

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 1 of 79

- [1- Rehms Bridal Shower](#)
- [1- Hanson Bridal Shower](#)
- [1- Orthopedic Physical Therapy Center Ad](#)
- [2- Groton Legion Memorial Day Program](#)
- [2- Helmer graveside service](#)
- [3- Baseball/Softball Guidelines](#)
- [4- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [7- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [8- May 20th 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**

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

## GROTON AMERICAN LEGION

# Memorial Day Program

The Groton American Legion Post #39 will be performing Military Rites on the morning of Memorial Day May 25th, 2020 in accordance to the following schedule.

Huffton .....	7:30
James.....	8:15
Verdon.....	8:45
Bates/Scotland .....	9:15
Ferney .....	10:00
Andover (Catholic).....	11:00
Groton .....	12:00

**Guest speaker  
at Groton: Lyle G.  
Bien, Vice Admiral,  
United States Navy  
(Ret)**



No meal, no program at Andover  
No lunch at Groton

There will be a program at the Groton cemetery with guest speaker Lyle G. Bien, Vice Admiral, United States Navy (Ret)

Admiral Bien has amassed 5,500 flight hours, 1300 carrier landings, 225 combat missions and is a former instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN)

**The program will be livestreamed at GDILIVE.COM**

We welcome all to sit outside and enjoy the program while following the social distancing guidelines. We encourage all to wear masks.

We will also be broadcasting the program on FM 89.3 so the public will be able to attend without leaving their automobile.

### 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

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 3 of 79

## Baseball/Softball Guidelines

\*\*\*Below are the guidelines we will be following this summer. These guidelines will apply to home and away games.\*\*\* Safety is priority #1. If you have questions please see a board member.

Lars Hanson

Jarod Flihs

Travis Antonsen

Tasha Dunker

Mike Imrie

Jessica Kroll

Doug Hamilton

Dave Blackmun city liaison

Matt Locke baseball director

### **Groton Baseball/Softball Requirements for return to play.**

Groton Baseball/Softball has put the following guidelines along with CDC and State guidelines in place for Groton Area youth to help restore play during the current COVID-19 pandemic. These Guidelines are in place provided the current situation does not trend upward, in that case the program could be terminated. Guidelines are subject to changes as new information is discovered about COVID-19.

Phase I – Begin Practice & scrimmage Games

Phase II – Allow for competitive games with restrictions

Phase III – Restrictions removed

### **Phase I – Starting on or around June 1st.**

The first phase allows for baseball and softball teams to begin practicing by following appropriate physical distancing in groups of 10.

### **Phase – II – Starting on or around June 15th.**

The second phase allows for games to begin, with social distancing guidelines provided by the CDC and the SD Dept. of Health being followed.

Parents and spectators would have separate seating away from the backstop and dugouts. Only players, up to three coaches and umpires would be allowed on the field. Spectators would be allowed as long as individuals and/or family groups are separated by social distancing guidelines.

Dugouts would be extended to behind the dugout or down foul lines for both teams to practice proper social distancing. Hand and equipment sanitizing would take place between innings and during game. No more than three to five individuals could be in the dugout at any given time and would have to maintain proper social distancing.

Coaches, umpires, and players will not be able to shake hands or have any physical contact with each other while maintaining proper social distancing.

Teams would no longer be allowed to have physical displays for celebration (ie high fives, hands-in cheer, etc) Teams would no longer shake hands at the end of the game and instead would tip their caps or other appropriate display of sportsmanship to the opponent following the game.

Players are encouraged to provide their own equipment as much as possible (ie bats, helmets, etc)

Each team would need to provide its own balls, which would be switched out or sanitized each inning or if foul balls are returned to play.

Spectators, umpires and coaches would not be required to wear but would be recommended to wear CDC-approved facemasks.

Umpires would call the game from behind the pitcher's mound and maintain proper social distancing between all fielders.

### **Phase III - TDB**

Lifts the cap on group sizes and sports go back to normal operation. Vulnerable populations can resume public interactions but should practice social distancing and continue to take precautionary measures.

The above-mentioned guidelines are for safer play, ultimately the decision to play and assume the risk is yours and yours alone.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 4 of 79

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are mixed, but the only good-sized changes are declines. So far, so good.

We're at 1,584,700 cases in the US. New case numbers steady for a second day. NY leads with 361,313 cases with new cases slightly up. NJ has 151,472 cases, a decline in new cases. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 102,995, MA – 90,084, CA – 88,448, PA – 69,252, MI – 53,468, TX – 53,441, FL – 48,667, and MD – 43,645 These ten states account for 67% of US cases. 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 3 more states have over 20,000 cases, 10 more have over 10,000, 9 more + DC over 5000, 7 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, FL, CA, MD, MI, CT, TX and LA. States where new case reports are increasing include VA, AR, NC, ND, MN, ME, and AL. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, GA, NJ, IN, MA, CO, PA, and WA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 94,717 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths has declined. NY has 28,663, NJ has 10,843, MA has 6148, MI has 5129, PA has 4887, IL has 4634, CA has 3622, and CT has 3582. NY and CA report more than 100 new deaths; the rest report fewer than 100. There are 10 more states over 1000 deaths, 7 more over 500, 14 more + DC and PR over 100, and 11 + GU, VI, and MP under 100. Things are still looking all right.

You may have read something about a solution to the dilemma we face with antibody testing. Remember that antibody testing is the kind you do to figure out whether a person has recovered from the infection. You may also remember a few days ago when we talked about the math that shows us these tests aren't good enough yet because they're giving us too many false positives, that is, telling us someone has antibodies (and therefore, presumably, is protected) when she really doesn't (and isn't). Now that we've reviewed all that, the thing I've been seeing in the news is a suggestion that the way to solve this false-positive problem is to run two tests so one can serve as a check on the other. It's going to cost more to do two tests rather than one, but it would be worth it to get more credible results, right? Not so fast. Here are some considerations:

First thing is that second test has to be materially different from the first one, that is, it won't just repeat the same error the first one made. This is important because the proposed guidelines simply say you should do two tests; you could infer from them that you could just do the same test twice. But if the two tests are correlated—that is, tend to give the same results in the same patients, then if the first test is a false positive, the second test would give a false positive too. That wouldn't help at all, would it?

