand hygiene supplies, resident access to testing, and staffing shortages. We've been hearing shocking tales of shortages in these facilities and issues with prioritizing supplies for their use, accompanied by horrifying death rates. Now, the CMMS will try to get to the bottom of the problem.

Taken together with the disproportionate numbers of cases and deaths among black people (13% of population, 27% of deaths), Latino people (18% of population, 27% of deaths), and Natives (nationwide data hard to come by, but in Arizona, they're 6% of the population, 16% of the deaths; in New Mexico 11% of population, 55% of cases), this paints a picture of a society that is not doing a good job of protecting its most vulnerable and its most disadvantaged. I don't think we're talking about these disparities enough, and clearly we're not doing enough about them either.

We seriously need to recognize that serving underserved communities isn't just the ethical choice (although it totally is, and this alone would be sufficient justification for proceeding with it); it is also the smart move. Turns out public health spills over all sorts of racial, ethnic, and class boundaries. If any community or sub-population is at risk from an infectious disease, then we are all at risk. Even when the burden falls disproportionately on one community, the continuing presence in the general population endangers us all. This stuff moves through the air, and absent the mark of the lamb on our portals, can be visited on any of us. So, even if you don't give a good goddamn about black and brown people, it would still be in your best interest to protect them from the current plague. Food for thought.

The FDA announced today they have granted emergency authorization for an antigen test for SARS-CoV-2. This is different from the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests, the ones predominate in current use which detect viral RNA (genetic material) on a nasal swab; this one detects fragments of viral proteins. It is cheaper, faster, and can scale within a few weeks--and more manufacturers signing on to produce them--to over a million tests per week, a huge boon to our ability to finally produce sufficient testing capacity to get a handle on this pandemic. The current PCR test is extremely sensitive, but yields false

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negative results when the specimen collection is not as good as it can be: Because the swab used to collect a specimen must travel far into the nasal passages, an uncomfortable procedure for the patient, it may not pick up the virus which is present; but if the specimen is well-collected, the virus is highly likely to be detected. This test is not as sensitive as the PCR, which means there's a chance it will fail to detect the virus in an infected person (a so-called false negative). Perhaps specimen collection is the issue here too. I can see this increasing our testing capacity, even if we have to implement a system of confirming negative tests with the PCR. This would ease some of the pressure on the system and lower costs.

On the treatment front, there's something old that's sort of new. We've talked before about the old HIV drug, combination ritonavir and lopinavir (marketed as Kaletra), which has been in trials for a while now. A new test of this in combination with the antiviral drug ribavirin and an immune system booster called beta interferon, which is currently used for multiple sclerosis, has shown promising results. Researchers at Hong Kong University with patients having mild to moderate symptoms early in infection found the patients tested negative for the virus after seven days' treatment; patients receiving ritonavir and lopinavir were still positive for the virus after twelve days. They felt better within four days and experienced shorter hospital stays. Few side effects were observed. This could be useful early in infection, which is when it appears to be most effective. The only drug currently holding emergency FDA authorization for use in Covid-19 patients, remdesivir, is far more difficult to obtain and is also expected to be very expensive when it is fully approved, whereas these drugs are all far more available; so this could be very helpful. Further testing will give us more information about how it fits into the scheme of things.

No one seriously expects we're going to find a single "magic bullet" cure, but rather drugs that shorten the course of the disease and improve survival rates. In that case, every additional tool in the arsenal, especially those which can be available and affordable as the disease moves through countries with fewer resources, is going to improve the outlook for patients and the general population world-wide.

I read a story yesterday about a forensic technician at Hackensack University Medical Center in Paramus, New Jersey, Tanisha Brunson-Malone. Her job is to perform autopsies and oversee funeral home pickups of patients who have died, and in recent weeks, to oversee three refrigerated trailers in the parking garage where the hospital keeps the remains of Covid-19 patients, people who died, as she says, "alone by themselves without their families," overflow from the hospital's morgue. The trailers are always "full, full, full," she says.

Several mornings a week, Ms. Brunson-Malone stops at a florist on her way to work and buys all the yellow daffodils in stock; then, when she arrives at the hospital, she goes into the trailers and places a bright yellow flower on top of each new body bag. No one sees these flowers but her and the funeral home workers who come to pick the bodies up. The article says, "Her flowers are for the dead alone, a fleeting brush with dignity and decorum on the way from one sad place to another. 'I was kind of like their voice,' Ms. Brunson-Malone said, 'because they were voiceless.'"

There's a person who decided to stop waiting for the world to change and just went ahead and changed it. Faced with tragedy on an unimaginable scale, she tidied up her corner of the world and handed out dignity, one yellow daffodil at a time. I can't really come up with an excuse for any of us to do less; so let's get started as we all start a new week together.

Week's over; new one's beginning. Let's face it with courage and compassion. Stay healthy. We'll talk tomorrow.



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## Area COVID-19 Cases

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

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

	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9
Minnesota	7,851	8,579	9,365	10,088	10,790
Nebraska	6,438	6,771	7,190	7,831	8,234
Montana	456	456	456	458	458
Colorado	17,364	17,830	18,371	18,827	19,375
Wyoming	452	479	483	490	495
North Dakota	1266	1,323	1,371	1,425	1,464
South Dakota	2,721	2,779	2,905	3,144	3,393
United States	1,204,475	1,228,609	1,256,972	1,286,833	1,309,541
US Deaths	71,078	73,431	75,670	77,280	78,794

Minnesota	+617	+728	+786	+723	+702
Nebraska	+355	+333	+419	+741	+403
Montana	+8	0	0	+2	0
Colorado	+457	+466	+541	+456	+548
Wyoming	+8	+27	+4	+7	+5
North Dakota	+41	+57	+48	+54	+39
South Dakota	+53	+58	+126	+239	+249
United States	+23,841	+24,134	+28,363	+29,861	+22,708
US Deaths	+2,144	+2,353	+2,239	+1,610	1,514

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## May 9th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from Dept. of Health Lab records

Brown County had more people recovered than tested positive, so that is good news for the day! Brown County only had 3 positive cases with 9 fully recovered. Day County had two more recovered cases. Roberts County now has 13 total cases as they gained two more in the last 24 hours. There were five more deaths in the Dakotas with three in South Dakota and two in North Dakota. Spink County reported a positive case, taking them off the fully recovered list.

### South Dakota:

Positive: +249 (3,393 total) (10 more than yesterday)

Negative: +1,410 (19,559 total)

Hospitalized: +6 (253 total) - 79 currently hospitalized (3 more than yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (34 total) - Total: Minnehaha has 29 deaths, Beadle 2, Jerauld, McCook and Pennington each have 1.

Recovered: +56 (2125 total)

Active Cases: 1234 (190 more than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +1 (18), Brule +2 (68), Butte +3 (79), Campbell +1 (13), Custer -1 (62), Dewey +12 (62), Edmunds 28, Gregory 34, Haakon 18, Hanson +1 (32), Harding 1, Jackson 13, Jones 6, Kingsburg +4 (87), Mellette +1 (19), Perkins 8, Potter +1 (37), Tripp +3 (66), unassigned +218 (711).

Brown: +3 positive, +9 recovered (45 of 110 recovered)

Day: +2 recovered (4 of 10 recovered)

Hughes: +1 recovered (10 of 15 recovered)

Lincoln: +6 positive, +1 recovered (125 of 186 recovered)

Minnehaha: +232 positive, +74 recovered (1731 of 2767 recovered)

Pennington: +1 positive (19 total)

Roberts: +2 positive (13 total)

Spink: +1 positive (4 total)

Stanley: +1 positive (9 total)

Todd: +2 recovered (3 of 8 recovered)

Union: +3 positive, +1 recovered (23 of 53 recovered)

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

### COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Active Cases	1234
Currently Hospitalized	79
Recovered	2125
Total Positive Cases*	3393
Total Negative Cases*	19559
Ever Hospitalized**	253
Deaths***	34

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 1,432 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 40 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,464. NDDoH reports two new deaths.

State & private labs have reported 43,933 total tests & 42,469 negatives.

762 ND patients are recovered. One positive case reported on 5/8 from Cass County was reassigned out of state.

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	1	1	46
Beadle	21	19	210
Bennett	0	0	18
Bon Homme	4	4	121
Brookings	14	13	409
Brown	110	45	743
Brule	0	0	68
Buffalo	1	1	19
Butte	0	0	79
Campbell	0	0	13
Charles Mix	5	4	124
Clark	2	1	62
Clay	9	6	181
Codington	15	14	546
Corson	1	1	25
Custer	0	0	62
Davison	7	5	355
Day	10	4	71
Deuel	1	1	90
Dewey	0	0	62
Douglas	1	1	37
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	81
Hand	1	1	26
Hanson	0	0	32
Harding	0	0	1
Hughes	15	10	285
Hutchinson	3	3	114

Hyde	1	1	19
Jackson	0	0	13
Jerauld	6	5	42
Jones	0	0	6
Kingsbury	0	0	87
Lake	5	4	163
Lawrence	9	9	223
Lincoln	186	125	1710
Lyman	3	2	56
Marshall	1	1	58
McCook	4	3	119
McPherson	1	1	23
Meade	3	1	342
Mellette	0	0	19
Miner	1	1	23
Minnehaha	2767	1731	8956
Moody	14	4	113
Oglala Lakota	1	1	56
Pennington	19	10	1089
Perkins	0	0	8
Potter	0	0	37
Roberts	13	5	151
Sanborn	3	3	42
Spink	4	3	107
Stanley	9	7	47
Sully	1	1	15
Todd	8	3	114
Tripp	0	0	66
Turner	18	15	168
Union	53	23	276
Walworth	5	5	61
Yankton	29	23	512
Ziebach	1	0	13
Unassigned****	0	0	711

## COVID-19 DEATHS IN SOUTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	2
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	29
Pennington	1

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

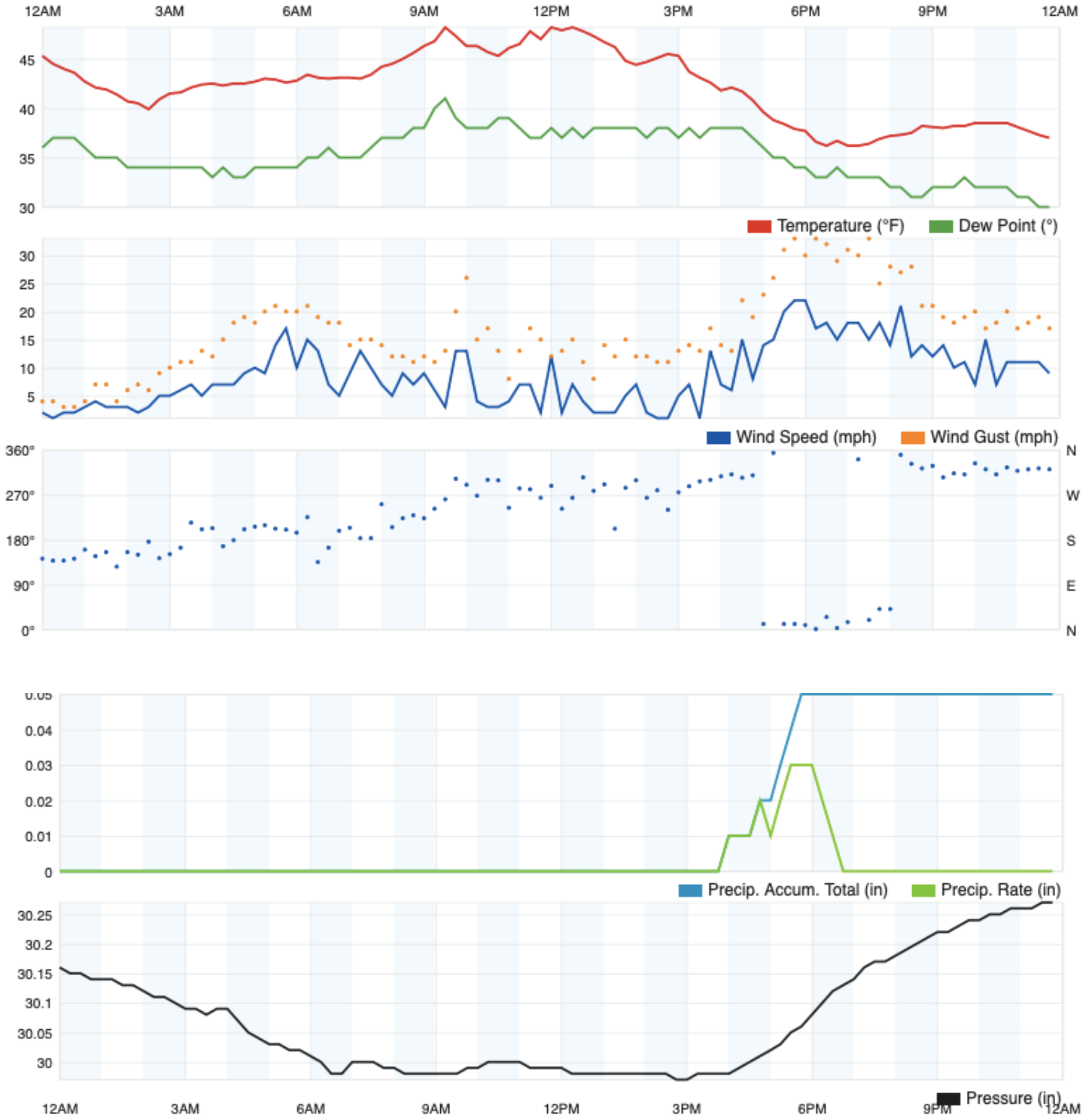
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	1553	17
Male	1840	17



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Increasing  
Clouds

High: 46 °F

Tonight



Frost

Low: 27 °F

Monday



Frost then  
Sunny

High: 50 °F

Monday  
Night



Mostly Clear  
then Frost

Low: 28 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 53 °F



## Breezy and Cold Today

Highs only in the 40s and low 50s

Lows tonight in the 20s



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Breezy northerly winds and cold temperatures can be expected today with highs in the 40s and low 50s. While most locations will see dry conditions, cannot rule out isolated showers in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota this afternoon. Clear skies and light winds tonight will allow temperatures to drop into the 20s.

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## Today in Weather History

May 10, 1982: An F3 tornado was first sighted six miles west of Tintah, Minnesota. The storm moved into the town of Tintah and then northeastward, dissipating north of Wendell. Two farms, sites were damaged west of Tintah. Nearly one dozen farm buildings were destroyed, and 50 cows were killed. Hail as large as softballs preceded the tornado into Tintah where there was extensive damage. A school and church received heavy damage, two railroad cars were overturned, homes and grain buildings were damaged, and utility poles and trees were uprooted.

1880: A tornado estimated to be F4 intensity moved across 20 miles of Scott and Morgan Counties in central Illinois. The tornado touched down near Alsey and moved northeast, passing 8 miles south of Jacksonville. The tornado was strongest in the Pisgah area, where 30 buildings were destroyed. Seven people were killed.

1905: On Wednesday, May 10th, 1905, the Oklahoma Territory was struck by one of the worst natural disasters in early American history. Tornadoes pounded the southwest part of the Territory, one of which flattened the town of Snyder. The "official" death toll is listed today as 97, but the actual number of victims may never be known. One hundred years later, this single tornado remains the second most deadly in Oklahoma history.

1953: Four, F4 tornadoes touched down in parts of eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. One F4 tornado moved northeast from northeast of Fountain City, Wisconsin to Colburn, Wisconsin. Total damage from this storm was \$1 million, and it caused ten injuries.

The second F4 tornado moved from 5 miles southwest of Chester, Iowa to 4 miles northeast of Chatfield, Minnesota. One man was killed as his barn was destroyed one mile southeast of Wykoff. A rural school was leveled 3 miles south of Chatfield as well.

The third F4 tornado moved northeast and passed about 2 miles northwest of St. Charles, Minnesota. Farms were torn up all along the track. An infant was killed, and four other people were injured in a car that was thrown 100 feet. Overall this tornado killed one person and injured 11 people.

The final F4 tornado moved across Rusk, Price, and Taylor counties in Wisconsin. Over \$150,000 worth of damage resulted. An F3 tornado moved northeast across Clayton County, Iowa. At least 60 head of cattle were killed. A farmer was carried 700 feet but suffered only minor injuries.

