

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Rehms Bridal Shower](#)
- [1- Hanson Bridal Shower](#)
- [1- Orthopedic Physical Therapy Center Ad](#)
- [2- Jean Walter's Birthday](#)
- [2- Bahrs celebrate 50th Anniversary](#)
- [2- Helmer graveside service](#)
- [3- City Council Agenda](#)
- [3- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [4- C&MA Members plant flowers](#)
- [5- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [7- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [8- May 18th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [10- Vold Auction Ad](#)
- [11- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [12- Weather Pages](#)
- [15- Daily Devotional](#)
- [16- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [17- News from the Associated Press](#)



Rehms Bridal Shower
 Open House Bridal Shower for Megan Rehms bride to be of Tanner Waage. Sunday, May 31st from 12:30 – 2:30 pm at the home of Brad and Brenda Waage – 201 E 9th Ave. Groton, SD 57445.
 Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, this is a Come ~ Stop ~ Drop –n- Go shower. Drop a Card or gift pick up a cupcake to go! The couple is registered at AMAZON.com under wedding registry.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A DRIVE BY BRIDAL SHOWER HONORING

Taylor Hanson

BRIDE TO BE OF BRANDON STANLEY
 MAY 27 | 5-7PM | HOME OF SUE STANLEY
 403 E 6TH AVE - GROTON

SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRESERVED. PLEASE DRIVE BY TO SHOWER TAYLOR WITH WELL WISHES OR A GIFT.

Are You Looking For Relief From Back or Neck Pain?

Proven Relief

2018 **READERS' CHOICE** WINNER Physical Therapy Center

Lee Goetz, PT, OCS Eric Johnson, PTA Taylor Spellman, PT, DPT Macey Severson, PT, DPT Erica Pfaff, PT, DPT

Try Physical Therapy First!

- Back and Neck Care
- Warm Water Therapy Pool
- Post Operative Rehab
- Sports Rehabilitation

Orthopedic Physical Therapy Center, LTD orthoptc.com • 725-9900 • 6 N Roosevelt St., Aberdeen

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans. © 2019 Groton Daily Independent



Jean Walter's Birthday

Please join with Jean's family in celebrating her 90th birthday on May 18. Greetings may be sent to Jean Walter at 705 N 6th St, Groton, SD



Bahrs celebrate 50th Anniversary

Alvin and Donna Bahr are celebrating 50 years of marriage on June 15 and Alvin will also turn 85 on June 5th please help them celebrate with cards being sent to 40814 165th street , Turton, SD 57477.

Helmer graveside service

Richard E. Helmer: December 16, 1926 – March 26, 2020

Private family graveside services will be held for Richard E. Helmer, on Saturday, May 23, 1:30 p.m. at the Andover Cemetery. Pastor Gary Compton, First Baptist Church of Aberdeen will officiate.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 3 of 62

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
May 19, 2020 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. April Finance Report
5. Second reading of Ordinance #734 Amending 4-4-1 Removing Fowl Restrictions
6. Award Water Tower Project Contracts
7. June Council Meeting dates
8. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
9. Baseball Suspension
10. Swimming Pool Suspension
11. Hiring seasonal employees
12. Adjournment

Coming up on GDILIVE.COM

City Council

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

7 p.m.

Groton Community Center



Planting Flowers

Members of the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church were planting flowers in their corner flower bed Monday evening. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 5 of 62

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are still looking good overall, one small bump, but not much to worry about yet, especially remembering that we're coming off a weekend, when reporting can be somewhat inconsistent.

We did break the 1.5 million-case mark today, which is not so much to celebrate. We're at 1,515,300 cases in the US. New case numbers held about steady, although they did slip back a bit over 20,000. NY leads with 356,278 cases, another nice decline in new cases. NJ has 148,039 cases, a bit higher than yesterday. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 96,778, MA – 87,052, CA – 81,911, PA – 66,676, MI – 51,853, TX – 49,786, FL – 46,434, and MD – 39,882. These ten states account for 68% of US cases. 4 more states have over 30,000 cases, 3 more states have over 20,000 cases, 12 more have over 10,000, 8 more + DC over 5000, 8 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, CT, CA, LA, FL, VA, MD, and OH. States where new case reports are increasing include TX, AL, NC, AR, MN, ND, AZ, and ME. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MI, NJ, GA, MA, IN, PA, and CO. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 90,257 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths is well down for a third day. NY has 28,302, NJ has 10,435, MA has 5853, MI has 4915, PA has 4530, IL has 4257, CT has 3449, CA has 3322, and LA has 2440. All of these states except NY (at 134) reported fewer than 100 new deaths, most of them well under. Things are still going our way. There are 9 more states over 1000 deaths, 6 more over 500, 15 more + DC and PR over 100, and 11 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

I read a paper today dealing with sources of infection; it focused on asymptomatic and presymptomatic individuals, as well as (new word alert!) paucisymptomatic people. To review terms, asymptomatic means without symptoms and presymptomatic means before symptoms develop. We believe there are truly asymptomatic people, those who are infected and shed virus, but never develop symptoms; those folks would be a problem because we have no way of spotting them (short of testing everyone, and I don't see that happening), so we never figure out we should be tracing their contacts. What we don't know yet is how efficiently they shed; could be they're big players in transmission or might be they're not very significant at all. In presymptomatic folks, it appears viral latency (the time from when you get infected until you start shedding virus) is 3 days, and it looks like you shed most efficiently in the last days before symptoms develop. That means these people are definitely an issue because they're shedding lots of virus before we can spot them. Then there are the paucisymptomatic people. [Short digression here: I had never heard this word before, which is quite an admission for someone who used to teach medical terminology; however, probably because I used to teach medical terminology, once I saw it, I could figure out what it meant: Pauci- is a prefix based on a Latin word that means little. You may be familiar with the word, paucity, which comes from the same root and means scarcity. I haven't figured out yet whether to be embarrassed by this gap in my information banks, so I have decided not to be. Live and learn, I guess.] Paucisymptomatic individuals are those with few or only mild symptoms. And no, we're not sure how much risk those folks present either because we don't know yet how efficiently they shed virus.

Key finding, however, is that, irrespective whether the asymptomatic or paucisymptomatic are an important source of infection, people who do not currently have symptoms present a big problem when it comes to transmission. This is because there are people walking around spreading this infection that we have not identified as sources—and have no real way to identify unless they've been tested for the virus. There's no way we're prepared to test everyone in the country, and so they're going to continue to be a problem for the foreseeable future.

This was illustrated in the report I read on an outbreak in a skilled nursing facility in Washington, one of the early hot spots in the US. Among 76 residents tested, 48 had a positive result, and 27 of those (56% of positive tests) were without symptoms at the time the test was done. Viral loads were similar in those with and without symptoms, and those who turned out to be presymptomatic (we know this because they

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 6 of 62

were followed to see whether symptoms developed) had viable virus up to 6 days before the symptoms showed up. In a setting like a nursing home where, in this case, 26% of residents with the infection eventually died, a horrifying mortality rate, identifying these individuals is critical to protecting the population.

The recommendation was made that, in certain high-risk congregate-living situations, we're going to have to find a way to test everybody, residents and care workers. We're talking here about settings like nursing homes, care homes for the developmentally disabled, enclosed mental health facilities, homeless shelters, prisons and jails, and among hospitalized inpatients.

It seems to me that we've given too little attention to the people living in situations like these, and this paper highlighted the importance of refocusing some of our attention on them. Most of them do not have a choice about their living situation: They either cannot be cared for in a non-congregate setting or, in the case of the incarcerated, they are required to remain. All of these folks are as human as you and I and deserve far more careful consideration for their safety.

A couple of weeks ago, we discussed a new paper submitted for publication (still in preprint) that asserted there was a new mutation of SARS-CoV-2 that is more infectious and therefore more dangerous than other strains circulating; the authors called it a matter of "urgent concern." At that time, I mentioned there'd been pushback from the scientific community. Today I read an article that pulled together some of that pushback.

Here's what we do know: There is no new strain. There simply isn't. This virus's genomic changes are meticulously observed and analyzed on an ongoing basis. It mutates, but all viruses mutate. We talked a while ago about that fact and about the fact that mutation doesn't necessarily—or even usually—mean functional change; we also talked about why that is, despite all the movies featuring gigantic mutants destroying entire cities. To review, a lot of mutations are not helpful to the virus; they disable it. A few might benefit the virus. The rest of them don't really make much difference to the virus or to the infected host. So yes, this virus has mutated and will continue to do so; but it doesn't mutate at a particularly high rate. And there is no evidence at all that any of the various mutated strains in existence are functionally different, that is, no evidence one or more of these strains is more infectious or more easily transmitted or more deadly than the others.

Sergie Pond, an evolutionary biologist at Temple University, said of this paper, "I don't think they provide evidence to claim transmissibility enhancement. In order to establish this, you'd need direct competition between strains in the same geographic area." This is because, in order for a beneficial mutation to gain frequency and establish itself in a population, it needs competitive pressure from other strains. Bill Hanage, an epidemiologist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said, "I think those claims are suspect, to say the least." And Brian Wasik, an evolutionary biologist at Cornell University, wrote, "They got a bit over their skis on title, conclusions." None of them rule out the possibility that such a mutation could happen; they're just questioning whether it has. And so, for now, I think we can reasonably relax about a mutant strain roaring through the country. And that's OK with me; we have enough to worry about with the garden-variety virus we're dealing with at the moment.

We are at the point in the program where we should be watchful for spikes in new cases, if not across the nation, then in states which are easing restrictions. Spikes could be brief and easily contained, or they could run away from us. No one's in favor of the running-away scenario, so I encourage you to pay attention to how things are looking in your particular locale and scaling your own activities to the magnitude of the risk. This pandemic is giving each of us an opportunity to practice and to improve our patience and our self-discipline, all in the interest of protecting our friends and neighbors. It would be lovely if a newfound concern for the welfare of others resulted from these difficult times. I am not yet confident it will, but I am absolutely sure making that happen starts with each one of us. No waiting for the other guy to go first this time: Do it right, model the behavior, and as they say, be the change you want to see.

Hang in there—together and apart. Stay well. And we'll talk tomorrow.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 7 of 62

Area COVID-19 Cases

	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11
Minnesota	7,851	8,579	9,365	10,088	10,790	11,271	11,799
Nebraska	6,438	6,771	7,190	7,831	8,234	8,315	8,572
Montana	456	456	456	458	458	458	459
Colorado	17,364	17,830	18,371	18,827	19,375	19,375	19,879
Wyoming	452	479	483	490	495	504	510
North Dakota	1266	1,323	1,371	1,425	1,464	1,491	1,518
South Dakota	2,721	2,779	2,905	3,144	3,393	3,517	3,614
United States	1,204,475	1,228,609	1,256,972	1,286,833	1,309,541	1,329,225	1,347,388
US Deaths	71,078	73,431	75,670	77,280	78,794	79,525	80,397
Minnesota	+617	+728	+786	+723	+702	+481	+528
Nebraska	+355	+333	+419	+741	+403	+81	+257
Montana	+8	0	0	+2	0	0	+1
Colorado	+457	+466	+541	+456	+548	-----	+504
Wyoming	+8	+27	+4	+7	+5	+9	+6
North Dakota	+41	+57	+48	+54	+39	+27	+27
South Dakota	+53	+58	+126	+239	+249	+124	+97
United States	+23,841	+24,134	+28,363	+29,861	+22,708	+19,684	+18,163
US Deaths	+2,144	+2,353	+2,239	+1,610	1,514	+731	+872
	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18
Minnesota	12,494	12,917	13,435	14,240	14,969	15,668	16,372
Nebraska	8,692	9,075	9,416	9,772	10,220	10,348	10,625
Montana	461	462	462	466	468	468	470
Colorado	20,157	20,475	20,838	21,232	21,633	21,938	22,202
Wyoming	513	523	529	541	559	566	577
North Dakota	1,571	1,647	1,712	1,761	1,848	1,900	1,931
South Dakota	3,663	3,732	3,792	3,887	3,959	3,987	4,027
United States	1,370,016	1,390,764	1,417,889	1,444,870	1,467,884	1,486,423	1,508,168
US Deaths	82,389	84,136	85,906	87,595	88,754	89,550	90,338
Minnesota	+695	+423	+518	+805	+729	+699	+704
Nebraska	+120	+383	+341	+356	+448	+128	+277
Montana	+2	+1	0	+4	+2	0	+2
Colorado	+278	+318	+363	+394	+401	+305	+264
Wyoming	+3	+10	+6	+12	+18	+7	+11
North Dakota	+53	+76	+65	+49	+87	+52	+31
South Dakota	+49	+69	+60	+95	+72	+28	+40
United States	+22,628	+20,748	+27,125	+26,981	+23,014	+18,539	+21,745
US Deaths	+1,992	+1,747	+1,770	+1,689	+1,159	+796	+788

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 8 of 62

May 18th COVID-19 UPDATE

Minnehaha County has reported 15 new cases while Pennington and Beadle counties each had 6 and Brown had 4. There were 60 people who have fully recovered in South Dakota with 40 positive cases. Brown County had 12 people who recovered.

Hamlin County has been elevated from None to Minimal to Moderate on the community impact map.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -8 (98)

Recovered: +12 (102) (74 from DemKota have recovered)

Total Positive: +4 (200) (118 are from DemKota)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (10)

Deaths: 0

Negative Tests: +41 (984)

South Dakota:

Positive: +40 (4,027 total) (12 more than yesterday)

Negative: +446 (25,018 total)

Hospitalized: +4 (316 total) - 77 currently hospitalized (no change from yesterday)

Deaths: 0 (44 total)

Recovered: +60 (2,784 total)

Active Cases: 1199 (20 less than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett 19, Brule +4 (93), Butte 97, Campbell 17, Custer -1 (75), Dewey 107, Edmunds +2 (41), Gregory +2 (47), Haakon +1 (19), Hanson +1 (45), Harding 3, Jackson +3 (18), Jones 7, Kingsbury +4 (101), Mellette 34, Perkins +1 (14), Potter +2 (46), unassigned +133 (1547).

Beadle: +6 positive (19 of 37 recovered)

Bon Homme: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)

Brown: +4 positive, +12 recovered (102 of 200 recovered)

Corson: +1 positive (1 of 4 recovered)

Grant: +1 recovered (3 of 9 recovered)

Hughes: +1 recovered (13 of 16 recovered)

Lincoln: +1 positive (155 of 201 recovered)

Minnehaha: +15 positive, +43 recovered (2236 of 3150 recovered)

Moody: +1 positive (10 of 18 recovered)

Pennington: +6 positive (14 of 58 recovered)

Sanborn: +1 positive (3 of 6 recovered)

Todd: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 of 17 recovered)

Union: +2 positive, +2 recovered (44 of 62 recovered)

Yankton: +1 positive (26 of 41 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Bon Homme): Brookings, Buffalo, Deuel, Douglas, Fall River, Faulk, Hand, Hutchinson, Hyde, Lawrence, Marshall, McPherson, Miner, Spink, Sully, Walworth.

The NDDoH & private labs report 2,066 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 31 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,931. NDDoH reports one new death (44 total).

State & private labs have reported 67,951 total completed tests.

1,219 ND patients are recovered.

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 9 of 62

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
▲			
Aurora	3	2	56
Beadle	37	19	251
Bennett	0	0	19
Bon Homme	5	4	146
Brookings	14	14	502
Brown	200	102	984
Brule	0	0	93
Buffalo	1	1	27
Butte	0	0	97
Campbell	0	0	17
Charles Mix	9	5	149
Clark	4	1	78
Clay	15	8	237
Codington	17	15	658
Corson	4	1	31
Custer	0	0	75
Davison	9	6	424
Day	11	9	95
Deuel	1	1	101
Dewey	0	0	107
Douglas	1	1	44
Edmunds	0	0	41
Fall River	2	2	92
Faulk	1	1	32
Grant	9	3	85
Gregory	0	0	47
Haakon	0	0	19
Hamlin	3	2	104
Hand	1	1	35
Hanson	0	0	45
Harding	0	0	3
Hughes	16	13	352
Hutchinson	3	3	134

Hyde	1	1	24
Jackson	0	0	18
Jerauld	6	5	46
Jones	0	0	7
Kingsbury	0	0	101
Lake	5	4	190
Lawrence	9	9	265
Lincoln	201	155	2015
Lyman	4	3	80
Marshall	1	1	71
McCook	5	3	145
McPherson	1	1	31
Meade	5	1	377
Mellette	0	0	34
Miner	1	1	27
Minnehaha	3150	2236	11087
Moody	18	10	144
Oglala Lakota	10	1	63
Pennington	58	14	1403
Perkins	0	0	14
Potter	0	0	46
Roberts	19	12	232
Sanborn	6	3	47
Spink	4	4	163
Stanley	9	7	51
Sully	1	1	16
Todd	17	6	201
Tripp	2	0	91
Turner	19	17	202
Union	62	44	358
Walworth	5	5	76
Yankton	41	26	648
Ziebach	1	0	18
Unassigned****	0	0	1547

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
▲		
Female	1847	23
Male	2180	21

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
▲		
0-19 years	369	0
20-29 years	729	0
30-39 years	933	1
40-49 years	734	1
50-59 years	685	6
60-69 years	369	7
70-79 years	99	5
80+ years	109	24

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 10 of 62

Vold Auctioneers & Realty

Lenling Inventory Liquidation Sale, Claremont, SD

ONLINE ONLY SALE

May 22-27, 2020



Trailers, Vehicle, Lawn Mower, Scooter

Enclosed 8'x20' Roadmaster Specialty Trailer (Has lighting and outlets inside)
18' Dressen Custom Trailer with ramps • John Deere 116 lawn mower • Honda Express Scooter
1981 Mercury cougar XR-7 • C1500 truck for parts only

Plumbing Supplies

Plastic sump pump hose • PVC pipe of many sizes and lengths • Urinal (NEW)
3 toilets (2 new, 1 used) • 3 toilet seats • Pipe insulation • Flexible tubing
Many various PVC connectors (too many to count) • Porcelain sink
Misc. fittings and shut off valves • 3 hydrants (1 new, 2 used) • Many faucets and drains
Homeguard sump pump • Many brass fittings of various sizes • Hose clamps (too many to count)
Ritchie waterer parts

Electrical and Heating Supplies

Thermador wall heater (NEW) • Energy-Mate wood burner for boiler
Various types and sizes of electrical wire (several partial roles and several new roles)
Homemade wire unwinders • Approximately 30 to 40 breaker boxes (some used, some new)
Glass insulators • Gear for climbing electrical poles • Fuses (too many to count)
Outlets (too many to count) • Light switches (too many to count) • Electrical boxes (too many to count)
• Light bulbs • Electric motors • Duct work and stove pipe (many pieces)

Tools, Garage and Shop supplies

Milwaukee right angle drill • Black and Decker cordless drill • Black and Decker bench grinder
5 ton hydraulic bottle jack • Makita grinder • 2 Milwaukee heavy duty rotary hammer drills
Black and Decker electric drill • Watsco vacuum pump • Drill bits • 40 pc tap and die set
Circular saw • Pipe threaders • Cable crimper • Acetylene tank and torch
Rockwell Jawhorse (new) • Echo Chainsaw • 2 wooden saw horses • 8' wooden A frame ladder
2 wheel dolly cart • Appliance cart • 2 wood storage bins • Red Devil Paint shaker
Plastic tub • Wood carts with wheels • Small chain bind • Ball hitches
Hard hats and welding mask • Portable air compressor • Metal storage bin
Empty oil barrel with hand pump • Insulation blower with hose • Many yard tools
Arrow wood burning stove • Metal shelving • Wood tool box • Many wood storage bins
Several metal work benches with top half shelving

Collectibles, Neon Beer Signs, Pepsi Cola Pop Machine

3 large wooden crates • Wood crate with dividers • 2 copper wash tubs
Fuller-Warren wood burning stove • Vintage scale • 2 collectible hardware scales
Singer sewing machine (treadle machine) • 4 neon beer signs • 7up light up sign
Zima electric reflective display • Water filter crock • Window shade cutter and shades
Many collectible tins • 2 wooden barrels • Vintage folding chairs
Pepsi Cola Pop Machine for glass bottles • National Cash Register

Boat, Outdoors and Sporting/Fishing

Slick Craft Boat and Shoreland'r trailer • 3 sets of cross country skis • Earthquake garden tiller
Go cart (needs work, comes with many spare parts) • 3 bikes • Brinkman Propane Grill
Coleman folding table • Tent (3 room, believe all poles and stakes are there)
Coleman air mattress • Fishing reels • Fish cleaning board • Fishing net
Several fishing rods and reels • Tackle boxes • Ice fishing poles • Minnow buckets

Store Displays and Office Equipment

2 glass display cases • Several display/work benches • 2 office desks
Several metal filing cabinets • Maytag dryer • Microwave • Hot dog cooker



Register and Bid
at HiBid.com



Auctioneer's Note:

Gary Lenling has passed away and Marian is selling the business inventory. Take advantage of this opportunity to stock up on plumbing and electrical supplies for your business, home, office, or farm!
Call for viewing. Pick up dates are Friday, May 29th and Saturday, May 30th, 2020 from 1-4 p.m. both days.

TERMS: Payment of cash, check, or CC must be made before removal of items. Nothing removed before settlement.

Statements made sale day take precedence over all advertising. Printed material was taken from sources believed to be correct but is not warranted. Any warranties are between seller and buyer. Sellers or Vold Auctioneers are not responsible for accidents. Subject to additions and deletions.

Vold Auctioneers & Realty, Inc.