I'm going to confess here that I oversimplified all those weeks ago when I explained how your immune system responds to a virus (something you should thank me for, by the way); it turns out when you're infected, your immune system doesn't just produce one kind of antibody. In fact, you make multiple antibodies, each targeted to some different feature on the coronavirus; so when we say we're testing for "coronavirus antibody," we could be testing for several different actual proteins. This means, if you're going to run two tests, you want them to be two different tests that test for two different proteins which formed in response to two different parts of the virus. That's how you're going to improve the specificity of the test for a given virus.

And even if you decide to do that, there's still a problem; and it is that the concept hasn't actually been

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 5 of 79

tested in the lab yet to see whether it really improves the quality of the information we get. Could still be that one common factor causes both false positives in the two tests you're using, in which case you're no further ahead.

We can't always tell what causes a false positive—could be something wonky in the person's immune system that produces antibodies that trigger false positives (happens sometimes in people with autoimmune diseases like lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, or some such) or it could be you're getting interference from antibodies produced against a similar virus (remember there are common coronaviruses that cause colds and are somewhat similar to this one). Could even be something that's happening in the lab which causes the false positive.

What needs to happen now is that labs must run comparisons of the available tests. If we can find different tests that produce different patterns of false positives, we may be able to identify pairs of tests that should be able to be used together. There's a whole process called validation that labs use on every new test (and new batch of reagents or new method) to assure the test is really telling us what we think it's telling us. Any paired-test methodology will be subject to this sort of rigorous process because returning inaccurate results on a matter of importance to health really isn't an option.

And then we need to think about cost: When does it make sense to spend more for two tests? When do we need the information that badly? Of course, we also need to think about what that positive antibody result tells us. We're still not 100% that any antibodies you make against this coronavirus will, in fact, neutralize a new virus coming around to cause trouble for you. It's looking more and more as if they will, which means the person is, indeed, protected, but the jury's still out on that. With luck that will become clearer by the time we actually have a method for testing we can count on. But it's not automatic that running a couple of tests is better than running just one; we'll have to wait and see. People are working on these things just as fast as they can.

A few days ago, we talked about a puzzling and severe inflammatory condition showing up in children infected with SARS-CoV-2. We were calling it pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome, and now the preferred term appears to be multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). It looks a lot like another condition that shows up in children called Kawasaki disease, so pediatricians treating these kids picked right up on it when it occurred. It shows up at a point when the patient has antibodies to the virus, so it appears to be something that follows the infection, not something that occurs during it.

These are mostly previously healthy children who did not have preexisting conditions who suddenly develop fever, abdominal pain and/or nausea and vomiting, and rashes. What appears to be going on in them is inflammation of the heart and multiple organs, perhaps some sort of delayed immune response. Some have died. The bad news is that the same syndrome appears to be turning up in young adults too, mostly in their 20s, and it seems the adults are having a more severe course. This is not great news.

Even as new case reports of Covid-19 are tapering off in many places, the number of cases of this inflammatory syndrome are increasing, which fits with the conception of this as something that follows Covid-19. Cases have been reported in more than 20 states with the total number estimated to be several hundred. There have been around 150 reported in New York City alone. It is still rare, but it is also worrisome.

Pediatricians are concerned this diagnosis might get missed in adults because doctors unaccustomed to treating children are not necessarily alert to Kawasaki-like conditions. There is now talk of expanding warnings about the condition to cover this slightly older age group and to see that screenings are done in those with signs of the illness.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 6 of 79

There is some thought that some people may be born with a genetic predisposition to an overactive immune response to this virus. Genetic tests on patients are underway to see whether we can identify some common link.

Meanwhile, it is important to recognize that this is not something you can treat at home. Patients have needed blood pressure medications, steroids, anticoagulants, immunoglobulin (antibodies), and even sometimes ventilators. A few have suffered cardiac arrest and needed to be revived. Although most survive, clearly this is nothing to mess with. I'll update you on this as more information becomes available.

I read something written by an epidemiologist last night that struck me. Jonathan Smith is a lecturer in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases and Global Health at Yale University School of Public Health. He said, "Until we get a viable vaccine the unprecedented outbreak will not be overcome in one grand, sweeping gesture, rather only by the collection of individual choices our community makes in the coming months. This virus is unforgiving to choices outside the rules." Now I've never been much of a rule person myself, but the set of rules the virus imposes isn't really something you can argue with. Argue, and people die. Who wants to be responsible for that? It's getting tougher: It's been a long time, restrictions are being relaxed, it seems like everyone else is out and about, going to dinner and partying it up. But we haven't won this one yet. We're not even in the fourth quarter. And if we go crazy now, things will assuredly get worse, if not for you, then for someone, maybe even someone you know and love. Time to buckle down and keep trying. We each owe our society our best efforts to take care of all of us, and that means some self-discipline and some sacrifice and, yes, some rule-following. Even for me, and I hate rules. Let's get this done right the first time.

Take care and we'll talk tomorrow.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 7 of 79

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	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
	May 20	May 21	May 22				
Minnesota	17,029	17,670	18,200				
Nebraska	10,846	11,122	11,425				
Montana	471	478	479				
Colorado	22,482	22,797	23,191				
Wyoming	583	596	608				
North Dakota	1,994	2095	2229				
South Dakota	4,085	4177	4250				
United States	1,528,661	1,551,853	1,577,758				
US Deaths	91,938	93,439	94,729				
Minnesota	+657	+641	+530				
Nebraska	+221	+276	+303				
Montana	+1	+7	+1				
Colorado	+280	+315	+394				
Wyoming	+6	+13	+12				
North Dakota	+63	+101	+134				
South Dakota	+58	+92	+73				
United States	+20,493	+23,192	+25,905				
US Deaths	+600	+1,501	+1,290				

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 8 of 79

## May 21st COVID-19 UPDATE

Aurora and Oglala Lakota counties in South Dakota have been elevated to minimal to moderate spread on the community impact map. 99 percent of the Smithfield cases have fully recovered. Employees of DemKota of Aberdeen are at 67 percent recovered.

Both Brown County and the state have edged up 2 percentage points in people who are fully recovered.

North Dakota is reporting 4 deaths and South Dakota is reporting 2 deaths, which brings the state-wide counts to 48 in South Dakota and 49 in North Dakota.