2010: On this day, Oklahoma experienced its largest tornado outbreak since May 3, 1999. Fifty-five twisters tore through the state, including two rated EF4. The EF4 storms took three lives and injured 81 people. Ironically, both EF4 tornadoes struck Norman, Oklahoma, home of the Storm Prediction Center and the National Severe Storms Laboratory. Fourteen additional tornadoes hit Oklahoma during May 11-13. The May 10 disaster racked up insured property losses of \$2 billion.



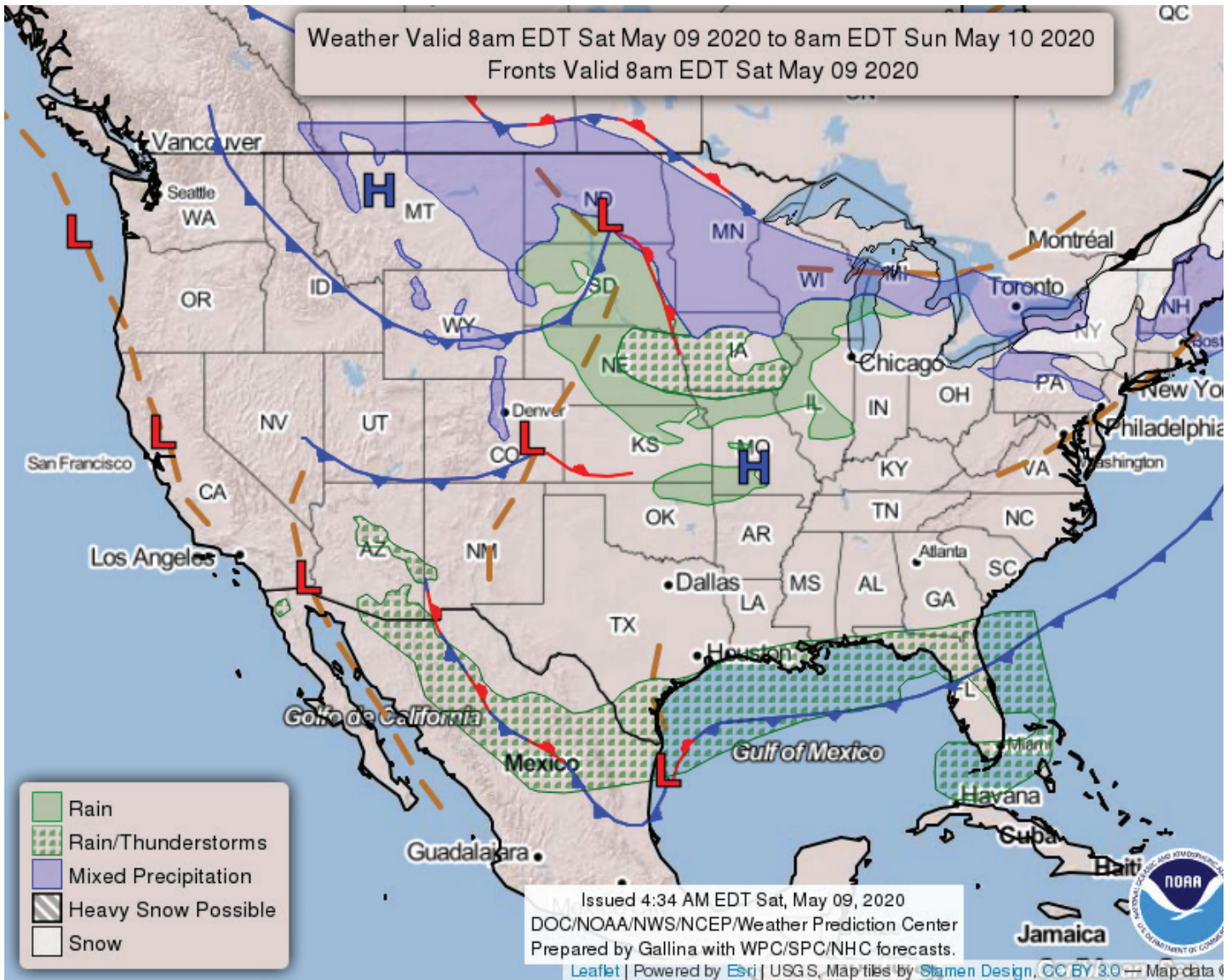
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 48 °F at 9:32 AM**  
**Low Temp: 36 °F at 7:05 PM**  
**Wind: 33 mph at 5:37 PM**  
**Precip: .05**

**Record High: 95° in 1911**  
**Record Low: 20° in 1981**  
**Average High: 67°F**  
**Average Low: 42°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 0.92**  
**Precip to date in May.: 2.30**  
**Average Precip to date: 4.95**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.20**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:52 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:07 a.m.**



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## **DANGER AHEAD!**

A battered, old truck was rambling down a country road and approached a sharp right turn. Unfortunately, the driver applied the brakes but nothing happened. It missed the turn and ended up in a field.

Fortunately, the driver climbed out of the cab uninjured. Dusting himself off, he said to the crowd that gathered around him, "I reckon I should've bought brake fluid before I needed it!"

Procrastination presents problems. One of the problems for procrastinators is that what they tend to put off leads to crises, like the truck driver ending up in a field. Fortunately, he ended up with no injury to himself.

One unfortunate result of procrastinating is that it can result in irreversible consequences. This is true of those who face death thinking there will always be time to make things right with God. This is certainly one of Satan's greatest accomplishments: convincing the lost to believe that "there will be time tomorrow. And if not tomorrow, the next day. Perhaps next week." Not wise!

Satan takes great pleasure when he gets us to focus on tomorrow instead of today. He rejoices when we have "spiritual intentions" that we "reserve" for "tomorrow." Those "intentions" also include our promises to read His Word, pray, attend church and witness. He who hesitates loses everything!

Prayer: We pray, Father, for those who have delayed accepting You as Savior. May Your Spirit work in their hearts and, also please help all of us to turn our intentions into actions. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Zechariah 1:4 Don't be like your ancestors who would not listen or pay attention when the earlier prophets said to them, 'This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Turn from your evil ways, and stop all your evil practices.'

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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



## News from the Associated Press

### White House Virus Task Force members face quarantine

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three members of the White House coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, another stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.

Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a leading member of the task force, has become nationally known for his simple and direct explanations to the public about the coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. Also quarantining are Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Stephen Hahn.

Fauci's institute said that he has tested negative for COVID-19 and will continue to be tested regularly. It added that he is considered at "relatively low risk" based on the degree of his exposure, and that he would be "taking appropriate precautions" to mitigate the risk to personal contacts while still carrying out his duties. While he will stay at home and telework, Fauci will go to the White House if called and take every precaution, the institute said.

Redfield will be "teleworking for the next two weeks" after it was determined he had a "low risk exposure" to a person at the White House, the CDC said in a statement Saturday evening. The statement said he felt fine and has no symptoms.

Just a few hours earlier, the Food and Drug Administration confirmed that Hahn had come in contact with someone who tested positive and was in self-quarantine for the next two weeks. He tested negative for the virus.

All three men are scheduled to testify before a Senate committee on Tuesday. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., the chairman of the panel, said the White House will allow Redfield and Hahn to testify by videoconference, a one-time exception to the administration's policies on hearing testimony. The statement was issued before Fauci's quarantine was announced.

Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week. White House officials had confirmed Thursday that a member of the military serving as one of Trump's valets had tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday.

President Donald Trump, who publicly identified the affected Pence aide as spokeswoman Katie Miller, 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.

Miller had been in recent contact with Pence but not with the president and had tested negative a day earlier. 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.

The CDC and FDA would not disclose the identity of the person who had tested positive and with whom the agency leaders had come in contact.

Redfield sought to use the exposure as a teachable moment. The CDC statement said if he must go to the White House to fulfill any responsibilities as part of the coronavirus task force, he will follow CDC practices for critical infrastructure workers. Those guidelines call for Redfield and anyone working on the task force to have their temperature taken and screened for symptoms each day, wear a face covering, and distance themselves from others.

Trump has resisted wearing a mask, and in a meeting with the nation's top military leaders Saturday evening, he did not wear a mask during the brief portion that reporters were allowed to view. The generals around Trump also did not wear a mask, but participants did sit a few feet away from each other.

FDA spokeswoman Stephanie Caccamo said Hahn tested negative for the virus after he learned of the

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contact. He wrote a note to staff on Friday to alert them.

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 was exhibiting symptoms, but all 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. He said the White House was "probably the safest place that you can come," but the 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.

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.

## National parks visitors should plan for 'new normal'

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Utah (AP) — After closing amid the coronavirus pandemic, the National Park Service is testing public access at several parks across the nation, including two in Utah, with limited offerings and services. Visitor centers and campgrounds remain largely shuttered at Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef, but visitors are welcome at some of the sites.

"I felt like they did it right here because if they opened all the services, I think it would have been too much. Too many people would hit it," Donna Sullivan, of Sedona, Arizona, told The Salt Lake Tribune Wednesday at Bryce Canyon.

Sullivan was on a day visit to hike the park's Rim Trail and Bryce Amphitheater, two of the few hiking destinations currently open at Bryce. She found plenty of room to social distance, but Bryce will likely see larger crowds as word gets out that the park is open and will not collect entry fees.

Visitors should steel themselves for a "new normal" that will not likely square with their last trip, said Acting Park Service Director David Vela.

"You may have facilities that aren't going to be available, but the (park's) footprint will be. So it will be a different visitor experience, and it will be a different normal that we're going to need to own and, frankly, mitigate," Vela said Friday. "This gets to the value and importance of making sure that visitors know what to expect when they get to the park, making sure that visitors go to the park's website (and) social media ... as to what is accessible, how to plan your trip, and, most importantly, what are the expectations when you get there."

Recent crowding at southern Utah's state parks could offer a hint of what's headed Bryce's way later this season, said Bryce Park Ranger Peter Densmore.

"This experiment, this limited reopening is really a cooperative effort between us and the public. It's not possible to reap the full benefits of the mitigations we put in place if people aren't aware of them and helping us to enforce them," Densmore said at the shuttered visitor center.

While the park reopened its core attraction, Bryce Amphitheater, Capitol Reef took an opposite approach,

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keeping its historic center at Fruita and the Scenic Road closed for now.

"You will see more and more parks provide recreation access. We are doing it very thoughtfully," said park service spokeswoman Vanessa Lacayo.

Parks are staffing up and will increase access as workers are in place to patrol trails and roads, host campgrounds and operate visitor centers and museums. At the Utah parks, seasonal employees from out of state must quarantine for 14 days before they can report for duty, which will slow the process.

Openings have yet to be announced for Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park.

Major parks throughout the country that have begun limited openings include Badlands and Wind Cave national parks and Jewel Cave National Monument in South Dakota; Everglades National Park in Florida; Indiana Dunes National Park; Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada; Mount Rainier National Park in Washington; Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky; Pinnacles National Park in California.

Advocacy groups fear the park service is moving too fast and urge extreme caution.

"We are also eager to get Americans back into our national parks. But it is too soon," warned Phil Francis, a retired superintendent who heads The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks. "Parks absolutely should not open until the safety of National Park Service employees, concession employees, volunteers and other partners, including those who work and live in gateway communities, can be ensured."

Most park staffers will be in contact with visitors and many live on-site, in close quarters, in government-owned housing, he said. According to a park service document, parks should estimate that up to 40% of the total staff at the park may require isolation and 4% may require hospitalization.

"This is not only impossible under the current setup," Francis said, "it is unacceptable."

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

01-10-12-16-27

(one, ten, twelve, sixteen, twenty-seven)

Estimated jackpot: \$60,000

Lotto America

17-31-32-34-50, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(seventeen, thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-four, fifty; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.5 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$248 million

Powerball

12-18-42-48-65, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 5

(twelve, eighteen, forty-two, forty-eight, sixty-five; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

## Sioux Falls testing event still reflected in COVID-19 totals

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The increase in COVID-19 cases in South Dakota continued to reflect results from a mass testing event in the Sioux Falls area, with nearly 250 positive cases reported Saturday by health officials.

The report showed that 232 of the 249 new cases were in Minnehaha County. State Department of Health officials spent the last several days sorting out results from testing employees at the Smithfield pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, along with their family members.

A total of 435 people have tested positive in Minnehaha County in the last two days, for a total of 2,767 cases in the county.



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The total number of cases statewide now stands at 3,393. Three new deaths were confirmed on Saturday, all of them Minnehaha County residents over the age of 70. The state's death toll is up to 34.

Officials said 79 people are hospitalized with the virus.

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.

## 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."

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

By **The Associated Press** undefined

Countries around the world are wrestling with how to ease curbs on business and public activity without having the coronavirus come surging back.

While South Korea's capital shut down nightclubs, Belarus shrugged off safety concerns and held a full-fledged military parade to mark the anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in World War II.

And in the U.S., regulators announced they have approved a new, rapid test for the coronavirus that officials have touted as a key to opening up the country.

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

**WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:**

— More employers are coming to the reluctant conclusion that many laid-off employees might not be returning to their old jobs anytime soon.

— Three members of the White House coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

— The economic devastation has upended the U.S. presidential campaign, forcing President Donald Trump to face historic headwinds in his reelection bid.

— Former President Barack Obama harshly criticized Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as

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an “absolute chaotic disaster,” according to a recording obtained by Yahoo News.

— Republican-controlled legislatures are increasingly trying to strip Democratic governors of executive authority to order closures, a power grab that channels frustration over economic woes but could have long-term consequences. Meanwhile some governors are seeking to bolster home-state production of vital medical supplies and protective equipment.

— New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is facing increasing criticism because his state leads the nation in nursing home deaths.

— Tens of thousands of crew members are stuck aboard cruise ships and begging to come home, weeks after passengers were allowed to disembark.

— Egypt’s president approved an expansion of his powers that the government says is needed to contain the outbreak, prompting condemnation from rights watchdogs.

— Some small Native American villages in the U.S. Southwest are embracing extraordinary isolation measures such as guarded roadblocks to turn away outsiders.

— The reopening of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was a little too tempting of a draw as nature lovers from dozens of states crowded trails and trekked into blocked-off areas, a spokeswoman said.

— With the start of the winter wheat harvest just weeks away, it’s been a struggle getting the foreign workers usually relied on to run combines.

— Many older adults being discharged from British hospitals after treatment for COVID-19 face stigma and ostracization as well as weeks or months of self-isolation.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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

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

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

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

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

## ONE NUMBER

— 5: Sweden’s Public Health Agency says Somali Swedes made up almost 5% of all COVID-19 cases in the country, yet represent less than 1% of its population of 10 million people.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

— **LAWN WEDDINGS:** Couples with dashed plans have been tying the knot on the tidy green spreads instead.

— **TURKEY HUNTING:** This is one spring tradition that didn’t get canceled.

## The Latest: South Korea prez says surge no reason to panic

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:

— South Korea president says citizens shouldn’t panic over rise in new virus cases.

— 3 members of White House coronavirus task force place themselves in quarantine.

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— Obama criticizes Trump on handling of coronavirus.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's president is urging citizens not to lower their guard down, but said there's no reason to be panicked amid worries about a new surge in the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

President Moon Jae-in made the comments in a speech Sunday as his health authorities detected a slew of new cases linked to nightclubs in Seoul's Itaewon district in recent days. Earlier, South Korea's caseload had been waning for weeks, prompting authorities to relax their social distancing rules.

"The infection cluster which recently occurred in entertainment facilities," Moon said, "has raised awareness that, even during the stabilization phase, similar situations can arise again anytime, anywhere in an enclosed, crowded space."

Moon added that, "We must never lower our guard regarding epidemic prevention." But he also said "there's no reason to stand still out of fear."

Moon says South Korea has "the right quarantine and medical systems combined with experience to respond quickly to any unexpected infection clusters that might occur."

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea reported 34 additional cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours as a spate of transmissions linked to clubgoers threatens the country's hard-won gains in its fight against the virus.

Figures released Sunday by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention increased national totals to 10,874 with 256 deaths. The agency said 9,610 have recovered and 10,128 others were undergoing tests to determine whether they've contracted the virus.

The agency said a tentative assessment showed 26 of the 34 new patients were locally transmitted cases, while the rest were imported. South Korean media reported it was the first time that South Korea's daily jump has marked above 30 in about a month.

The agency didn't immediately provide further details. But most of the new cases in the past few days were linked to nightclubs in Seoul's Itaewon entertainment neighborhood.

Officials on Friday said they detected at least 15 infections linked to a 29-year-old man who had visited three Itaewon clubs before testing positive Wednesday.