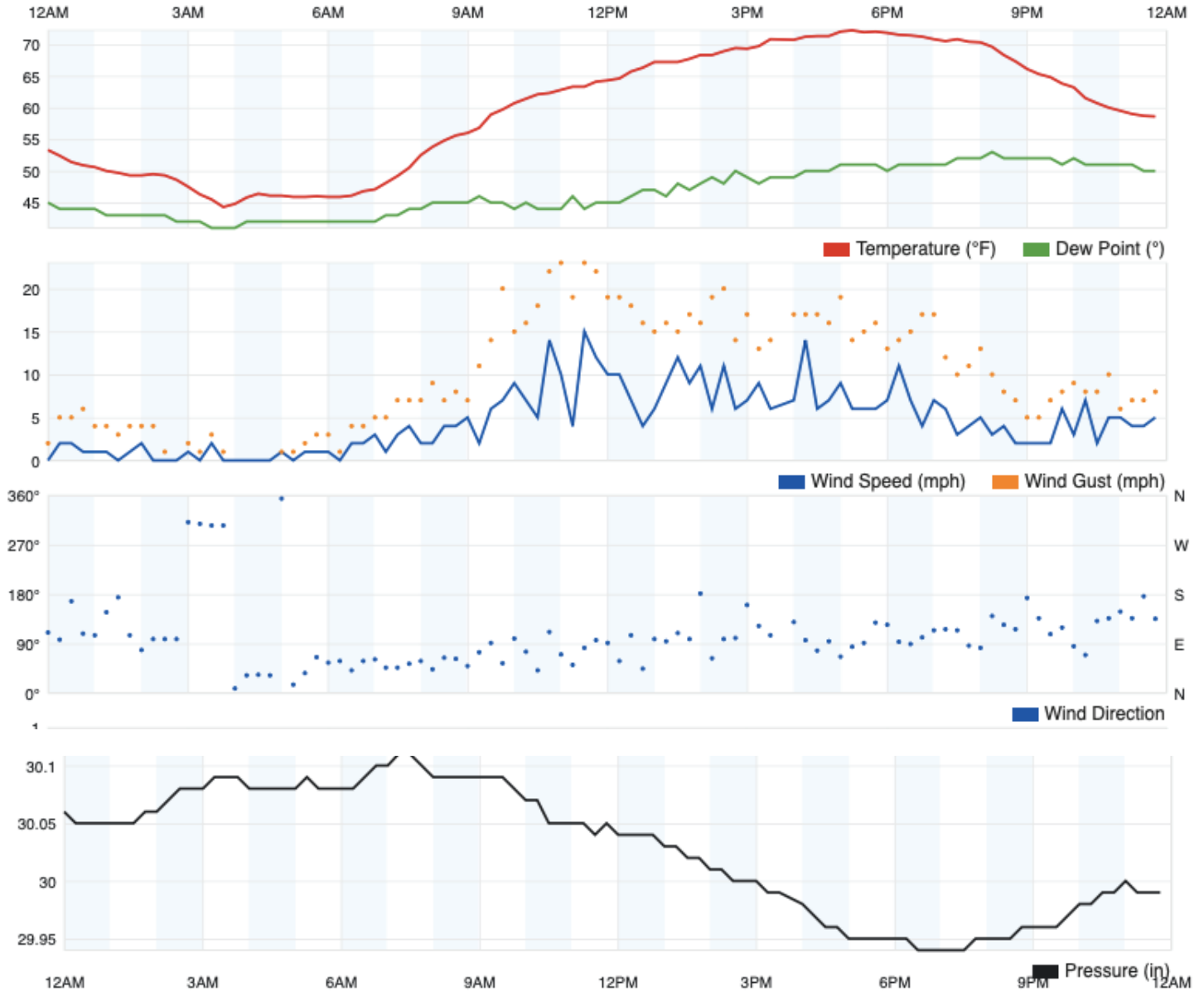
Bill Jensen, Auctioneer
PO Box 31 – Britton, SD 57430
605-448-0048

www.voldrealty.com – www.ag4bid.com

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 11 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 12 of 62

Today



Sunny

High: 76 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 55 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny
then Mostly
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 75 °F

Wednesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 60 °F

Thursday



Breezy.
Partly Sunny
then Chance
T-storms

High: 74 °F

Breezy To Windy This Week,
With Increasing Rain Chances

Today	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
74° 48° 0% 0%	74° 53° 0% 15%	73° 58° 50% 50%	77° 55° 20% 20%	76° 56° 50% 55%	70° 50° 45% 30%	73° 49° 25% 25%
SE 20 - 25 G30	SE 15 - 20 G30	S 10 - 15 G30	S 8 - 12 G25	S 10 - 15 G25	NW 8 - 12 G25	SW 8 - 12 G25

7 Day Forecast - Gettysburg, SD

Today	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
75° 48° 0% 0%	75° 55° 0% 5%	74° 59° 45% 55%	77° 59° 45% 30%	81° 57° 40% 60%	74° 55° 50% 35%	77° 52° 25% 25%
SE 10 - 15	SE 20 - 25 G30	S 15 - 20 G30	S 9 - 13	S 10 - 15 G25	NW 9 - 13 G25	S 8 - 12

7 Day Forecast - Redfield, SD

Today	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
70° 47° 0% 1%	75° 56° 1% 0%	76° 58° 12% 60%	74° 59° 70% 65%	82° 57° 35% 55%	77° 58° 55% 45%	77° 54° 30% 25%
SE 9 - 13	SE 15 - 20 G30	S 15 - 20 G25	S 10 - 15 G20	S 10 - 15 G25	W 9 - 13 G25	W 7 - 11

7 Day Forecast - Ortonville, MN

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr
Created 5/19/2020 4:02 AM

Breezy to windy conditions have begun and will continue for several more days. Expect warm weather conditions to persist through the weekend, with chances for showers and thunderstorms off and on in the forecast mainly from Thursday through early next week.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 13 of 62

Today in Weather History

May 19, 1982: With the ground in the Black Hills already saturated from heavy rains the previous week, developing thunderstorms were not a welcome sight. The thunderstorms produced additional heavy rains including 3.58 inches at Spearfish, 3.32 inches at Cheyenne Crossing, and 0.82 of an inch in twelve minutes at Hot Springs. With Flash Flood Warnings in effect for much of the area water came out of the banks of many streams causing widespread damage in the Hills. A diversion Dam broke at Spearfish causing a mudslide to cover some roads. In Deadwood, the main water line broke leaving the city temporarily without water. Homes were evacuated at Nisland, Hot Springs, and Bridger. Damage throughout the Black Hills included washed out bridges, flooded basements, several breached dams, and roads completely washed away.

1780: The infamous "dark day" in New England tradition. At noon, it was nearly as dark as night. Chickens went to roost, and many persons were fearful of divine wrath. The "dark day" was caused by forest fires to the west of New England.

1915: A spring storm came to an end after producing widespread snow. Total snowfall from the storm included: 17.6 inches in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 8 inches at Cheyenne, Wyoming, 7 inches at Chadron and 3.9 inches in North Platte, Nebraska.

1955 - Lake Maloya NM received 11.28 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 110 mph in Minnesota, between Fridley and Hugo. Fifty persons were injured. The hail and high winds destroyed fifty mobile homes, and a dozen aircraft, and also destroyed a third of the Brighton Elementary School. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Texas produced thirteen inches of rain northwest of Lavernia. The heavy rain, along with golf ball size hail, destroyed eighty percent of the crops in the area, while high winds toppled trees. Golf ball size hail was also reported south of Dallas and around San Antonio. Up to eight inches of rain drenched Guadalupe County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas produced hail as large as tennis balls around Midland, with the hail accumulating up to a foot deep. Showers and thunderstorms in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region produced 3.5 inches of rain near Schuylkill PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from Illinois to Tennessee during the afternoon and night. Snow, wind and cold prevailed in the Northern Plateau Region and the Northern Rockies. Dixie, ID, was blanketed with nine inches of snow, winds gusted to 87 mph at Choteau MT, and the temperature at Crater Lake, OR, dipped to 11 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms deluged Hot Springs AR with thirteen inches of rain in nine hours resulting in a devastating flood. Two waves of water, four to six feet deep, swept down Central Avenue flooding stores and the famous bathhouses on Bathhouse Row. Water released from Lake Hamilton devastated the area between it and Rempel Dam. The 500 foot Carpenter Dam Bridge across Lake Catherine was completely washed away, as were cabins and mobile homes near the lake, many of which flowed right over the top of Rempel Dam. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

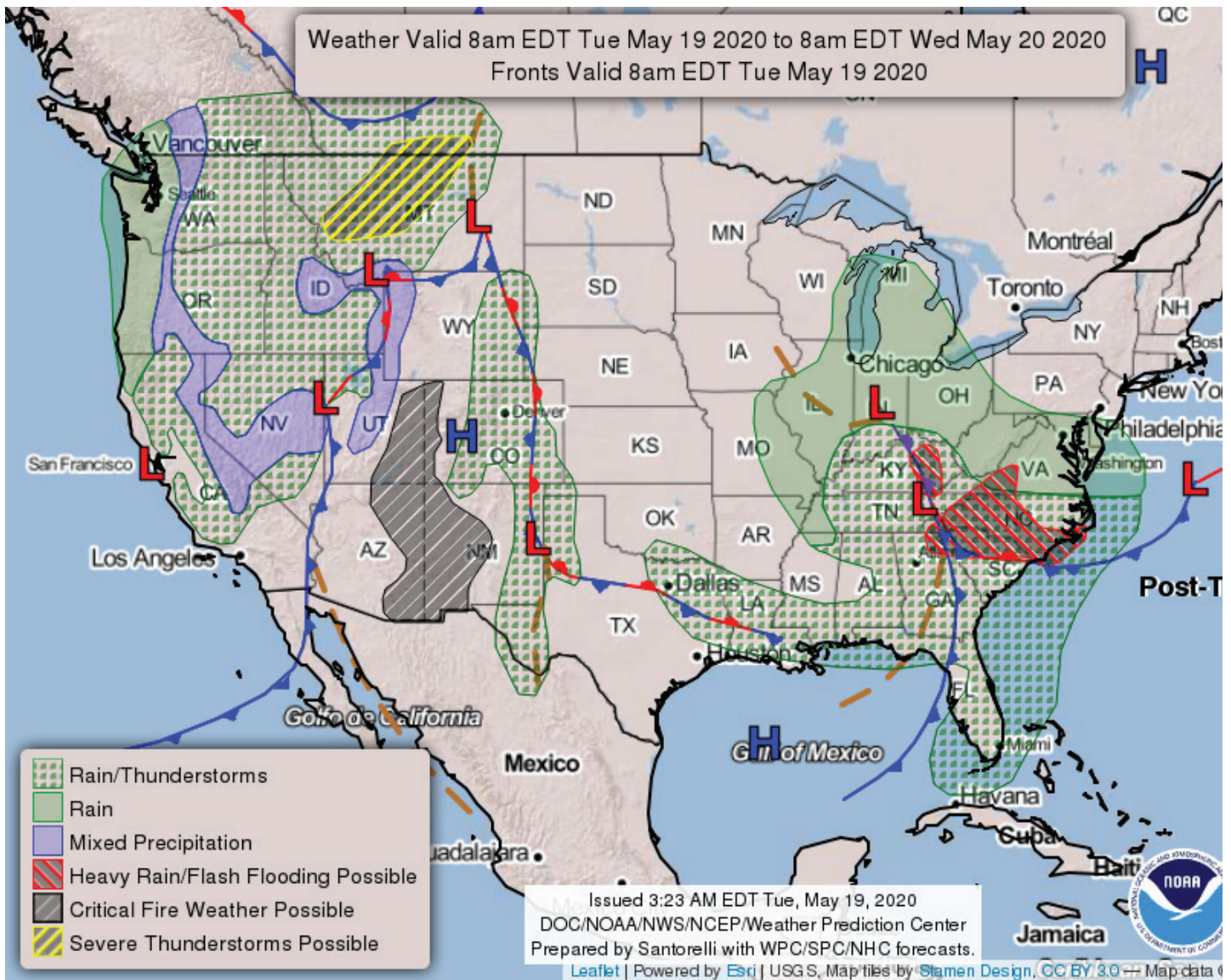
Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 14 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 72 °F at 5:07 PM
Low Temp: 44 °F at 3:39 AM
Wind: 23 mph at 10:54 AM
Precip: .00

Record High: 97° in 1932
Record Low: 28° in 2002
Average High: 70°F
Average Low: 45°F
Average Precip in May.: 1.85
Precip to date in May.: 2.46
Average Precip to date: 5.88
Precip Year to Date: 4.36
Sunset Tonight: 9:03 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:57 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 15 of 62



WHERE AM I GOING?

A Bishop in the Church of England, known for his forgetfulness, boarded a train in London. Shortly after the train left the station, he began crawling around his seat and the other seats near him. Fearing for his safety, the conductor approached him carefully, tapped him on the shoulder, and asked what he was doing.

"I'm looking for my ticket," said the Bishop.

"Well, that's not a problem, Bishop. We'll take care of you. It's really quite all right," replied the conductor.

"No, it isn't," said the Bishop. "I forgot where I am going!" confessed the Bishop.

"Show me the path where I should walk, O Lord, point out the right road for me to follow," asked David. He knew that he needed guidance for life's journey so he went to the ultimate source: God!

However, we all want to know: "How does God guide me personally?"

His primary "guidance system" is His Word and our prayers. If we truly want Him to lead us, we need to go to the "source" of His information. By carefully reading and meditating on His Word, and praying for His leadership in our lives, we will receive wisdom and insight on what to do.

However, if we want His insight and wisdom, we must spend time reading His Word and in prayer - waiting with an open mind and a sincere willingness for Him to reveal His path for us.

Prayer: Lord, we know that You have the path for us to take in life's journey. As we read Your Word, open our eyes, speak to our hearts and show us the path we are to take. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 25:1-5 Show me the right path, O Lord ; point out the road for me to follow.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 16 of 62

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
 - **CANCELLED** 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

COVID-19 data sharing with law enforcement sparks concern

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI** Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Public health officials in at least two-thirds of U.S. states are sharing the addresses of people who have the coronavirus with first responders. Supporters say the measure is designed to protect those on the front line, but it's sparked concerns of profiling in minority communities already mistrustful of law enforcement.

An Associated Press review of those states found that at least 10 states also share the names of everyone who tests positive.

Sharing the information does not violate medical privacy laws, under guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Law enforcement officials say the information helps them take extra precautions to avoid contracting and spreading the coronavirus.

But civil liberty and community activists have expressed concerns of potential profiling in African-American and Hispanic communities that already have an uneasy relationship with law enforcement. Some envision the data being forwarded to immigration officials.

In Tennessee, the issue has sparked criticism from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers who only became aware of the data sharing earlier this month.

"The information could actually have a 'chilling effect' that keeps those already distrustful of the government from taking the COVID-19 test and possibly accelerate the spread of the disease," the Tennessee Black Caucus said in a statement earlier this month.

Many members of minority communities are employed in industries that require them to show up to work every day, making them more susceptible to the virus — and most in need of the test.

The AP review shows that public health officials in at least 35 states share the addresses of those who have tested positive for the coronavirus — provided by the state or local health departments to first responders who request it. In at least 10 of those states, health agencies also share their names: Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Tennessee. Wisconsin did so briefly but stopped earlier this month.

Thomas Saenz, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said law enforcement agencies should explain why they are collecting names or addresses and assure minority communities that the information won't be turned over to the federal government. He noted the Trump administration's demands that local governments cooperate with immigration authorities as a concern.

"We should question why the information needs to be provided to law enforcement, whether there is that danger of misuse," Saenz said.

Law enforcement officials note they have long been entrusted with confidential information — such as social security numbers and criminal history. The COVID-19 information is just a continuation of that trend.

According to the national Fraternal Order of Police, more than 100 police officers in the United States have died from the coronavirus. Hundreds more have tested positive, resulting in staffing crunches.

"Many agencies before having this information had officers down, and now they've been able to keep that to a minimum," said Maggi Duncan, executive director of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police.

Critics wonder why first responders don't just take precautions with everyone, given that so many people with the virus are asymptomatic or present mild symptoms. Wearing personal protective equipment only in those cases of confirmed illness is unlikely to guarantee their protection, they argue.

In Ohio, Health Director Dr. Amy Acton issued an order April 24 requiring local health departments to provide emergency dispatchers the names and addresses of people within their jurisdictions who tested positive for COVID-19. Yet the order also stated that first responders should assume anyone they come into contact with may have COVID-19. That portion of the order puzzles the American Civil Liberties Union.

"If that is a best or recommended practice, then why the need or desire to share this specific information

with first responders?" said Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist for the ACLU's Ohio chapter.

Duncan said having the information beforehand is valuable because it allows officers "to do their jobs better and safer."

The data is purged in Tennessee from the emergency communications system database within a month, or when the patient is no longer being monitored by the health department, according to health officials and agreements the AP reviewed.

First responders also must agree they won't use the data to refuse a call for service, a requirement also implemented in most other states using the information.

In Ohio's Franklin County, which includes the state capital, health officials reported 914 confirmed and probable cases to dispatch agencies in May and April, but removed those names from the list after patients spent 14 days in isolation, said spokeswoman Mitzi Kline.

Some are not convinced. The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition described sharing the medical information as "deeply concerning," warning that doing so may undermine the trust governments have been trying to build with immigrants and communities of color.

"Tell us how it's working for you, then tell us how well it's been working. Don't just tell us you need it for your job," said state Rep. G.A. Hardway, a Memphis Democrat who chairs the legislative black caucus.

The data remains highly sought after by law enforcement. In Pennsylvania, two police unions sued to force local health officials to disclose both patient names and addresses. The lawsuit is still pending.

New Hampshire health officials agreed to start sharing names and addresses in mid-March, but initially there was a misunderstanding. Some first responders also informed local leaders of current cases, said state health department spokesman Jake Leon.

That has stopped and "we have not experienced additional issues," Leon said.

Tech-assisted COVID-19 tracking is having some issues

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Harnessing today's technology to the task of fighting the coronavirus pandemic is turning out to be more complicated than it first appeared.

The first U.S. states that rolled out smartphone apps for tracing the contacts of COVID-19 patients are dealing with technical glitches and a general lack of interest by their residents. A second wave of tech-assisted pandemic surveillance tools is on its way, this time with the imprimatur of tech giants Apple and Google. But those face their own issues, among them potential accuracy problems and the fact that they won't share any information with governments that could help track the spread of the illness.

Contact tracing is a pillar of infection control. It's traditionally conducted by trained public health workers who interview those who may have been exposed, then urge them to get tested and isolate themselves. Some estimates call for as many as 300,000 U.S. workers to do the work effectively, but so far those efforts have lagged.

Other tech companies like Salesforce have offered database tools to assist manual tracing efforts, although those also raise privacy concerns because of the need to collect and store detailed information about people's social connections, health status and whereabouts.

Privacy advocates warn that the danger of creating new government surveillance powers for the pandemic could lead to much bigger problems in the future. In a new policy paper shared with The Associated Press, the American Civil Liberties Union is warning state governments to tread more carefully and establish stricter privacy procedures before deploying technology meant to detect and curb new coronavirus outbreaks.

Even the most privacy-minded tools, such as those to be released soon by Apple and Google, require constraints so that they don't become instruments of surveillance or oppression. "The risks of getting it wrong are enormous," said Neema Singh Guliani, a senior legislative counsel with the ACLU.

ACLU's report says the worst location-tracking technology should be rejected outright, such as apps that track individual movements via satellite-based GPS technology and feed sensitive personal data into centralized government databases. "Good designs don't require you to gather people's location information

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 19 of 62

and store that," Singh Guliani said.

She urged governments to set rules addressing both privacy and efficacy so that surveillance tools don't interfere with more conventional public health methods.

Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota were the first U.S. states to launch voluntary phone apps that enable public health departments to track the location and connections of people who test positive for the coronavirus. But governors haven't had much luck getting the widespread participation needed for them to work effectively.

Nearly a month after Utah launched its Healthy Together app to augment the state's contact-tracing efforts by tracking phone locations, state officials confirmed Monday that they haven't done any contact tracing out of the app yet. Instead, people who download the app have been able to "assess their symptoms and get testing if appropriate," Utah's state epidemiologist, Angela Dunn, said last week.

The state with the highest known rate of participation so far is South Dakota, where last week about 2% of residents had the Care19 app on their phones. Last week was also the first time it recorded a single infection. The same app is getting even less support in North Dakota.

"This is a red state," said Crystal Wolfrum, a paralegal in Minot, North Dakota, who says she's one of the only people among her neighbors and friends to download the app. "They don't want to wear masks. They don't want to be told what to do. A lot of people I talk to are, like, 'Nope, you're not going to track me.'"

Wolfrum said she's doubtful that the app will be useful, both because of people's wariness and its poor performance. She gave it a bad review on Google's app store after it failed to notice lengthy shopping trips she made one weekend to Walmart and Target stores.

North Dakota is now looking at starting a second app based on the Apple-Google technology. The existing app "was rushed to market, because of the urgent need, Vern Dosch, the state's contact tracing facilitator, told KFVR-TV in Bismarck. "We knew that it wouldn't be perfect."

The ACLU is taking a more measured approach to the Apple and Google method, which will use Bluetooth wireless technology to automatically notify people about potential COVID-19 exposure without revealing anyone's identity to the government.

But even if the app is described as voluntary and personal health information never leaves the phone, the ACLU says it's important for governments to set additional safeguards to ensure that businesses and public agencies don't make showing the app a condition of access to jobs, public transit, grocery stores and other services.

Among the governments experimenting with the Apple-Google approach are the state of Washington and several European countries.

Swiss epidemiologist Marcel Salathé said all COVID-19 apps so far are "fundamentally broken" because they collect too much irrelevant information and don't work well with Android and iPhone operating software. Salathé authored a paper favoring the privacy-protecting approach that the tech giants have since adopted, and he considers it the best hope for a tool that could actually help isolate infected people before they show symptoms and spread the disease.

"You will remember your work colleagues but you will not remember the random person next to you on a train or really close to you at the bar," he said.

Other U.S. governors are looking at technology designed to supplement manual contact-tracing efforts. As early as this week, Rhode Island has said it is set to launch a "one-stop" pandemic response phone app. It will pair with a new contact-tracing database system built by software giant Salesforce, which has said it is also working with Massachusetts, California, Louisiana and New York City on a similar approach.