Those with double digit increases are Pennington with 15, Minnehaha with 13, Aurora 12, Beadle 11 and Brown 10. Brown County is also reporting 10 fully recovered people.

**Brown County:** Percent Recovered: 57%

Active Cases: 0 (94)

Recovered: +10 (127) (DemKota: +2 (86))

Total Positive: +10 (221) (DemKota: +2 (130))

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (10)

Deaths: 0

Negative Tests: +30 (1066)

**South Dakota:** Percent Recovered: 74%

Positive: +73 (4,250 total) (19 less than yesterday)

Negative: +839 (27,051 total)

Hospitalized: +9 (342 total) - 91 currently hospitalized (10 more than yesterday)

Deaths: +2 (1 in Minnehaha, 1 in Pennington) (48 total)

Recovered: +121 (3145 total)

Active Cases: 1057 (51 less than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +4 (25), Brule +6 (106), Butte +26 (129), Campbell 20, Custer +16 (91), Dewey +61 (227), Edmunds +2 (47), Gregory +1 (51), Haakon +1 (21), Hanson +1 (49), Harding +2 (5), Jackson +1 (20), Jones 7, Kingsbury +2 (107), Mellette +2 (41), Perkins +4 (18), Potter 50, unassigned -477 (1256).

Due to community spread, Aurora and Oglala Lakota counties have been elevated to minimal to moderate community spread on the community impact map.

Aurora: +12 positive (2 of 20 recovered)

Beadle: +11 positive (19 of 79 recovered)

Brown: +10 positive, +10 recovered (127 of 221 recovered)

Clay: +2 recovered (11 of 15 recovered)

Codington: +3 positive (15 of 20 recovered)

Grant: +1 positive (3 of 10 recovered)

Jerauld: +2 positive (5 of 12 recovered)

Lincoln: +2 positive, +5 recovered (172 of 211 recovered)

Lyman: +1 positive (3 of 10 recovered)

Marshall: +1 positive (1 of 4 recovered)

Meade: +1 positive, +1 recovered (4 of 6 recovered)

Minnehaha: +13 positive, +90 recovered (2524 of 3195 recovered)

Moody: +2 recovered (12 of 18 recovered)

Pennington: +15 positive, +2 recovered (21 of 100 recovered)

Roberts: +1 recovered (13 of 20 recovered)

Todd: +3 recovered (10 of 17 recovered)

Union: +1 positive, +2 recovered (48 of 69 recovered)

Yankton: +3 recovered (29 of 44 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (added Ziebach): Bon Homme, Brookings, Deuel, Douglas, Faulk, Hand, Hutchinson, Hyde, Lawrence, McPherson, Miner, Spink, Sully, Walworth, Ziebach.

The NDDoH & private labs report 2,105 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 102 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,095. NDDoH reports four new deaths.

State & private labs have reported 72,003 total completed tests.

1,302 ND patients are recovered. One case reported on Tuesday in Cass County was reassigned out of state.



# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 9 of 79

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	20	2	92
Beadle	79	19	272
Bennett	0	0	25
Bon Homme	4	4	156
Brookings	14	14	530
Brown	221	127	1066
Brule	0	0	106
Buffalo	5	1	56
Butte	0	0	129
Campbell	0	0	20
Charles Mix	10	5	165
Clark	4	2	79
Clay	15	11	260
Codington	20	15	689
Corson	4	2	39
Custer	0	0	91
Davison	9	7	452
Day	11	9	102
Deuel	1	1	104
Dewey	0	0	227
Douglas	1	1	52
Edmunds	0	0	47
Fall River	4	2	118
Faulk	1	1	35
Grant	10	3	100
Gregory	0	0	51
Haakon	0	0	21
Hamlin	3	2	110
Hand	1	1	37
Hanson	0	0	49
Harding	0	0	5
Hughes	17	13	372
Hutchinson	3	3	140

Hyde	1	1	25
Jackson	0	0	20
Jerauld	12	5	54
Jones	0	0	7
Kingsbury	0	0	107
Lake	5	4	201
Lawrence	9	9	350
Lincoln	211	172	2177
Lyman	10	3	125
Marshall	4	1	77
McCook	5	3	159
McPherson	1	1	32
Meade	6	4	440
Mellette	0	0	41
Miner	1	1	30
Minnehaha	3195	2524	11689
Moody	18	12	153
Oglala Lakota	14	1	90
Pennington	100	21	1759
Perkins	0	0	18
Potter	0	0	50
Roberts	20	13	262
Sanborn	7	3	49
Spink	4	4	162
Stanley	9	7	53
Sully	1	1	16
Todd	17	10	272
Tripp	2	0	101
Turner	22	17	229
Union	69	48	423
Walworth	5	5	94
Yankton	44	29	694
Ziebach	1	1	39
Unassigned****	0	0	1256

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	399	0
20-29 years	780	0
30-39 years	974	2
40-49 years	768	1
50-59 years	718	7
60-69 years	390	7
70-79 years	109	5
80+ years	112	26

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	1953	25
Male	2297	23

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 10 of 79

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 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