The infections raised worries about a new surge in South Korea, which had for weeks recorded a continuously declining number of new cases after having once had hundreds of new cases each day until early March.

CANBERRA, Australia — Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt says the government supports a European Union motion for an independent investigation into the origins of COVID-19 in China.

The Australian government has called for such an inquiry for some weeks to better understand how the coronavirus started in Wuhan, China, to be able counter such pandemics in the future. The move has resulted in a critical response from China, Australia's No. 1 trading partner.

"We support the EU motion which includes an independent investigation, regulatory work on wet markets and also the potential for independent inspection powers," Hunt told Sky News on Sunday.

Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said last week she would like to see China work together with her organization, and others, to determine how the virus emerged.

BEIJING — China reported its first double-digit rise in new rises cases in 10 days Sunday, saying 14 new cases had been detected, 12 of them domestic infections and two brought from abroad.

Eleven of those domestic cases were in the northeastern province of Jilin and 1 in Hubei province, whose capital Wuhan is considered to have been the epicenter of the global pandemic. Jilin shares a border with North Korea, where the virus situation is unclear but whose vastly inadequate health system has been offered help by China in dealing with any outbreak.

No new virus deaths have been reported in China for almost 1 month and the number of people in treatment for COVID-19 nationwide fell to 148, with another 798 people under isolation and observation



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as either suspected cases or for having tested positive for the virus while showing no symptoms. China has reported a total of 4,633 total death 82,901 cases.

The jump in new cases could fuel concerns over how quickly to lift strict social distancing measures and re-open schools and other public institutions. Widely disseminated photos of people socializing in Shanghai's bar district over the weekend drew some criticism online. China last reported more than 10 cases on May, with 12, half of them imported. Reports cover the number of new cases recorded over the previous 24 hours.

Having downgraded all counties in districts to low risk from the virus, China has raised one of them, Shulan, in Jilin, after the province on May 10 reported a jump in cases to 11, bringing a tightening of social distancing and quarantine measures.

WASHINGTON — Three members of the White House coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, another stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.

Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a leading member of the task force, has become nationally known for his simple and direct explanations to the public about the coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. Also quarantining are Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Stephen Hahn.

Fauci's institute said he has tested negative for COVID-19 and will continue to be tested regularly. It added that he is considered at "relatively low risk" based on the degree of his exposure, and that he would be "taking appropriate precautions" to mitigate the risk to personal contacts while still carrying out his duties. While he will stay at home and telework, Fauci will go to the White House if called and take every precaution, the institute said.

Redfield will be "teleworking for the next two weeks" after it was determined he had a "low risk exposure" to a person at the White House, the CDC said in a statement Saturday evening. The statement said he felt fine and has no symptoms.

Just a few hours earlier, the Food and Drug Administration confirmed that Hahn had come in contact with someone who tested positive and was in self-quarantine for the next two weeks. He tested negative for the virus.

Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary tested positive for the coronavirus Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week. White House officials had confirmed Thursday that a member of the military serving as one of Trump's valets tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday.

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Opponents of Washington's stay-at-home order to slow the coronavirus rallied again Saturday at the state Capitol.

Meanwhile, some residents who reported stay-at-home violators said they've received threats after far-right groups posted their personal information on Facebook.

Some of the complainants who reported to the state businesses allegedly violating the order say the Facebook posts have generated threats of violence and harassment against them, The Seattle Times reported. One group publicizing the names, the far-right Washington Three Percenters, has promoted the stay-at-home protests and one of its leaders spoke at Saturday's demonstration.

State officials said the groups likely acquired the information through public records requests. Saturday's rally drew roughly 1,500 people, according to the Washington State Patrol. That was fewer than the more than 2,000 who attended a similar protest last month.

Gov. Jay Inslee has extended stay-at-home restrictions, but has been allowing some retail and recreational activity to resume with modifications designed to impede the spread of COVID-19.

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LOS ANGELES — Hiking to the Hollywood sign and hitting the links is being allowed Saturday as the California county hardest hit by the coronavirus cautiously reopened some sites to recreation-starved stay-at-homers.

Los Angeles County permitted the reopening of trails and golf courses, but with social distancing restrictions. For those interested in retail therapy, there was even better news as Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday allowed tens of thousands of stores to reopen, including florist shops, just in time for Mother's Day.

The city of Los Angeles announced it also was reopening some public spaces, including sprawling Griffith Park, which includes popular paths to the Hollywood sign.

But mounted police and park rangers would be keeping hikers to small, distant groups wearing face coverings. Mayor Eric Garcetti urged "good judgment" and said the city would rely on education and encouragement rather than heavy-handed enforcement.

It was "not our vision to make this like a junior high school dance with people standing too close to each other," he said.

County beaches could reopen next week with restrictions designed to keep people from thronging the shore and possibly spreading COVID-19.

DENVER -- Colorado has reached 967 deaths from the coronavirus, and more than 19,300 people have tested positive for the illness, state health officials said.

The state Department of Public Health and Environment said Saturday more than 100,000 have been tested for COVID-19.

State data show more than 3,600 have been hospitalized since the outbreak. Fewer than 600 people were in Colorado hospitals with symptoms of the illness as of Friday.

On Saturday, a host of Denver businesses — from clothing stores to hair salons — opened their doors for the first time in nearly two months as Mayor Michael Hancock's stay-at-home order expired, The Denver Post reported. Business owners who have been hard hit financially say it's the only way to stay afloat as they try to recoup lost sales while giving their employees a much-needed paycheck.

But despite the go-ahead from city leaders, many business owners are choosing to keep their stores shut for now. Those who have made the choice not to resume walk-in business say there is simply not enough evidence yet that bringing workers and customers back into their spaces is safe and won't contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

RIO RANCHO, N.M. -- New Mexico Republicans and sheriffs are asking U.S. Attorney General William Barr to look into Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's health orders aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19.

State Republican Party Chairman Steve Pearce and New Mexico Sheriffs' Association President Tony Mace each sent letters to Barr last week seeking a review into the health orders that have shuttered some businesses since late March. They say the orders, which have closed several small businesses, violate residents' civil rights.

"We want to express our fears and frustrations regarding New Mexico Gov. Lujan Grisham's public health order, a policy many in our state believe to be a blatant violation of peoples' civil rights, liberties and their right to conduct free commerce," Pearce wrote. "The situation in New Mexico is one that is unjust and inequitable."

Mace, the Cibola County sheriff and a frequent critic of fellow Democrat Lujan Grisham, said the health order was unfairly hurting residents.

"The governor has been discriminatory in her policies, keeping big box corporate giants open — draining New Mexico dollars out of state — while shutting down mom and pop locally owned establishments," Mace wrote. "This is not only preferential treatment for the big box stores but a violation of the civil rights of our small business owners whose livelihoods are now in free fall."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Pearce said he wanted Barr to look at New Mexico to see if the U.S. Constitution "is being respected" during the health order.

A spokeswoman for Lujan Grisham declined to comment.

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GATLINBURG, Tenn. -- The reopening of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was a little too tempting a draw Saturday as scores of nature lovers from dozens of states crowded trails and trekked into blocked-off areas, a spokeswoman said.

Even with some of the most popular trails closed, parking lots were packed and lines of cars snaked down tree-lined streets, in one case for about a mile leading up to a waterfall path, according to park spokeswoman Dana Soehn. Many people did not wear masks.

"It seemed like people were not respecting our suggestion that they avoid crowded areas," said Soehn, adding that she counted license plates from 24 states in one visitor center parking lot.

Visitors also walked past heavy barricades on one of the park's most trafficked trails, Laurel Falls, which was closed off to heed federal social distancing guidelines, she said.

On the Tennessee-North Carolina border, the Great Smoky Mountains is the county's most visited national park. It was closed March 24 after officials said it was becoming too congested during the coronavirus pandemic.

WASHINGTON -- Former President Barack Obama harshly criticized President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as an "absolute chaotic disaster" during a conversation with ex-members of his administration, according to a recording obtained by Yahoo News.

Obama's comments Friday came during a call with 3,000 people who served in his administration. He said combating the virus would have been bad even for the best of governments, but it's been "an absolute chaotic disaster" when the mindset of "what's in it for me" infiltrates government.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said that President Trump's response "has been unprecedented and saved American lives."

The United States has suffered nearly 80,000 deaths from COVID-19, the most of any nation.

## **Virus prevents diaspora Venezuelans from sending money home**

**By SCOTT SMITH and CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — After fleeing Venezuela along with millions of others amid the country's grueling humanitarian crisis, Misael Cocho made his way by bus to Peru — where he got odd jobs and sent money home monthly to support his mother and his 5-year-old son.

But just after Cocho landed his steadiest work so far in Lima, coronavirus cases skyrocketed. He lost his job, sold his TV to buy food and hasn't been able to wire money for months to Caracas to pay for food for the boy and Cocho's mother.

The pandemic's economic fallout left many Venezuelans abroad and the relatives back home who rely on them in dire straits. And as work disappears in countries like Peru and Colombia, humanitarian groups say many Venezuelans who fled hunger are now going hungry.

Cocho, 24, faces a dilemma: Should he stay in Peru in case the economy improves, or go back to Caracas where life is precarious but might not get worse?

"The truth is that this pandemic has really hit me hard," he said.

Venezuela's population peaked at 30 million in 2015, but 5 million alarmed at the country's economic implosion migrated elsewhere in South America and to the U.S. and Europe, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. Most who stayed behind get by on a minimum wage that's the equivalent of about \$2 a month.

About half of the Venezuelans who emigrated to other South American countries are so-called "informal" sector workers — laborers, vendors, street performers and waiters, estimated Provash Budden, regional Americas director for the Mercy Corps humanitarian aid group. Those jobs were hit hard by the virus' economic impact and there are few if any social safety nets to help the people who had them.

Cocho first found work in Peru shoveling manure and sweeping streets and recently landed a better-



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paying job at a family-owned corner store. But he was laid off as the coronavirus spread. Peru has about 65,000 confirmed cases and, with more than 1,800 deaths, the second highest Latin American death count after Brazil, where more than 10,000 have died.

He sleeps on a mattress in a crowded home filled with Venezuelan migrants. The landlord has let him skip the rent so far, but Cocho doesn't know how long the generosity will last.

"I've had no other choice but to sell the things I don't use in order to get by," he said.

Venezuela was once a wealthy nation sitting atop the world's largest reserves of oil. But years of political confrontation, corruption and resource mismanagement by the socialist government left most Venezuelans with increasingly scarce water, electricity, gasoline and inadequate medical care.

Of the 15% of Venezuelans who abandoned their country, about 1.8 million went to neighboring Colombia. Others headed to Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. Those who found more success than informal sector workers started businesses and enrolled their children in schools.

But the coronavirus abruptly halted many migrants' aspirations and limited their ability to help economically hurting relatives back home.

"Like everyone here, my mission in Peru has been to help my family in Venezuela," Cocho said.

Because of Colombia's strict stay-at-home order for the pandemic, many migrants in Bogota must break the law to go outside and make money to buy food or stay behind closed doors and go hungry, aid groups said.

"All of a sudden, they've become invisible, locked away behind closed doors," said Marianne Manjivar, director for Colombia and Venezuela for the International Rescue Committee humanitarian aid group.

About 20,000 Venezuelans went home since early March, according to Colombia's government, which has paid for about 396 bus trips to take them to the Venezuelan border.

Yonaiker García, 22, was making a decent living after leaving Venezuela for Bogota — earning \$500 monthly as a graphic artist until the pandemic hit and he became jobless and homeless.

"They kicked us out onto the street," García said on the outskirts of Bogota late last month while taking part in a protest to try to persuade the Colombian government to pay for more buses to the border.

Venezuelans abroad in South America are at high risk of infection because they must work in public or remain cooped up in increasingly crowded apartments, said Budden, of Mercy Corps.

"From a public health point of view, it's a recipe for disaster," he said.

Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro has said Venezuelans are welcomed home, but images shared by the returning migrants suggest otherwise.

Some who arrived at the small city of San Cristobal near the border with Colombia last month were held for two weeks in a sports complex under military guard, in tight quarters that made social distancing difficult. An Associated Press journalist heard those inside shouting demands to be allowed to go home.

The returning migrants find communities with shuttered hospitals because thousands of doctors and nurses left the country.

Venezuela has so far reported only 367 cases of coronavirus and 10 COVID-19 deaths. Experts believe the actual number is much higher because so little testing has been done and the type of testing does not reveal recent infections.

In Caracas, Cocho's mother, Maylin Pérez, 48, says the potential spread of the virus weighs on her heavily.

She lives up several flights of stairs in a spartan, three-room apartment with old photos of her son on the walls. Cocho last sent his mother \$10 in a February wire transfer that helped buy groceries.

So she knits colorful face masks to barter for extras besides the lentils and rice from a monthly, government subsidized box of food she usually eats with her grandson. They can't afford eggs, cheese or meat.

Pérez said the highlights of her days are the text messages from her son, who also calls every few days so the son can hear his father's voice.

She said she tries to convince Cocho he shouldn't worry about not sending money because she's more concerned about him getting infected.

"Take care of yourself," she said she tells him. "Your first priority is your health, your life."

## UFC 249 ushers in fan-free, mask-filled era of sports

By MARK LONG AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Kicks, punches and grunts echoed through the empty arena. Coaches, commentators and camera clicks resonated like never before. Blood, sweat, swollen eyelids and face masks signaled the return of UFC, the first major sporting event to resume since the coronavirus shuttered much of the country for nearly two months.

UFC 249 ushered in a new look for sports, too. One without fans and amid several safety precautions.

It was definitely different — two fighters adjusted their approaches because of what they heard announcers say — and a welcome reprieve for a sports-craved country that went nearly eight weeks with few live events.

“We did this for you, to bring sports back,” fighter Tony Ferguson told fans following his loss in the main event.

Five hours after President Trump congratulated UFC for restarting the sports world, Justin Gaethje stunned heavily favored Ferguson (26-4) in the finale. Gaethje earned a TKO in the fifth and final round of the headliner that was deemed an interim lightweight title bout. It essentially gives Gaethje (22-2) the right to fight titleholder Khabib Nurmagomedov next. Nurmagomedov was unable to fight this weekend because of travel restrictions.

Gaethje flipped over the top of the cage and back in following the biggest victory of his career. He then screamed repeatedly.

“I want the real one,” he said as he threw down the interim belt. “There’s no other fight I want right now.”

The stacked card saw 33-year-old Henry Cejudo, with blood gushing from his forehead and running down his chest, defend his bantamweight title against Dominick Cruz and then announce his retirement in the middle of the octagon.

“I really do want to walk away, but money talks,” said Cejudo, an Olympic gold medalist in 2008. “It gets stagnant. I want to leave on top.”

The event also included heavyweight contender Francis Ngannou pummeling another opponent, former NFL defensive end Greg Hardy winning for the sixth time in eight fights and former welterweight champion and fan favorite Donald “Cowboy” Cerrone losing his fourth straight.

Trump grabbed the spotlight early. His taped message was played during ESPN’s broadcast of the undercard.

“I want to congratulate (UFC President) Dana White and the UFC,” Trump said. “They’re going to have a big match. We love it. We think it’s important. Get the sports leagues back. Let’s play. Do the social distancing and whatever else you have to do. We need sports. We want our sports back.”

UFC 249 was originally scheduled for April 18 in New York, but was postponed in hopes of helping slow the spread of COVID-19.

The mixed martial arts behemoth will hold three shows in eight days in Jacksonville, where state officials deemed professional sports with a national audience exempt from a stay-at-home order as long as the location is closed to the public.

The UFC came up with a 25-page document to address health and safety protocols, procedures that led to Jacaré Souza testing positive for COVID-19 on Friday. His middleweight bout against Uriah Hall was canceled that night. Souza’s two cornermen also tested as positive, the UFC said.

All three men left the host hotel to self-isolate elsewhere, where UFC’s medical team will monitor their conditions remotely and provide assistance with necessary treatments.

The positive results surely increased the focus on the event. Every other sport is watching closely to see how it plays out.

“The whole word is weird right now. Everything’s weird. This event’s weird,” White said. “It’s different. We live in a different world than we did two months ago. The bottom line is the system worked. What you don’t want to do is two days after the fight say, ‘Awe, Jacaré tested positive.’ So it worked. The system worked that we put in place.”