Salesforce says it can use data-management software to help trained crews trace "relationships across people, places and events" and identify virus clusters down to the level of a neighborhood hardware store. It relies on manual input of information gathered through conversations by phone, text or email.

"It's only as good as a lot of us using it," Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo said of the soon-to-be-launched mobile app at a news conference last week. "If 10% of Rhode Island's population opts in, this won't be effective." The state hasn't yet outlined what people are expected to opt into.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 20 of 62

The ACLU hasn't weighed in on the Salesforce model, but has urged contact-tracing public health departments to protect people from unnecessary disclosure of personal information and to not criminalize the requirement for self-isolation.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, May 14

A school year unlike any other ends

The strangest school year that probably anyone can remember, at least in Yankton, is essentially over. As it limps into the past tense and as we head into an uncertain summer, this would be a good moment to give a nod of appreciation to everyone who made this school year work as well as it did under such extraordinary and unpredictable conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't really change any school educational plans; instead, it shattered them. Anything that suddenly locks kids out of schools for months can only be seen as either a) a wholesale undoing of the traditional educational processes that everyone understands; or b) summer.

This left a lot of people to figure out fast how to conduct the remaining quarter of the school year. Online strategies had to work for high school kids as well as for kindergartners. It had to factor in how teachers and parents could help shepherd the process along, and it needed the kids to take on an independent focus that many of them simply may not have been ready for when all this landed on us.

Somehow, they managed to bring the year to the finish line by either implementing or creating strategies that probably weren't well defined, or even dreamed of, when this school year began late last summer.

As the saying goes, it took a village to make it work. It took the teachers and administrators to devise online teaching plans literally on the fly. It took parents serving as in-house tutors to their kids, and it took students who had to adapt to a new way of learning that they really hadn't encountered before, at least to this extent.

I honestly can't imagine how it all came together and worked on such short notice. Remote learning is not easy. Back in college, I took one "remote" class; since it was the pre-internet era, this involved me waking up at 7:30 a.m. every Thursday morning one semester to watch a 30-minute astronomy program on public television. I don't remember a lot about it (it WAS 7:30 in the morning, after all), but I do recall the focus that was needed to see it through and meet the requirements.

Now, how WELL this semester's detour into alternate-universe educating worked is unknowable at the moment. I've heard that some schools spent this last quarter essentially reviewing what had already been taught, while others attempted to introduce new material to keep the kids at least somewhat on course toward where they were supposed to be by year's end. The impact of it all may be evident this fall, when learning retention is considered, or perhaps it will show up in the next round of standardized tests. It will be interesting to measure.

This was also an invaluable learning experience for everyone involved. Many school administrators and teachers probably figured out a lot of things in terms of implementing online learning strategies, finding out what works and what doesn't. The fact that students tend to learn differently in new environments probably became even more evident in this difficult scenario.

Frankly, I also realize that not everyone — from teachers to students — may have been on board with this, for whatever reasons. It probably made some classes or processes more difficult and frustrating than perhaps they should have been. Replacing traditional school interactions with remote connections may have created problematic disconnections.

All these things may well be addressed in the future ...

Oh, the future. What a murky mess that is right now. As I wrote in Wednesday's editorial, the schools are planning to open the fall semester with the kids back in the classrooms, but that's not a given. While they hope and prepare for the best, school officials also have to plan for the worst: If the virus doesn't abate

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 21 of 62

or it re-surges, as some believe it will at some point, we may be back in the same place, with distance learning again becoming the necessary norm.

But if that does happen, everyone involved will, at the very least, be a few steps further ahead in the process. It won't be so foreign to them, and they should have a better idea of how to deal with the disruption and how to make things work.

Hopefully, we won't have to find out anytime soon how much was learned this spring, but at least this hard, humbling experience can be a handy tool if the situation arises again.

Madison Daily Leader, May 18

A new Civilian Conservation Corps?

We're facing an intersection of high unemployment and environmental needs. Let's respond the same way we did last time, nearly 90 years ago.

In the 1930s, America had entered the Great Depression. Unemployment soared. At the same time, this part of the country became known as the Dust Bowl in a time called the Dirty Thirties. The combination of sodbusting and drought years were causing duststorms that blew away valuable top soil and covered small South Dakota towns in a layer of dirt.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, or the CCC. The program hired young unemployed men for projects in forestry, soil conservation and recreation. By 1942, the 3.4 million participants in "Roosevelt's Tree Army" had planted more than three billion trees, built hundreds of parks and wildlife refuges and completed thousands of miles of trails and roads.

Today, young people are facing high unemployment again. Nearly 7.7 million American workers younger than 30 are now unemployed. Three million dropped out of the labor force in just the past month.

Meanwhile, our environmental needs are different, but the solutions may be similar. Excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, could be combated by planting oxygen-producing trees. Erosion and water pollution could be stemmed by planting riparian buffer strips. Forests destroyed by bugs need to be managed to prevent large scale forest fires, which threaten humans, structures and air quality.

Here's a bonus: Many young people are passionate about saving the environment. They might just be the most enthusiastic participants in a jobs program ever.

Here's another bonus: There are thousands of shovel-ready projects ready to go, with only money and people needed to get started immediately. Our national parks and wildlife refuges have \$20 billion in deferred maintenance ready to be tackled.

We even have the employment infrastructure ready through programs like Americorps' National Civilian Community Corps.

We could argue that this is a much better form of stimulus program than simply writing checks to every American. We understand the importance of the federal government's recent assistance package because of our need of quick relief. But the next wave of assistance could be so much more effective.

There is important work to be done and we have young, enthusiastic people to do it. Let's create a new and better version of the CCC.

Bull riding may be 1st US professional sport to welcome fans

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One of the first professional athletic sports to allow spectators to attend as states gradually lift restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus is known for its wild, dangerous action: bull riding.

Professional Bull Riders has announced a new competition that will culminate in South Dakota on July 10-12 with live crowds. As people itch for a return to daily activity, it's all a part of an effort by professional sports organizations around the world to give bored fans at least a taste of what once was.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 22 of 62

Organizers of the bull riding event said they would provide face coverings to fans, space seats 4 to 6 feet apart and control the flow of people in and out of the arena to accommodate social distancing.

Germany's soccer Bundesliga returned this weekend with live soccer, albeit without supporters in the stands. The games were played with sanitized balls, celebrated with fist bumps rather than hugs, and cheered by masked substitute players rather than thousands of bellowing fans.

American professional sports organizations — keen to hear the roar of fans accompanying a photo finish or a 20-foot putt — are working out how they can ease back into live events without exposing spectators to the virus.

The PGA tour plans to bring back golf tournaments in June, but organizers have said they won't allow crowds for at least a month. NASCAR fans, barred from the raceway, gathered outside Darlington Raceway in South Carolina on the weekend just to hear the roar of the engines.

As one of the first events slated to allow spectators, the bull-riding competition will be a test — and a step toward a return to normalcy.

The sound from fans will be subdued. The bull-riding competition will take place in the 12,000-seat Sanford Denny Premier Center in Sioux Falls, but tickets will be offered for only 35% of seats.

That won't fit President Donald Trump's criteria for normal. He said on Sunday that his idea of a return to normalcy would be having thousand of fans without masks "practically standing on top of each other" at golf tournaments.

But sporting event organizers are watching governors and local officials to comply with their slow lifting of restrictions on daily life.

Professional Bull Riders said it worked with South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and local officials to organize the event. Noem has avoided closing businesses or issuing sweeping stay-at-home orders during the pandemic, and she welcomed the announcement, saying on Twitter that it shows the state "working to get back to normal."

Last month, the governor pressured a pair of dirt track raceways to cancel plans to allow hundreds of spectators to watch races.

Ian Fury, a spokesman for the governor, said welcoming the bull-riding event largely came down to timing. The governor expects the spread of infections to be on a downward swing by that time, he said.

The bull riders are "really going above and beyond" in organizing the event to mitigate the possibility of infections, Fury said.

The televised Professional Bull Riders event will pit teams of riders against each other on Fridays and Saturdays for nearly a month in Las Vegas, but without spectators. For the final weekend, they'll make their way to South Dakota to an event that organizers hope will attract several thousand people.

Man killed in shootout with Rapid City police had COVID-19

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man who died in a shootout with police last week was positive for COVID-19, South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg said Monday.

In a statement, Ravensborg said that the Division of Criminal Investigation and the Rapid City Police Department confirmed that 30-year-old Anthony Angel was positive for the disease caused by the coronavirus. Ravensborg said all police officers and DCI agents who were potentially exposed came back negative.

A Rapid City police officer shot Angel on Wednesday night after a routine traffic stop escalated into a shootout. Angel died the next day. The officer who fired has not been identified and was placed on administrative leave. No officers were hurt.

Ravensborg spokesman Tim Bormann said Monday he did not know if Angel was aware of his COVID-19 infection before the shootout. Bormann said he could not comment on the ongoing investigation.

The DCI is investigating and is expected to issue a report by mid-June. Ravensborg will determine whether the shooting was justified or not.

After virus shutdown, kids, calves again greet zoo patrons

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS** Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — It's late morning on the last day of April, and a bison cow sets herself off from two others who have new calves tucked in close as they lazily graze and chew cud in the sun.

The standoffish cow, Annie, will be the third to give birth at the Wylie Park Zoo. It's a sure sign she's nearly ready when she distances herself from the others.

"She's part of the original Wylie stock herd. We have very sought-after animals because they're docile and have good genetics," said park supervisor Mark Grote of the bison herd.

Annie was born at the zoo in 2013. Cheyenne and Dixie, the other cows, are from an Onaka ranch, part of a program to keep a healthy genetic line. The calves on average are 65 pounds at birth, Grote told the Aberdeen American News. They get sold off as surplus around December each year.

The bull will be gradually introduced back to the herd after the last calf is born.

In the shop barn, a maternity ward has been set up for a handful of nanny Nigerian dwarf goats. Three sets of twins have already been born. The ones that are about a week or so older have been introduced to the petting zoo barn. They are only the size of small cats. They're a hobby breed and great for controlling noxious weeds. That's why they were introduced to the park about three years ago, Grote said. In all there are eight rams, six nannies and now six kids and counting in the herd.

At about 2 weeks old, they start drinking water on their own. Eventually their mothers will wean them. These kids are here to stay as Wylie grows its herd. Currently, the males are out in the geese pen keeping things mowed down and weeds at bay.

The whitetail, sika deer and elk will be bringing their next generation into the world in a couple weeks, Grote estimates. The park, empty of much of its normal spring foot traffic because of the COVID-19 pandemic, is peaceful, with the only sounds from wee bleats, chirping song birds and the rumble of an off-distance mower.

Myriad projects have been getting done at Wylie Park and the zoo during the health crisis. Maintenance and animal crews have been working as usual.

"We'll have the prettiest park," said Grote, only half-joking.

He sees the zoo as a great therapy for those feeling lonely, isolated and cooped up, so the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions might help folks out in that sense. On May 8, local residents were again able to roam where the bison, deer, llamas, elks and goats play.

Black Hills tourism businesses say there's reason for hope

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Hotel and campground operators in the Black Hills say the past couple of months have been rough on business due to the coronavirus outbreak, but they're encouraged that tourists are making reservations for summer travel.

Hospitality businesses are preparing for visitors with extra cleaning protocols and safety practices.

Visit Rapid City CEO Julie Schmitz Jensen tells the Rapid City Journal businesses are familiar with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She says it will not be a typical tourist season with safety measures taken.

For Cambria Suites, on Interstate 90 with easy access to Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills, recent business from commercial truckers and a group of National Guard soldiers has been a boon. After operating with a "skeleton crew" for a few weeks most of the staff has been able to return to work.

restaurants and attractions in Keystone will be opening before Memorial Day as well, he said.

Experts: Trump's threats to WHO could undercut global health

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Health experts say U.S. President Donald Trump's increasing attacks on the World Health Organization for its handling of the coronavirus demonstrates a profound misunderstanding of the U.N. agency's role and could ultimately serve to weaken global health.

In a letter to WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Trump wrote that WHO's "repeated missteps" in its response to the pandemic have proven "very costly for the world."

On Monday, Trump threatened to permanently cut U.S. funding to WHO unless the agency commits to "substantive improvements" in the next 30 days.

"I cannot allow American taxpayer dollars to continue to finance an organization that, in its present state, is so clearly not serving America's interests," he wrote.

The U.S. is WHO's biggest donor, providing about \$450 million a year.

Devi Sridhar, a professor of global health at the University of Edinburgh, said the letter was likely written for Trump's political base and meant to deflect blame for the virus' devastating impact in the U.S., which has by far the most infections and virus deaths in the world.

"China and the U.S. are fighting it out like divorced parents while WHO is the child caught in the middle, trying not to pick sides," she said.

"President Trump doesn't understand what the WHO can and cannot do," she said, explaining that it sets international standards and is driven by its member countries. "If he thinks they need more power, then member states should agree and delegate it more."

Michael Head, a senior research fellow at the University of Southampton, said much of what Trump was demanding was beyond WHO's intended scope.

"The WHO have limited powers, in terms of what they can demand of countries where outbreaks are taking place," Head said. "They provide expert guidance and not enforcement by law."

Head noted that there clear gaps in governance elsewhere that have allowed COVID-19 to spread — notably in the U.S., which has seen 1.5 million infections and over 90,000 deaths linked to COVID-19.

Trump has repeatedly accused WHO of being unduly influenced by China and wrote that the agency has been "curiously insistent" on praising the country's "alleged transparency."

WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib said the organization had no immediate response to Trump's letter. The agency has previously noted that it declared a global health emergency on Jan. 30, when there were fewer than 100 cases of coronavirus outside of China.

When that declaration was made, WHO chief Tedros said China was setting a new standard for outbreak response. He said the world owed China its gratitude for the way it bought other nations time to plan with the extraordinary measures it was taking to contain the virus.

Trump's use of malaria drug likely to be welcomed in India

By EMILY SCHMALL and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Donald Trump's declaration that he was taking a malaria drug of dubious effectiveness to help fend off the coronavirus will likely be welcomed in India.

Trump's previous endorsement of hydroxychloroquine catalyzed a tremendous shift in the South Asian country, spurring the world's largest producer of the drug to make much more of it, prescribe it for front-line health workers treating the virus and deploy it as a diplomatic tool, despite mounting evidence against using the drug for COVID-19.

Trump said Monday that he was taking hydroxychloroquine as a measure of protection against the virus. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, however, has cautioned against using it outside of hospitals because of the risk of serious heart problems.

Suhhil Gupta, a pharmacist in New Delhi, said Tuesday that Trump's announcement shouldn't carry any weight in India.

"He's not a pharmacist. His statements are not relevant to the field," Gupta said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 25 of 62

Still, India's policy on the decades-old drug, used to prevent malaria and treat lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, drastically changed after Trump tweeted in March that the drug, used together with an antibiotic, could be "game changers" in the fight against the pandemic. India's health ministry quickly approved it as a prophylactic for health care workers and others at high risk of infection, and as a treatment for critically ill patients.

Officials in Mumbai even drew up a plan to administer hydroxychloroquine to thousands of slum dwellers as a preventive measure against the virus.

Indian health officials have declined repeated requests for comment, limiting communications to daily health briefings, the last of which occurred May 11.

The rules say that drugs such as hydroxychloroquine be used only after a rigorous scientific and ethical review, continued oversight by an ethics committee and ensuring informed consent — none of which happened with hydroxychloroquine, according to Dr. Amar Jesani, a medical ethics expert.

The Mumbai proposal was ultimately shelved amid questions of the ethics of administering the malaria drug without first subjecting it to clinical trials. Still, the Indian government has recommended more and more people use it, contravening 2017 rules for emergency use of untested drugs, Jesani said.

India initially banned hydroxychloroquine exports, but lifted the ban after Trump threatened "retaliation." At the same time, India's government ordered manufacturers to ramp up production from 1.2 million to 3 million pills a month — causing company shares to skyrocket. From the U.S. to Australia, sales jumped.

Officials have even said that Indian plantations could increase the growing capacity of cinchona trees, whose bark contains the compound quinine, which has been used to treat malaria since the 1860s. Quinine can also be made synthetically.

The Indian government itself purchased 100 million hydroxychloroquine pills, according to government data, to distribute to states and donate to countries including Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Dominican Republic.

India is the world's largest producer of generic drugs, a fast-growing industry that has brought down pharmaceutical prices globally. During the HIV/AIDs crisis, India played a similar role as in the coronavirus pandemic, boosting global supplies of life-saving drugs.

The problem this time, experts say, is that the hydroxychloroquine hype is based on a flimsy study, with little to no evidence that it prevents or treats COVID-19.

Still, a sharp rise in demand has reduced supplies for patients with lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

India's hurried guidance has also impeded scientific trials that could determine whether the benefits of taking hydroxychloroquine outweigh the risks.

"We should do a trial. I think that is the right way to come to answer on this question. But the (government) made our job harder," said Dr. Bharath Kumar, whose team has proposed a trial.

Meanwhile, evidence against using hydroxychloroquine for the coronavirus is growing.

A U.S. study of 368 patients in veterans' hospitals, the largest study yet examining the malaria drug's value as a coronavirus antidote, found no benefits and even more deaths among those given the drug.

The Indian government's own assessment of 19 drugs found that hydroxychloroquine wasn't the most promising. A task force noted that while HCQ was readily available, the strength of scientific evidence for the mechanism of action was fairly low.

With more than 101,000 cases and 3,163 deaths, the coronavirus hasn't yet overwhelmed India's limited health care system. But that's starting to change in some hot spots as a stringent weeks-long nationwide lockdown begins to ease, allowing for greater mobility of the country's 1.3 billion people.

Nowhere is this clearer than in Maharashtra, the coastal state in central India bearing a third of India's virus caseload. The state's medical education and research agency has been administering hydroxychloroquine to patients in public hospitals and clinics, according to court records.

Agency chief Dr. Tatyrao P. Lahane said protocols set by India's government were being followed and declined to answer further questions.

Dr. Shriprakash Kalantri of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Maharashtra said the

government was recommending hydroxychloroquine for "off label," or unapproved, use, meaning that patients must be told that "there is a small but significant risk that it might harm you."

"If there is no evidence backed by solid clinical trials, then why are the scientific bodies pushing this drug and giving an impression to the public that this is a magic bullet and this is your last hope?" Kalantri said.

Global worries as infections spike in Russia, Brazil, India

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, ELENA BECATOROS and NICK PERRY Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — New coronavirus cases have been spiking from India to South Africa to Mexico in a clear indication that the pandemic is far from over, while Russia and Brazil now sit behind only the United States in the number of reported infections.

The surges come even as much of Asia, Europe and scores of U.S. states have seen enough progress in their fight against the virus to focus on how best to reopen their economies. U.S. autoworkers, French teachers and Thai mall workers are among the hundreds of thousands of employees back on the job with new safety precautions.

Russia reported a steady rise in new infections Tuesday and new hot spots have emerged across the vast nation of about 147 million. Russia registered 9,263 new cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the total to nearly 300,000 infections — about half of them in Moscow. Authorities say 2,837 people with COVID-19 have died in Russia, a figure that international health experts have questioned.

In Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg, one of the main hot spots, all burials now must be with closed coffins irrespective of the cause of death as an extra precaution. Previously the measure only applied to COVID-19 deaths.

Russia's case load is second only to the U.S., which has seen 1.5 million infections and over 90,000 deaths.

Latin America has seen more than 483,400 confirmed coronavirus cases and 30,900 dead to date. The largest number of infections are in Brazil, which became the world's third worst-hit country Monday evening with more than 250,000 infections despite limited testing. Hospital officials report more than 85% occupancy for intensive care beds in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Alarmingly, some countries have seen encouraging signs reverse: Iran reported a steady drop in new virus infections through April, only to see them rise again in May.

But there is new hope after an experimental vaccine against the coronavirus yielded encouraging results, albeit in a small and extremely early test. Stocks rallied Monday on the news.

And in a surprise announcement, President Donald Trump said he's been taking a malaria drug to protect against the virus even though his own administration has warned it should only be administered in a hospital or research setting because of potentially fatal side effects. Several medical experts questioned the confusing signals Trump was giving to the American public with the move.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin has declared that a partial economic shutdown imposed in late March helped slow the outbreak and prevent the nation's health care system from being overwhelmed. A week ago, he ended the nationwide lockdown and encouraged provincial governors to consider reopening industries and construction sites.

Russian authorities have been listing chronic illnesses as the cause of death for many of those who tested positive but angrily deny suggestions they have been manipulating statistics. They insist Russia's low number of deaths reflects early preventative measures and broad screening that helped stem contagion. Nearly 7.4 million tests have been conducted.

Putin has given the regions a free hand to determine how they will ease their lockdowns, noting that the situation differs widely in Russia's 85 provinces. Some have been struggling. The mostly Muslim southern province of Dagestan has reported a spike in infections that left its hospitals overflowing.

In India, coronavirus cases have surged past 100,000, and infections are rising in the home states of migrant workers who fled cities and towns during a nationwide lockdown when they lost their jobs.

India is now seeing more than 4,000 new cases daily. States including West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Gujarat, the major contributors of India's migrant labor, are showing major spikes in infections as the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 27 of 62

country's lockdown rules have eased. More than 3,100 with COVID-19 have died, according to India's Health Ministry.

And in densely populated Bangladesh, where authorities reported a record 1,602 positive tests, thousands of cars were on the streets of the capital, Dhaka, despite a lockdown that extends through May 30.

Authorities in Bangladesh have relaxed some rules and allowed shops to open ahead of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr, at the end of the month. Public transportation is suspended but the country's thousands of garment factories are operating.

Across the globe in Latin America, intensive care units in the Chilean capital of Santiago have been beyond 90% capacity for days and officials warned that intensive care and emergency doctors treating coronavirus patients were "reaching their limits."

"They can't keep going forever, no matter how many beds or ventilators there are," said Claudio Castillo, a professor of public policy and health at the University of Santiago.