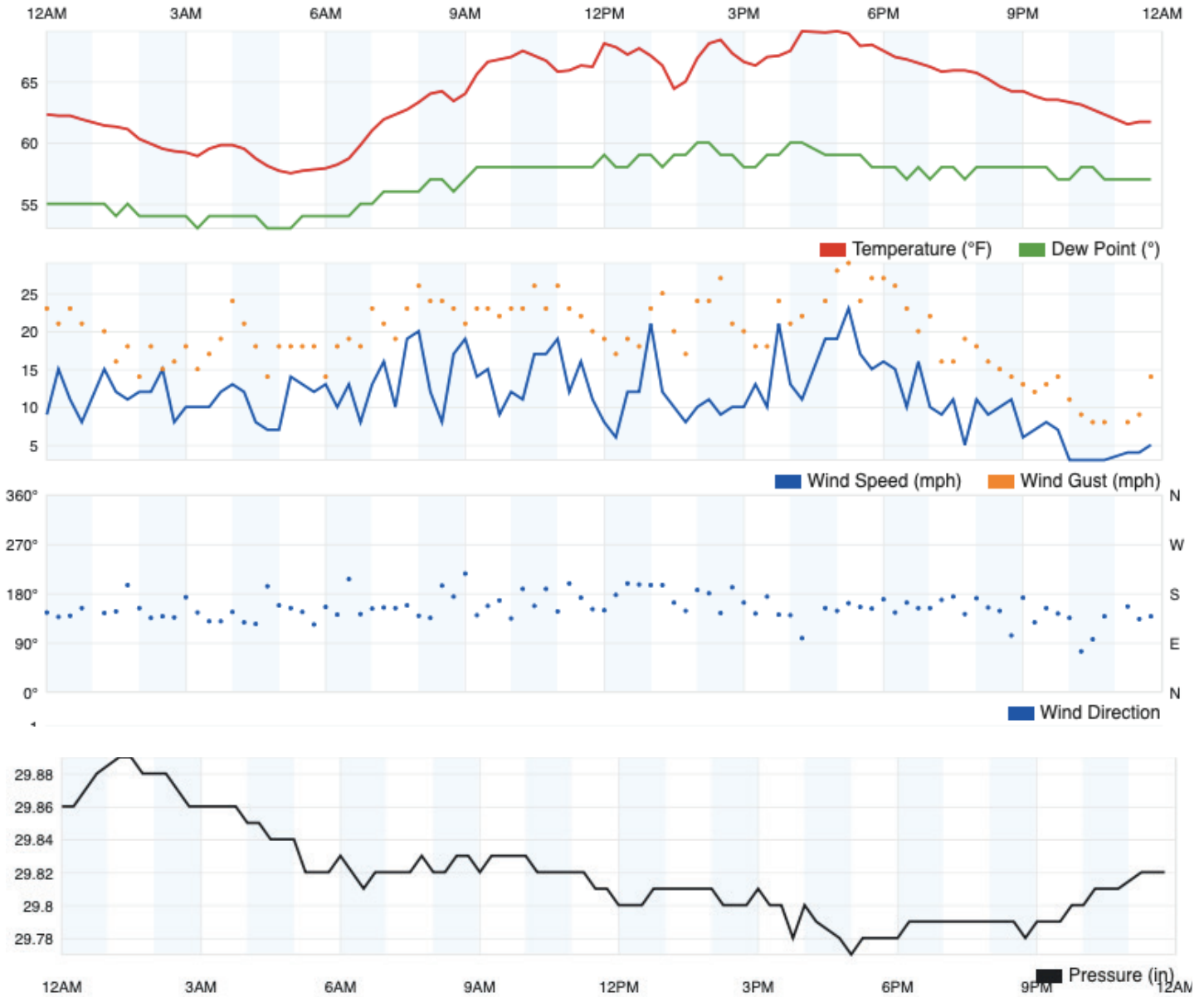
605-448-0048

[www.voldrealty.com](http://www.voldrealty.com) – [www.ag4bid.com](http://www.ag4bid.com)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 11 of 79

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 12 of 79

Today



Mostly Cloudy

High: 75 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 55 °F

Saturday



Partly Sunny

High: 78 °F

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy  
then T-storms  
Likely

Low: 60 °F

Sunday



Chance  
T-storms

High: 76 °F

**Mostly Cloudy Today**  
**Isolated Showers Across the East**  
**(Dry James Valley west)**

---

Highs Today near 70 in the east and near 80 in central SD  
Lows Tonight in the 50s

 **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
Aberdeen, SD 5/22/2020 4:26 AM  

Another seasonably warm and humid day across the region with chances for isolated showers across eastern SD and west central MN. Most of Saturday will be drier, but showers and thunderstorms will roll through the northern plains Saturday night.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 13 of 79

## Today in Weather History

May 22, 1963: A late spring freeze impacted many locations reporting lows in the lower 20s. Some low temperatures include: 18 degrees in Andover; 20 degrees in Britton, 4 NW of Gann Valley, Leola and Roscoe; 21 degrees Castlewood, Ipswich, Kennebec, Redfield, 2 NW of Stephen, and 1 west of Summit; 22 degrees in Aberdeen, Eureka, 1 west of Highmore, McLaughlin, and 4 west of Mellette.

May 22, 1993: Nearly stationary thunderstorms dumped five to seven one-half inches of rain and hail within three hours on the southwest side of Sioux Falls causing major urban flooding and a flash flood on an area creek. Water and sewage flooded at least 200 basements as the storm and sewer systems backed up. Water came up to the rooftops of many cars in the Empire Mall area. Power was knocked out at the Empire Mall and to 2600 other customers in southwest Sioux Falls. Rainwater came through the roof of the Empire Mall causing damage to some stores. Hail up to an inch in diameter fell continuously for up to one and one-half hours in parts of southwest Sioux Falls causing considerable damage to hundreds of roofs, trees, and gardens. Thousands of cars received damage from hail or water in Sioux Falls. In the Silver Glen area, a flash flood turned a typically three-foot wide creek to a hundred feet wide in places. At least five houses near this creek had severe damage caused by the rushing waters. The flash flood also tore out a section of a road adjacent to the creek, buckled sidewalks, ripped away 100-year-old trees, and floated a 5500 lb truck down the road.

May 22, 2010: An EF2 tornado in eastern Walworth County crossed into western Edmunds County and intensified into a massive EF4 tornado as it struck several farms in its path. At the first farm, several large cottonwood trees were uprooted along with damage to several trailers. Three-grain bins were also destroyed with debris located several hundred yards to the northeast. The residence suffered some shingle and antenna damage. The tornado then tracked northeast to a second farm where several outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along with widespread tree damage. The primary residence at this location suffered no damage. Several grain cars were also rolled about 100 yards into the trees behind the house. The massive tornado continued to track northeast to a third farm to the north of Bowdle. The main residence suffered major damage to walls with part of the roof structure removed. Widespread tree damage was sustained with many of the trees completely debarked with only the stumps of the largest branches remaining. Two large garages were destroyed with the concrete slab wiped clean. The vehicles in one garage were rolled or tossed from 25 to 100 yards away. It is estimated that one car flew through the air 75 to 100 yards resting in the tree shelter belt to the north of the residence. Several other outbuildings were destroyed. The tornado then toppled six to eight metal power transmission towers as it moved to the north of the farm. One tower was sheared off from the concrete footings and traveled an estimated 400 yards. Ground scouring was visible along the path of these towers. The large tornado continued to track east crossing over State Highway 47 where a state radio tower was toppled. The tornado lifted shortly after that. The highest wind speeds were estimated to be from 166 to 200 mph.