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"Without sounding like a jackass, we're really good at what we do. We're very, very good at what we do. We'll just get better. The longer this goes, the better the testing technology's going to get and the faster it's going to get. We're going to prove by next Saturday that professional sports can come back safely."

White didn't want to postpone any fights. He tried to host the event on tribal land in California and still hopes to create a "Fight Island" for future cards.

He settled for Jacksonville for at least a week — without fans and with social-distancing rules in place.

Judges and broadcasters worked from separate tables. Fighters, trainers, referees, judges, UFC staff and even outside media had to undergo COVID-19 testing to get inside Veterans Memorial Arena.

Many of those in attendance Saturday wore masks and gloves, although several were seemingly exempt from the mandate. Referees, ring announcer Bruce Buffer, other officials inside the octagon and the ring girl were unmasked. Play-by-play commentator Joe Rogan, who initially was supposed to interview winners remotely, ended up doing them inside the octagon.

The cage floor was disinfected between bouts, and the padded parts of the octagon were wiped down between rounds.

Without fans, though, sounds that usually would be muted or completely drowned out filled the desolate arena. Fighters said it affected their bouts. Hardy and Carla Esparza said they altered their approach after hearing commentators during early rounds.

"It's hard to assess without the crowd," Anthony Pettis said after beating Cerrone in a wild welterweight fight. "When I land stuff, I hear the crowd and know it was a good one. This time, there was no crowd. I saw his head pop, but there was nothing behind it, so it's hard to tell."

Also on the card:

— Cejudo (16-2) caught Cruz (22-3) with a right knee to the face that sent him reeling to the canvas. Cejudo then delivered nearly a dozen unanswered blows before the referee stopped it. Cruz argued it never should have been called because he was working to get back on his feet. Cejudo surprisingly ended his career a few minutes later, saying he wants to spend more time with his family.

— Ngannou knocked out fellow heavyweight Jairzinho Rozenstruik in 20 seconds. Ngannou rushed Rozenstruik and delivered a flurry of blows that left Rozenstruik so woozy he had trouble getting into his slides long after the fight ended. It was Ngannou's fourth consecutive victory totaling less than 3 minutes in the octagon.

— Calvin Kattar (21-4) stopped Jeremy Stephens (28-18) in the second round after consecutive elbow blows, one standing and another on the ground.

— Hardy (6-2) celebrated a unanimous decision over Yorgan De Castro (6-1) in a heavyweight bout.

— "Showtime" Pettis (23-10) beat Cerrone (36-15) in an unanimous decision. Pettis and Cerrone last fought in 2013. Pettis won that one as well. Cerrone has dropped four in a row, including losses to Conor McGregor, Gaethje and Ferguson.

— Aleksei "The Boa Constrictor" Oleinik (59-13-1) beat Fabricio Werdum (23-9-1) in a heavyweight bout featuring a pair of 42-year-olds. It was a split decision that included more toe-to-toe blows than ground grappling.

— Carla Esparza (16-6) edged Michelle "Karate Hottie" Waterson (17-8) in a split decision. It was Esparza's third straight victory in the straw-weight division.

— Vicente Luque (18-7-1) won for the seventh time in eight fights when he beat Niko Price (14-4) in a bloodbath. The fight was ruled a TKO in the third round after Price developed a nasty cut above his right eye. Luque was ahead on all three cards when it was called.

— Featherweight Bryce Mitchell (13-1) defeated fellow grappler Charles Rosa (12-4) in a unanimous decision.

— Spann (18-5) extended his winning streak to eight by beating veteran Sam Alvey (33-14) in a split decision.



## Virus cases rise in China, South Korea; Obama bashes Trump

By **NICOLE WINFIELD, VANESSA GERA and AMY FORLITI Associated Press**

ROME (AP) — Both China and South Korea reported new spikes in coronavirus cases on Sunday, setting off fresh concerns in countries where local outbreaks had been in dramatic decline.

Former President Barack Obama, meanwhile, harshly criticized President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as an "absolute chaotic disaster," while U.S. states began gradually reopening, even as health officials are anxiously watching for a second wave of infections.

China reported 14 new cases on Sunday, its first double-digit rise in 10 days. Eleven of 12 domestic infections were in the northeastern province of Jilin and one in Hubei, whose capital Wuhan was the epicenter of the global pandemic. The Jilin cases prompted authorities to raise the threat level in one of its counties, Shulan, to high risk, just days after downgrading all regions in the country to low risk.

Authorities said the Shulan outbreak originated with a 45-year-old woman who had no recent travel or exposure history, but spread it to her husband, her three sisters and other family members. Train services in and out of the county were being suspended through the end of the month.

Responding to the latest cases, the Jilin Communist Party secretary, Bayin Chaolu, the province's highest official, told local media that "epidemic control and prevention is a serious and complicated matter, and local authorities should never be overly optimistic, war-weary, or off-guard."

Jilin also shares a border with North Korea, where the virus situation is unclear but whose vastly inadequate health system has been offered help by China in dealing with any outbreak.

South Korea on Sunday reported 34 additional cases as a spate of transmissions linked to clubgoers threatens the country's hard-won gains in its fight against the virus. It was the first time that South Korea's daily jump has marked above 30 in about a month.

On Sunday, President Moon Jae-in said citizens must neither panic nor let down their guard, but warned that "the damage to our economy is indeed colossal as well."

Around the world, the U.S. and other hard-hit countries are wrestling with how to ease curbs on business and public activity without causing the virus to come surging back.

During a conversation with ex-members of his administration, Obama said combating the virus would have been bad even for the best of governments, but it's been "an absolute chaotic disaster" when the mindset of "what's in it for me" infiltrates government, according to a recording obtained by Yahoo News.

The United States has suffered nearly 80,000 deaths from COVID-19, the most of any nation.

In Australia, Health Minister Greg Hunt said the government supports a European Union motion for an independent investigation into the origins of COVID-19 in China, a proposal stiffly resisted by Beijing, Australia's No. 1 trading partner.

"We support the EU motion which includes an independent investigation, regulatory work on wet markets and also the potential for independent inspection powers," Hunt told Sky News on Sunday.

Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said last week she would like to see China work together with her organization, and others, to determine how the virus emerged.

While the virus is believed to have originated in Wuhan, most scientists say it was most likely transmitted from bats to humans via an intermediary animal such as the armadillo-like pangolin. That has placed the focus on a wet market in the city where wildlife was sold for food.

However, Trump and allies have expressed confidence in an unsubstantiated theory linking the origin of the outbreak to a possible accident at a Chinese virology laboratory in Wuhan, something Chinese officials and state media have called an attempt to divert attention from U.S. failings through the dissemination of groundless accusations.

China says it's too early to launch an investigation into the virus' origin and angrily rejects accusations that it covered up the initial outbreak and didn't do enough to prevent the global pandemic.

In New York, the deadliest hot spot in the U.S., Gov. Andrew Cuomo said three children died from a possible complication of the coronavirus involving swollen blood vessels and heart problems.

Three members of the White House coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, placed them-

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selves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Worldwide, 4 million people have been confirmed infected by the virus, and more than 279,000 have died, including over 78,000 in the U.S., according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Spain, France, Italy and Britain have reported around 26,000 to 32,000 deaths each.

Businesses in the U.S. continue to struggle as more employers reluctantly conclude that their laid-off employees might not return to work anytime soon.

Some malls have opened up in Georgia and Texas, while Nevada restaurants, hair salons and other businesses were able to have limited reopenings Saturday or once again allow customers inside after nearly two months of restrictions.

About 1,500 opponents of Washington's stay-at-home order to slow the coronavirus rallied again Saturday at the state Capitol, while some residents who reported stay-at-home violators said they've received threats after far-right groups posted their personal information on Facebook. Such protests have drawn relatively small crowds in several states despite encouragement from the White House, which is anxious to see the economy reopen.

The federal government said it was delivering supplies of remdesivir, the first drug shown to speed recovery for COVID-19 patients, to six more states, after seven others were sent cases of the medicine earlier this week.

In the U.S. Southwest, some small Native American villages are embracing extraordinary isolation measures such as guarded roadblocks to turn away outsiders as the virus ravages tight-knit communities.

Italy saw people return to the streets and revel in fine weather and Rome's Campo dei Fiori flower and vegetable market was also bustling in Rome. But confusion created frustrations for the city's shopkeepers.

In Spain, certain regions can scale back lockdowns starting Monday, with limited seating at bars, restaurants and other public places. But Madrid and Barcelona, the country's largest cities, will remain shut down.

## French parents anguish over sending children back to school

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — As France prepares to start letting public life resume after eight weeks under a coronavirus lockdown, many parents are deeply torn over a question without a clear or correct answer: Should I send my child back to school?

The French government is easing some of the closure and home-confinement orders it imposed March 17 to curb infections, with businesses permitted to reopen, residents cleared to return to workplaces and schools welcoming some students again starting Monday.

Only preschools and elementary schools are set to start up at first, and classes will be capped at 10 students at preschools and 15 elsewhere. Administrators were told to prioritize instruction for children ages 5, 6 and 10.

Due to the slow startup, as well as ongoing fears about COVID-19 in hard-hit France, school attendance will not be compulsory right away. Parents and guardians may keep children at home and teachers will provide lessons like they have during the nationwide lockdown.

Students with parents who want or need to send them to school are not guaranteed places in the smaller classes and only will be allowed to attend if their school can accommodate them.

Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer estimated that 80% to 85% of France's 50,500 preschools and elementary schools will open this week. Junior high schools in regions with fewer virus cases are expected to reopen on May 18. A target date hasn't been scheduled yet for high schools.

Given the ambiguous education guidance and uncertainties over spreading coronavirus, French parents are conflicted as they puzzle over making the most responsible decision.

Cecile Bardin, whose two sons are 6 and 2, said she thinks it is "too soon" to put them back in their nursery and primary schools in Paris.

"I am not reassured at the moment, because it will be very difficult to keep safe distance at school, especially for the little ones, who will want to play together," Bardin said.

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Mathilde Manaud and her partner are raising their 3-year-old and 7-year-old in Le Pre Saint-Gervais, in the French capital's eastern suburbs. They agreed to send the children kids back to school if there are spaces.

"Truth is, we don't know whether we are right to do so or no, we don't know if it's a mistake. We ask ourselves this question every day, and we change our mind every day," Manaud said. "We are trying to convince ourselves that if they are reopening, they assume they can handle the situation."

Returning students will find their classrooms running differently. Teachers will wear masks and remind children to social distance from each other and to wash their hands several times a day.

French President Emmanuel Macron sought to reassure parents and teachers while visiting an elementary school in a town west of Paris last week. Macron said schools would reopen gradually because he wants "things done well."

School director Mathieu Morel warned the president that "children remain children. There are spontaneous moves which are hard to prevent."

The school expects about 50 children out of an enrolled 181 to come back this week.

Some mayors in France have refused to reopen local schools just yet. Michele Berthy, mayor of the town of Montmorency north of Paris, sent parents a letter saying the government's health guidelines were "unenforceable."

"Although I'm for the relaunch of our economy, I am certain that public health must remain our priority," Berthy wrote.

Mayors in other areas set local restrictions on enrollment, such as limiting school access to children of essential workers such as police officers and health care providers, and to families whose living conditions are precarious.

That's the situation in Paris, where Ingrid Rousseau hoped to send the youngest of her two children, who is 6, back to school. She doesn't know if her son will be allowed to go, even though both she and partner are working.

Rousseau noted the fatigue of parents who have been overwhelmed with homeschooling, work and domestic duties for almost two months.

"I don't feel quite up to the job of teaching," she said. "We are swamped. We don't have enough time. And we cannot do a big part of the activities they do in class."

Paris officials estimate about 15% of the city's students will be able to go back to school. Other towns and cities think they can serve about half of the children normally in preschool and elementary school.

Scientists are still split on the role that children play in transmitted the new coronavirus, which has infected over 176,000 people in France, killing at least 26,300 of them, according to government figures.

Health officials have repeatedly said that children appear to be the demographic that is among the least-affected by COVID-19. The World Health Organization has reported that children seem to mostly suffer only mild symptoms, although some severe cases and deaths have been recorded as the virus continues to spread globally.

Several studies published earlier this year suggested that closing schools has a negligible impact on reducing the spread of the coronavirus and that children are less easily infected and not responsible for the cases within families.

Other infectious disease experts say while children can acquire the virus and may be infectious, it's clear they are not super-spreaders of COVID-19 as they are believed to be with influenza.

The United Nations educational, scientific and cultural agency, UNESCO, estimated that up to 87% of pupils and students across the world have seen their schools being closed, affecting more than 1.5 billion young people in 195 countries.



## Virus delay, early ice melt challenge Arctic science mission

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — They prepared for icy cold and trained to be on the watch for polar bears, but a pandemic just wasn't part of the program.

Now dozens of scientists are waiting in quarantine for the all-clear to join a year-long Arctic research mission aimed at improving the models used for forecasting climate change, just as the expedition reaches a crucial phase.

For a while, the international mission looked like it might have to be called off, as country after country went into lockdown because of the virus, scuppering plans to bring fresh supplies and crew to the German research vessel Polarstern that's been moored in the high Arctic since last year.

News of the pandemic caused jitters among those already on board, said Matthew Shupe, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Colorado and co-leader of the MOSAiC expedition.

"Some people just wanted to be home with their families," he told The Associated Press in a video interview from the German port of Bremerhaven, where he and about 90 other scientists and crew have been kept in isolation to ensure they're virus-free.

Organizers at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Ocean Research managed to fly out a handful of people via Canada last month. The rest of the crew will be exchanged with the help of two other German research ships that will meet the Polarstern on the sea ice edge.

That upcoming rendezvous will force the Polarstern to abandon its current position for three weeks at a critical time in the Arctic cycle.

"We are on the cusp right now of the onset of the sea ice melt season and that's a really important transition," said Shupe.

"That could happen when the ship is gone," he said. "It's a distinct risk we face."

To avoid missing out on key data, researchers will leave some instruments behind, including an 11-meter (36-foot) tower used for atmospheric measurements, and hope that it's still there when they return.

"The ice could just come together and destroy everything," said Shupe. "Hopefully that doesn't happen."

Adding to the problem is the fact that the sea ice is cracking up and moving about earlier than anticipated, a sign of possible future changes to the Arctic if global warming continues.

"It's challenging," said Shupe. "But we need to face that challenge in order to get these kind of measurements."

Scientists on the 140-million-euro (\$158 million) expedition have already gathered valuable data since setting out last September with 100 researchers and crew from 17 nations including the United States, France, China and Britain.

Shupe said the measurements that scientists were able to perform during the long Arctic winter will improve the models they use to calculate how snow insulates sea ice and affects the movement of energy.

"Conceptually we know that, of course, but we actually have observations now that will tell us how that's working," he said.

Measurements of tiny airborne particles can also help shed light on the role they play in trapping heat or reflecting sunlight, especially if there's less ice and more open ocean as temperatures in the Arctic continue to rise.

The intense interest into research about the coronavirus could have a positive knock-on effect for fields such as climate science, said Shupe.

"Everybody is now looking at the new for models of how this (virus) spreads," he said. "Perhaps this actually opens the door to more people to understand the climate problem."

Still, the researchers on MOSAiC are hoping to deal with one problem at a time, hence the strict quarantine to avoid any chance of carrying the coronavirus into the Arctic.

"We definitely don't want anybody getting sick and we don't want to take that out to the ship," said Shupe. "Realistically, it's actually one of the safest places on Earth right now."

## Pandemic shows contrasts between US, European safety nets

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

The coronavirus pandemic is straining social safety nets across the globe — and underlining sharp differences in approach between wealthy societies such as the United States and Europe.

In Europe, the collapse in business activity is triggering wage support programs that are keeping millions on the job, for now. In contrast, in the United States more than 33.5 million people have applied for jobless benefits and the unemployment rate has soared to 14.7%. Congress has passed \$2 trillion in emergency support, boosting jobless benefits and writing stimulus checks of up to \$1,200 per taxpayer.

That is a pattern seen in earlier economic downturns, particularly the global financial crisis and the Great Recession. Europe depends on existing programs kicking in that pump money into people's pockets. The U.S., on the other hand, relies on Congress taking action by passing emergency stimulus programs, as it did in 2009 under President Barack Obama, and the recent rescue package under President Donald Trump.

Economist Andre Sapir, a senior fellow at the Bruegel research institute in Brussels, said budget policy in the U.S. plays partly the role that Europe's welfare system plays because the American welfare system is less generous and a recession can be much harsher on workers.