Infections were also increasing in poor areas of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, where authorities relaxed strict lockdown measures last week, allowing some businesses to open and children to walk outside on weekends.

Colombia was struggling with an outbreak in Leticia, a city on the border with Brazil, where hospitals were overwhelmed and patients were being sent to hotels commandeered to be emergency medical centers. Colombia has reported 16,295 confirmed cases and 592 dead.

In Europe and the United States, which has seen 36 million Americans file for unemployment, economic concerns were dominating the political landscape.

Unemployment claims in Britain jumped 69% in April as the pandemic took hold, U.K. authorities said Tuesday. European car sales collapsed by an unprecedented 76% in April as the automotive industry faces its worst crisis in decades.

In the U.S., more than 130,000 autoworkers returned to factories for the first time in nearly two months in one of the biggest steps yet to restart American industry.

An experimental vaccine by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Inc. triggered hoped-for immune responses in eight healthy, middle-aged volunteers. They were found to have antibodies similar to those seen in people who have recovered from COVID-19. Further studies on the vaccine's safety, effectiveness and optimal dosage are needed.

Worldwide, about a dozen vaccine candidates are in the first stages of testing or nearing it.

Trump, meanwhile, says he's been taking the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine daily "for about a week and a half now" even though it has not been shown to combat the coronavirus.

"I started taking it because I think it's good," Trump said, but health experts questioned the move.

"There is no evidence that hydroxychloroquine is effective for the treatment or the prevention of COVID-19," said Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association.

More than 4.8 million people worldwide have been infected and over 318,000 deaths have been recorded, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that experts believe is too low for several reasons.

UK jobless claims surge by record amount as pandemic hits

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Unemployment claims in Britain jumped by a record amount in April to their highest level since the 1990s, underscoring the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the economy despite government programs to keep workers on payrolls.

Jobless claims surged by 856,000 in April, to 2.1 million, the highest since 1996 and an increase of 69% from the month before, the Office of National Statistics said Tuesday. The figures covered only the first weeks of the lockdown, said Jonathan Athow, a statistician at the ONS.

As bad as it was, economists suggested it could have been much worse. The government created a job retention program to prevent millions of people from being laid off by effectively putting them on the government payroll.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 28 of 62

"The fact unemployment hasn't already shot up far higher given the huge fall in GDP and temporary closure of around a quarter of businesses is a good result for the government," said Andrew Wishart, an economist at Capital Economics. That "reflects the 7.5 million people on its furlough scheme that may otherwise have been made redundant," he added.

The government wage support scheme is due to ask employers to share costs from August, so job losses could accelerate if employers decide that their businesses can't survive and give up.

Among the sectors hit hardest were hospitality and construction. Job vacancies also dropped sharply, with the number of empty posts falling by 170,000 to 637,000 in the three months to April compared with the previous quarter.

The unemployment rate was at 3.9% in March, the last month for which full labor market statistics are available. Experts predict it will rise toward 10% by the fall.

Economist Kallum Pickering of Berenberg bank said that would mean an increase in the number of unemployed workers to around 3.3 million from about 1.35 million in March – far exceeding the previous peak of 2.7 million in October 2011 in the wake of the financial crisis.

An unemployment rate peak of 10% would still be well below the rate in the U.S., where the jobless rate hit 14.7% already in April and is forecast to rise further.

2017 video shows Georgia officer tried to tase Ahmaud Arbery

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A video released Monday shows police in Georgia attempting to search Ahmaud Arbery's parked car in 2017 and when he refuses to let them and begins to walk back to the vehicle an officer tries to use a stun gun on him.

The video, first obtained by The Guardian, shows Arbery refusing Glynn County police when they ask to search his Toyota and as he walks toward his vehicle he is told "don't reach the car" and "keep your hands out your pockets." The officer then pulls the Taser and attempts to use it, but it malfunctions and Arbery is told to get down on the ground, which he does.

When Arbery questions why the cops are bothering him he's told that the area is known for drugs, a suggestion that agitates Arbery who said he is not on drugs and to check his "s—!" Officers then proceed to check him for weapons while clarifying this action was not a search, but a check.

In a police report, also obtained by The Guardian, officers said Arbery, who was parked when confronted by officers, was free to go but could not take his vehicle because his license was suspended. The report said that after he left the scene they noticed Arbery's passenger side window was open and that they smelled what they believed to be marijuana and noticed a bag with a leafy substance inside.

Calls and emails to the Glynn County Police Department and Arbery's family attorney Benjamin Crump have not been returned.

Arbery was killed Feb. 23 after a pursuit by a white father and son who armed themselves and gave chase after seeing the 25-year-old black man running in their subdivision. More than two months passed before Gregory McMichael, 64, and Travis McMichael, 34, were jailed on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault.

A judge from outside the coastal Georgia community where Arbery was fatally shot has been appointed to preside over trial proceedings of the two men charged with Arbery's murder, including one defendant with close ties to law enforcement.

Court documents filed in Glynn County show that Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walmsley was appointed to the case after all five judges in the legal circuit where Arbery was killed recused themselves. Walmsley is based in Savannah, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of where the slaying occurred just outside the port city of Brunswick.

Gregory McMichael, a retired investigator for the local district attorney, told police he thought Arbery was a burglar. He said Arbery attacked his son before he was shot.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, has said she believes her son was merely out jogging.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 29 of 62

The delay in criminal charges and a cellphone video of the shooting leaked shortly before the May 7 arrests fueled national outrage over Arbery's death.

Last week, defense attorneys for the McMichaels cautioned against rushing to judgment. They said they soon plan to seek a preliminary hearing from a magistrate judge in Glynn County at which new details might be revealed. They also plan to ask that the McMichaels be released from jail on bond pending trial. That decision will now fall to Walmsley.

No court hearings had been scheduled as of Monday afternoon.

Gregory McMichael worked as an investigator for the local district attorney for more than two decades before he retired last year. Attorneys for Arbery's family and others have blamed the delay in arrests in part on the elder McMichael's ties to local law enforcement. The McMichaels weren't charged until after the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was brought into the case in early May.

Meanwhile, three district attorneys have passed on prosecuting the case, which now resides with the district attorney of Cobb County in metro Atlanta.

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

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at nonvirus stories in the news:

1. VIDEO SURFACES OF POLICE CONFRONTATION WITH ARBERY A video from 2017 shows police in Georgia attempting to search Ahmaud Arbery's parked car, and when he refuses to let them and begins to walk back to the vehicle an officer tries to tase him.

2. BIDEN HIRES FORMER KAMALA HARRIS AIDE The granddaughter of civil rights leader César Chávez is joining Joe Biden's campaign to help with Latino outreach.

3. 'SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS' A U.N. investigative team cites new evidence that should strengthen cases against Islamic State extremists of crimes against the Yazidi minority in 2014.

4. MYANMAR SEIZES LARGE AMOUNT OF LIQUID FENTANYL The discovery provides the first evidence that the synthetic opioid is being produced in quantity in Southeast Asia's infamous Golden Triangle region.

5. ROONEY RULE AMENDED The NFL is expanding the hiring rule to require more interviews of minority candidates for head coaching and coordinator positions, the AP has learned.

Despite risks, Trump says he's taking hydroxychloroquine

By ZEKE MILLER, MARILYNN MARCHIONE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he is taking a malaria drug to protect against the coronavirus, despite warnings from his own government that it should only be administered for COVID-19 in a hospital or research setting due to potentially fatal side effects.

Trump told reporters Monday he has been taking the drug, hydroxychloroquine, and a zinc supplement daily "for about a week and a half now."

Trump has spent weeks pushing hydroxychloroquine as a potential cure or prophylaxis for COVID-19 against the cautionary advice of many of his administration's top medical professionals. The drug has the potential to cause significant side effects in some patients and has not been shown to combat the new coronavirus.

Later, in a move that could have far-reaching medical impact during the pandemic, Trump tweeted a letter he had sent to the World Health Organization threatening to permanently drop U.S. funding unless WHO commits to "substantive improvements" over the next 30 days. The U.S. provides \$450 million a year to the organization.

Trump has accused WHO of giving "bad advice, terrible advice" and favoring China. In the letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Trump said "the only way forward" is if WHO can "demonstrate independence from China." Before releasing the letter Trump had said he was considering cutting U.S. funding by more than 90%.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 30 of 62

WHO announced Monday it would launch an independent probe into how it managed the international response to the coronavirus, as most of its member states have requested. It did not commit to investigating the origins of the virus, another point of contention between Trump and China.

At the White House, Trump said his doctor did not recommend hydroxychloroquine to him, but that he requested it from the White House physician.

"I started taking it, because I think it's good," Trump said. "I've heard a lot of good stories."

The White House physician, Dr. Sean Conley, said in a statement released through the White House press office that, after "numerous discussions" with Trump about the evidence for and against using hydroxychloroquine, "we concluded the potential benefit from treatment outweighed the relative risks."

The Food and Drug Administration warned health professionals last month that the drug should not be used to treat COVID-19 outside of hospital or research settings, due to sometimes fatal side effects. Regulators issued the alert for the drug, which can also be used to treat lupus and arthritis, after receiving reports of heart rhythm problems, including deaths, from poison control centers and other health providers.

Trump dismissed reports of side effects, saying, "All I can tell you is, so far I seem to be OK."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told CNN, "He's our president, and I would rather he not be taking something that has not been approved by the scientists, especially in his age group and his, shall we say, weight group ... morbidly obese, they say."

Trump is 73. At his last full checkup in February 2019 he passed the official threshold for being considered obese, with a body mass index of 30.4. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a BMI of 40 or above is considered "severe" obesity, which some also call "morbid" obesity.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called Trump's remarks "dangerous."

"Maybe he's really not taking it because the president lies about things characteristically," Schumer said on MSNBC. He added: "I don't know whether he is taking it or not. I know him saying he is taking it, whether he is or not, is reckless, reckless, reckless."

At least two White House staffers tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month, sparking concerns about the steps taken by the administration to protect the president and sending Vice President Mike Pence and other officials into varying forms of self-isolation.

The White House has since mandated that those in the West Wing wear face coverings and has introduced daily testing for the virus for the president, vice president and those they come in close contact with. Trump says he continues to test negative for the coronavirus.

Trump last underwent an "interim" checkup in a November visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that was not noted on his public schedule. His last complete physical took place in February 2019.

Several prominent doctors said they worried that people would infer from Trump's example that the drug works or is safe.

"There is no evidence that hydroxychloroquine is effective for the treatment or the prevention of COVID-19," said Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association. "The results to date are not promising."

People should not infer from Trump's example "that it's an approved approach or proven," because it's not, said Dr. David Aronoff, infectious diseases chief at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Hydroxychloroquine can cause potentially serious heart rhythm problems even in healthy people, but "it's hard to infer" that Trump's artery plaque, revealed in tests from his 2018 physical, makes the drug especially dangerous for him, Aronoff said.

White House officials did not say whether any other administration officials were also taking the drug.

Trump said he took hydroxychloroquine with an "original dose" of the antibiotic azithromycin. The president has repeatedly pushed the use of the drug with or without the azithromycin, but no large, rigorous studies have found them safe or effective for preventing or treating COVID-19.

Two large observational studies, each involving around 1,400 patients in New York, recently found no benefit from hydroxychloroquine. Two new ones published Thursday in the medical journal BMJ reached the same conclusion.

U.S. prescriptions for hydroxychloroquine surged roughly 80% in March to more than 830,000 compared

with same period in the prior year, according to data tracking firm IQVIA. That jump in prescribing came before the federal government accepted nearly 30 million doses of the drug donated to the strategic national stockpile by foreign drugmakers. Since then, millions of those tablets have been shipped to U.S. hospitals nationwide for use treating patients with COVID-19.

Beaches, nightclubs? Europe mulls how to get tourists back

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS and BARRY HATTON Associated Press

AYIA NAPA, Cyprus (AP) — The Mediterranean resort town of Ayia Napa is known for its boisterous parties. Each summer, thousands of young foreign tourists pack the dance floors of its nightlife district after a day at the beach.

But the pandemic silenced the exuberant Napa Strip district as the island nation of Cyprus went into a lockdown to halt the spread of the coronavirus. Now nightclub owners wonder when social distancing rules will be eased enough for the party to resume — and what those new parties will look like.

"We know at nightclubs, young people will go to dance and have a good time. But then you have to tell them that they have to keep 2 meters (6 feet) apart from each other?" asked Charalambos Alexandrou, the spokesman for a group representing local clubs, bars and restaurants.

Across southern Europe, in places where tourism drives much of the economy, officials are weighing how to entice travelers to come back, even while the pandemic remains a threat. Juggling the sometimes-competing needs of health and business, authorities are introducing measures to reassure visitors that taking a holiday is safe again.

Social distancing rules may work in restaurants, but that's not likely to solve the quandary facing Ayia Napa's nightclubs. Alexandrou said this will be "a season of trying to survive," not seeking a profit.

One idea being considered is asking holidaymakers to take a COVID-19 test prior to their arrival. Cyprus has officially reported 916 cases of COVID-19 and 17 deaths.

The country's deputy minister for tourism, Savvas Perdios, said Cyprus will initially look to bring tourists from nearby countries that have managed to contain the virus — Greece, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and some central European and Nordic nations.

Authorities will take more time to assess the course of the pandemic in the United Kingdom and Russia, the island's primary tourism markets, before rolling out the red carpet for those countries.

Tourists in the near future will have to navigate a different set of expectations, routines and rules to counter the virus.

Christos Angelides, president of the Cyprus Hotel Managers' Association, said new rules being announced soon will mean that from the moment tourists step out of their bus or taxi from the airport, their luggage will be disinfected and taken straight to their rooms. Reception procedures will be done electronically, with employees behind a plexiglass screen and cleaning staff in full protective gear.

Guests eyeing a vacation in Portugal, another major southern European holiday destination, will probably look beyond a hotel's online reviews to see if it has the "Clean&Safe" seal now being awarded by local tourism officials. The seal indicates that the establishment, be it a hotel, restaurant or other venue, has enacted recommended hygiene and safety procedures to protect against the virus.

The idea has been a big success in a desperate sector that accounts for 15% of Portugal's gross domestic product and 9% of the country's jobs. The online classes needed to obtain the seal are being attended by around 4,000 people a week.

"It's a question of making people feel safe to travel and having confidence in the place where they're going," said Luís Araújo, president of the government agency Turismo de Portugal

Portugal lies at the opposite end of the Mediterranean Sea from Cyprus, but its challenge is the same: how to reconcile social distancing and hygiene rules with fun and relaxation.

"Restrictions scare away any tourist," Araújo acknowledged.

The Portuguese government says discotheques will be the last places to open, but many hotels intend to start reopening June 1.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 32 of 62

Among the changes being adopted: Guests will not check into their rooms until 24 hours after the last occupant has checked out, to allow time for thorough cleaning and airing of the space. Waiting for sunbeds may come to an end as some hotel guests will get one for their own exclusive use. Buffets are unlikely to be offered, but room service is expected to thrive.

Another challenge is how to reopen southern Europe's famous beaches.

Portugal has come up with a plan to get people back on the sand starting on June 6. Sunbathers must stay 1.5 meters (5 feet) apart, with umbrellas at least 3 meters (10 feet) apart. New signs and an app will use a traffic-light system of red, yellow and green indicating which beaches are full, partly full or have few people. Paddle boats and water slides will be prohibited.

In an attempt to shore up public confidence, Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa went to his local cafe for morning coffee and had lunch at a Lisbon restaurant with the speaker of parliament on Monday, the first day those businesses reopened after a lockdown.

Even with all the efforts to make tourists feel safe, worries about the coronavirus are not going away.

U.K. personal trainer Kenny Dyer canceled an Easter vacation in Cyprus and is hopeful of venturing back in October. But Dyer attached a condition that governments may find hard to guarantee.

"I wouldn't want to fly somewhere where there's a sudden spike in coronavirus cases, and I would have to be quarantined abroad," Dyer said.

Mnuchin to face grilling about small-business lending effort

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and MARTIN CRUTSINGER Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will likely come under tough questioning from senators Tuesday about a small business lending program included in the government's \$2 trillion relief package.

Lawmakers from both parties have criticized the Payroll Protection Program, which initially provided \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small companies but has been plagued by a host of problems. Many businesses were unable to get loans before the initial funding was exhausted. A second round of loans faced computer processing delays and a number of publicly traded companies ended up receiving money that Mnuchin demanded be paid back to the government.

Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell will testify Tuesday at 10 a.m. before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The hearing is the first oversight review of the huge relief legislation approved in early March.

Mnuchin said in prepared testimony that so far, the paycheck program has processed more than 4.2 million loans for over \$530 billion "to keep tens of millions of hardworking Americans on the payroll." The loans do not have to be paid back as long as the borrowing business uses 75% of the money to cover workers' paychecks.

But many small firms say the terms are too onerous. To get the loans forgiven they have to rehire all their employees within eight weeks of receiving the funds, even if they have little business or work for them to do. These firms argue they may simply have to lay their workers off again at the end of the eight weeks, and have little money left to help them ramp up when business does return.

Mnuchin also said that the \$1,200 stimulus checks from the relief package have added up to \$240 billion in direct payments for millions of Americans, with a typical family of four receiving \$3,400. Late Monday, Treasury said that this week it is sending out nearly four million payments on prepaid debit cards. The payments were approved in late March, though Treasury warned that it would take time to issue the funds to those without bank accounts.

On Monday, a separate congressional oversight panel said that the Fed and Treasury have spent very little of the \$500 billion that Congress allocated to support businesses hurt by the coronavirus outbreak. The oversight panel also asked how the two agencies would evaluate the success of their programs.

For his part, Fed Chair Powell pledged to reveal the names and other details of the entities that borrow from the emergency programs the central bank has set up to offset the economic hit from the viral outbreak.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 33 of 62

In his prepared testimony, Powell said the central bank will disclose the amounts borrowed and the interest rates it levies under its programs to provide credit for large corporations, state and local governments, and medium-sized businesses.

"We are deeply committed to transparency, and recognize that the need for transparency is heightened when we are called upon to use our emergency powers," his testimony says.

The Fed had already pledged to publish the names of its borrowers from its Main Street Lending program, and some of its other lending efforts. The Main Street program, which has not yet been launched, has already attracted scrutiny from environmental groups, which charge that oil and gas drillers, most already heavily indebted, will use it as a lifeline.

In the 2008 financial crisis, the Fed faced widespread criticism for the opaque nature of the lending programs it launched. It has revived many of those programs to smooth the flow of credit in the current crisis.

Powell said the Fed will also name the companies that benefit from its two facilities that have started to purchase corporate debt, as well as its program to purchase municipal bonds and a facility that will buy securities backed by auto, student, and credit card loans.

The Fed chair also reiterated that central bank will use "our full range of tools to support the economy in this challenging time." In a "60 Minutes" interview Sunday night, Powell said the Fed's ability to support the financial markets and economy are essentially unlimited, helping to spark a stock market rally Monday.

In the "60 Minutes" interview, Powell also repeated his view that Congress and the Fed must be prepared to provide additional financial support to prevent long-term damage to the economy from widespread bankruptcies among small businesses and long-term unemployment. Congress has already approved roughly \$3 trillion in rescue aid for individuals and businesses. But states and localities say they are in need of federal money to avoid having to cut jobs and services, and legislation to provide that money remains at an impasse in Congress.

Pandemic turns Egyptian soccer player into a street vendor

By SAM MAGDY Associated Press

MANFALUT, Egypt (AP) — On a hot Saturday afternoon, Mahrous Mahmoud is busy as can be. The professional soccer player, however, is working up a sweat in a different way these days — as a street vendor.

At this time of the year, Mahmoud would be on the field playing as a defender for Beni Suef, a club in Egypt's second division. But like millions in the Arab world's most populous country, he has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

These days, he heads to work in a crowded market in an Upper Egypt town. Shoulder-to-shoulder, shoppers jostle around stalls as he prepares a pancake-like pastry. Prior to the pandemic, Mahmoud made about \$200 a month playing for his club. That went a long way toward feeding his family of three but he also did part-time jobs to supplement it.

The league was shut down mid-March and Mahmoud's main source of income dried up. Egypt has implemented a strict curfew and closed cafes, malls and other shops as part of a government effort to stem the spread of the virus. His club told players to stay at home until they could return to playing.

That's not an option for Mahmoud, or many others in the Nile River region of Assuit. His family has to eat. "I should do any kind of work to help feed them," he said.

The market in Manfalut, a town 350 kilometers (230 miles) south of Cairo, has remained open throughout the pandemic, bustling as shoppers buy provisions for the evening meal that breaks the daily fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The small pancakes that Mahmoud makes, called qatayef in Arabic, are among the most favorite Ramadan desserts.

Mahmoud returned to his hometown not long after the country's partial lockdown was implemented. He looked for jobs but could only find work as a daily laborer in construction. Before the crisis, he said he could find regular work on construction sites, usually making no more than \$7 a day, but now he says he's lucky if he can get two days of work a week. Then came Ramadan, and the temporary job at the pastry stall.

In Manfalut, where most of the residents are daily laborers, staying at home and social distancing are not

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 34 of 62

viable. In rural and poor parts of Egypt, many have taken a fatalistic approach to the pandemic, because they consider the cure worse than the disease. Should the virus gain a foothold here, it could spread fast.

Like many other places in the world, the repercussions of the pandemic were disastrous for most of Egypt's 100 million people, particularly in the south. Even before the virus crisis, poverty has swelled because of austerity measures taken by President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi's government, part of reforms to overhaul the country's battered economy.

Prior to the outbreak, one out of every three Egyptians, or roughly 33 million people, were living on about \$1.45 per day.

The 28-year-old Mahmoud is the eldest of two sons. His father worked as a part-time driver but is retired with heart problems. He supports his father, mother and brother, who live in one room of a three-story building they share with six other families of his uncles.

Mahmoud showed athletic talent from a young age. He started as a boxer in a local club, then moved on to handball, before coaches convinced him to join the club's soccer team. By 16, he went professional.