1876: Denver, Colorado was drenched with 6.50 inches of rain in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location.

1986: A devastating hailstorm hit the Sichuan Province of China. Reports indicate that up to 100 people were killed, 35,000 homes destroyed and entire crops devastated.

2011: On this day, one of the most devastating tornadoes in the nation's history directly killed 158 people and injured over 1,000 in Joplin, Missouri. The Joplin EF5 tornado was the first single tornado to result in over 100 fatalities since the June 8, 1953, Flint, Michigan tornado.

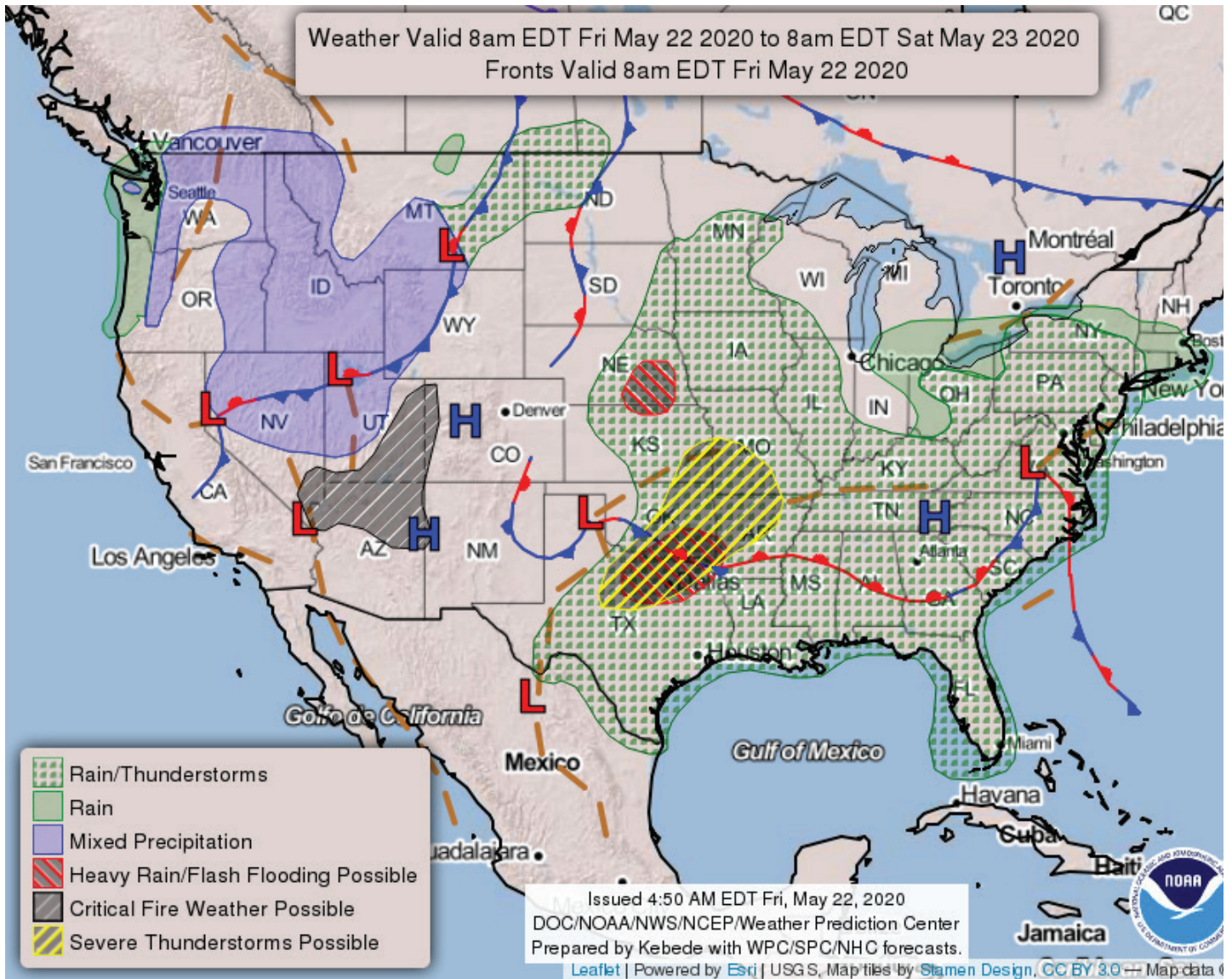
# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 14 of 79

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 70 °F at 5:07 PM**  
**Low Temp: 57 °F at 5:19 AM**  
**Wind: 29 mph at 4:49 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 92° in 1928**  
**Record Low: 22° in 1963**  
**Average High: 70°F**  
**Average Low: 46°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 2.15**  
**Precip to date in May.: 2.46**  
**Average Precip to date: 6.18**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.36**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:06 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:55 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 15 of 79



## WHY DO WE SUFFER?

Many of us, from time to time, ask ourselves the age-old question: "If God is God, and if God is a great God, and if God is a good God, and if God is a powerful God, why does He allow bad things to happen to me and others who have good intentions and want to please Him?"

Deep down we do believe that He is a good and great and powerful God. But, that question still nags at our innermost thoughts and feelings and, from time to time, challenges our faith with subtle doubts.

He certainly does have everything under His control, and He does desire our very best. But not all things, such as sorrow and suffering, seem good while we are going through them.

I remember very well my Mother's homemade bread. I would return home from school and the entire house would be filled with the aroma of warm, freshly baked bread waiting for some butter and homemade strawberry jam.

By themselves, I would not eat the flour, yeast, shortening or baking soda. But, when "Ma" mixed all the ingredients, allowed them to "rise," and then baked them in a hot oven, the results were amazing and wonderful.

Is that not how God works? Some pain here. A lot of suffering there. A time of grief. Sorrow for a season. Financial problems. Discouragement over a loss. That's God working in our lives - mixing everything together for our good and His glory in our lives.

Prayer: Father, give us grace and courage to look at our lives the way that You look at them - knowing and believing that everything works for our good and Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 16 of 79

## 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

### First piece of disputed Keystone XL pipeline finished

By **MATTHEW BROWN** Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A Canadian company has built the first piece of the disputed Keystone XL oil sands pipeline across the U.S. border and started work on labor camps in Montana and South Dakota. But it has not resolved a courtroom setback that would make it hard to finish the \$8 billion project.