In downturns, U.S. employees can lose their health insurance if they lose their job and there's also a greater risk of losing one's home through foreclosure. On the other hand, Europeans typically pay higher taxes, meaning they earn less in the good times.

"In the U.S. you need to keep pumping money into the economy so that people continue to be employed, because it is through being employed that they are protected," said Sapir. "Which is the better system? I'm not going into that discussion because that is really a huge issue."

The U.S. tends to rank below average on measures of social support among the 37 countries of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation, whose members are mostly developed democracies. The U.S. came last in people living in relative poverty, meaning living on half the median income or less, with 17.8%. Countries like Iceland, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Finland have less than 6%.

Here's a look at how the social safety nets of the U.S. and Europe compare:

### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Americans on unemployment were collecting an average of about \$372 weekly before the coronavirus struck. But that average could range from \$215 in Mississippi to \$543 in Hawaii. The rescue package gave jobless workers an additional \$600 a week through July. It also extended benefits to those who lost work as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, which could include parents who needed to leave their jobs because schools were closed. Most states offer six months of unemployment but the emergency legislation adds 13 weeks.

By comparison, Germany's jobless benefit pays 60% of previous salary for a year. France provides up to 75% of the previous average daily wage for up to two years. Unemployment benefits in France are on average 1,200 euros (\$1,320) per month.

And there's Europe's short-hours programs, which pay most of worker salaries if companies put them on shorter hours through a temporary disruption. More than 10 million workers are being paid that way in Germany and about 12 million in France, helping hold eurozone unemployment to only a 0.1 percentage point increase in March over February, to 7.4%.

The U.S. emergency package included money for cheap loans to businesses that can be forgiven if the money is used mostly for payroll.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Nearly half of Americans receive health insurance through their employers, while another 34% get benefits through the government programs Medicare and Medicaid. Separately, 6% are insured individually and 9% in 2018 had no insurance at all.

In Europe, universal health coverage is the rule, generally funded by payroll or other taxes. One example is Britain's National Health Service, which is funded by taxes and offers free care that costs the government 7% of GDP per year.

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## MATERNITY BENEFITS

U.S. workers are entitled to unpaid family leave, but no federal law requires private employers to provide paid family leave. In the private sector, 16% of workers had access to paid family leave as of March 2018. Some states offer paid family leave insurance for 4 to 10 weeks. The United States is the only country in the OECD to not offer paid leave to new mothers.

In France, by contrast, mothers are entitled to at least 16 weeks of leave for their first child and must take at least 8 weeks. From the third child onward, they are allowed 26 weeks. Workers get a daily maternity leave allowance of up to 89 euros (\$94.50). But some professions have their own more favorable deals, up to the complete payment of salaries.

Denmark gives 52 weeks of parental leave after a birth or adoption, to be shared by the parents; whether at full salary or not depends on workplace agreements.

## DISABILITY

Roughly 8.3 million Americans collect disability benefits earned through Social Security contributions. The payments average \$15,100 annually — just above the poverty level for a one-person household of \$12,760. Standards are strict and most applications are denied; people who don't qualify may wind up on food stamps, a basic subsistence program. The U.S. ranks 30th among 36 OECD countries in spending on all forms of disability related to work or illness.

In France, the totally disabled are eligible for public health insurance payments of at least 292.80 euros (\$311) a month and no more than 1,714 euros (\$1,825). Those who are totally unable to work and also depend on help for daily tasks are eligible for 1,418 to 2,839 euros (\$1,510 to \$3,027) a month. The payments can be combined with other forms of income and be subjected to tax and social security contributions.

## THE COSTS

Europe's more generous social safety nets come at a cost, largely paid through taxes levied on workers and employers.

In the United States, Social Security contributions amounted to 6% of GDP in 2018, according to the OECD. In France it was almost three times higher, at 16% of annual GDP, while in Germany it was just over 14%.

## UK expected to stick to lockdown as Johnson outlines future

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Taking a different tack than most other nations, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to extend the bulk of the country's coronavirus lockdown restrictions for three weeks or so when he speaks to the nation Sunday evening.

Following a week of mixed messages that started with Johnson indicating that there will be changes to the lockdown beginning Monday, the government has sought to douse speculation that they will amount to much. That's because the U.K., which has recorded the most coronavirus-related deaths in Europe at 31,662, is still seeing a relatively high number of infections.

"Extreme caution is actually the watchword on this," Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said Saturday.

His comments came as British police warned they are "fighting a losing battle" as Londoners headed out to parks, families descended on the pebble beaches of Brighton in southern England and many drivers set out on what are considered unessential journeys amid the lockdown.

"It's vital that we don't throw away essentially the great work of seven weeks of people respecting very impressively the rules and the guidelines, by throwing it away because it happens to be sunny outside this weekend," Shapps said. "That would be absolutely tragic."

The worry is that the U.K. lockdown, which began March 23 and has clearly reduced the transmission of the virus, will need to be extended for longer than envisioned. Johnson has voiced worries of a second spike in infections and deaths — something that infectious disease experts say will happen as nations ease their lockdowns. Johnson's Conservative government has also faced wide criticism for being too slow to react to the pandemic and for not supplying medical workers with enough protective gear.

Johnson, more than other world leaders, has seen the virus up close. He returned to work only two



weeks ago following a hospitalization for COVID-19 that nearly cost the 55-year-old his life.

Johnson is to announce a "roadmap" of how the U.K. can start relaxing some of the lockdown measures, notably on how mothballed sectors of the economy and schools can reopen in an era of social distancing.

Throughout the crisis, the four nations of the U.K. — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — have moved in lockstep. Changes may include being able to exercise more than once a day and the reopening of garden centers.

There's also widespread speculation that Johnson will announce a 14-day quarantine for all travellers coming to the U.K. bar those from Ireland, as part of measures aimed at avoiding a second peak of the pandemic. Any quarantine announcement has the potential to wreck summer holiday plans and prove another devastating economic hit to the aviation industry.

Industry group Airlines U.K. said it had been told by the government that the plan will be in place by the end of the month or early June.

"We will be asking for assurances that this decision has been led by the science and that government has a credible exit plan, with weekly reviews to ensure the restrictions are working and still required," the organization said.

Karen Dee, the chief executive of the Airport Operators Association, said she has not received any details about any quarantine plan but warned that it would have a "devastating impact" on the U.K.'s aviation industry as well as the wider economy.

## The Latest: Pope calls for EU solidarity to deal with virus

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:

- Pope Francis calls for EU solidarity.
- Indonesia's daily tally of new cases fluctuates.
- Churches in Lebanon welcome worshippers again.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is calling on leaders of European Union countries to work together to deal with the social and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pope noted in his Sunday blessing that 75 years have passed since Europe began the challenging process of reconciliation after World War II. He said the process spurred both European integration and "the long period of stability and peace which we benefit from today."

He prayed that the same spirit that inspired European integration efforts "not fail to inspire all those who have responsibility in the European Union" to deal with the coronavirus emergency in a "spirit of harmony and collaboration."

Throughout his papacy, the pope has urged European countries to resist nationalism and instead pull together on issues like migration.

During the pandemic, hard-hit countries like Italy and Spain have that insisted EU leaders demonstrate solidarity.

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia's daily tally of confirmed COVID-19 cases has been fluctuating as testing capability has improved.

Health ministry official Achmad Yurianto has declared 387 new cases, taking the country's total to 14,032.

Yurianto said in his daily video conference on Sunday that there have been 973 deaths attributed to COVID-19 and that 2,698 patients have recovered.

Indonesia recorded 533 new cases on Saturday for its highest daily tally, likely due to a significant increase in testing.

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However, testing remains a major problem in the archipelago nation, which is home to about 270 million people. Indonesia has so far conducted fewer than 120,000 tests – less than 500 per million people.

**BEIRUT** – Lebanon's churches have welcomed worshippers for the first time in nearly two months.

Most churches were closed to the public to limit the spread of coronavirus, but Lebanese authorities have started easing restrictions that were imposed in March.

Churches and mosques are now permitted to welcome worshippers for congregational prayers on Sundays and Fridays as long as capacities are limited and other safety guidelines including social distancing measures are respected.

Many worshippers entering churches around Lebanon on Sunday were sprayed with disinfectant and had their temperatures checked before they were allowed in to sit at a distance from others.

Masses including the Easter prayers were held in empty churches for the first time in Lebanon's recent history last month. Even during the country's civil war from 1975-90 did not stop its people from going to places of worship.

Lebanon has the largest percentage of Christians in the Middle East, about a third of the country's five million people. The country has registered 809 cases of the coronavirus with 26 deaths attributed to COVID-19, according to Johns Hopkins University.

**MOSCOW** – Russia's count of coronavirus infections has climbed above 200,000 after its highest daily tally of new cases.

Figures released Sunday recorded 11,012 new cases of the virus for a total of 209,688, with 1,915 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

Russian officials say the sharp rise in numbers can be attributed to increased testing, at least in part.

More than half the infection cases and deaths are recorded in Moscow, which will remain under a lockdown for the rest of the month.

**KUALA LUMPUR**, Malaysia – Movement restrictions in Malaysia are to be extended by four weeks until June 9 despite a sharp drop in infections in the country.

Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin says restrictions that were due to end on Tuesday must continue to prevent infections from flaring up in the absence of a vaccine.

The government had already let most businesses reopen with strict conditions from May 4 to help revive its hard-hit economy. But mass gatherings remain barred with schools, cinemas and worship houses staying shut, while group sports are prohibited and interstate travel banned.

Muhyiddin says 6.6 million people, nearly half of the country's labor force, has returned to work with the number expected to increase.

He apologized to ethnic Malay Muslims for disallowing them to return to their hometowns to celebrate the Eid festival at the end of the fasting month, but said gatherings of up to 20 people will be allowed within the same state. He said the government also plans to let worship houses operate with strict measures soon.

Malaysia has recorded 6,589 cases with 108 deaths.

**JOHANNESBURG** – Africa has more than 60,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, according to a tally from the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Africa CDC says that all but one of the continent's 54 countries, tiny Lesotho, has confirmed cases of the virus. South Africa has the most with more than 9,400 registered.

The widespread shortage of testing capacity continues to be a challenge and means the true figures are likely to be much higher.

Some countries are easing lockdowns even as cases rise, arguing people have to make a living and feed their families despite the risks.

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BERLIN — Police in Germany say dozens of people were detained at protests against the pandemic restrictions after some rallies turned violent on Saturday.

Berlin police said 86 people were detained after bottles were thrown at officers during a demonstration on Alexanderplatz, a large central square in former East Berlin. One officer was injured, and another was injured in a separate incident in front of the Reichstag building where 45 people were detained.

In the western city of Dortmund, police said a man attacked a TV crew during a protest — the third such attack in Germany in the past two weeks. The 23-year-old assailant was arrested.

Police in nearby Cologne expressed outrage that some protesters in the city urged shoppers to remove their masks when entering stores.

“It seems like these people still haven’t understood that it’s not just about their health but also the lives of others,” Cologne’s police chief said.

Despite the gradual easing of Germany’s pandemic restrictions in recent weeks, protests against them have swelled, bringing together far-right groups, C-list celebrities and people who believe the virus is harmless or part of a global conspiracy.

SEOUL, South Korea — The governor of a province that surrounds Seoul ordered the two-week shut-downs of all nightclubs, hostess bars and other similar entertainment facilities in his province to guard against a possible new surge in coronavirus cases.

Lee Jae-myung, the Gyeonggi province governor, announced the steps Sunday, a day after Seoul shut down more 2,100 nightclubs, hostess bars and discos in the capital city as dozens of fresh infections linked to clubgoers have been reported in recent days.

The province and Seoul form the Seoul metropolitan area, where about half of South Korea’s 51 million people reside.

Earlier Sunday, South Korea reported 34 additional virus cases over the past 24 hours, the first time the country’s daily jump has marked above 30 in about a month. Health authorities said that 24 of the 34 cases were those who had visited clubs in Seoul’s Itaewon entertainment neighborhood in the past several days or people who came in contact with them later.

New cases linked to the Itaewon clubs raised worries that an outbreak in South Korea may surge again after showing a downward trend for weeks.

NEW DELHI — An Indian navy warship carrying Indians stranded in the Maldives because of the coronavirus lockdown has docked at a port in Kochi, a port city in the southernmost state of Kerala.

The INS Jalashwa with 698 returning Indian citizens aboard is the first vessel to arrive Sunday as part of India’s massive repatriation mission. India is also using national carrier Air India to bring back thousands of stranded citizens from the Persian Gulf, U.K. and elsewhere in Asia.

Sea and air passengers have been charged a fare to return to India. Hundreds of thousands of Indian citizens have signed up for additional repatriation journeys planned this month.

India’s lockdown entered a sixth week Sunday, though some restrictions have been eased for self-employed people unable to access government support to return to work. India has reported 60,829 positive cases, including 19,357 recovered patients, and 2,109 deaths.

## 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.

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



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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.

## 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.

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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 American leaders Tuesday in Phoenix.

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.

## A distinct possibility: 'Temporary' layoffs may be permanent

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In late March, Britney Ruby Miller, co-owner of a small chain of steakhouse restaurants, confidently proclaimed that once the viral outbreak had subsided, her company planned to recall all its laid-off workers.

Now? Miller would be thrilled to eventually restore three-quarters of the roughly 600 workers her company had to let go.

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"I'm being realistic," she said. "Bringing back 75% of our staff would be incredible."

Call it realism or pessimism, but more employers are coming to a reluctant conclusion: Many of the employees they've had to lay off in the face of the pandemic might not be returning to their old jobs anytime soon. Some large companies won't have enough customers to justify it. And some small businesses won't likely survive at all despite aid provided by the federal government.

If so, that would undercut a glimmer of hope in the brutal April jobs report the government issued Friday, in which a record-shattering 20.5 million people lost jobs: A sizable majority of the jobless — nearly 80% — characterized their loss as only temporary.

That could still turn out to be the case for some. The federal government may end up allocating significantly more financial aid for people and small businesses. And more testing for the coronavirus, not to mention an eventual vaccine or an effective drug therapy, would make more Americans comfortable returning to the restaurants, shops, airports and movie theaters they used to frequent. That, in turn, would lead companies to recall more laid-off workers.

Yet Congress remains sharply divided about additional aid, with some Republicans expressing concern about escalating federal debt. President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said Friday that negotiations have "paused."

If most layoffs become permanent, the severe recession the economy has slid into would likely last longer, the recovery would be slower and the toll on laid-off workers would be harsher, economists say. Unemployment soared to 14.7% in April — the highest rate since the Great Depression — and analysts predict it will rise still further in May. It could remain in double-digits into next year.

"For a lot of those furloughed workers, a non-trivial number will have no job to go back to, because the company they worked for will have failed or will need fewer workers than they used to," said Claudia Sahm, a former Federal Reserve economist who is now director of macroeconomic policy at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

In March, MGM Resorts let go 63,000 employees and described them as furloughed, meaning temporarily laid off. Yet this week, the company acknowledged that many of those people will become permanently laid off by Aug. 31. The hotel and casino operator didn't provide precise figures.

"We were optimistic at the time of the initial layoff in March that we would be able to reopen quickly," Laura Lee, head of human resources, said in a layoff notice letter to the state of Michigan. "However, we have had to reassess our reopening date, given the duration and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic."

In some ways, Miller, the restaurant owner, is more hopeful than she was when the shutdowns began: The states her company operates in — Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee — have begun to gradually reopen portions of their economies. Customers are phoning to see when they can make reservations. She hopes to reopen the five Jeff Ruby's Steakhouses and two other restaurants the company operates by early June.

Yet business won't be returning to what it was before. In Kentucky, the restaurants will be limited to 33% of capacity. They are putting six feet between tables in all their restaurants, thereby limiting seating. Miller estimates that the company's revenue will plunge by half to three-quarters this year.

And expenses are rising because the company must buy face masks and other equipment for the workers it does recall and restock its food, drink, and equipment supplies.

If many of the job losses do prove only temporary, it would raise the possibility of a relatively swift economic recovery. It's much easier for someone out of work to return to a former job than retrain for a new one or shift to a new industry. After the previous three recessions, the vast majority of people who were laid off lost their jobs permanently. Some were essentially replaced by new software or factory robots. In other cases, their employers folded or entered new lines of business.

After those recessions, the unemployment rate took so long to fall back to normal levels that economists began applying a chilling label: "Jobless recoveries."