"They told me I would be a good defender," said Mahmoud, whose teammates nicknamed him Kompany after former Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany.

However, Mahmoud sees Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk as his role model.

Mahmoud helped his team to the top of its league, and he hopes to advance to the country's top division.

In the meantime, he'll just have to keep working, despite the dangers. There's his family, and another reason to save — Mahmoud had been scheduled to get married next month.

"Nobody is immune," he said. "But those like me and my family have to survive."

Pandemic threatens to deepen crisis in mental health care

By JOHN MINCHILLO and CANDICE CHOI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — More than three weeks after Brandon Bell stopped showing up at a New York office that serves people with schizophrenia, employees finally located him at a nearby homeless shelter.

The office remains open, but patients aren't stopping by as much during the pandemic. Group activities such as the weekly Caribbean lunch that were also an important source of food have ended because of the coronavirus. Visits from caregivers are less frequent and shorter — usually five or 10 minutes — to reduce the risk of infection.

When a caregiver recently checked on him, Bell noted that life before the pandemic was happier and "more social."

His experience highlights the challenges for caregivers and patients as the pandemic strains the nation's mental health care system. Even before COVID-19, access to mental health services in the U.S. could be difficult, including for people who have insurance. Now experts fear the virus will make the situation worse, putting the patients most in need at risk of falling through the cracks and inflicting on countless others newfound grief, anxiety and depression.

Already, social-distancing orders are affecting access to care across income levels as therapists and patients scramble to adjust. Medicare and Medicaid have relaxed rules to allow counseling by phone, FaceTime or other remote means. But many of the elderly and poor who rely on those plans aren't comfortable with the alternatives. Some do not have phones or access to the internet.

"For people who are socially disadvantaged and have mental illness, it's just a lot to ask," said Dr. Jeanie Tse of the Institute for Community Living, which treats Bell and others who would not seek care on their own but are referred to the city by social workers and shelters.

Fewer than half of Americans with mental illness reported getting help in the past year, according to a federal survey. Among the big barriers are costs and a shortage of care providers.

At clinics that offer free or low-cost therapy, wait lists often stretch for weeks in normal times. And getting care can be just as difficult, or even harder, for people who earn too much to qualify for state help, yet still struggle to get by.

In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for example, Karalyn Hipsley was working extra on weekends to cover co-

pays for therapy and the insurance she has through her husband's job.

Then the pandemic left her out of work for six weeks, and her weekend cleaning jobs disappeared. She's afraid she will have to cut back on therapy, which helped her establish a stable life after an abusive relationship.

"I've been in some very, very low places, and I don't want to be there again," said Hipsley, 27.

Most insurance plans offer coverage for mental health services, but finding a counselor who takes insurance can be a headache, and fees for people without coverage can easily top \$100 a session.

The virus also threatens to send many new patients in search of help. Nearly half of Americans say worry or stress tied to the pandemic has negatively affected their mental health, according to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

"You can't put people into situations where they're locked in their homes for weeks on end and not expect that there's going to be a significant number of people that develop mental health problems," said Elinore McCance-Katz, who leads the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

In New York, the city is already seeing more people reaching out to its NYC WELL hotline that offers crisis counseling and referrals for longer-term care. The city plans to expand its staffing from 104 to 191 counselors.

"This is the beginning of meeting the new demand we anticipate will continue," said Susan Herman, the program's director.

Many homeless people are avoiding shelters out of fear of infection, making it harder for agencies to identify people in need of care.

Tse of the Institute for Community Living said the vast majority of the people referred to the city for care have schizophrenia, which can manifest in many ways, including delusional thinking and the tendency to self-isolate.

After social distancing orders went into effect, Tse and her team have continued to check on people who were already under their care. But now the short visits are mainly to ensure people have basic needs such as soap and food, which have become even harder for them to come by.

During her recent check-in at a shelter in Brooklyn, Tse noticed Bell had lost weight, but she was encouraged that he seemed on friendly terms with people as she took him to a bodega for a sandwich.

Bell also seemed upbeat, even as he noted the disruption caused by the pandemic.

"It's going to take time to get your mind back into your regular schedule and programming," he said.

____ The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Outbreak on edge of Navajo Nation overwhelms rural hospital

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

GALLUP, N.M. (AP) — On the eve of New Mexico's shutdown of bars and restaurants to stem the spread of the coronavirus, the city of Gallup came alive for one last night of revelry.

Before the night was out in the desert oasis on the fringes of the Navajo Nation, 98 people were detained for public intoxication and sent to sober up at a detox center. Several homeless people also sought refuge in the same cinder block building, which doubles as a shelter. Somewhere in the mix, lurked the virus.

The outbreak seeded at the Na'Nizhoozhi Center would combine with the small, local hospital's ill-fated staffing decisions and its well-intentioned but potentially overambitious treatment plans to create a perfect storm that has overwhelmed doctors and nurses and paralyzed this community in the state's hard-hit northwest.

In all, 22 people infected with the coronavirus were transferred from the detox center to Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital, the only acute care medical center for the general public within 110 miles (180 kilometers) of Gallup.

"They were putting multiple cots in one room to accommodate them," said pulmonologist Rajiv Patel, who helped lead the hospital's initial response.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 36 of 62

To care for that influx, any available doctor was pressed into service, including those who normally don't handle critically ill patients, Patel said.

"That's right when we overloaded," said hospital CEO David Conejo. "Now we've got too many patients, and too few (staff) to help."

Rehoboth's eight intensive care beds are full, and now it has to transfer all coronavirus patients with severe breathing problems away from the facility and the adjacent Gallup Indian Medical Center, which attends exclusively to the Native American community.

Of about 500 medical and support staff, at least 32 hospital workers have become infected, and doctors and nurses say that they all live with the fear of spreading the virus to their colleagues and relatives.

Conejo blames Patel for the fact that the hospital became overwhelmed, saying the doctor took on more COVID-19 patients than the staff could handle because of his ambition but also good intentions.

But Patel — who arrived at Rehoboth in March from an Army reserve stint in Kuwait — said the hospital simply didn't have enough staff with the experience to provide the right care and struggled to train more quickly. Patel has since left to work at Flagstaff Medical Center in Arizona.

Twice, the doctor said, alarms went off during the night on breathing machines — only to be misinterpreted by overnight staff. Within two days of those missteps, he and colleagues decided that severely ill coronavirus patients would have to go elsewhere — a heart-wrenching decision that meant sick people would be treated far from family and one that underscored the consequences of not having adequate care in the region.

"It was an easy decision because it was the right thing to do for patients," said Patel, whose wife is Navajo. "It was very saddening for me personally because my heart and soul are completely invested in the health situation on the reservation."

Many nurses and doctors, meanwhile, say staffing at the hospital was inadequate because of Conejo's move to cut back on nurses in the first week of March to offset declining hospital revenues after elective surgeries were suspended. They voiced their discontent at a recent protest calling for his resignation.

"We knew it was coming to McKinley County, there wasn't any ifs, ands or buts. I was directed that I had to let go of 17 agency nurses," said Felicia Adams, chief nursing officer who has recovered from COVID-19. "We want to take care of our patients, we don't want to have to send them away."

Conejo defended his oversight, noting that he deferred to the hospital's board of trustees and a team of nurses and physicians on final decisions. He also said the hospital couldn't afford not to cut staff in March and that the facility wanted to reduce overall employment to qualify for small-business assistance. But Adams and others believe Conejo put profits ahead of care.

Physician Caleb Lauber said that, as experienced contract nurses were let go in March, unfamiliar responsibilities were thrust upon other nurses given only on-the-fly training.

New Mexico's state auditor is seeking more information about the county-owned hospital's finances from its private operators. State health officials and philanthropists, meanwhile, are recruiting more than a dozen volunteer medical professionals and have hired a new critical care physician for the hospital.

While much of New Mexico is showing signs of emerging from the initial wave of the pandemic, stubbornly high rates of infection and death persist in the state's northwest corner — including in the Navajo Nation that extends into Arizona and Utah. More than half of New Mexico's roughly 6,100 confirmed infections are in Native Americans.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness and lead to death.

As the Navajo have suffered in this pandemic, so, too has Gallup, whose fate has long been tied to the neighboring Navajo Nation. In normal times, the city's population of 22,000 can quickly quadruple in size since it is a crucial source of supplies and water for faraway Navajo households, many of which lack full plumbing.

The city is also a destination for many of the most marginalized Navajo, those who have left home and ended up on Gallup's streets, often as they grapple with alcohol addiction. Officials suspect that the coro-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 37 of 62

navirus whipped through the homeless population, and some passed through the Na’Nizhoozhi Center, putting the liquor-tax funded shelter and detox center at the heart of the city’s outbreak.

The city and its rural outskirts account for about 30% of COVID-19 infections statewide, with 78 related deaths as of Monday.

To stem the spread, Gallup was subject to an extreme 10-day lockdown this month — cutting the city off from many of those who depend on it for supplies. Authorities have now set up free water stations and deliveries — to avoid the risk of transmission posed by coin-operated water stations, where hand after hand scooped out returned change.

Now, the Na’Nizhoozhi Center is also part of the response as it steers destitute people infected by the coronavirus toward isolation in rooms at four otherwise unoccupied motel buildings. Some 140 people are currently participating in the impromptu system, and officials hope it will interrupt a treadmill of infections among Gallup’s homeless population.

But the virus has also taken its toll on the center. In addition to the 22 residents who became infected, several staff have been sickened by the virus and some simply stopped showing up, said Kevin Foley, executive director of the center. Six jobs now are open at a rate of \$10 an hour, with just one application, he said.

He yearns for a Hollywood ending.

“I wish that all those people would come over in those space suits and just clean the place for good,” he said, “but it’s not like that.”

Asian stocks up on hopes for vaccine and economies reopening

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares rose Tuesday on optimism about a potential vaccine for the coronavirus after hopes for a U.S. economic recovery in the second half of the year sent Wall Street into a rebound.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 added 1.9% in morning trading to 20,517.42. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 jumped 2.0% to 5,569.20. South Korea’s KOSPI was up 1.8% to 1,972.73. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng gained 1.8% to 24,362.80, while the Shanghai Composite edged up 0.5% to 2,889.42.

“The mood is assertively risk-on with sentiment having been tipped over by fresh hopes sparked for a COVID-19 vaccine,” said Jingyi Pan, market strategist for IG.

Pan said reports that drug company Moderna had found promising results on a vaccine have “no doubt been the biggest mood booster for markets, given the fact that the lingering coronavirus implications remains the single biggest issue holding back the market from recovery and a contributor to other risk factors including US-China tensions.”

Massachusetts-based Moderna saw its stock jump 20% in New York trading Monday.

The S&P 500 climbed 3.2%, its best day since early April. The gains erased all of its losses from last week, when the index posted its worst showing since late March and its third weekly loss in the last four. Bond yields rose broadly in another sign that investors were becoming more optimistic.

Investors were also encouraged by remarks over the weekend from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who expressed optimism that the U.S. economy could begin to recover in the second half of the year. Once the outbreak has been contained, he said, the economy should be able to rebound “substantially.”

The S&P 500 gained 90.21 points to 2,953.91. The benchmark index is still down 12.8% from its all-time high on February 19.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged 3.9% to 24,597.37. The Nasdaq composite rose 2.4% to 9,234.83. Small-company stocks fared better than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 index picked up 6.1%, to 1,333.69.

Investors are hoping that a working vaccine for COVID-19 can be developed and that it will help reassure people and businesses as economies reopen.

“The question of how quickly people come back, or will they come back to the way they used to do things, that’s much different if you have a vaccine,” said Megan Horneman, director of portfolio strategy

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 38 of 62

at Verdence Capital Advisors.

Economies in Asia also are starting to relax restrictions, although worries remain about another surge in illnesses. In crowded cities it is difficult to maintain social distancing. As the cases drop, people are letting their guard down in going out and mingling in crowds.

But traders have been encouraged by signs that, so far at least, there hasn't been a lot of data implying a resurgence in the number of COVID-19 cases, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

"Of course, because we are responding to impressions, we could end up giving back some of these gains should additional information contest our beliefs," he said.

Technology, financial and industrial stocks accounted for a big slice of Monday's broad gains, along with companies that rely on consumer spending. Energy stocks also rose as the price of U.S. crude oil closed above \$30 a barrel for the first time in two months. Oil production cuts are kicking in at the same time that demand is rising as the U.S. and other countries ease some of the restrictions aimed at stemming the spread of the outbreak.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil was flat at \$31.65 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange after gaining \$2.13 on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 10 cents to \$34.71 a barrel.

Bonds yields rose overnight, another sign that pessimism was diminishing. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, a benchmark for interest rates on many consumer loans, climbed to 0.72% from 0.64% late Friday. On Tuesday morning it was at 0.70%.

Fears of a crushing recession due to the coronavirus sent the S&P 500 into a skid of more than 30% from its high in February. Hopes for a relatively quick rebound and unprecedented moves by the Federal Reserve and Congress to stem the economic pain fueled a historic rebound for stocks in April.

May got off to a downbeat start as investors balance cautious optimism of a recovery as economies around the world slowly open up again against worries that the moves could lead to another surge in coronavirus infections and more economic uncertainty. But Monday's strong start to the week reversed all of the market's losses so far this month.

Wall Street is hoping that the reopening of businesses and the relaxation of stay-at-home mandates continue without any major setbacks, paving the way for corporate profits to bounce back.

The U.S. dollar inched up to 107.40 Japanese yen from 107.31 yen on Monday. The euro fell to \$1.0907 from \$1.0920.

Civic group: Mexico City virus deaths 3 times those reported

By MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A registry of death certificates in Mexico City suggests there were 4,577 cases where doctors mentioned coronavirus or COVID-19 as a possible or probable cause of death, more than three times the official death toll in the city.

The federal government acknowledges only 1,332 confirmed deaths in Mexico City since the pandemic began, less than a third as many as the investigation revealed.

The anti-corruption group Mexicans Against Corruption said in a report Monday that it got access to a database of death certificates issued in Mexico City between March 18 and May 12. It showed that in explanatory notes attached to 4,577 death certificates, doctors included the words "SARS," "COV2," "COV," "Covid 19," or "new coronavirus."

The virus' technical name is SARS-CoV-2. The notes the group counted included terms like "suspected," "probable", or "possible" role of the virus in the deaths. In 3,209 of the certificates, it was listed as a suspected contributing factor along with other causes of death, like pneumonia, respiratory failure, septic shock or multiple organ failure.

Only 323 certificates list confirmed coronavirus as a cause of death; 1,045 other death certificates listed COVID-19 but didn't specify if it was suspected or confirmed.

The group did not say how it accessed the database, which was kept by local courts. But it noted that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 39 of 62

official counts showed only 1,060 coronavirus deaths during that March 18-May 12 period.

Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum has acknowledged there are more deaths than have officially been reported, and has said a special commission will review the death figures. Her office did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the new report.

Mexico performs relatively few tests; only about 150,000 have been carried out so far in a nation of about 125 million people. Federal officials acknowledge some victims have died without being tested and have pledged that cases where death certificates mention coronavirus as a possible or probable cause of death would eventually be added to official death tolls. But they have suggested those "suspected" cases were only about a tenth of test-confirmed deaths.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has reacted angrily to new reports in the past that claimed Mexico was undercounting its deaths on the federal level, and Monday's report is unlikely to please him. It comes from a group that he has criticized in the past for allegedly opposing his policies and representing business interests, and in the past he has mockingly called the group "Mexicans For Corruption".

The group's founder is Claudio X. Gonzalez, a lawyer, activist and the son of a prominent business magnate.

Mexico City, with about 9 million residents, has been the worst hit part of the country. The additional 3,245 deaths in Mexico City, if they are confirmed or added to official counts, would push the national death toll from the 5,332 reported by federal officials Monday to 8,577.

FBI: Shooter at Pensacola base coordinated with al-Qaida

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gunman who killed three U.S. sailors at a military base in Florida last year communicated with al-Qaida operatives about planning and tactics in the months leading up to the attack, U.S. officials said Monday, as they lashed out at Apple for failing to help them open the shooter's phones so they could access key evidence.

Law enforcement officials discovered contacts between Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani and operatives of al-Qaida after FBI technicians succeeded in breaking into two cellphones that had previously been locked and that the shooter, a Saudi Air Force officer, had tried to destroy before he was killed by a sheriff's deputy.

"We now have a clearer understanding of Alshamrani's associations and activities in the years, months and days leading up to his attack," Attorney General William Barr said at a news conference in which he chastised Apple for not helping open the phones.

The new details, including that Alshamrani had been radicalized abroad before he arrived in the U.S., raise fresh questions about the vetting of foreign military members and trainees who spend time at American bases. The announcement also comes amid tension with the U.S. over instability in the oil market during the coronavirus pandemic and as the Trump administration faces criticism that it has not done enough to hold the kingdom, which has been trying to improve its international image, accountable for human rights violations.

The criticism directed at Apple could also escalate divisions between the U.S. government and the technology company, which rejected the characterization that it has been unhelpful. The company said Monday that it does not store customers' passcodes, does not have the capacity to unlock passcode-protected devices and that weakening encryption could create vulnerabilities that undermine national security and data privacy.

Alshamrani was killed by a sheriff's deputy during the Dec. 6 rampage at a classroom building at Naval Air Station Pensacola. He had been undergoing flight training at Pensacola as part of instruction offered at American military bases to foreign nationals. Besides the three sailors who died, eight other people were injured.

Once unlocked, U.S. officials said, the phones revealed contact between Alshamrani and "dangerous" operatives from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, that continued until shortly before the shooting. They also revealed that he had been radicalized since at least 2015, before he arrived in the U.S., and had meticulously planned the attack.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 40 of 62

Alshamrani created minicam videos as he cased a military school building and saved a will on his phone that purported to explain himself — the same document AQAP released after the shooting when it claimed responsibility for it, said FBI Director Chris Wray, who called the attack “the brutal culmination of years of planning and preparation.”

“He wasn’t just coordinating with them about planning and tactics,” Wray said. “He was helping the organization make the most it could out of his murders.”

Asked whether al-Qaida had directed or inspired the attacks, Wray said it was “certainly more than just inspired.”

The phones have already yielded valuable intelligence, officials said, citing a recent counterterrorism operation in Yemen that targeted an AQAP associate Alshamrani had been in touch with.

The Justice Department had asked Apple to help extract data from two iPhones that belonged to the gunman, including one that authorities say Alshamrani damaged with a bullet after being confronted by law enforcement.

But Wray said Apple provided “effectively no help,” delaying by months the FBI’s ability to access the devices and hampering the investigation since agents did not have a full picture of what to look for or ask about. He did not say what method was used to open the phones, but said it was a targeted fix and not a broad solution to the problem.

Barr used Monday’s news conference to forcefully call on Apple to do more to cooperate with law enforcement.

“In cases like this, where the user is a terrorist, or in other cases, where the user is a violent criminal, a human trafficker, a child predator, Apple’s decision has dangerous consequences for public safety and the national security and is, in my judgment, unacceptable,” Barr said.

In a statement Monday, Apple said it had provided the FBI with “every piece of information available to us, including iCloud backups, account information and transactional data for multiple accounts.” It rejected the idea of making its products more accessible for law enforcement’s benefit.

“It is because we take our responsibility to national security so seriously that we do not believe in the creation of a backdoor — one which will make every device vulnerable to bad actors who threaten our national security and the data security of our customers,” the statement said. “There is no such thing as a backdoor just for the good guys, and the American people do not have to choose between weakening encryption and effective investigations.

Law enforcement officials had previously left no doubt that Alshamrani was motivated by jihadist ideology, saying he visited a New York City memorial to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend and posted anti-American and anti-Israeli messages on social media just hours before the shooting.

Separately, AQAP, al-Qaida’s branch in Yemen, released a video claiming the attack. AQAP has long been considered the global network’s most dangerous branch.

In January, U.S. officials announced that they were sending home 21 Saudi military students after an investigation revealed that they had had jihadist or anti-American sentiments on social media pages or had “contact with child pornography.”

Operational training for Saudi students at multiple U.S. bases was suspended soon after the shooting, but the Pentagon has since given the Navy and other military services conditional approval to resume the instruction.

Barr said Monday that the Saudis have been cooperative and have worked with the U.S. to buttress vetting.

In a statement, the Saudi Embassy in the U.S. lauded the developments in the investigation of the shooting and reiterated the Saudi government’s support of relations with the U.S. and joint efforts against extremism.

“We will never let the terrorists win, or allow their acts of hatred to divide us,” the embassy said. “The U.S.-Saudi partnership is one of the primary pillars of the global effort to dismantle and defeat terrorist networks such as AQAP. And our two countries will maintain our unbreakable commitment to combat the forces of evil, wherever they exist.”

Automakers help restart US industry as globe reopens further

By COLLEEN LONG, TOM KRISHER and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — More than 130,000 autoworkers returned to factories across the U.S. for the first time in nearly two months Monday in one of the biggest steps yet to restart American industry, while an experimental vaccine against the coronavirus yielded encouraging results in a small and extremely early test.

Stocks rallied on the vaccine news and signs that the worst of the crisis has passed in many countries. The Dow Jones Industrial Average soared about 900 points, or nearly 4%.

In a surprise announcement, President Donald Trump said he's been taking a malaria drug to protect against the virus even though his own administration has warned it should only be administered in a hospital or research setting because of potentially fatal side effects.

Automakers from Detroit's Big Three — Fiat Chrysler, General Motors and Ford — to Honda and Toyota put screening procedures in place at the dozens of factories that reopened from the Great Lakes states south to Tennessee and Texas and out west to Tesla's factory near the San Francisco Bay. Some Detroit automakers started cranking out vehicles Monday, but it will take longer to fully restart other plants. Workers appeared reassured by the precautions.

At a Fiat Chrysler pickup truck assembly plant in Warren, outside Detroit, workers entered a giant white tent with a sign reading, "Let's restart and keep each other safe." They had their temperatures checked and answered questions on whether they had COVID-19 symptoms.