The 1,200-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline from Alberta to Nebraska was stalled for much of the past decade before President Donald Trump was elected and began trying to push it through to completion.

Environmentalists and Native American tribes are bitterly opposed to the line because of worries over oil spills and that burning the fuel would make climate change worse.

Work finally started in April at the border crossing in remote northern Montana. That 1.2-mile section has now been completed except for some site reclamation activity, TC Energy spokeswoman Sara Rabern said.

The Calgary-based company has started site work for labor camps near Baker, Montana, and Philip, South Dakota, but it has not set a date to occupy them.

Montana officials have not yet received plans requested from the company to make sure it can prevent the camps from spreading the coronavirus, said Erin Loranger, a spokesperson for Montana Gov. Steve Bullock. The state expects to receive the plans before the camps are occupied, she said.

The company's three-year construction timeline was put into doubt following a May 15 ruling from a federal judge in Montana that cancelled a key permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The permit is needed to build the line across hundreds of streams, wetlands and other water bodies along its route.

The ruling affected all new oil and gas pipeline construction and was appealed by the Trump administration and TC Energy.

"We look forward to a resolution that allows us to advance our construction in 2020 without any further delay," Rabern said.

The work in South Dakota began amid high tensions between South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and two Native American tribes that have been outspoken opponents of the pipeline.

The governor is trying to force two tribes — the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes and the Oglala Sioux Tribe — to remove coronavirus checkpoints they have set up on federal and state highways in an attempt to keep infections away from their reservations.

The highways that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes are monitoring connect to several potential construction sites of the proposed pipeline route, which skirts tribal lands. The tribe has a policy of not allowing vehicles from any oil company on the reservation and with the checkpoints set up, they would stop those vehicles.

Noem initially threatened to sue the tribes. This week she appealed to the White House to investigate the matter.

Members of several tribes in Montana and North Dakota traveled to the border crossing for a small protest against the pipeline earlier this month, said Angeline Cheek, an activist from Montana's Fort Peck Tribe and organizer for the ACLU of Montana.

Large protests against Keystone XL had been anticipated following the months-long protests, sometimes violent, against another oil pipeline project several years ago near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on the North Dakota-South Dakota state line.

Cheek said TC Energy appeared to be taking advantage of the pandemic "to run all over us" while public attention was focused on the virus.

## Search fails to find missing girl, hunter in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A four-day search in western South Dakota has failed to find a missing girl and hunter.

The search for Serenity Dennard and missing hunter Larry Genzlinger began Saturday and continued through Tuesday.

Canine teams were used in the search. A spokeswoman for the Pennington County Sheriff's Office said the volunteers searched by foot and on side-by-sides and with a SHERP all-terrain vehicle.

The Rapid City Journal reports the teams covered 190 miles in the area Genzlinger went missing and 110 miles for Dennard.

Dennard was 9 when she ran away from the Black Hills Children's Home near Rockerville in February 2019. Genzlinger, of Howard, went missing while elk hunting with his nephew last October.

## Noem: Tribes' checkpoints dispute not just about coronavirus

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said on Thursday that her stance against Native American tribes operating coronavirus checkpoints on federal and state highways isn't just about the response to the coronavirus pandemic, but about setting "precedent" on tribes' ability to shut down traffic in other situations.

Noem threatened to sue the tribes two weeks ago, but then backed away from that plan and instead appealed to President Donald Trump to settle the issue this week. She said she is investigating all tribes that have set up checkpoints on federal and state highways. Three tribes — the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe — have set up the checkpoints to keep unnecessary visitors from the reservation who might be carrying coronavirus infections.

"If we allow checkpoints to shut down traffic in this situation, then we are setting precedent for that to happen far into the future," Noem said.

As construction related to the Keystone XL pipeline begins in South Dakota, the checkpoints add tension to an already-rocky relationship between the Republican governor and tribes that have been outspoken opponents of the pipeline. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, which has set up coronavirus checkpoints, does not allow vehicles from oil companies to pass through their land. The proposed pipeline route skirts tribal land, but construction companies could use the highways for transporting supplies.

Since Noem threatened to sue, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe also set up coronavirus checkpoints after an increase in coronavirus infections on its reservation.

Noem maintained that she did not regret threatening to take the tribes to court and said it was important to settle who had jurisdiction over highways stretching across reservations. She pointed to easements that allowed federal and state governments to build and maintain highways on tribal land.

The governor argued she has been a proponent for the tribes in a host of other areas, saying "we work together very well on 99% of issues."

But Chase Iron Eyes, a spokesman for the Oglala Sioux Tribe president, called Noem's decision to investigate the checkpoints an escalation of the feud.

"We're permitting people to pass through our reservations," he said in a statement. "We're screening people, according to the best advice from medical experts, not preventing travel."

The tribes say their focus is on keeping people safe during the pandemic and that their rights as a sovereign nation allow them to set up the checkpoints to protect people's health.

"It's disappointing that they're not respecting what we do," said Cheyenne River Sioux chairman Harold Frazier. "We value life over anything else."

Many Native American tribes in the state have taken a more vigilant approach to the coronavirus pandemic. There have been 324 confirmed cases among Native Americans in the state, according to the Department of Health.

Health officials also reported two more COVID-19 deaths and 73 new confirmed coronavirus cases

statewide on Thursday. The new figures bring the state's death toll to 48 and its confirmed case count to 4,250. State officials have said the total count does not reflect the total number of infections because many people may not display symptoms or have not sought testing if their symptoms are mild.

The economic fallout from the global pandemic has continued to cause layoffs in the state, according to the Department of Labor and Regulation. State officials reported that 3,806 people made new claims for unemployment last week.

## Man accused of vandalizing SculptureWalk arrested in Alaska

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man suspected of vandalizing an exhibit of outdoor art sculptures in Sioux Falls has been arrested in Alaska, officials said.

The 35-year-old man is being held on a felony charge of intentional damage to property between \$100,000 and \$500,000.

Brady Alexander Jackson was arrested Tuesday in Fairbanks, Alaska, after an arrest warrant was issued, Minnehaha County State's Attorney Crystal Johnson said Wednesday. He is currently waiting extradition back to South Dakota.

Officers responded to a report of vandalism downtown May 5 after two sculptures and several windows at U.S. Bank and the Carroll Institute were damaged, the Argus Leader reported.