If a substantial number of small businesses are forced into bankruptcy, a similar dynamic could emerge this time, economists warn. Most job cuts by small companies in this recession have occurred because the business has shut down, whether by government order or from lack of demand, according to research released this week by Tomaz Cajner at the Federal Reserve and seven other economists. If those compa-



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nies can't reopen, those layoffs will become permanent.

Research by the JPMorgan Chase Institute has found that only half of all small businesses have enough cash on hand to last a month without revenue.

Even after government closure orders are lifted, many consumers won't likely be comfortable shopping, eating out or attending concerts, movies or sporting events, especially as they used to — as part of tightly seated crowds. Not until the virus is well under control can a full economic recovery likely happen, economists say.

In the meantime, structural changes in the economy might help make many temporary layoffs permanent. It's not clear, for example, when restaurants will need anywhere near as many workers they did before the virus struck.

Nelis Rodriguez has worked as a server at the M Restaurant & Lounge in the Warwick Hotel in downtown Chicago for 21 years. But revenue at the restaurant steadily disappeared as conventions that are critical for spring sales were canceled. She received two days' notice of her layoff before the restaurant closed March 15th.

Rodriguez, 45, never thought she'd be thrown out of work, so she'd never thought about finding another job. But now she fears that as the coronavirus lingers, she might be laid off again and again.

"I think I will try to get out of the restaurant business altogether because I am afraid now," she said.

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

By KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Little Richard, one of the chief architects of rock 'n' roll whose piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour irrevocably altered popular music while introducing black R&B to white America, died Saturday after battling bone cancer. He was 87.

Pastor Bill Minson, a close friend of Little Richard's, told The Associated Press that Little Richard died Saturday morning. His son, Danny Jones Penniman, also confirmed his father's death, which was first reported by Rolling Stone.

Bill Sobel, Little Richard's attorney for more than three decades, told the AP in an email that the musician died of bone cancer at a family home in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

"He was not only an iconic and legendary musician, but he was also a kind, empathetic, and insightful human being," Sobel said.

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 and looks - mascara-lined eyes, pencil-thin mustache and glittery suits.

"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"

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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.

"It is with a heavy heart that I ask for prayers for the family of my lifelong friend and fellow rocker Little Richard," said Lewis, 84, in a statement provided by his publicist. "He will live on always in my heart with his amazing talent and his friendship! He was one of a kind and I will miss him dearly. God bless his family and fans."

Mick Jagger called Little Richard "the biggest inspiration of my early teens" in a social media post Saturday. "His music still has the same raw electric energy when you play it now as it did when it first shot through the music scene in the mid 50's," Jagger wrote. "When we were on tour with him I would watch his moves every night and learn from him how to entertain and involve the audience and he was always so generous with advice to me. He contributed so much to popular music. I will miss you Richard, God bless."

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 remained 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 sexual encounter with a man 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.

## Obama lashes out at Trump in call with supporters

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama harshly criticized President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as an "absolute chaotic disaster" during a conversation with ex-members of his administration, according to a recording obtained by Yahoo News.

Obama also reacted to the Justice Department dropping its criminal case against Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, saying he worried that the "basic understanding of rule of law is at risk."

More than 78,400 people with COVID-19 have died in the United States and more than 1.3 million people have tested positive, according to the latest estimates from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

Obama's comments came during a Friday call with 3,000 members of the Obama Alumni Association, people who served in his administration. Obama urged his supporters to back his former vice president, Joe Biden, who is trying to unseat Trump in the Nov. 3 election.

"What we're fighting against is these long-term trends in which being selfish, being tribal, being divided, and seeing others as an enemy — that has become a stronger impulse in American life. And by the way, we're seeing that internationally as well. It's part of the reason why the response to this global crisis has been so anemic and spotty," Obama said, according to Yahoo News.

"It would have been bad even with the best of governments. It has been an absolute chaotic disaster when that mindset — of 'what's in it for me' and 'to heck with everybody else' — when that mindset is operationalized in our government," he said.

Trump has consistently defended and boasted of his response to the virus, saying that travel restrictions from China and Europe as well as social distancing guidelines have prevented far greater damage. "I think we saved millions of lives," he said earlier this week.

Trump has criticized the Obama administration in relation to his own administration's response to the outbreak. Yet Trump's contention that his administration inherited "a broken system and a broken test" from Obama's is false; the novel coronavirus did not exist until late last year. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention struggled to develop its own test in January and then discovered problems in its kits in February.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany did not mention Obama directly in her response to his remarks.

"President Trump's coronavirus response has been unprecedented and saved American lives," she said. "While Democrats were pursuing a sham witch hunt against President Trump, President Trump was shutting down travel from China."

She added: "While Democrats encouraged mass gatherings, President Trump was deploying PPE, ventilators, and testing across the country."

Obama has generally kept a low profile on current political events, even when Trump would disparage him or his administration on Twitter. But Friday's call indicates that he'll be playing an active role in the coming election. He told supporters that he would be "spending as much time as necessary and campaigning as hard as I can for Joe Biden."



## NY priest on virus front lines with embattled congregation

By JOHN MINCHILLO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Raul Luis López never had the chance to say goodbye.

López was hospitalized for COVID-19 on April 3 before succumbing nearly three weeks later. The 39-year-old native of Oaxaca, Mexico, suffered from diabetes which worsened his illness. The day he left for treatment was the last time his wife, Sara Cruz, saw him.

Now López's family, clad in surgical masks and gloves, was gathered in the widow's living room in the Corona neighborhood of Queens, New York, around a black box of his cremated remains. A rendering of the Virgin of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico and the Americas, watched over his ashes on a table beside flowers and prayer candles.

The Rev. Fabian Arias, a Catholic priest from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is the pastor of Iglesia de Sion, a congregation with a mission relationship alongside Saint Peter's Church in Manhattan, and has performed funeral services 14 times in the last two months. Saturday's service for López was the first he's been able to perform in a private residence.

"Ninety-nine percent of funeral homes are not receiving people for religious ceremonies; they say 'no,'" said Arias "They will take your body and provide cremation."

The financial costs of services, already difficult for working-class families to afford, are compounded by the historic death toll thrusting funeral homes across the city into overcapacity. Most have ended traditional religious services and family gatherings, including cemetery burials.

"People don't have the ability to pay," said Arias. "And when they have the opportunity for a service, they abuse the community. They say, 'You pay \$10,000, \$15,000.'"

Taking pains to protect himself from the contagion with personal protective equipment and hand sanitizers, he is led into the house on a quiet street in the heavily Latino neighborhood. Nearly a dozen family members inside wait to greet him, including López's cousin Miguel Hernandez Gomez.

"The funeral homes didn't give us any choice," said Gomez. "If we had more choice, we would have done better for him."

López, who worked in the delivery business, came to the United States 20 years ago and settled in New York nine years prior to his death. Described as a kind man devoted to his fellow parishioners, his loss pains family beyond the city's borders.

"We're planning to send him to Mexico but right now we don't have international flights," said Gomez. "We're trying to get him to our town, for his mom, his dad, who are still alive in Mexico. He's our family but he belongs to them, to his parents."

Despite the risks, Arias is undaunted, trusting in God and taking great care to lessen transmission risks.

"It's very hard for our community," said Arias. "For all Latinos, when our people die, they receive a blessing. We say the last goodbye and pray together. It's very important for us."

When the service ended, the family, still wearing masks, moved to the kitchen to eat a meal; they spread out as much as possible.

"After this service, I feel much, much better and relieved that the spirit of Raul is released into God's hands," said Cruz. "Everybody is afraid, not only for ourselves, but for our community and especially Father Fabian and all the services he's doing."

"It's very dangerous for him. But he's here for us."

## Polar vortex brings rare May snow, low temps to US East

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Mother's Day weekend got off to an unseasonably snowy start in the Northeast on Saturday thanks to the polar vortex bringing cold air down from the north.

Some higher elevation areas in northern New York and New England reported snowfall accumulations of up to 10 inches, while traces of snow were seen along the coast from Maine to Boston to as far south as Manhattan.

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John Cannon, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Gray, Maine, said parts of northern New England saw as much as 10 inches of snow and even coastal areas of Maine and New Hampshire got a dusting. There were even reports of flurries in Boston.

"We've had several inches in many areas in the Northeast. This is a rare May snow event," he said.

The hardest hit areas were hill town communities like Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, which got 10.5 inches, and Carrabasset Valley in Maine, which got 9 inches, he said.

Conditions at the Mount Washington Observatory, atop the highest peak in the northeast, were downright arctic Saturday afternoon, with the wind chill at minus 22 degrees (minus 30 Celsius) and winds gusting at 87 mph (140 kph).

In many areas, the snowfall was one for the record books, even if it didn't stick around. Massachusetts hadn't seen measurable snow in May since 2002, while in Manhattan's Central Park, the flakes tied a record set in 1977 for latest snow of the season.

The wintry weather came two days after Vermont began to lift restrictions on tennis, golf and other outdoor activities that had been imposed to curb the coronavirus outbreak. Gov. Phil Scott tweeted sympathy to Vermonters frustrated by the weather following weeks of being inside.

"I know snow on May 9th isn't a welcome sight for many Vermonters, just as we're cautiously allowing outdoor recreation to get going again," he wrote. "But this is just a snapshot in time. Just like better weather is ahead, better days will come, as well. We will get through this, together."

Usually the polar vortex is a batch of cold air that stays trapped in the Arctic all winter, but a couple times during the season, it wanders south and brings bone-chilling cold and snow to Canada and parts of the United States.

A low pressure system off the coast of southern New England helped pull cold air down from the north, said Ian Dunham, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Norton, Massachusetts.

Cannon said the snow will give way to strong winds upward of 40 and 50 mph (64-80 kph) in much of the Northeast for the remainder of Saturday, along with unusually cold conditions. There are freeze watches and warnings out for much of the Northeast. Temperatures are expected to dip below 30 (minus 1 degree Celsius) from midnight through Sunday morning in parts of New Jersey and New York and a freeze warning has been issued from Saturday night until Sunday morning in parts of Pennsylvania.

## **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 26,000 coronavirus deaths in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, a

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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. New York accounts for about a third of all COVID-19-related deaths in the U.S. And while those states reported fewer nursing home deaths than New York, all 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."

The order, similar to one in neighboring New Jersey, was intended to help free up 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.



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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 seen 56 deaths.

## Reopenings bring new cases in S. Korea, virus fears in Italy

By NICOLE WINFIELD, VANESSA GERA and AMY FORLITI 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, Germany scrambled to contain fresh outbreaks at slaughterhouses, and Italian authorities worried that people were getting too friendly at cocktail hour during the country's first weekend of eased restrictions.

The new flareups — and fears of a second wave of contagion — underscored the dilemma authorities face as they try to reopen their economies.

Around the world, the U.S. and other hard-hit countries are wrestling with how to ease curbs on business and public activity without causing the virus to come surging back.

In New York, the deadliest hot spot in the U.S., Gov. Andrew Cuomo said three children died from a possible complication of the coronavirus involving swollen blood vessels and heart problems. At least 73 children statewide have been diagnosed with symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease — a rare inflammatory condition — and toxic shock syndrome. But there is no proof the mysterious syndrome is caused by the virus.

Two members of the White House coronavirus task force — the heads of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration — placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, a stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.

Elsewhere, Belarus, which has not locked down despite sharply rising infections, saw tens of thousands turn out to mark Victory Day, the anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in 1945. Authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed concerns about the virus as a "psychosis."

That was in contrast to Russia, which skipped the usual grand military parade in Moscow's Red Square. This year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary, but instead, President Vladimir 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.

Worldwide, 4 million people have been confirmed infected by the virus, and more than 279,000 have died, including over 78,000 in the U.S., according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Spain, France, Italy and Britain have reported around 26,000 to 32,000 deaths each.

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

Seoul shut down nightclubs, hostess bars and discos after dozens of infections were linked to people who went out last weekend as the country relaxed social distancing. Many of the infections were connected to a 29-year-old man who visited three nightclubs before testing positive.

Mayor Park Won-soon said health workers were trying to contact some 1,940 people who had been at the three clubs and other places nearby. The mayor said gains made against the virus are now threatened "because of a few careless people."

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Germany faced outbreaks at three slaughterhouses in what was seen as a test of its strategy for dealing with any resurgence as restrictions ease. At one slaughterhouse, in Coesfeld, 180 workers tested positive.

Businesses in the U.S. continue to struggle as more employers reluctantly conclude that their laid-off employees might not return to work anytime soon. Health officials are watching for a second wave of infections, roughly two weeks after states began gradually reopening with Georgia largely leading the way.

Some malls have opened up in Georgia and Texas, while Nevada restaurants, hair salons and other businesses were able to have limited reopenings Saturday or once again allow customers inside after nearly two months of restrictions.

The reopening of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park along the Tennessee-North Carolina border was a bit too tempting a draw as scores of nature lovers crowded parking lots and trails and even trekked into closed areas, park spokeswoman Dana Soehn said. Many did not wear masks.

In Los Angeles, hikes to the iconic hillside Hollywood sign and hitting the golf links were allowed as the California county hit hardest reopened some sites to recreation-starved stay-at-homers.

Mayor Eric Garcetti urged "good judgment" and said the city would rely on education and encouragement rather than heavy-handed enforcement: "Not our vision to make this like a junior high school dance with people standing too close to each other," he said.

In New York, a Cuomo spokesman said the governor was extending stay-at-home restrictions to June 7, but another top aide later clarified that that was not so; the May 15 expiration date for the restrictions remains in place "until further notice," Melissa DeRosa said in an evening statement.

The federal government said it was delivering supplies of remdesivir, the first drug shown to speed recovery for COVID-19 patients, to six more states, after seven others were sent cases of the medicine earlier this week.

Italy saw people return to the streets and revel in fine weather.

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

The Campo dei Fiori flower and vegetable market was also bustling in Rome. But confusion created frustrations for the city's shopkeepers.

Carlo Alberto, owner of TabaCafe, an Argentine empanada bar that was selling cocktails to a few customers, said that since reopening this week, police had threatened to fine him over crowds outside.

"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 other businesses to reopen, even as more than 1,600 new cases and 24 deaths were reported. Prime Minister Imran Khan said the government was rolling back curbs because it can't support millions who depend on daily wages. But controls could be reimposed if people fail to practice social distancing.

In Spain certain regions can scale back lockdowns starting Monday, with limited seating at bars, restaurants and other public places. But Madrid and Barcelona, the country's largest cities, will remain shut 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. "Personal responsibility is vital."

## **In Japan, pandemic brings outbreaks of bullying, ostracism**

**By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — The coronavirus in Japan has brought not just an epidemic of infections, but also an onslaught of bullying and discrimination against the sick, their families and health workers.

A government campaign to raise awareness seems to be helping, at least for medical workers. But it's made only limited headway in countering the harassment and shunning that may be discouraging people from seeking testing and care and hindering the battle against the pandemic.

When Arisa Kadono tested positive and was hospitalized in early April, she was only identified as a

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woman in her 20s in food business. Soon, friends let her know that groundless rumors were circulating: that the family-run bar she helps with was a hotbed of virus; that she had dined with a popular baseball player who was infected earlier but she has never met; that she was sneaking out of the hospital and spreading the virus.

"It was as if I was a criminal," Kadono said in an interview from her home in Himeji, western Japan, after ending her three-week hospitalization.

Apart from a fever on the first day and a loss of smell, Kadono had no major symptoms though she repeatedly tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. Her mother developed pneumonia and was briefly in intensive care at another hospital.

"There are many other people who also have faced discrimination and prejudice," said Kadono, who decided to speak out on her own behalf and that of other COVID-19 survivors and their families. "I really want to change people's tendency to blame those who get infected."

Apart from fear of infection, experts say the prejudice against those even indirectly associated with the illness also stems from deeply rooted ideas about purity and cleanliness in a culture that rejects anything deemed to be alien, unclean or troublesome.

Medical workers risking their lives to care for patients are a main target, but people working at grocery stores, delivering parcels and carrying out other essential jobs also are facing harassment. So are their family members.

"I can imagine people fear the virus, but we are working hard at the front lines under enormous pressure," said a nurse in her 30s, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear she might be targeted if identified. "We also have our own families we care about. Discrimination against us just because we are medical workers is discouraging and demoralizing."