"I feel safer than being anywhere at any stores, because they got the screening and everything," said Ann'alazia Moore, a janitor at the factory. "I feel like that's amazing. That's smart. I like that. So, I feel more safe. I won't get sick."

Cole Stevenson, who installs steering wheels at a Ford pickup truck plant in Dearborn, Michigan, said, "The parts of the plant where people would be closer together, they've put up a lot of partitions. You can tell they've taken tape measures to just about any surface two people would need to be near each other."

Meanwhile, an experimental vaccine by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Inc. triggered hoped-for immune responses in eight healthy, middle-aged volunteers. They were found to have antibodies similar to those seen in people who have recovered from COVID-19.

Further studies on the vaccine's safety, effectiveness and optimal dosage still need to be done. But with people desperate for any sign of progress, the findings caused excitement on Wall Street.

Worldwide, about a dozen vaccine candidates are in the first stages of testing or nearing it. Health officials have said that if all goes well, studies might wrap up late this year or early 2021.

The malaria drug that Trump says he's been taking daily "for about a week and a half now" has not been shown to combat the coronavirus.

"I started taking it, because I think it's good," Trump said. "I've heard a lot of good stories."

Despite warnings from health experts that the virus could make a resurgence, many states have eased lockdowns under pressure from Trump to save businesses and livelihoods. U.S. unemployment surged in April to 14.7%, a level not seen since the Depression.

Health authorities will be watching for a second wave of infections and worry Americans will disregard social distancing over Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of summer. There were already large crowds last weekend: Connecticut had to close beaches when they reached capacity under new rules, and people packed the Virginia Beach oceanfront even before restrictions were relaxed.

Deputies north of Orlando, Florida, say they were hit with cups of alcohol, bottles and bar stools after making arrests at a weekend block party with an estimated 3,000 people. Walt Disney World posted a warning about COVID-19 as it prepares to allow some third-party shops and restaurants to reopen this week.

Bars, day cares and zoos were the latest parts of Texas' economy to reopen with social distancing measures. By June, summer camps and youth sports will be allowed in the second-most-populated state.

One of California's largest tribal casinos reopened with customers getting their temperatures taken and being ordered to cover their faces, while every other slot machine was turned off to keep people separated. A large turnout meant many were still playing less than 6 feet (2 meters) apart.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 42 of 62

Ronda McLaughlan lined up at 7:30 a.m. before going to work as a painting contractor because "it's all about freedom."

Europe also has pushed ahead with reopening, allowing people into the Acropolis in Athens, high-fashion boutiques in Italy, museums in Belgium, golf courses in Ireland and beer gardens in Bavaria.

More than 4.7 million people worldwide have tested positive for the virus and over 318,000 deaths have been recorded, including about 90,000 in the U.S. and over 160,000 in Europe, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Those figures are believed to understate the true dimensions of the outbreak because of limited testing, differences in counting the dead and concealment by some governments.

In other developments, the World Health Organization bowed to calls to launch an independent investigation into how it responded to the coronavirus. Trump has repeatedly attacked both WHO and China, claiming the U.N. agency helped Beijing conceal the extent of the outbreak in its early stages.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the probe will take place "at the earliest appropriate moment." The announcement at WHO's annual meeting came after a watchdog body found possible shortcomings in the agency's warning system.

Chinese President Xi Jinping defended China's record, saying it provided all relevant outbreak data to WHO and other countries, including the virus's genetic sequence, "in a most timely fashion."

With new infections and deaths slowing considerably in Europe, many countries are preparing to reopen their borders and trying to draw up rules for a highly unusual summer tourist season.

"This vacation this year won't be like the ones we know from the past," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told ZDF television. "The pandemic is still there, and we must at least have safety precautions for the worst case that the figures get worse again."

Churches in Italy and at the Vatican resumed public Masses. Guards in hazmat suits took the temperatures of those entering St. Peter's Basilica, where Pope Francis celebrated a Mass in a side chapel to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of St. John Paul II.

Turkey's president announced a four-day curfew during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. The country has opted to impose short weekend and holiday curfews, instead of full lockdowns, fearing damage to the already troubled economy.

Trump says he's taking malaria drug to protect against virus

By **ZEKE MILLER, MARILYNN MARCHIONE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday that he is taking a malaria drug to protect against the coronavirus, despite warnings from his own government that it should only be administered for COVID-19 in a hospital or research setting due to potentially fatal side effects.

Trump told reporters he has been taking the drug, hydroxychloroquine, and a zinc supplement daily "for about a week and a half now." Trump spent weeks pushing the drug as a potential cure or prophylaxis for COVID-19 against the cautionary advice of many of his administration's top medical professionals. The drug has the potential to cause significant side effects in some patients and has not been shown to combat the new coronavirus.

Trump said his doctor did not recommend the drug to him, but he requested it from the White House physician.

"I started taking it, because I think it's good," Trump said. "I've heard a lot of good stories."

The White House physician, Dr. Sean Conley, said in a statement released through the White House press office that, after "numerous discussions" with Trump about the evidence for and against using hydroxychloroquine, "we concluded the potential benefit from treatment outweighed the relative risks."

The Food and Drug Administration warned health professionals last month that the drug should not be used to treat COVID-19 outside of hospital or research settings, due to sometimes fatal side effects. Regulators issued the alert for the drug, which can also be used to treat lupus and arthritis, after receiving reports of heart rhythm problems, including deaths, from poison control centers and other health providers.

Trump dismissed reports of side effects, saying, "All I can tell you is, so far I seem to be OK."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 43 of 62

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told CNN, "He's our president, and I would rather he not be taking something that has not been approved by the scientists, especially in his age group and his, shall we say, weight group ... morbidly obese, they say."

Trump is 73. At his last full checkup in February 2019 he passed the official threshold for being considered obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30.4. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a BMI of 40 or above is considered "severe" obesity, which some also call "morbid" obesity.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called Trump's remarks "dangerous."

"Maybe he's really not taking it because the president lies about things characteristically," Schumer said on MSNBC. He added: "I don't know whether he is taking it or not. I know him saying he is taking it, whether he is or not, is reckless, reckless, reckless."

At least two White House staffers tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month, sparking concerns about the steps taken by the administration to protect the president and sending Vice President Mike Pence and other officials into varying forms of self-isolation.

The White House has since mandated that those in the West Wing wear face coverings and has introduced daily testing for the virus for the president, vice president and those they come in close contact with. Trump says he continues to test negative for the coronavirus.

Trump last underwent an "interim" checkup in a November visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that was not noted on his public schedule. His last complete physical took place in February 2019.

Several prominent doctors said they worried that people would infer from Trump's example that the drug works or is safe.

"There is no evidence that hydroxychloroquine is effective for the treatment or the prevention of COVID-19," said Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association. "The results to date are not promising."

People should not infer from Trump's example "that it's an approved approach or proven," because it's not, said Dr. David Aronoff, infectious diseases chief at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Hydroxychloroquine can cause potentially serious heart rhythm problems even in healthy people, but "it's hard to infer" that Trump's artery plaque, revealed in tests from his 2018 physical, makes the drug especially dangerous for him, Aronoff said.

White House officials did not say whether any other administration officials were also taking the drug.

Trump said he took hydroxychloroquine with an "original dose" of the antibiotic azithromycin. The president has repeatedly pushed the use of the drug with or without the azithromycin, but no large, rigorous studies have found them safe or effective for preventing or treating COVID-19.

Two large observational studies, each involving around 1,400 patients in New York, recently found no benefit from hydroxychloroquine. Two new ones published Thursday in the medical journal BMJ reached the same conclusion.

One, by French researchers, gave 84 hospitalized patients the drug and 97 others the usual care. There were no differences in the odds of death, need for intensive care or developing severe illness.

The other study from China was a stricter test: 150 adults hospitalized with mild or moderate illness were randomly assigned to get hydroxychloroquine or usual care. The drug made no difference in rates of clearing the virus or time to relief of symptoms, and they brought more side effects.

In April, the National Institutes of Health launched a study testing hydroxychloroquine versus a placebo drug in 500 hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Last week, NIH announced another study to see if hydroxychloroquine plus azithromycin can prevent hospitalization or death in people with mild to moderate illness. About 2,000 U.S. adults with confirmed coronavirus infections and symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath will get the drugs or placebo pills.

U.S. prescriptions for hydroxychloroquine surged roughly 80% in March to more than 830,000 compared with same period in the prior year, according to data tracking firm IQVIA. That jump in prescribing came before the federal government accepted nearly 30 million doses of the drug donated to the strategic national stockpile by foreign drugmakers. Since then, millions of those tablets have been shipped to U.S.

hospitals nationwide for use treating patients with COVID-19.

Wendy Williams pauses talk show because of health condition

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wendy Williams is taking a break from her daytime talk show to receive treatment for a previously announced health condition.

Williams has been experiencing fatigue because of symptoms from Graves' disease, a spokesperson for "The Wendy Williams Show" said Monday.

As a precautionary measure, the spokesperson said, Williams is taking time off from the show that she's been taping remotely from her home in New York City during the pandemic.

"We look forward to welcoming Wendy back soon and continuing the Wendy@Home shows," according to a statement from the show. No return date has been announced.

Reruns of Williams' show will air during her absence.

In 2018, Williams announced that she had Graves' disease, which leads to the overproduction of thyroid hormones and can cause wide-ranging symptoms and affect overall health.

Her show stopped production for several weeks at that time, and it was on hiatus again early last year as Williams dealt with the disorder and a shoulder injury.

In October 2017, Williams fainted on stage during her show, saying later she became overheated while wearing a bulky Halloween costume.

Indigenous infections grew amid slow Brazil agency response

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DAVID BILLER Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — As COVID-19 reached remote indigenous lands in Brazil's Amazon, the government agency responsible for protecting native people brushed off calls for action, focusing instead on waging ideological battles, according to agents from the institution itself and others.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's repeated promotion of developing the vast Amazon has for months prompted indigenous activists, celebrities and agents on the ground to sound the alarm. In the face of a spreading pandemic, they warn inaction is enough to wipe out many indigenous people.

The Associated Press spoke to four agents who work with indigenous peoples in the farthest reaches of Brazil's Amazon, and they were unanimous in their conclusion: The national Indian foundation, known as FUNAI, is hardly doing anything to coordinate a response to a crisis that could decimate ethnic groups.

There's not enough protective equipment for agents who enter indigenous territories or meet with native people in cities. Necessities like kerosene and gasoline are in short supply. Food deliveries only began last week — a month after indigenous people were instructed to remain in their villages — and remain vastly insufficient.

Since the pandemic's onset, there has been fear about the vulnerability of native people who live far from urban health facilities and whose communal lifestyles render them susceptible to swift transmission.

At least 88 indigenous people have already died of COVID-19 in the Amazon, according to a tally by the Brazilian indigenous organization APIB that includes health ministry figures and information from local leaders. The count is likely higher, because hospitals often don't use patients' indigenous names when admitting them.

As native people started succumbing to the coronavirus, FUNAI's focus was elsewhere, according to Antônio Carlos Bigonha, who heads the public prosecution office responsible for indigenous affairs. He said the Indian agency's response has been "delinquent, lax, insufficient," reflective of Bolsonaro's open support of assimilation.

"The environment of COVID-19 is so grave, because integration alone is bad, but in the context of a pandemic is genocide," Bigonha said in a telephone interview.

CIMI, a Catholic group that defends indigenous rights, condemned FUNAI's policies for failing to safeguard native peoples. FUNAI fired back, attacking what it called "socialist public policies" implemented

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 45 of 62

since 2003 by the leftist Workers' Party that it maintained made indigenous people dependent on welfare. "This isn't ... a socialist plot," said Bigonha. "It's just an interpretation of historical facts: We adopted integrationist policy at the start of the 20th century and it almost did away with the indigenous people."

Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado, famous for his work with indigenous tribes, drafted a manifesto warning of imminent threat to native peoples and calling on Brazil's government to take action to protect them. It drew 245,000 signatories, including Paul McCartney, Meryl Streep, film director Pedro Almodóvar and model Gisele Bündchen.

FUNAI's response was swift: It returned photographs Salgado had taken of the Korubo people in the isolated Javari Valley, near the Peruvian border, along with a statement recommending Salgado auction them to buy food, personal hygiene products and cleaning goods for indigenous people.

FUNAI told the AP in an e-mailed response that it adopted "all the measures within its reach" in the fight against the pandemic. It said it has distributed 45,000 food kits and more than 200,000 personal protection items nationwide, without breaking it down by region, and that another 40,000 food kits were coming soon.

Agents on the ground, including three employed by FUNAI, told a different story. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity for fears of retribution after several officials in the Bolsonaro administration were fired or reassigned after talking to reporters.

There's no leadership from above and requests sent to FUNAI headquarters in Brasilia go unanswered for weeks, they said.

The Upper Solimoes region near Brazil's border with Colombia has one of Brazil's highest COVID-19 mortality rates. The only hospital with ventilators, a military facility in Tabatinga, on the border, has only 13 of the lung machines, the health ministry said.

To contain the virus, since mid-March FUNAI agents have told indigenous groups they should prevent anyone from entering their territories and block roads and rivers near their communities.

But as long as there aren't enough food kits delivered, the tribes won't stay on their lands, the agents said. Little agriculture is possible when rivers flood the Upper Solimoes and Upper Negro regions, and the vast majority sell or trade what they fish and hunt.

In the Upper Solimoes, home to some 76,000 indigenous people, only six of the 350 ethnic groups received 1,300 food kits through last week, according to an agent involved in the operation. That has further damaged FUNAI's credibility, the agent said.

FUNAI's Rio Negro regional coordinator, Auri de Oliveira, said the chief problem wasn't shortage of food, but indigenous people traveling to nearby cities to receive emergency coronavirus cash aid from the government. He said the food kit delays were due to "normal bureaucracy" and they have started arriving.

"The food kits will help maintain indigenous people in the villages," he wrote in a text message. "We will see if they come to town again, because there will be a new cycle of welfare payments."

While some food aid is arriving it's not enough: One tribal leader in the Upper Solimoes region said by phone Friday his village received food kits for only 90 of its more than 700 families.

Brazil's health ministry said in a statement that the hard-hit cities of Tabatinga and São Gabriel da Cachoeira received some help on Monday. A hospital in Tabatinga got another 10 ventilators and 15,000 masks, among other items. Another unit in Sao Gabriel da Cachoeira received eight ventilators and 11 health-care professionals are coming from Brasilia.

Brazil's shortcomings in fighting the pandemic in the Amazon are worrying its neighbors. Colombian President Ivan Duque deployed the military to its border with Brazil after a surge of COVID-19 cases. About 8,000 indigenous people live near the Colombian border town of Leticia, where cases have shot up in recent weeks.

Peru sealed its border with Brazil in March. On the Brazilian side, one agent reported the coronavirus has reached the Javari Valley, the remote region featured in the photographs FUNAI returned to Salgado, showing the Korubo people posing with spears, canoeing on a river and carrying a slain tapir through the jungle.

The Javari Valley is home to the biggest concentration of isolated indigenous peoples in the world, including 10 groups, according to FUNAI. Hospitals near Javari's isolated tribes are overcrowded, said one FUNAI agent, who offered a stark warning: If the virus hits harder, collapse will be quick.

Ken Osmond, Eddie Haskell on 'Leave It to Beaver,' dies

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ken Osmond, who on TV's "Leave It to Beaver," played two-faced teenage scoundrel Eddie Haskell, a role so memorable it left him typecast and led to a second career as a police officer, died Monday.

Osmond died in Los Angeles at age 76, his family said. No cause was given.

"He was an incredibly kind and wonderful father," son Eric Osmond said in a statement. "He had his family gathered around him when he passed. He was loved and will be very missed."

Ken Osmond's Eddie Haskell stood out among many memorable characters on the classic family sitcom "Leave it to Beaver," which ran from 1957 to 1963 on CBS and ABC, but had a decades-long life of reruns and revivals.

Eddie was the best friend of Tony Dow's Wally Cleaver, big brother to Jerry Mathers' Beaver Cleaver. He constantly kissed up to adults, flattering and flirting with Wally and Beaver's mother, and kicked down at his peers, usually in the same scene. He was the closest thing the wholesome show had to a villain, and viewers of all ages loved to hate him.

"He was a terrific guy, he was a terrific actor and his character is probably one that will last forever," Dow told The Associated Press on Monday.

"He was one of the few guys on the show who really played a character and created it," Dow added, chuckling as he mimicked the evil laugh Osmond would unleash when his character was launching one nefarious scheme or another and trying to pull Wally and his younger brother Beaver into it.

Mathers said he will greatly miss his friend of 63 years.

"I have always said that he was the best actor on our show because in real life his personality was so opposite of the character that he so brilliantly portrayed," Mathers said on Twitter.

Osmond was born in Glendale, California, to a carpenter father and a mother who wanted to get him into acting. He got his first role at age 4, working in commercials and as a film extra, and got his first speaking role at 9, appearing mostly in small guest parts on TV series.

The role of Eddie in season one of "Leave It to Beaver" was also supposed to be a one-off guest appearance, but the show's producers and its audience found him so memorable he became a regular, appearing in nearly 100 of the show's 234 episodes.

Osmond returned to making guest appearances on TV shows including "The Munsters" in the late 1960s, but found he was so identified with Eddie Haskell that it was hard to land roles.

He would soon give up acting and become a Los Angeles police officer for more than a decade.

"I was very much typecast. It's a death sentence," Osmond told radio host Stu Stoshak in a 2008 interview on "Stu's Show." "I'm not complaining because Eddie's been too good to me, but I found work hard to come by. In 1968, I bought my first house, in '69 I got married, and we were going to start a family and I needed a job, so I went out and signed up for the LAPD."

LAPD Chief Michel Moore paid tribute to Osmond's police service.

"Ken may have been a famous TV star," Moore said in a statement, "but his real life role as Los Angeles Police Officer was where he made his biggest impact. After his successful run on one of the most popular shows of all time, he chose to protect and to serve the residents of Los Angeles, and I'm proud to have been able to call him a law enforcement partner."

Dow, who was a lifelong friend of Osmond's said "His motorcycle cop stories are terrific." He recalled his favorite involved Osmond and his partner chasing down and cornering a robbery suspect who turned and shot Osmond in the stomach before his partner wounded the man. Although Osmond's bulletproof vest absorbed most of the impact, he still had to go to the hospital.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 47 of 62

"And he had to ride in the same ambulance with the guy who shot him," Dow recalled being told. He would return to TV in 1983, when "Leave It to Beaver" reruns were having a heyday, appearing in the TV movie "Still the Beaver."

A revival series, "The New Leave It to Beaver," came next, with Osmond reprising the role of Haskell alongside Dow and Mathers from 1983 to 1989. Osmond's real-life sons with wife Sandra Purdy, Eric and Christian, played Haskell's sons, who shared their father's smarminess on the series.

In 2014 Osmond would co-author a memoir reflecting on his life as Haskell. It was titled, "Eddie: The Life and Times of America's Preeminent Bad Boy."

Democrats: Fired watchdog was looking into Saudi arms sale

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats say the State Department watchdog fired by President Donald Trump last week was investigating possible impropriety in a massive arms sale to Saudi Arabia last year, adding new questions to the watchdog's abrupt dismissal.

Democrats said Monday that ousted Inspector General Steve Linick was probing how the State Department pushed through a \$7 billion Saudi arms sale over congressional objections. Democrats previously suggested the dismissal might have been tied to Linick's investigation of allegations that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may have improperly ordered staff to run personal errands for him.

Linick's dismissal late Friday comes amid broader concerns over Trump's removal of inspectors general at various departments. Trump has said he had lost confidence in those fired but has not given specific reasons, which lawmakers from both parties have criticized.

Pompeo told The Washington Post on Monday that he had recommended to Trump that Linick be removed because he was "undermining" the State Department's mission. He would not address specifics except to say it was not in retaliation for any investigation.

"It is not possible that this decision, or my recommendation rather, to the president rather, was based on any effort to retaliate for any investigation that was going on, or is currently going on," Pompeo told the Post, adding that he did not know if Linick's office had been looking into possible impropriety on his part.

Under Secretary of State for Management Brian Bulatao told the Post that confidence in Linick had begun to wane after leaks to the media last year about an IG investigation into political retaliation against career employees by political appointees. When released, that report was critical of several political appointees for having acted against career officials deemed insufficiently loyal to Trump.

Trump confirmed Monday that he fired Linick at Pompeo's request.

"I have the absolute right as president to terminate. I said, 'Who appointed him?' And they say, 'President Obama.' I said, look, I'll terminate him," Trump said at the White House.

Rep. Eliot Engel, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he was troubled that Linick was fired before the completion of the Saudi investigation. Engel had called for that probe after Pompeo in May 2019 invoked a rarely used provision in federal law to bypass a congressional review of arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"His office was investigating — at my request — Trump's phony declaration of an emergency so he could send weapons to Saudi Arabia," said Engel, D-N.Y. "We don't have the full picture yet, but it's troubling that Secretary Pompeo wanted Mr. Linick pushed out before this work could be completed."

He called for the State Department to turn over records related to Linick's firing that he and the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, had demanded on Saturday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was "alarming" to see reports that the firing may have been in response to Linick's investigation into the Saudi arms deal. In a letter to Trump, she demanded an explanation.

Trump notified Congress of the dismissal, as required. But Pelosi said it was essential that he provide "detailed and substantial justification for the removal" before the end of a 30-day review period.

Meanwhile, Trump ally Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who has pushed for the protection of inspectors

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 48 of 62

general, renewed a call for the White House to explain the dismissals of Linick and the earlier ouster of intelligence community watchdog Michael Atkinson.

Grassley said Congress intended that inspectors general only be removed when there is clear evidence of unfitness, wrongdoing or failure to perform the duties of the office.

"An expression of lost confidence, without further explanation, is not sufficient," Grassley said.