Jackson was in Sioux Falls to buy a dog and had lived in Sioux Falls for a short time prior to moving to Alaska, according to the warrant.

He was recognized at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport by someone who sent in a tip to CrimeStoppers, officials said.

The SculptureWalk in downtown Sioux Falls is a collection of outdoor sculptures which are displayed year-round.

## Gunman fires weapon during Rapid City liquor store robbery

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are looking for a gunman who fired at least one round during a liquor store robbery.

No one was hurt in the gunfire at Time Square Liquor Wednesday afternoon, according to authorities. The suspect demanded money, then fled the scene.

"Well, any time you have an act of violence committed with a deadly weapon like a firearm and everyone can walk away from it unharmed it is a very fortunate circumstance," Brendyn Medina, Rapid City Police spokesman told KOTA-TV.

## Rural bankers survey index remains low in face of outbreak

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new survey of bankers in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states inched upward in May from April's record low, but still remained profoundly low as efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 wreaked havoc on the rural economy.

The overall index for the region rose slightly to 12.5 from April's record low of 12.1. Any score below 50 suggests a shrinking economy, while a score above 50 suggests a growing economy, survey organizers say.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, said nearly three of every four bankers surveyed reported restructuring farm loans to deal with weak farm income.

"As a result of the restructuring, bank CEOs expect farm loan defaults to expand by only 5.4% in the next 12 months," Goss said.

The survey's confidence index, which measures how bankers feel about the economy over the next six months, sank to 22.1 from April's 27.4 based on bankers' observations of weak agriculture commodity prices and layoffs.

The borrowing index slipped to 72.2 from April's 75.8.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Da-

kota and Wyoming were surveyed.

## Meatpacking safety recommendations are largely unenforceable

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Federal recommendations meant to keep meatpacking workers safe as they return to plants that were shuttered by the coronavirus have little enforcement muscle behind them, fueling anxiety that working conditions could put employees' lives at risk.

Extensive guidance issued last month by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that meatpacking companies erect physical barriers, enforce social distancing and install more hand-sanitizing stations, among other steps. But the guidance is not mandatory.

"It's like, 'Here's what we'd like you to do. But if you don't want to do it, you don't have to,'" said Mark Lauritsen, international vice president and director of the food processing and meatpacking division for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

The pandemic is "the most massive workers' safety crisis in many decades, and OSHA is in the closet. OSHA is hiding," said David Michaels, an epidemiologist who was the agency's assistant secretary of labor under President Barack Obama. Michaels called on OSHA to make the guidelines mandatory and enforceable, which would include the threat of fines.

OSHA's general guidance plainly says the recommendations are advisory and "not a standard or regulation," and they create "no new legal obligations."

But the guidance also says employers must follow a law known as the general duty clause, which requires companies to provide a workplace free of recognized hazards. Critics say that rule is unlikely to be enforced, especially after President Donald Trump signed an executive order in April aimed at keeping meat plants open.

Already, examples have emerged of questionable enforcement efforts and pressure to keep plants running:

— Shortly before Trump's order, state regulators in Iowa declined to inspect a Tyson Foods pork plant despite a complaint alleging workers had been exposed to the virus in crowded conditions. Documents obtained by The Associated Press show Iowa's OSHA agency took 2 1/2 weeks to contact Tyson, get a response and conclude that the company's voluntary efforts to improve social distancing at the Perry plant were "satisfactory." Within a week later, 730 workers — almost 60% of the workforce — had tested positive.

— In Kansas, the state softened its quarantine guidelines after industry executives pushed to allow potentially exposed employees to continue going to work, according to emails and text messages obtained by The Kansas City Star and The Wichita Eagle. The state had previously advised such employees to quarantine for two weeks, before conforming to the more lenient CDC guideline, which allows employees to continue working if they have no symptoms and use precautions. The move came after Tyson raised a concern with the state of rising worker absenteeism.

After Trump's executive order — developed with input from the industry — the Labor Department and OSHA said OSHA would use discretion and consider "good faith attempts" to follow safety recommendations. Employers would be given a chance to explain if some are not met. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue made clear in letters earlier this month that the Department of Agriculture expected state and local officials to work with meat plants to keep them running. And he said any closed plants without a timetable to reopen had to submit protocols to the USDA.

The USDA did not respond to repeated requests to provide those company plans to the AP. When asked how guidelines would be enforced, a USDA spokesperson said enforcement was up to OSHA.

Major meatpackers JBS, Smithfield and Tyson have said worker safety is their highest priority. They provided the AP with summaries of their efforts to improve safety, but the plans themselves have not been made public. Tyson said because the temporary suspension of its operations was voluntary and the company was already meeting or exceeding federal guidance, it was not required to submit a reopening plan to the USDA.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 21 of 79

One plan obtained by the AP, for the reopening of a JBS pork plant in Worthington, Minnesota, details multiple safety improvements, including installing physical barriers, increasing spacing between workers and requiring protective equipment. The plan includes photos. It says employees will be screened for health issues, but it makes no mention of requiring testing.

JBS spokesman Cameron Bruett said the plan "demonstrates the extraordinary measures" the plant has taken "to keep our team members safe as they provide food for the country."

In an emailed response to questions about how guidance would be enforced and what role OSHA would play in protecting workers, the Department of Labor said OSHA received 55 complaints in the animal-processing industry and opened 22 inspections since Feb. 1.

Echoing language from the general duty clause, the agency also noted longstanding rules that require employers to provide a safe workplace.

"OSHA's standards remain in place and enforceable, and they will continue to be as workers return to their workplaces," a labor spokesperson said.

Michaels, the former OSHA official, said the clause has no preventive effect and is generally enforced only after a worker is injured. He said it's effective only in cases in which OSHA conducts an inspection and issues citations and the employer agrees to fix the problem — so any impact is felt months or years later.

Michaels said OSHA will not issue citations if employers are doing their best to eliminate a hazard but find it's not feasible.

Jeffrey Lancaster, founder and CEO of Lancaster Safety Consulting in Wexford, Pennsylvania, said violations of the general duty clause can get expensive, especially if companies are found to be repeat violators, have a willful violation, or fail to fix an issue.

"The laws have been in place," he said. "It's just a new ballgame — a new hazard."