Another nurse was approached by a few mothers and asked to leave a Tokyo park she was visiting with her children. Some nurses are unwelcome at restaurants they usually eat at. Some are rejected by taxi drivers. The Health Ministry issued a directive to day care facilities after some barred the children of doctors and nurses.

A veteran nurse in the northern island of Hokkaido said the mother of one of her coworkers was suspended from work. The husband of another was told at a job interview he wouldn't be hired because of his wife's job.

The nurses, both assigned to COVID-19 patients, were staying at hotels to protect their families while working under severe conditions without adequate protective equipment and testing.

"We understand people's fears, but medical workers are doing their utmost to prevent infections at hospitals. We seek your support," said Toshiko Fukui, head of the Japanese Nursing Association.

"We are not asking for anything special. ... Just a word of thanks is a huge reward that boosts our motivation," Fukui said.

The backlash against coronavirus patients may lead some who fall sick to avoid seeking medical care, raising the risks of infection spreading further, clinical psychologist Reo Morimitsu at the Suwa Red Cross Hospital said in an interview with NHK public television. Reports said Japanese police last month found about a dozen people dead at home alone or collapsed on the streets who later tested positive for the virus.

"The virus not only infects our body but also our minds and behavior, harming us and dividing our society," Morimitsu said.

Prejudice against those not viewed as mainstream or "pure" is a legacy of feudal times, when some Japanese engaged in professions such as leather tanning and butchering were deemed unclean. Their descendants still face discrimination. People suffering from ailments such as Hansen's disease, or leprosy, were likewise forced to live in isolation decades after a cure was found.

Victims of the 1945 U.S. atomic bomb attacks on Japan, known as "hibakusha," and others injured in industrial accidents such as mercury poisoning have faced similar treatment. More recently, some who fled the 2011 nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima have suffered bullying and harassment.

"Underlying the (coronavirus) discrimination is a sense that the patients are impure," Naoki Sato, an expert



on criminology and Japanese culture at the Kyushu Institute of Technology, wrote in a recent article in the Gendai Business online magazine. "Growing anxiety and fear of infection are adding to discrimination against the infected."

Random acts of hatred have been reported from across the country:

- Arson threats were made against Kyoto Sangyo University after some of its students were infected.
- An Osaka city assemblyman compared a young patient to "a murderer" of elderly people.
- In Mie, central Japan, people threw stones at a patient's house and vandalized property.
- In Iwate, a man died while in self-quarantine after his future neighbors sought to bar him from moving into a retirement home and the local government office refused to register him.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other officials have denounced such behavior.

"It's shameful," Abe told a recent parliamentary session. "Anyone could get infected."

Some places in Japan have begun following the examples set in Europe and elsewhere of sending messages of appreciation and praising medical workers and others in essential jobs. Some offices have started collecting donations and other support for hospitals.

The belated campaign to raise awareness and combat corona discrimination is only a first step, but it's a start, said the nurse from Hokkaido.

"People started to cheer us," she said. "Neighborhood stores sometimes bring us treats like pancakes, fried noodles and milk."

## US approves new coronavirus antigen test with fast results

By TOM KRISHER Associated Press

U.S. regulators have approved a new type of coronavirus test that administration officials have promoted as a key to opening up the country.

The Food and Drug Administration on Saturday announced emergency authorization for antigen tests developed by Quidel Corp. of San Diego. The test can rapidly detect fragments of virus proteins in samples collected from swabs swiped inside the nasal cavity, the FDA said in a statement.

The antigen test is the third type of test to be authorized by the FDA.

Currently, the only way to diagnose active COVID-19 is to test a patient's nasal swab for the genetic material of the virus. While considered highly accurate, the tests can take hours and require expensive, specialized equipment mainly found at commercial labs, hospitals or universities.

A second type looks in the blood for antibodies, the proteins produced by the body days or weeks after fighting an infection. Such tests are helpful for researchers to understand how far a disease has spread within a community, but they aren't useful for diagnosing active infections.

Antigen tests can diagnose active infections by detecting the earliest toxic traces of the virus rather than genetic code of the virus itself.

The FDA said that it expects to authorize more antigen tests in the future.

Quidel said Saturday that the test can provide an accurate, automated result in 15 minutes. The FDA's emergency authorization "allows us to arm our health care workers and first responders with a frontline solution for COVID-19 diagnosis, accelerating the time to diagnosis and potential treatment," Douglas Bryant, CEO of Quidel, said in a statement.

A genetic material test by Abbott Laboratories used at the White House also takes about 15 minutes.

The company said it specializes in testing for diseases and conditions including the flu and Lyme disease.

Quidel stock has more than doubled in value since the beginning of the year, closing Friday at \$158.60.

The U.S. has tried to ramp up testing using the genetic method, but the country's daily testing tally has been stuck in the 200,000 to 250,000-per-day range for several weeks, falling far short of the millions of daily tests that most experts say are needed to reopen schools, businesses, churches and other institutions of daily life.

That's led White House adviser Dr. Deborah Birx and other federal officials to call for a "breakthrough" in the antigen tests.

"There will never be the ability on a nucleic acid test to do 300 million tests a day or to test everybody before they go to work or to school, but there might be with the antigen test," Birx told reporters last month.

Recently, the National Institutes of Health announced \$1.5 billion in research grants aimed at fast-tracking the development of rapid, easy-to-use testing approaches — including antigen tests — by the fall.

## Rangers, IRS volunteers lead in returns of federal workers

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Returning Internal Revenue Service workers in Kansas City are being directed to a room well-stocked with face masks, while some other IRS offices were still telling staffers to buy or make their own as the Trump administration starts rolling out a location-based plan for returning more of the some 2 million federal workers to job sites.

The administration says the broad discretion in its coronavirus guidelines will allow agency heads to get federal workers back first in areas where rates of cases are lower and where protective measures and health care are robust. Officials for unions representing the federal government's civilian workforce are expressing cautious approval at some of the spot-by-spot plans being drawn up, but they still fear workers will be ordered back and risk infection as President Donald Trump tries to push the U.S. economy back up on its feet.

So far, it's only a partial return bringing back comparatively few of the federal employees sent home for safety amid the outbreak. But with the U.S. still among the hardest hit in an outbreak that has killed 275,000 people around the world, some federal workers fear they'll be political pawns.

"Trump just wants to bring people back, because he wants to reset the economy. The one workforce he has control over is the federal workforce," said Nicole Cantello, a staffer in the Environmental Protection Agency's Chicago region, and a local president of the American Federation of Government Employees, a union representing federal workers.

Guidelines late last month from the White House Office of Management and Budget and the federal Office of Personnel Management call for phased returns based partly on local conditions, such as whether there have been 14 straight days of declining cases of coronavirus and flu. But the federal guidelines largely shy away from mandates, such as any directives to make protective gear available to all federal workers.

"Agencies should tailor mitigation measures to the specific type of workplace and occupation," while protecting the health of the public and federal work force "and promoting economic recovery," the late April guidelines say.

After the IRS initially told workers volunteering to return to bring — or make — their own masks, Democratic lawmakers have asked for more detail on how and when the administration planned to bring federal workers back.

OMB spokesman Rob Kuhlman on Friday defended the administration's balancing of the safety of federal workers and the public need for federal services.

"It's no surprise Democrats continue to play politics, but the fact is agencies have been given clear and consistent guidance throughout this crisis to maximize telework, and they are now working to return to normal operations as conditions warrant across each state," Kuhlman said by email.

Incentives have been offered to some of those who choose to go back; some 11,000 IRS workers were given pay bumps of between 10% and 25% to return to about 20 offices around the country, said Chad Hooper, president of the Professional Managers Association, a national group representing federal management-level employees.

Returning workers were finding stacks of tens of thousands of pieces of unopened mail from taxpayers — and also agency-set mandates to wear masks in public areas, as well as signs limiting elevators to two employees at a time, among other infection-control measures, Hooper said.

A Kansas City IRS office that deals with complaints of identity theft was directing staffers to a set room to pick up masks and hand sanitizers, Hooper said.

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Employees reported that some other offices still were telling workers to bring their own masks, however, he said. And employees were often uncertain about who was supposed to wipe down and sanitize work spaces, especially between shifts, IRS worker representatives said.

Overall, "we don't always agree but they are really trying to do their level best to address issues and do what's in the best interests of their employees," said Tony Reardon, president of the National Treasury Employees Union.

Other workers in services dealing directly with the public – including park rangers and Veteran Affairs workers – will be priorities for the administration to bring back, the guidelines say.

Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie told veterans organizations on his weekly call with them Wednesday that he hoped to have a rolling reopening starting this month first with facilities in the western US and then moving across the country based on local conditions on the East Coast.

Following concerns expressed by VA employees and its unions, the department recently issued guidance that it would provide N95 masks, surgical masks, gloves and other protective equipment to VA employees who provide direct care to patients at VA facilities. Previously, due to shortages of supplies, the VA only provided that protective gear to staff caring for coronavirus patients or the highest-risk veterans, putting all VA employees and their patients at greater risk of contracting the virus.

The Interior Department's handling of the National Park Service had also been criticized during the broad economy-wide shutdown in late March, for allegedly moving too slowly to close national parks. Local governments around the Grand Canyon National Park and other iconic sites complained the parks – by staying open – risked flooding surrounding communities with contagion-carrying visitors.

Before those parks were shut down fully or partially, officials at the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and others said they were unable to control crowds to keep visitors at a safer six feet apart. Park rangers nationally were among scores of civilian federal employees falling ill with the coronavirus.

On Saturday, Great Smoky Mountains National Park – the nation's most visited – was partially reopened, making the southeast U.S. park one of the most prominent returns of federal facilities so far.

Park officials' outbreak plans included waiving entrance fees so as to minimize contact among rangers and visitors. On Twitter, some wildlife experts warned about the park's famous black bears — saying they were likely to have grown emboldened while humans were holed up.

## **The week that was: A balance of economy and public health**

**By The Associated Press undefined**

NEW YORK (AP) — As heads of state, local leaders, business owners and individual citizens weighed the costs of re-opening the global economy, fears of new outbreaks grew. A central question emerged: How much infection and loss of life will emerge amid the push to restart business?

The scope of economic devastation deepened. The U.S. government reported the worst set of job numbers since record keeping began in 1948.

The infection rate is rising in many states as doors reopen. In Waterloo, Iowa, the virus is "devastating everything." The community is home to a meatpacking plant, and residents are worried it is becoming a vector for the virus. In Dawson, Georgia, rural poverty had already left generations of scars. Then the virus came, preying on those who were already sick and vulnerable. In Brazil, freshly dug graves are filling up from Manaus to Rio de Janeiro.

The 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe was a reminder that celebrations, at least in a traditional sense, are still paused. In most places there were no parades, no last gatherings for veterans in their nineties. Instead, there were solemn remembrances spent in isolation.

Here's what you need to know from this week's AP coronavirus coverage:

### **GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

A decision to shelve detailed guidelines about how leaders should decide to reopen from top U.S. disease control experts came from the highest levels of the White House, the AP reported. Shortly after the story was published, certain parts of the guidelines were fast-tracked for approval by the Trump administration.



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Leaders in Germany began to draw up plans in the event of a second wave of infections. In Italy, an urgent effort to find new victims and trace their contacts grew. France worked up a "reconfinement plan" in the event of a new wave.

Does 2020 look a lot like 1918? Even amid scientific progress, there are a lot of comparisons to the COVID-19 world and the 1918 flu pandemic.

The coronavirus relief aid poured out by Congress made big winners of small states. An Associated Press analysis shows that some states with small populations and relatively few COVID-19 cases took in an out-sized share of the \$150 billion in federal money that was designed to address coronavirus-related expenses.

## GLOBAL ECONOMY

The job losses in the U.S. fell disproportionately on African Americans, Latinos, low-wage workers and people with no college education, exposing the deep seams of inequality within the world's wealthiest nation. Around the world, people who struggled to get by even before the coronavirus pandemic face newfound or worsening poverty and hunger.

Here are 10 takeaways from the worst jobs report in U.S. history, and here's what you need to know if you're among those who have been laid off.

Despite all the grim economic news, the U.S. stock market just rocketed to its best month in a generation. Here's why.

The virus has hit some sectors particularly hard. Uber, Lyft, Airbnb and other companies that bank on people's willingness to share personal space are struggling. Several dozen malls across the country reopened, giving visitors a taste of what pandemic shopping looks like. Store workers have found themselves being asked to enforce the rules that govern that shopping, a tension-filled role for which most have received little or no training.

An AP analysis found that 70 percent of Olympic sports organizations applied for aid — a stunning indicator of the frailty of the world's most dominant Olympic sports system.

## HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Hundreds of people on three continents already are rolling up their sleeves for a flurry of COVID-19 vaccine tests with more to come this summer, but proving which if any shots truly work is a tall order.

Governments are placing bets on smartphone apps to reduce the spread of the coronavirus as they contemplate reopening their societies. But their decisions on which technologies to use — and how far those allow authorities to peer into private lives — are highlighting the uncomfortable trade-offs between protecting privacy and public health.

## INEQUALITY

The suffering exacerbated by the coronavirus is growing more for those most vulnerable. In the Washington suburbs, an immigrant couple suddenly out of work struggled to feed their young daughter — and themselves. They were among many people of color hit hard by the crisis. Many of those in America struggling the most were still waiting for relief payments from the government, while many African-Americans looked at the mainly white protesters demanding the economy reopen as another sign their safety was being ignored.

Hidden from view at sea, tens of thousands of crew and staff remained trapped on hundreds of cruise ships. Tens of thousands of other hidden people were at risk in an odd no man's land in a Jerusalem neighborhood no one really controlled. In the nearby Gulf, the virus has cast light on the foreign workers carrying out the essential work in hospitals and grocery stores. Meanwhile, health officials worried that indigenous people around the globe, already suffering major health crises, would be more at risk from the virus.

## RIPPLES: THE VIRUS AND CULTURE

Navigating the holy month of Ramadan can be a challenge for Muslims in the United States in regular circumstances. Add a virus that shuts down most human interaction and you have an entirely new set of circumstances, captured in the stories of a half-dozen people around the country. In New York City, meanwhile, feeding the hungry has become an important Ramadan activity.

As people ventured back out into the world — and argued whether to do so — the question hung over all of them: What might public space be like in this post-isolation existence? Those who are or were actually

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under house arrest weighed in on comparisons to their circumstances, while others worried about the oldest people in the equation – centenarians.

And people who rely on television as their lifeline showed they were taking notice – and critiquing – the homebound backgrounds of our TV personalities and pundits.

## ONE GOOD THING

AP's daily series, "One Good Thing," tells stories of kindness and self-sacrifice during the pandemic. Often, subjects of these stories say their efforts were stoked by tears and anxious feelings. But rather than give up, the subjects of this week's stories show that dire situations fueled ideas to benefit others. And the results were much bigger than they ever could have imagined.

Scared for friends who had contracted the new coronavirus and worried about her daughter's schooling and husband's work, Whitney Rutz cried and screamed into her pillow. Then, the Portland, Oregon, resident started baking.

As a child during the World War II siege of Leningrad, Galina Yakovleva learned how to make the best of fearful times. Today she's using those lessons as she brings food and supplies to needy people locked down in the coronavirus pandemic.

## GROUND GAME

AP's daily podcast, "Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak" chatted with U.N. chief correspondent Edith Lederer about how the world agency is addressing poorer nations, which may not see spread of the virus for another three to six months. NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline also joined the discussion and outlined how college sports officials are thinking about when teams can start practicing and playing again.

## VIRUS DIARY

AP journalists are documenting what it's like to live and cover the story of the virus simultaneously. And they are often overcoming deep obstacles. Zimbabwe AP photojournalist Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi describes the struggle to get water, and what his options are when the water truck doesn't come. "We might get municipal water out of a tap at home once or twice a week if we strike it lucky."

## LIVES LOST

Ordinary lives have extraordinary impact. The AP's Lives Lost series aims to capture the stories of the people the pandemic has taken around the globe. Explore the impact of their lives here.

## Andre Harrell, music exec who discovered Diddy, dies at 59

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Harrell, the Uptown Records founder who shaped the sound of hip-hop and R&B in the late '80s and '90s with acts such as Mary J. Blige and Heavy D and also launched the career of mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs, has died. He was 59.

Diddy's REVOLT company confirmed the death Saturday but no other details were immediately available. Harrell was the vice chairman at REVOLT.