Over the weekend, congressional aides had suggested that the dismissal may have been prompted by a probe into allegations that Pompeo had ordered a staffer to pick up take-out food, collect dry cleaning for him and his wife, and care for their dog.

Trump said he was unconcerned by the allegations and unfamiliar with any investigations by Linick into Pompeo.

"They're bothered because he's having somebody walk his dog?" Trump said. "I'd rather have him on the phone with some world leader than have him wash dishes."

The president defended the Saudi weapons sales, saying it should be as "easy as possible" for other countries to buy U.S. weaponry so they don't get them from China, Russia and other nations.

"We should take the jobs and take the money, because it's billions of dollars," Trump said.

While problematic, such allegations are unlikely to result in any kind of severe consequence against Pompeo if proved correct. A finding of impropriety in the Saudi arms sales could be more serious.

Engel and other congressional Democrats were appalled when Pompeo notified Congress of the decision to use an emergency loophole in the Arms Export Control Act to move ahead with sales of \$7 billion in precision guided munitions, other bombs and ammunition and aircraft maintenance support to Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, without lawmakers' approval.

The law requires Congress to be notified of potential arms sales, giving the body the opportunity to block the sale. But the law also allows the president to waive that review process by declaring an emergency that requires the sale be made "in the national security interests of the United States."

In his notification, Pompeo said he had made the determination "that an emergency exists which requires the immediate sale" of the weapons "in order to deter further the malign influence of the government of Iran throughout the Middle East region."

It came as the administration courted close ties with Saudi Arabia over congressional objections, notably following the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S.-based columnist for The Washington Post, by Saudi agents in October 2018.

Democrats: Fired watchdog was looking into Saudi arms sale

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats say the State Department watchdog fired by President Donald Trump last week was investigating possible impropriety in a massive arms sale to Saudi Arabia last year, adding new questions to the watchdog's abrupt dismissal.

Democrats said Monday that ousted Inspector General Steve Linick was probing how the State Department pushed through a \$7 billion Saudi arms sale over congressional objections. Democrats previously suggested the dismissal might have been tied to Linick's investigation of allegations that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may have improperly ordered staff to run personal errands for him.

Linick's dismissal late Friday comes amid broader concerns over Trump's removal of inspectors general at various departments. Trump has said he had lost confidence in those fired but has not given specific reasons, which lawmakers from both parties have criticized.

Pompeo told The Washington Post on Monday that he had recommended to Trump that Linick be removed because he was "undermining" the State Department's mission. He would not address specifics except to say it was not in retaliation for any investigation.

"It is not possible that this decision, or my recommendation rather, to the president rather, was based on any effort to retaliate for any investigation that was going on, or is currently going on," Pompeo told the Post, adding that he did not know if Linick's office had been looking into possible impropriety on his part.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 49 of 62

Under Secretary of State for Management Brian Bulatao told the Post that confidence in Linick had begun to wane after leaks to the media last year about an IG investigation into political retaliation against career employees by political appointees. When released, that report was critical of several political appointees for having acted against career officials deemed insufficiently loyal to Trump.

Trump confirmed Monday that he fired Linick at Pompeo's request.

"I have the absolute right as president to terminate. I said, 'Who appointed him?' And they say, 'President Obama.' I said, look, I'll terminate him," Trump said at the White House.

Rep. Eliot Engel, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he was troubled that Linick was fired before the completion of the Saudi investigation. Engel had called for that probe after Pompeo in May 2019 invoked a rarely used provision in federal law to bypass a congressional review of arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"His office was investigating — at my request — Trump's phony declaration of an emergency so he could send weapons to Saudi Arabia," said Engel, D-N.Y. "We don't have the full picture yet, but it's troubling that Secretary Pompeo wanted Mr. Linick pushed out before this work could be completed."

He called for the State Department to turn over records related to Linick's firing that he and the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, had demanded on Saturday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was "alarming" to see reports that the firing may have been in response to Linick's investigation into the Saudi arms deal. In a letter to Trump, she demanded an explanation.

Trump notified Congress of the dismissal, as required. But Pelosi said it was essential that he provide "detailed and substantial justification for the removal" before the end of a 30-day review period.

Meanwhile, Trump ally Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who has pushed for the protection of inspectors general, renewed a call for the White House to explain the dismissals of Linick and the earlier ouster of intelligence community watchdog Michael Atkinson.

Grassley said Congress intended that inspectors general only be removed when there is clear evidence of unfitness, wrongdoing or failure to perform the duties of the office.

"An expression of lost confidence, without further explanation, is not sufficient," Grassley said.

Over the weekend, congressional aides had suggested that the dismissal may have been prompted by a probe into allegations that Pompeo had ordered a staffer to pick up take-out food, collect dry cleaning for him and his wife, and care for their dog.

Trump said he was unconcerned by the allegations and unfamiliar with any investigations by Linick into Pompeo.

"They're bothered because he's having somebody walk his dog?" Trump said. "I'd rather have him on the phone with some world leader than have him wash dishes."

The president defended the Saudi weapons sales, saying it should be as "easy as possible" for other countries to buy U.S. weaponry so they don't get them from China, Russia and other nations.

"We should take the jobs and take the money, because it's billions of dollars," Trump said.

While problematic, such allegations are unlikely to result in any kind of severe consequence against Pompeo if proved correct. A finding of impropriety in the Saudi arms sales could be more serious.

Engel and other congressional Democrats were appalled when Pompeo notified Congress of the decision to use an emergency loophole in the Arms Export Control Act to move ahead with sales of \$7 billion in precision guided munitions, other bombs and ammunition and aircraft maintenance support to Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, without lawmakers' approval.

The law requires Congress to be notified of potential arms sales, giving the body the opportunity to block the sale. But the law also allows the president to waive that review process by declaring an emergency that requires the sale be made "in the national security interests of the United States."

In his notification, Pompeo said he had made the determination "that an emergency exists which requires the immediate sale" of the weapons "in order to deter further the malign influence of the government of Iran throughout the Middle East region."

It came as the administration courted close ties with Saudi Arabia over congressional objections, notably following the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S.-based columnist for The Washington Post, by Saudi agents in October 2018.

Outside judge named to preside over cases in Arbery slaying

By **RUSS BYNUM** Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A judge from outside the coastal Georgia community where Ahmaud Arbery was fatally shot has been appointed to preside over trial proceedings of the two men charged with Arbery's murder, including one defendant with close ties to law enforcement.

Court documents filed in Glynn County show that Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walmsley was appointed to the case after all five judges in the legal circuit where Arbery was killed recused themselves. Walmsley is based in Savannah, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of where the slaying occurred just outside the port city of Brunswick.

Arbery was killed Feb. 23 after a pursuit by a white father and son who armed themselves and gave chase after seeing the 25-year-old black man running in their subdivision. More than two months passed before Gregory McMichael, 64, and Travis McMichael, 34, were jailed on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault.

Gregory McMichael, a retired investigator for the local district attorney, told police he thought Arbery was a burglar. He said Arbery attacked his son before he was shot.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, has said she believes her son was merely out jogging.

The delay in criminal charges and a cellphone video of the shooting leaked shortly before the May 7 arrests fueled national outrage over Arbery's death.

Last week, defense attorneys for the McMichaels cautioned against rushing to judgment. They said they soon plan to seek a preliminary hearing from a magistrate judge in Glynn County at which new details might be revealed. They also plan to ask that the McMichaels be released from jail on bond pending trial. That decision will now fall to Walmsley.

No court hearings had been scheduled as of Monday afternoon.

Gregory McMichael worked as an investigator for the local district attorney for more than two decades before he retired last year. Attorneys for Arbery's family and others have blamed the delay in arrests in part on the elder McMichael's ties to local law enforcement. The McMichaels weren't charged until after the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was brought into the case in early May.

Meanwhile, three district attorneys have passed on prosecuting the case, which now resides with the district attorney of Cobb County in metro Atlanta.

Barr says he doesn't envision investigations of Biden, Obama

By **ERIC TUCKER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr said Monday that he did not expect an investigation into the origins of the FBI's Russia investigation to lead to criminal probes of either President Donald Trump's Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, or former President Barack Obama.

Trump has stated without evidence that he believes Obama committed unspecified crimes as president, repeatedly tweeting, "OBAMAGATE!" The claims have become a rallying cry among Trump supporters, while Democrats view it as a desperate attempt to shift the focus from the president's handling of the coronavirus outbreak and the nation's soaring unemployment.

Barr, speaking Monday at an unrelated news conference and responding to a question about Trump's allegations, insisted that the Justice Department would not be swayed by political pressure to investigate the president's opponents and that the "criminal justice system will not be used for partisan political ends."

Barr's comments come as Democrats and some former law enforcement officials have accused the attorney general of politicizing decisions and doing Trump's bidding at the Justice Department. That criticism

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 51 of 62

was stepped up two weeks ago when the department moved to dismiss charges against Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who had pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

"We live in a very divided country right now, and I think that it is critical that we have an election where the American people are allowed to make a decision, a choice, between President Trump and Vice President Biden based on a robust debate of policy issues," Barr said. "And we cannot allow this process to be hijacked by efforts to drum up criminal investigations of either candidate."

Barr repeated his belief that "what happened to the president" as a result of the FBI's investigation into whether his 2016 campaign conspired with Russia was "abhorrent" and a "grave injustice." He has appointed John Durham, the U.S. Attorney for Connecticut, to investigate whether crimes were committed as intelligence and law enforcement officials examined Russian election interference.

But his comments Monday seemed designed at least in part to temper expectations among some Trump supporters that the investigation could ensnare Biden or Obama. He also pointedly noted that, as attorney general, he must approve any effort to pursue a criminal investigation of a presidential candidate, and that the U.S. Supreme Court held just this month that not all abuses of power are criminal in nature.

"Whatever their level of involvement, based on the information I have today, I don't expect Mr. Durham's work will lead to a criminal investigation of either man," Barr said, referring to Obama and Biden. "Our concern over potential criminality is focused on others."

He added: "This cannot be and it will not be a tit-for-tat exercise. We are not going to lower the standards just to achieve a result."

Demands by Trump allies for investigations into Biden and Obama escalated in the last week after the president's top intelligence official declassified a list related to the Flynn investigation. The list showed requests from Biden and other senior Obama administration officials to disclose to them the identity of an American whose name had been concealed in intelligence reports documenting surveillance of foreign targets. That American was revealed to be Flynn.

Trump supporters have cast the requests, known as unmaskings, as evidence of criminal conduct. But unmaskings are a common procedure, done when officials believe that receiving the concealed identity is vital to understanding the intelligence report. Thousands of requests are made each year, and the first few years of Trump's administration have featured more requests than the final stretch of Obama's tenure.

Asked later about Barr's comments about Obama and Biden, Trump told reporters he was surprised because he believed the men "knew everything that was happening" and were involved in the "takedown of a president."

"He's a great, honorable man and he's going to do a very honorable job," Trump said of Barr, "but I am surprised only in that I have no doubt. Personally, I have no doubt. But he may have another feeling. I have no doubt that they were involved in it."

Tropical Storm Arthur hits North Carolina coast with rain

By JONATHAN DREW Associated Press

Tropical Storm Arthur moved out to sea Monday after dumping heavy rain on North Carolina as forecasters warned that the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season could continue to whip dangerous surf and rip currents for another day or more along the U.S. East Coast.

The storm represented another early start for the Atlantic hurricane season. Arthur formed Saturday in waters off Florida, marking the sixth straight year that a named storm has developed before June 1.

By late Monday, storm watches and warnings that had been in effect for parts of the North Carolina coast were canceled.

As Arthur's center passed off North Carolina earlier in the day, a pocket along the coast that includes Newport and Havelock recorded more than 4 inches (10 cm) of rain, according to the National Weather Service. Other areas along the coast saw 2 inches (5 cm) or more, causing some secondary roads to flood. Wind gusts of 40 mph or more (64 kph) were recorded in at least two places on the Outer Banks, the weather service said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 52 of 62

The Hurricane Center said Arthur was moving northeast at 16 mph (26 kph) Monday afternoon as its center pulled away from the U.S. mainland.

At 5 p.m. EDT, the storm's center was located about 110 miles (175 kilometers) northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Arthur had top sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph).

Forecasters said Arthur could strengthen some as it moves away from land, but was likely to lose its tropical storm characteristics later Monday or Tuesday.

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry said that over-wash or standing water had closed a highway on the Outer Banks and another on the mainland. Other secondary roads had flooded. Otherwise, he said conditions were stable and that no other serious problems had been reported to the state.

Still, he warned that surf conditions will remain dangerous and advised people to be cautious around the water even as the storm pushes out to sea.

"People in the eastern part of our state should remain cautious, especially while driving in areas where water may collect on roads," he said at a news conference. "Today is not the day to take risks at the beach or in the surf."

Forecasters said rough surf could continue for another day or two.

While other pre-June storms may be influenced by warming waters and climate change, Arthur is more of a subtropical system than a traditional named storm, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach, who added that its water is cooler than what's usually needed for storm formation.

A lot of these out-of-season storms are weak ones that meteorologists can detect because of satellites and other technology, but comparable storms would have been missed in an earlier era, Klotzbach said.

Mother gets time served for \$400K college admissions bribe

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

A woman who was locked up for five months in a Spanish prison after her arrest in the college admissions bribery scheme won't spend any more time behind bars, a judge ruled Monday.

Xiaoning Sui, 49, of Surrey, British Columbia, was sentenced to time served after admitting to paying \$400,000 to get her son into the University of California, Los Angeles, as a fake soccer recruit. During a sentencing hearing held via video conference due to the coronavirus pandemic, the judge said Sui has already been punished enough.

"I set a horrible example for my child and I was a bad influence. I promise that I will never do anything like that again," Sui told the judge through an interpreter.

Sui, a Chinese citizen who moved to Canada in search of better educational opportunities for her son, was arrested in September while traveling in Europe. While awaiting extradition to the U.S., Sui was held in a Madrid prison, where she was locked in her cell for fifteen hours per day in conditions far worse than what other parents in the college admissions case have experienced in U.S. prisons, her lawyer said.

"It was a very isolating and anxiety-creating experience," attorney Martin Weinberg told the judge.

Prosecutors had also urged the judge for a sentence of time served, noting that Sui immediately sought to take responsibility for her crimes, among other things.

Prosecutors say Sui paid \$400,000 to a sham charity operated by admissions consultant Rick Singer to have her son admitted to UCLA as a fake soccer recruit. Through a translator, Singer told Sui that he would write her son's application in a "special way" in order to guarantee that her son could get into the school, according to court documents.

Singer worked with Laura Janke, a former assistant soccer coach at USC, to fabricate an athletic profile depicting Sui's son as a top soccer player, prosecutors said. Singer gave \$100,000 to then-UCLA soccer coach Jorge Salcedo in exchange for his help with the scheme.

Both Singer and Janke have pleaded guilty. Salcedo has agreed to plead guilty but his hearing hasn't yet been held.

Sui's son was admitted to UCLA as a soccer player in November 2018, authorities say, and was awarded

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 53 of 62

a 25% scholarship. In September, UCLA said it had taken "immediate corrective action" after learning of the case.

More than 50 parents, coaches and others have been charged in the admissions cheating scheme involving prestigious universities across the country. Sui is among nearly two dozen parents who have pleaded guilty. Others include "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman, who paid \$15,000 to rig her daughter's entrance exam.

A group of parents fighting the charges includes "Full House" actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli. They are denying allegations that they paid \$500,000 in bribes to get their two daughters into USC as fake crew recruits.

Moderna: Early coronavirus vaccine results are encouraging

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

An experimental vaccine against the coronavirus showed encouraging results in very early testing, triggering hoped-for immune responses in eight healthy, middle-aged volunteers, its maker announced Monday.

Study volunteers given either a low or medium dose of the vaccine by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Inc. had antibodies similar to those seen in people who have recovered from COVID-19.

In the next phase of the study, led by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, researchers will try to determine which dose is best for a definitive experiment that they aim to start in July.

In all, 45 people have received one or two shots of the vaccine, which was being tested at three different doses. The kind of detailed antibody results needed to assess responses are only available on eight volunteers so far.

The vaccine seems safe, the company said, but much more extensive testing is needed to see if it remains so. A high dose version is being dropped after spurring some short-term side effects.

The results have not been published and are only from the first of three stages of testing that vaccines and drugs normally undergo. U.S. government officials have launched a project called "Operation Warp Speed" to develop a vaccine and hopefully have 300 million doses by January.

Worldwide, about a dozen vaccine candidates are in the first stages of testing or nearing it. Health officials have said that if all goes well, studies of a potential vaccine might wrap up by very late this year or early next year.

More than 4.7 million infections and 315,000 deaths from the coronavirus have been confirmed worldwide since it emerged in China late last year. There are no specific approved treatments, although several are being used on an emergency basis after showing some promise in preliminary testing.

Hospitals, health care sector reel from COVID-19 damage

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

The global coronavirus pandemic has created a huge need for health care in the U.S., but it also is delivering a devastating financial blow to that sector.

COVID-19 worries have kept patients away from doctors' offices and forced the postponement and cancellation of non-urgent surgeries. The pandemic also has shut down large portions of the American economy, leaving many would-be patients without insurance or in a financial pinch that makes them curb spending.

All of this has forced hospitals, health systems and doctors to lay off staff, cut costs and hope a return to normal arrives soon.

"You couldn't ask for a worse situation, really," said Joe Antos, an economist with the American Enterprise Institute.

Health care provided the biggest drag on the U.S. economy in the first quarter. Spending on care fell at an annual rate of 18%, the largest drop for that sector among records going back to 1959.

Economists point to hospital systems, a key driver of the sector's performance, as a big reason behind the drag from COVID-19, which initially hit some parts of the sector more intensely than others.

The nation's largest hospital chain, HCA Healthcare, said its hospital-based outpatient surgery totals for last month were down about 70% through late April.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 54 of 62

In many cases, hospitals that lose those profitable surgeries are gaining COVID-19 patients — and losing money on them. Those patients may require hospitals to expand intensive care units, spend more on infection control and stock up on gowns and masks, among other items.

The American Hospital Association estimated in a recent report that the nation's hospitals and health systems will collectively lose more than \$36 billion from March to June treating hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

When adding factors like lost revenue from postponed surgeries, the total balloons to more than \$200 billion, said the association. Congress has set aside about \$175 billion so far to help hospitals and other care providers, but the hospital association says more assistance is needed.

"We're facing perhaps the biggest financial crisis in our history," association CEO and president Rick Pollack said.

From the doctor's office, the view also is bleak.

Dr. Seemal Desai said patient visits for his Dallas-area dermatology practice plunged about 85% after COVID-19 hit.

He started seeing patients over the internet with help from smartphone or tablet cameras. But that created fresh problems. Desai said some patients don't have the technology to do online visits. Others hesitate because they aren't sure their insurance will cover them.

Only about half the patients who were offered a telemedicine visit actually did one.

"You would think my volume would be shooting through the roof and people would be clamoring for it, but it's completely the opposite," Desai said.

The dermatologist cut expenses, including marketing, and he's reduced some employee hours.

Nationally, the health care sector shed nearly 1.5 million jobs from February to April, or about 9% of its total, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A big chunk of that came from dentist offices. Preliminary data shows that employee totals for that slice of the sector sank by more than 500,000, or 53%.

Overall economic growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, fell at an annual rate of 4.8% in the January-March quarter even though the severe impact of the virus was only felt in the last couple of weeks of March.

The current quarter is expected to be much worse. The Congressional Budget Office forecasts that the GDP will plunge 40%. That would be four times the largest drop on quarterly GDP records that go back to 1947.

Even so, health care researchers expect hospitals, doctor's offices and surgery centers to rebound gradually. But they're not sure yet how much patient volume will return.

People who have lost jobs and insurance coverage may not make doctor visits unless they absolutely have to.

The Kaiser Family Foundation recently estimated that nearly 27 million people — or about 8 percent of the U.S. population — could have become uninsured at least temporarily between March and early May due to the loss of employer-sponsored insurance.

It also may take a while for some patients to become confident that a hospital or doctor's office is safe enough to visit without catching COVID-19.

"People are just afraid to go to any medical setting right now," Antos said, noting that the economy also could face another setback if infection rates spike again.

In Texas, Dr. Desai has pulled chairs out of his waiting rooms to increase social distancing for patients and staff. He's also asking other patients to wait in their cars until the exam room has been sanitized.

The dermatologist got some government assistance in the first round of payroll protection loans, and that will help him for a few more weeks.

But he's not expecting a quick rebound. It's hard to rebuild patient volume when only two people can be in the waiting room at the same time.

"After another month I honestly have no clue whether we will be able to remain open," he said.

TV cliffhanger: New season in jeopardy amid virus shutdown

LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The first new TV season of the coronavirus era is facing an understandably shaky start that comes with a tacit disclaimer: No one is sure when it will arrive.

Studios, guilds and trade groups are huddling to find ways to ease a near-complete production shutdown, among the nationwide efforts to curb the pandemic. While streaming services parcel out series year-round, broadcast TV still relies heavily on a September filled with fanfare and high-profile scripted shows.

How that will happen is a cliffhanger only a masochistic screenwriter would envision.

ABC, CBS and NBC are holding back their 2020-21 schedules which, in an ordinary year, would have been unveiled earlier this month in elaborate presentations to ad buyers in New York. Another broadcaster, CW, said it's aiming for a January start to its new season, based on production resuming this fall.

CW's chairman and CEO, Mark Pedowitz, was asked if even that was realistic. "As realistic as anything else is at this point," he said.

Gabrielle Union, who with Jessica Alba stars in and produces Spectrum cable's "L.A.'s Finest," is among those awaiting guidance on how actors and crews can safely return to work. The police drama combines shoot-'em-up action with more intimate scenes, both tests of how social distancing and story demands will co-exist.

"When we all are given the green light to go back, we just have to be flexible and open to this new normal, whatever that's going to look like," Union said.

Just four months before the Sept. 20 Emmy Awards kick off the TV season's traditional start, the uncertainties swirling around COVID-19 are daunting. Even streaming services like well-stocked Netflix or premium cable channels like HBO with fully produced new series in hand must keep a wary eye on a prolonged disruption.

Neal Baer, a physician and a veteran TV writer and producer ("ER," "Designated Survivor"), had a succinct reply when asked if he would start a production given the unanswered questions about the disease, including whether coronavirus antibodies confer immunity.

"No way," Baer said. "I'm not going to put people potentially in harm's way" given the unknowns.

While the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers spearheads the broad industry effort to work with health and government officials on safety protocols, there are also what one executive called impromptu "think tanks" to find solutions.

"Some have attorneys and doctors involved. I do a weekly panel that a cinematographer put together, and we keep adding people who run production companies, sound stages," said Matt Birch, co-head of physical production for the multinational talent agency APA.

Visual effects supervisors and producers are in high demand, Birch said, to create what can't be filmed. Among the steps industry members say are being mulled: scenes shot with fewer actors and crew, shortened production schedules and more animated projects.

A critical issue is the insurance that covers losses due to production delays or budget overruns, said Carolyn Hunt, a veteran entertainment lawyer in Los Angeles who handles film and TV financing deals. She said virtually all policies are excluding coverage of COVID-19-related issues.

"That makes things very tricky, so a lot of people are waiting to see what happens there," Hunt said.

Meanwhile, networks are cobbling together schedules and, in true Hollywood fashion, hoping for a happy ending.

When Fox announced its fall schedule, it included a recycled season-one run of "L.A.'s Finest," along with two series that the network originally intended to debut this spring, "Filthy Rich" starring Kim Cattrall and tech thriller "neXt" with John Slattery.

The reason the trio of series earned a coveted spot on a network's fall schedule: They were in the can and ready to air. The same holds true for CW's fall placeholder shows, including "Swamp Thing," canceled after one season on streaming and now getting a pandemic afterlife.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 56 of 62

Movie and TV mogul Tyler Perry may be showing the way forward. His studio in Georgia, one of the first states to relax virus-related constraints, will resume production in July with two series for BET. Protective measures are to include testing and isolation on the Atlanta lot for cast and crew.

There are other options, if even further afield from the LA and NY production hubs. Iceland plans to ease its travel restrictions in mid-June and is readying filming guidelines, said producer Leifur Dagfinnsson, whose credits include "Star Wars" films and TV's "Sense8" and "His Dark Materials." He touts the country's dramatic landscapes, the London studios that are a three-hour flight from Reykjavík — and Iceland's emphasis on coronavirus testing.

There are also alternatives to traditionally produced series. CBS aired a socially-distanced episode of its drama "All Rise" made using digital technology, and late-night hosts are drawing kudos for their homemade, YouTube-like episodes that boast family as supporting players.

That's not the future envisioned by Laura Kennedy, CEO of Avalon, a U.K. and U.S.-based management and TV production company whose shows include HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" and the FX comedy "Breeders."

"It really is an industry that begs team effort and personal reaction, including writers' rooms where people riff off each other," Kennedy said.

A secure return to work is something exciting to look forward to, said "This Is Us" star Mandy Moore. She and others in the NBC drama's cast reconnected with a Zoom call recently as they await word on when season-five production will begin.

"It's the opportunity of all our lifetimes to be a part of this show and to do work we're all so proud of, but we also understand there are bigger issues in the world," Moore said.

A week of images from the coronavirus pandemic

By The Associated Press undefined

Burlesque performers danced for people watching from their cars in Las Vegas. Moviegoers took in a film from the trunk of their hatchback in a rural part of New York state.

Americans sought entertainment while abiding by restrictions meant to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Elsewhere, in the U.S. and Europe, more and more people emerged from lockdown. Spain, for instance, eased many rules over the past week.

But the changes did not come fast enough for many. In Pennsylvania, protesters demonstrated at the state Capitol against the stay-at-home order.

Roughly half of Spain's 47 million people shifted to looser restrictions over the past week, beginning to socialize, shop in small stores and sit outdoors at restaurants. But the major cities of Madrid and Barcelona remained under lockdown.

Still, even those areas saw some signs of improvement. A funeral home in Barcelona closed a temporary morgue it had set up inside its parking garage to handle the overflow of corpses. The last coffin was removed and buried Sunday.

VIRUS DIARY: Starting a life, as life withdraws around her

By HALELUYA HADERO Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — In December, I sat in a Manhattan building booming with shouts of praise and listened intently as a speaker from my church spoke about the end of the decade. A large crowd took in his excitement about the coming year, but in between sounds of piano melodies and soft taps of drums, he mentioned a word that, in a few months, I would find myself grappling with.

Joy.

The word was on my mind as I packed a large black suitcase, hopped on a plane and left New York City in March to start my first real job in Atlanta. It would be my first time living alone, and living further south than Washington, D.C.

In the month leading up to the move, I suffered the anxieties that come with stepping into the unknown:

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 57 of 62

What will this be like? Will it be worth it? What if I don't like it?

Despite the mysteries, I stepped out in faith. A friend who had spent time in Atlanta called to give me a list of things I needed to do once I arrived: take strolls through Spelman College, visit different churches and of course, be social. I wrote down her advice, making a mental note to attend as many events as I could in Atlanta to make the move easier.

But life is funny. As the virus swept the world, my plans were swept up with it.

A distant relative I'd never met brought his white van to pick me up from an Atlanta airport in mid March. He was older, most likely in his 70s. As I approached him, he apologized for not being able to shake my hand. He told me his adult children had instructed him not to leave the house, but he wanted to pick me up since I was new to the city.

I told him not to worry about the handshake. After some time, he dropped me off at my new apartment. I dropped my luggage across the charcoal floors and began to assemble my bed, the only major piece of furniture I have in my tiny abode. Well into the digital age, I'm still reluctant about making big purchases online.

Two days later, I went to my first day of work in a largely bare office.

Since then, I have worked from home, mostly with coworkers I have never met in person. Work has gone well, but the virus' impact on life beyond my career has sparked a battle for joy in my largely empty apartment.

A battle for joy when my father called to let me know he was laid off. A battle for joy while living isolated. A battle for joy when the closest I have gotten to the socially eventful weekends I imagined in Atlanta have been my weekly grocery trips. A battle for joy when I heard that my New York pastor, who had taught me to put my joy outside of life circumstances, had tested positive for the coronavirus.

I find myself often retreating to prayer, trying to lay grasp of this joy that sees beyond disappointments and unmet desires. Drilling deeper into a faith that circumstances cannot move.

A month after I arrived in Atlanta, I came across a "Joy" sign as I pushed a cart through a socially-distanced Target. I picked it up, and after the Uber ride back to my apartment, I drilled the gold words into the wall in front of my bed.

It's the first thing I see when I get up every morning.

Me and we: Individual rights, common good and coronavirus

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

We, the people. But individual rights. The common good. But don't tread on me. Form a more perfect union and promote the general welfare. But secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

From the moment the American republic was born right up until today, this has been its hallmark: Me and we — different flavors of freedom that compete but overlap — living together, but often at odds.

The history of the United States and the colonies that formed it has been a 413-year balancing act across an assortment of topics, priorities, passions and ambitions. Now, in the coronavirus era, that tug of war — is it about individuals, or the communities to which they belong? — is showing itself in fresh, high-stakes ways.

On Friday, protesters massed at the foot of the Pennsylvania Capitol steps — most of them maskless — for the second time in a month to decry Gov. Tom Wolf and demand he "reopen" the state faster. It is one of many states where a vocal minority has criticized virus-related shutdowns for trampling individual rights.

"He who is brave is free," read a sign carried by one Pennsylvania protester. "Selfish and proud," said another, referring to the governor's statement that politicians advocating immediate reopening were "selfish." "My body my choice," said a sign at a rally in Texas, coopting an abortion-rights slogan to oppose mandatory mask rules.

"The pandemic is presenting this classic individual liberty-common good equation. And the ethos of different parts of the country about this is very, very different. And it's pulling the country in all these different directions," says Colin Woodard, author of "American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 58 of 62

Individual Liberty and the Common Good.”

Though polls show a majority of Americans still support some level of shutdown, the cries to reopen have grown in the past few weeks as job losses continue to mount. In Pennsylvania and across the country, the demonstrators’ chorus has generally been: Don’t tell me how to live my life when I need to get out of my house and preserve my livelihood.

“They’re being told to stay home, wait it out. And that’s a really weird democratic message to get. And the only way to do it is to say, ‘I trust the government,’” says Elspeth Wilson, an assistant professor of government at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania.

While the catalyst is an unprecedented pandemic, the collision of individual rights and the common good is as old as the republic itself: Where does one American’s right to move around in public without a mask end, and another American’s right to not be infected with a potentially fatal virus begin?

“This is economic paralysis by analysis for some people. And they’re afraid,” says Steven Benko, an ethicist at Meredith College in North Carolina. “They feel devalued.”

Americans have long romanticized those who reject the system and take matters into their own hands — the outlaw, the cowboy, the rebel. Many American leaders have wrestled to reconcile that with “common good” principles that are generally needed to govern.

“Reagan did that better than anyone. He was the cowboy selling the shared American vision. That’s quite a contradiction,” Benko says.

Ronald Reagan’s crowning metaphor — the United States as the “city upon a hill” — was borrowed from the Puritans, whose traditions shaped the American ethos, including the compact that created the New World’s first English government. But Puritanism also asserted that hard work, a form of moral righteousness, heralded success and salvation.

Over time, and with other ingredients added as more groups came to American shores, a vague sense of shame became attached to the inability to be an individualist: If you couldn’t get along on your own, in the eyes of some, you were less of an American.

But is that kind of “rugged individualism,” as it came to be known, applicable in a 21st-century virus scenario where everything from food shopping to health care to package delivery requires a web of intricate, precise networks that form a common good?

Overlaid on this debate, too, is what some call an ignored truth: Individualism tends to favor groups that are in power, economically or socially. In short, doing what one wants is a lot easier when you have the means (health care, money, privilege) to deal with the impact it causes.

That’s particularly relevant when the direct impact of one’s individualism — in the form of virus-laden droplets — can ripple out to others.

“We fail to recognize how interdependent we really are,” says Lenette Azzi-Lessing, a clinical professor of social work at Boston University who studies economic disparity.

“The pandemic and dealing with it successfully does require cooperation. It also requires shared sacrifice. And that’s a very bitter pill for many Americans to swallow,” she says. “The pandemic is revealing that our fates are intertwined, that the person in front of us in line on the grocery store, if he or she doesn’t have access to good health care, that that’s going to have an effect on our health.”

U.S. history has sometimes revealed that in times of upheaval — the Great Depression, World War II, even the founding of the nation itself — common good becomes a dominant American gene for a time. Will that happen here? Or is the fragmentation of politics and economics and social media too powerful to allow that?

“The status quo is individualism. And then when we get to these crisis periods, it changes,” says Anthony DiMaggio, a political scientist at Lehigh University who is researching groups that advocate reopening. “All these rules go out the window and people are willing to jettison all these ways of looking at the world.”

So is it, as Ayn Rand once told an interviewer, that “each man must live as an end in himself, and follow his own rational self-interest?” Or is it more like Woody Guthrie, paraphrasing Tom Joad in “The Grapes of Wrath”: “Everybody might be just one big soul — well, it looks that way to me.”

More likely, in a nation stitched together by a high-wire act of political compromise, it’s somewhere in

between — a new path that Americans must chart so they can continue their four-century experiment through unprecedented times. Yet again.

Gangs deliver food in poor Cape Town area amid lockdown

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Preston's new face mask is emblazoned with the stars and stripes of the U.S. flag.

While protecting him from the coronavirus, it would normally also put him in danger in Manenberg, one of a number of violent and poor neighborhoods on the outskirts of Cape Town known as the Cape Flats. The mask's colors identify Preston as a member of the Americans, a criminal gang usually unwelcome on the turf of the rival Hard Livings gang.

"They'd shoot me," the 35-year-old says with what appears to be a smile, his eyes crinkling.

But today, he's working side-by-side with other notorious gang members to deliver bread, flour and vegetables to poor families who are struggling during South Africa's coronavirus lockdown, which has closed industries and left many in Manenberg without work.

Preston stands in a courtyard with the other gang members amid an unlikely truce, bowing his head as Danny, a senior member of the Hard Livings, says a prayer. Caps are removed and tattooed arms are held behind backs.

"We (the gangs) did decide to work together to help," Danny said. "And we have got no problem (with each other), you see. No problem."

The project was started by Andie Steele-Smith, an Australian known as the "gang pastor." They ride in the back of his pickup truck and trailer, leaping off to carry items to homes and soup kitchens.

Steele-Smith said that "as soon as these guys were given an opportunity to do something good, they grabbed the opportunity with both hands and are just wringing it for everything they can."

The gangs also benefit, getting some food as well as the chance to stay relevant in tough times. They also seem to enjoy the role of modern-day Robin Hoods.

Still, these men are drug dealers and many are killers. A lot of them have tattoos that identify them as members of prison "Numbers" gangs, which experts say are far more violent.

One who doesn't think much of their good deeds is J.P. Smith, who works in the mayor's office of Cape Town in charge of safety and security. He says their real business is murder, extortion, trafficking in drugs and guns, protection rackets and corrupting police and judges, noting there were 900 gang-related killings in the Cape Town area last year.

"None of that goes away because the gangsters suddenly pretend to do something nice," Smith said. "The trauma they've inflicted on communities for decades won't be forgotten for a couple of loaves of bread."

Manenberg resident Cristal van Rensburg says two cousins were killed by gang members, with one shot 30 times in the face and chest. Her brother and other relatives also are in gangs, and she says she often sees her cousins' killers on the street.

"In the beginning it was difficult," she said. "It's not a good feeling to lose someone and know that person who hurt your family is walking past you every day. You see in Manenberg, that's part of life."

Despite its beauty, Cape Town was ranked last year as the 11th most-dangerous city in the world. According to the Mexico City-based Citizen Council for Public Safety and Criminal Justice, which compiled the list, Cape Town had 2,868 homicides in 2018, the second-most on the list behind Caracas, Venezuela.

An attempted truce has accompanied the food distribution, and Smith said police have reported a decrease in trouble in Manenberg in recent weeks.

But the grim reality is still evident.

During the food delivery, the pickup truck encounters people who say a man has been stabbed to death, and the victim is a member of a gang known as the Clever Kidz.

Santjie, a local leader of the gang who is riding on Steele-Smith's truck, had earlier made a comment that has become suddenly relevant: "Life here is very quick. It's very quick."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 60 of 62

Residents of Manenberg seem to live either in government-built housing blocks called "the courts" or in haphazard houses on unmarked streets.

The headquarters of the Americans is a multistory labyrinth with "Welcome 2 United States" scrawled on it. Across the street is more graffiti, misspelled and perhaps mistaken: "God loves Manenburg."

The neighborhood was created by South Africa's apartheid government in the 1960s as a dumping ground for poor non-whites who were evicted from Cape Town's prime land. Steele-Smith describes it as "forgotten" and lacking hope.

Danny, Preston and Santjie, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition that only their first names are used because they belong to criminal gangs, say they have much in common: all have been shot and all have been to prison.

Danny is 61 and says he was behind bars for 29 years for murder and armed robbery. The other two don't specify their crimes. Santjie, the youngest of the three at 31, has been "in and out" numerous times, he says.

All three saw joining gangs as natural — boys are recruited in their early teens or younger.

Preston says he may eventually quit his gang, but Danny warns: "If you turn your back on your gang, you're a target."

"A traitor," Preston agrees.

Leaving a gang means giving up protection. A local saying goes that the only sure way out of a Cape Flats gang is death.

The Rev. Eric Hofmeyer used to be a member of the Hard Livings gang, joining when he was 9 but getting out at age 21 in the 1980s. He says he survived two stabbings by rival gangs and also escaped death when police interrupted an attempt by his own gang to kill him.

He says the food project shows that the new generation is open to change.

"I believe there is a way out for those young men," he said.

Bundesliga coaches find their voices without crowd noise

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH AP Sports Writer

DÜSSELDORF, Germany (AP) — Call it the sound of silence. With the stands empty, players and coaches in Germany are changing how they communicate.

Coaches know opposing teams could listen in on tactical chatter, but they also need to motivate their team without fans to drive them forward.

Freiburg coach Christian Streich drew on years of experience from his old job with the club's under-19 team as his players earned a surprise 1-1 draw at title contender Leipzig on Saturday, the first day of the Bundesliga's empty-stadium restart.

"I was remembering back to that. You can hear yourself the whole time there too," he said. "It could be that I was speaking more now because the players pick up on more of it."

Volume is no problem for Streich.

"I don't have that quiet a voice either. You can hear it from 50 meters away," he said.

Players on the field and head coaches aren't muffled by wearing masks, though substitutes and other staff have to wear them.

Freiburg scorer Manuel Gulde summed up the approach. "Be loud, push your teammates, give commands and get the energy going on the field," he said in comments reported by German agency dpa. Leipzig defender Lukas Klostermann also said the team had tried to emphasize on-field communication.

Without fans, viewers at home have heard unexpected soundbites, whether it's a player appealing a decision or loudly cursing after a shot's blocked. Inside the stadium, dpa reported hearing referee Guido Winkmann saying, "I don't speak so much Spanish, only 'cerveza,'" after his comments to Cologne's Colombian forward Jhon Cordoba were apparently lost in translation.

The silence could be stripping teams of a home advantage, too. Only one home team, Borussia Dortmund, won any of the first eight games played.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 61 of 62

Referees typically tend to punish away teams more harshly — perhaps because of pressure from the crowd — but on Saturday and Sunday slightly more fouls and yellow cards were awarded against home teams. However, the small sample makes it impossible to draw firm conclusions yet.

No crowd doesn't mean no conflict. The new rule change allowing teams to make five substitutions per game had broad support among clubs for giving players more rest in a packed schedule. Not everyone agreed how it should work in practice.

After a 2-2 home draw with Mainz on Sunday, Cologne's sporting managing director Horst Heldt claimed the visitors had broken a gentlemen's agreement between the clubs that they would only change up to two players at a time. When Mainz made a triple substitution late on, "it got emotional," Heldt told broadcaster Sky.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 19, the 140th day of 2020. There are 226 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 19, 1943, in his second wartime address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan; that evening, Churchill met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House, where the two leaders agreed on May 1, 1944 as the date for the D-Day invasion of France (the operation ended up being launched more than a month later).

On this date:

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1649, England was declared a republic by Parliament following the execution of King Charles I. (The monarchy was restored in 1660.)

In 1913, California Gov. Hiram Johnson signed the Webb-Hartley Law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from owning farm land, a measure targeting Asian immigrants, particularly Japanese.

In 1921, Congress passed, and President Warren G. Harding signed, the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In 1924, the Marx Brothers made their Broadway debut in the revue "I'll Say She Is."

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England, six days after being injured in a motorcycle crash.

In 1967, the Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain, banning nuclear and other weapons from outer space as well as celestial bodies such as the moon. (The treaty entered into force in October 1967.)

In 1981, five British soldiers were killed by an Irish Republican Army land mine in County Armagh (AR'mah), Northern Ireland.

In 1992, in a case that drew much notoriety, Mary Jo Buttafuoco of Massapequa, New York, was shot and seriously wounded by her husband Joey's teenage lover, Amy Fisher.

In 1993, the Clinton White House set off a political storm by abruptly firing the entire staff of its travel office; five of the seven staffers were later reinstated and assigned to other duties.

In 1994, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

In 2003, WorldCom Inc. agreed to pay investors \$500 million to settle civil fraud charges.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama condemned Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigration and pushed instead for a federal fix he said the nation could embrace, showing solidarity with his guest of honor, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who called Arizona's law discriminatory. Rioters in Bangkok torched the stock exchange and other landmark buildings after a deadly army assault on an anti-government encampment ended a two-month siege.

Five years ago: On a visit to Ireland, Prince Charles shook hands with Sinn Fein (shin fayn) party presi-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 311 ~ 62 of 62

dent Gerry Adams in a significant moment for Anglo-Irish relations. NFL owners meeting in San Francisco agreed to move back extra-point kicks and allow defenses to score on conversion turnovers. Margaretta "Happy" Rockefeller, 88, the widow of former U.S. Vice President and New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, died in Tarrytown, New York.

One year ago: Billionaire technology investor Robert F. Smith stunned the graduating class at Morehouse College, an all-male, historically-black college in Atlanta, when he announced in his commencement speech that he would pay off the student loans of the entire class, estimated at \$40 million. "Game of Thrones" aired its 73rd and final episode on HBO, with a record-setting number of viewers. After giving up nearly all of his seven-shot lead in the final round, Brooks Koepka won his second straight PGA Championship, joining Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners since the tournament went to stroke play in 1958.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality David Hartman is 85. Actor James Fox is 81. Actress Nancy Kwan is 81. Rock singer-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 75. Concert pianist David Helfgott is 73. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 71. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Archie Manning is 71. Singer-actress Grace Jones is 69. Rock musician Phil Rudd is 66. Actor Steven Ford is 64. Actress Toni Lewis is 60. Rock musician Iain Harvie (Del Amitri) is 58. Actress Polly Walker is 54. Actor Jason Gray-Stanford is 50. Gospel singer Israel Houghton is 49. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 48. Former race car driver Dario Franchitti is 47. TV personality Kim Zolciak Biermann (TV: "Real Housewives of Atlanta") is 42. Country/rock singer Shooter Jennings is 41. Actor Drew Fuller is 40. Actor-comedian Michael Che (chay) (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 37. Christian rock musician Tim McTague (Underoath) is 37. Rock musician James Richardson (MGMT) is 37. Actor Eric Lloyd is 34. Pop singer Sam Smith is 28. Actor Nolan Lyons is 19.

Thought for Today: "Every moment one lives is different from the other. The good, the bad, hardship, the joy, the tragedy, love, and happiness are all interwoven into one single, indescribable whole that is called life. You cannot separate the good from the bad. And perhaps there is no need to do so, either."
— Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (1929-1994).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.