"We can confirm the passing of Andre Harrell," Roma Khanna, the CEO of REVOLT Media & TV, said in a statement. "Everyone in the REVOLT family is devastated by the loss of our friend, mentor and Vice Chairman. Andre's impact on Hip Hop, the culture and on all of us personally has been immeasurable and profound. May he Rest In Peace."

Harrell launched his New York City-based label in 1986, eventually dominating the urban music scene with multiple hit songs and platinum-selling albums.

He first found success in the late '80s with debut albums from Heavy D & the Boyz, Al B. Sure! and Guy, the R&B trio that also included megaproducer Teddy Riley, the leader of the New Jack Swing movement.

In 1990, Diddy enters Harrell's office. He received an internship at Uptown and quickly rose the ranks after finding success with just-signed acts including R&B group Jodeci and Blige, who was dubbed the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul with the release of her 1992 debut, "What's the 411?" Uptown also released Notorious B.I.G.'s first single, 1993's "Party and Bull---," which was featured on a film soundtrack.

Diddy often credits Harrell with giving him the tools to find success in music and life, even saying Harrell

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was like a father figure to him.

"Andre Harrell influenced me the most and I don't know if that will ever change," Diddy said in an interview with HipHollywood.

In 1993, though, Harrell let Diddy go from Uptown. Harrell said one of the reasons he fired Diddy was because MCA Records — the label's distributor — didn't want to release B.I.G.'s debut album because of its raw and rough subject matter about street life.

"I didn't want to sit there and be the one confining Puff because the corporation was telling me to do that. I'm not built that way," Harrell said in an interview with Wall Street Journal in 2014. "I told Puff he needs to go and create his own opportunity: 'You're red-hot right now. I'm really letting you go so you can get rich.'"

Diddy quickly launched Bad Boy Records, taking B.I.G. with him and releasing his classic album "Ready to Die" in 1994.

"And Biggie Smalls ended up becoming my favorite rapper," Harrell told WSJ.

Harrell was born in the Harlem borough of New York on Sept. 26, 1960. He was part of the rap duo Dr. Jeckyll & Mr. Hyde, releasing several songs before dropping their debut album, "The Champagne of Rap," in 1985.

Harrell began working for Russell Simmons at Def Jam in the '80s, quickly becoming an executive and helping build the careers for acts such as Run-DMC and LL Cool J.

"So many can say they are successful because Andre Harrell gave them their start. He was so beloved because he made his living uplifting others," Simmons posted Saturday on Instagram. "We celebrate him in his passing because we were so blessed for his presence... He gave everything he had. God makes the best plans R.I.P @andreharrell."

Harrell left to launch Uptown, where he also had success with Soul for Real, Lost Boyz, Christopher Williams, Monifah and Father MC. Harrell's talent even extended to television and movies. He executive produced the hit '90s police TV drama "New York Undercover," which ran for four seasons. He also produced the 1992 Halle Berry comedy "Strictly Business" and 2003's "Honey," starring Jessica Alba.

Several members of the entertainment community mourned Harrell's death on social media, including Swizz Beatz, Erykah Badu, L.A. Reid, D-Nice and Lena Waithe. Usher called Harrell a "KING" in his post. "My heart is breaking and I can't stop crying. He was an amazing friend and I will miss him forever," Mariah Carey tweeted.

Questlove of The Roots wrote an emotional post, calling Harrell's death "a staggering loss."

"He gave you the best soundtracks of your life man and you didn't even know it. We never gave him his flowers," he continued. "He redefined the party!"

Harrell became president and CEO of Motown Records from 1995 to 1997.

BET announced it was producing a three-part television series about Harrell and Uptown Records. It will premiere sometime this year.

## Small tribes seal borders, push testing to keep out virus

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

PICURIS PUEBLO, N.M. (AP) — On a dusty plaza in a Native American village that dates back nearly a millennium, a steady trickle of vehicles inched through a pop-up coronavirus testing site.

From the bed of a pickup truck and backseats of cars, wide-eyed children stared from behind hand-sewn masks and then sobbed as testing crews in hospital gowns swabbed their noses. The workers packed the samples into a plastic travel cooler for a return trip past the tribe's guarded roadblock to a state lab.

The mandatory testing — under the threat of fines by the tribal council in Picuris Pueblo — was being performed by the state Health Department and U.S. Indian Health Service as they strive to identify potential infection hot spots and contain the virus that's ravaged other Native American communities. The order covered everyone from visiting construction workers and homebound seniors to the clerks at the pueblo's sole general store, where candy, jerky, liquor and cigarettes are now sold only through a slot in



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the front door.

Small Native American pueblos across New Mexico are embracing extraordinary isolation measures that turn away outsiders as well as near-universal testing to try to insulate themselves from a contagion with frightening echoes of the past.

"If the virus does reach us, that could be the end of Picuris," said Wayne Yazza, the pueblo's lieutenant governor.

A hundred miles (160 kilometers) west, the coronavirus has rampaged across the vast Navajo Nation, one of the most populous tribes in the U.S. whose boundaries extend from northwestern New Mexico through portions of Arizona and Utah. That outbreak has public health officials concerned that Native American communities may be especially susceptible to the pandemic because of underlying health issues, including high rates of diabetes, obesity and heart disease.

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

New Mexico's 19 indigenous pueblos — communities that range from several thousand members to just 300 — view the coronavirus as an existential threat after early infections raced through San Felipe and Zia pueblos, propagated in one instance by people attending a funeral.

"You hear about all these other big towns that are losing 10, 50, 100 — that's already half of our whole tribe," Picuris Gov. Craig Quanchello said. "We've got to do everything we can to protect our race here."

Native Americans accounted for more than 55% of confirmed COVID-19 infections in New Mexico as of Friday, though they're only 11% of the general population.

The stark discrepancy in part reflects extensive testing in the heavily Native American northwest part of the state, a hot spot for infections. Tribal leaders also say the surge of Native American infections and related deaths reflects chronic underfunding of health care services and basic infrastructure such as household plumbing.

The pueblos, whose homelands trace the upper Rio Grande as the river descends for 150 miles (241 kilometers) from Taos to Albuquerque and extend west near the Arizona line, have closed down cultural attractions, casinos and hotels.

Roadblocks against nonessential visitors extend to villages atop mesas in Acoma Pueblo's "sky city" and on the Hopi reservation in Arizona, which is encircled by the Navajo Nation.

In Picuris Pueblo, roughly 200 residents in the core settlement have all tested negative for the virus. It's been more than a month since the tribe erected a roadblock and guardhouse with video surveillance to intercept unannounced tourists. Tribal members also are screened for coronavirus symptoms, such as fever, by taking body temperature readings from each passing car and the occasional bicycle.

Among New Mexico's pueblos, ceremonial rites and political meetings in compact subterranean kiva rooms have been upended, as have preparations for annual feast days — mass gatherings with traditional dancing and regalia.

In Picuris, preschool lessons in the native Tiwa language are on hold and children can't exit the pueblo's boundaries, even with parents. Families are encouraged to send one person for groceries — a 50-mile (80-kilometer) round trip.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has extended through mid-May an aggressive stay-at-home order that bans gatherings larger than five people and requires arriving air travelers to self-quarantine, while allowing some nonessential businesses to start offering curbside service after a weeklong closure. The northwest part of the state is on full-fledged lockdown as infections increase.

Pueblos are going further with their own curfews, and Picuris is vowing to stay on lockdown for an additional two weeks before considering any changes.

The pueblos have dealt with devastating contagions in the past. Bouts of smallpox — brought by Spanish conquistadors in the late-1500s — cut the Picuris Pueblo's population from roughly 2,500 to 500 by 1650 in the first of several close brushes with annihilation, said Michael Adler, a professor of anthropology at Southern Methodist University. He leads a satellite campus outside Taos and has worked with Picuris

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Pueblo to explore its ancestral history.

In the 20th century, the pueblo's population fell below 150 after brutal raids; it's unclear whether the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 played a role.

"It's a story of decimation in spades — and resilience," Adler said. "It amazes me that they're still here."

State officials say the coronavirus crisis was foreshadowed by the H1N1 swine flu pandemic in 2009. Native Americans experienced fatalities at four times the rate of the general public, according to a 12-state study — including New Mexico, Arizona and Utah — published that year in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

"The reason I believe we saw this spike (in coronavirus infections) is that tribal communities live in largely rural areas and they live in large family units, multiple-family units, and they engage in community support, community activities," New Mexico Health Secretary Kathy Kunkel said at a state PBS forum. "The very qualities that make tribal communities unique are the very qualities that put them at risk."

Quanchello, the Picuris governor who covers late-night shifts at the roadblock, hopes to keep his people safe, even if it means loneliness, financial hardship and warning potential visitors to keep away.

"We don't get a second chance here," he said. "The endgame is death."

## **GOP in power grab to rein in Dem governors on virus response**

**By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republican-controlled legislatures are increasingly trying to strip Democratic governors of their executive authority to close businesses and schools, a power grab by lawmakers that channels frustration over the economic toll of the coronavirus pandemic but could come with long-term consequences for how their states fight disease.

The efforts to undermine Democratic governors who invoked stay-at-home orders are most pronounced in states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, all three of which have divided government and are key to President Donald Trump's path to reelection. Democratic governors there face lawsuits, legislation and other moves by Republicans trying to seize control of the response to the virus. All three states have also been hotbeds of right-wing protest pushing for a faster reopening.

The GOP lawmakers' strategy echoes earlier attempts in some states to curb the powers of Democratic governors. But this round comes with added health and political risk. By pressing for a faster reopening and seeking to override their governors, Republicans are betting that Americans are ready to restart economic activity — even if that risks steady infection rates and death in the months leading to the November election.

The moves come despite a recent survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that found a wide share of Americans say they are in favor of requiring people to stay at home, except for essential errands. But Republicans are mindful of other data, such as unemployment spiking toward 15 percent and higher — levels not seen since the Great Depression.

"A lot of people have this idea that we can just wait until it's gone. ... We've got to live with this thing and you can't live on unemployment forever, you can't live on federal stimulus forever," said Pennsylvania Republican state Rep. Russ Diamond, who boasted on social media of shopping without a mask this past week.

In Wisconsin, Republicans who control the Legislature asked the conservative-controlled state Supreme Court to block Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' "safer at home" order which runs until May 26 and take authority away from his health secretary to issue extensions. In any future emergency, the secretary would have to work with the Legislature.

The Evers administration argued that limiting a governor's ability to declare an emergency would prevent a quick response to any future epidemic. Attorney General Josh Kaul cited a 1905 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the "paramount necessity that a community ... protect itself against an epidemic of disease which threatens the safety of its members."

"People will die if this order is enjoined with nothing to replace it," Evers' attorney Colin Roth argued before the state Supreme Court this past week.

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Conservative justices voiced opposition to Evers' order during oral arguments, with one likening the order to tyranny and Japanese internment camps during World War II. A ruling was expected any day.

In neighboring Michigan, the Republican-led Legislature sued Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and asked a judge to declare invalid and unenforceable her stay-at-home order and other measures issued to combat the pandemic.

In Pennsylvania, leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature have used legislation, rather than lawsuits, to try to strip or curtail the state's Democratic governor of the power to decide which businesses must close under the state's sweeping disaster emergency and public health laws.

One of the bills would have forced Gov. Tom Wolf to adhere to federal guidance in determining which businesses must shut down, rather than adopt his own. The bill passed without a single Democrat voting for it and Wolf vetoed it.

Republicans say Wolf has made big decisions without consulting them and gone further than nearly every other state in shutting down business sectors, if temporarily, such as construction, real estate sales, car sales and golf courses.

The Democratic-majority Pennsylvania Supreme Court has turned away two lawsuits challenging Wolf's authority. The GOP is on friendlier turf in Wisconsin, with a conservative-controlled court that regularly backs Republican leaders, most recently in refusing to halt in-person voting during the state's April 7 presidential primary election.

The strategy is spreading beyond the Rust Belt. In Louisiana, Republican lawmakers are working multiple angles to undo Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards' stay-at-home extension. The most far-reaching involves a petition that would allow Republicans to override Edwards' emergency disaster declaration and reverse all orders stemming from it.

The petition, however, has drawn some GOP critics in a state that was one of the early hot spots. Such a move could jeopardize hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid.

"There's just too many unanswered questions for me to support that," Republican Senate President Page Cortez said.

Edwards has called the idea "completely irresponsible."

But lawmakers also are considering a Republican measure to eliminate Edwards' authority to penalize businesses that reopen early.

"We've flattened the curve. Now it's time to start looking at reopening the economy," said House GOP leader Blake Miguez.

Louisiana isn't the only state where Republicans are divided over how far and fast to take the push to reopen.

Similar intraparty fights have broken out in Utah and South Carolina. In Ohio, where GOP Gov. Mike DeWine has aggressively used his authority to limit the virus' spread, Republican lawmakers in the GOP-controlled House voted Wednesday to limit the authority of the state's health director.

The move seeks to restrict mandatory closure and stay-at-home orders issued by the health department to 14 days. After that, the orders would need approval from a legislative rule-making body.

DeWine blasted the move, saying his fellow Republicans should be focused on increasing coronavirus testing, dealing with a \$775 million budget deficit and reopening the economy.

## 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.

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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.

## 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



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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, 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.”

## 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 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.

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"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.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 10, the 131st day of 2020. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 10, 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was named acting director of the Bureau of Investigation (later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI).

On this date:

In 1611, Sir Thomas Dale arrived in the Virginia Colony, where, as deputy governor, he instituted harsh measures to restore order.

In 1774, Louis XVI acceded to the throne of France.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union forces in Irwinville, Georgia.

In 1869, a golden spike was driven in Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1933, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In 1940, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted into Scotland on what he claimed was a peace mission. (Hess ended up serving a life sentence at Spandau Prison until 1987, when he apparently committed suicide at age 93.)

In 1975, Sony began selling its Betamax home videocassette recorder in Japan.

In 1978, Britain's Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon announced they were divorcing after 18 years of marriage.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first black president. The state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

In 2002, A tense 39-day-old standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem ended with 13 suspected militants flown into European exile and 26 released into the Gaza Strip.

In 2005, a federal bankruptcy judge approved United Airlines' plan to terminate its employees' pension plans.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama introduced Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan, billing her as a unifying force for a fractured court. Sunday school teacher Melissa Huckaby, accused of kidnapping, raping and killing 8-year-old Sandra Cantu, pleaded guilty in Tracy, California, to murder. (Huckaby was later sentenced to life in prison.) The European Union put up a staggering \$1 trillion to contain its spreading government debt crisis.

Five years ago: Cuban President Raul Castro met with Pope Francis at the Vatican to thank him for working for U.S.-Cuba detente — and said he was so impressed by the pontiff, he was considering returning to the Catholic church. In the first round of Poland's presidential elections, Andrzej Duda narrowly edged out incumbent Bronislaw Komorowski. (Since neither candidate polled more than 50 percent, a runoff was held two weeks later; Duda won.)

One year ago: Trade talks between the U.S. and China broke up with no agreement, hours after President

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Donald Trump more than doubled tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports. United Nations environmental officials said almost every country had agreed on a legally binding framework for reducing polluting plastic waste; the United States was a notable exception. On the first day that its stock was publicly traded, shares in Uber finished down 8%, reflecting lingering doubts about the company's future prospects for profitability.

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 87. Rhythm-and-blues singer Henry Fambrough (The Spinners) is 82. Actor David Clennon is 77. Writer-producer-director Jim Abrahams is 76. Singer Donovan is 74. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 74. Singer Dave Mason is 74. Actor Mike Hagerty is 66. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 65. Actor Bruce Penhall is 63. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 62. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., is 61. Actress Victoria Rowell is 61. Rock singer Bono (BAH'-noh) (U2) is 60. Former Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is 60. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 59. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 57. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks is 57. Model Linda Evangelista is 55. Rapper Young MC is 53. Actor Erik Palladino is 52. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 52. Actor Lenny Venito is 51. Actor Dallas Roberts is 50. Actress Leslie Stefanson is 49. Actor-singer Todd Lowe is 48. Country musician David Wallace (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 48. Actress Andrea Anders is 45. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 45. Rock musician Jesse Vest is 43. Actor Kenan Thompson is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jason Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 40. Rock musician Joey Zehr (The Click Five) is 37. Singer Ashley Poole (Dream) is 35. Actress Odette Annable is 35. Actress Lindsey Shaw is 31. Actress Lauren Potter is 30. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 25.

Thought for Today: "Nothing recedes like success." — Walter Winchell, American columnist and broadcaster (1897-1972).

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