Minnesota is one of 22 states or territories with worker-protection agencies that cover private and government workers, and the state OSHA has the power to enforce the CDC and state Department of Health's COVID-19 safety guidelines under the general duty clause, spokesman James Honerman said.

The agency has two open investigations into the meatpacking businesses — one at a JBS plant in Worthington and one at a Pilgrim's Pride plant in Cold Spring, said Honerman, who could not discuss the investigations because they are pending.

Lauritsen, with the food workers' union, said OSHA has not done enough to hold employers accountable. The union is advocating for access to daily testing for all meat-production workers, personal protective equipment if necessary and paid sick leave.

"By and large, if our members are healthy enough, if they are not sick or on quarantine, they are going to show up to do their job," Lauritsen said. "But that doesn't mean that they're not anxious or not nervous."

## China boosts spending for virus-hit economy, takes up HK law

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's No. 2 leader on Friday promised higher spending to revive its pandemic-stricken economy and curb surging job losses but avoided launching a massive stimulus on the scale of the United States or Japan.

Premier Li Keqiang told lawmakers Beijing would set no economic growth target, usually a closely watched feature of government plans, in order to focus on fighting the outbreak. The virus battle "has not yet come to an end," Li warned.

Also Friday, legislators took up a proposed national security law for Hong Kong that activists complain might be used to suppress political activity. The Trump administration has warned it might withdraw the former British colony's preferential trade status if the "high degree of autonomy" promised by the mainland is eroded.

The coronavirus pandemic that prompted China to isolate cities with a total population of 60 million people added to strains for the ruling Communist Party that include anti-government protests in Hong Kong and a tariff war with Washington.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 22 of 79

China has reported 83,000 virus cases and 4,634 deaths from the virus. It was the first country to shut down factories, shops and travel to fight the pandemic and the first to reopen in March but it is still struggling to revive activity.

Private sector analysts say as much as 30% of the urban workforce, or as many as 130 million people, have lost their jobs at least temporarily. They say as many as 25 million jobs might be lost for good this year.

Beijing will give local governments 2 trillion yuan (\$280 billion) to spend on meeting goals including creating 9 million new jobs, Li said. That is in line with expectations for higher spending but a fraction of the \$1 trillion-plus stimulus packages launched or discussed by the United States, Japan and Europe.

"These are extraordinary measures for an unusual time," the premier said in the nationally televised speech.

The world's second-largest economy contracted by 6.8% over a year earlier in the three months ending in March after factories, offices, travel and other businesses were shut down to fight the virus. Forecasters expect little to no growth this year, down from 2019's 6.1%, already a multi-decade low.

The big deficit "indicates significant policy support for the domestic recovery," Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics said in a report.

However, Beijing is reluctant to launch a stimulus that would add to already high Chinese debt and strains on the financial system, Kuijs said.

Li also promised to work with Washington to carry out the truce signed in January in their fight over Beijing's technology ambitions and trade surplus. The premier gave no details, but President Donald Trump has threatened to back out of the deal if China fails to buy more American exports.

Strains with Washington have been aggravated by Trump's accusations that Beijing is to blame for the virus's global spread.

Also Friday, the government announced the military budget, the world's second-biggest after the United States, will rise 6.6% to 1.3 trillion yuan (\$178 billion). The military budget excludes some large items including acquisitions of major weapons systems.

This year's annual session of the ceremonial National People's Congress is being held under intensive anti-disease controls. Officials are holding news conferences by video instead of meeting reporters face to face. Reporters are required to undergo laboratory tests for the virus before being allowed into the press center.

The proposed Hong Kong security law will authorize the NPC to change the territory's Basic Law, or mini-constitution, to require its government to "prevent, stop and punish acts endangering national security," according to Wang Chen, a deputy chairman of the Congress's Standing Committee.

Friday's move appears to have been prompted by anti-government protests in Hong Kong that began in June over a proposed extradition law and have expanded to cover other grievances and demands for more democracy. A similar measure was withdrawn from Hong Kong's legislature in 2003 following massive public protests.

Wang said Beijing had to take action because activities in Hong Kong "threatened national security," according to the official Xinhua News Agency. Wang blamed the territory's failure to enact such measures on "sabotage and obstruction" by "external hostile forces" and people "trying to sow trouble in Hong Kong."

The Trump administration is delaying submission to Congress of a report on Hong Kong's status to see whether the NPC takes steps that "further undermine" its autonomy, said a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

"Any effort to impose national security legislation that does not reflect the will of the people of Hong Kong would be highly destabilizing, and would be met with strong condemnation from the United States and the international community," the spokesman, Frank Whitaker, said in an email.

Amnesty International complained in a statement that such "repressive security regulations" are a "threat to the rule of law in Hong Kong" and an "ominous moment for human rights in the city."

Hong Kong's main stock market index tumbled 5.6% on the news. Other Asian markets also declined due to concern about U.S.-Chinese tension but none by such a wide margin.

Li urged officials to make progress in areas including employment, trade, attracting foreign investment,

meeting the public's basic living needs and ensuring the stability of industrial supply chains.

Ensuring economic growth is "of crucial significance" even though Beijing set no official target, Li said. Pressure on employment has "risen significantly," he said.

Automakers and other manufacturers say production has rebounded almost to normal levels, but consumer spending, the main engine of economic growth, is weak amid widespread worries about potential job losses.

Forecasters say China is likely to face a "W-shaped recovery" with a second downturn and millions of politically volatile job losses later in the year due to weak U.S. and European demand for Chinese exports.

The ruling party hopes to achieve longer-term goals including eliminating rural poverty despite virus-related disruptions of efforts to double economic output and incomes from 2010 levels by this year.

"We will give priority to stabilizing employment and ensuring people's livelihood and resolutely win the battle to overcome poverty," the premier said.

## **Pakistani passenger plane crashes near Karachi, 107 on board**

**By ADIL JAWAD Associated Press**

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A passenger plane carrying 107 passengers and crew belonging to state-run Pakistan International Airlines crashed near the southern port city of Karachi on Friday, a civil aviation official said.

There were no immediate reports on the number of casualties. The aircraft arriving from the eastern city of Lahore was carrying 99 passengers and eight crew members, said Abdul Sattar Kokhar, spokesman for the country's civil aviation authority.

Witnesses said the Airbus A320 appeared to attempt to land two or three times before crashing in a residential area near Jinnah International Airport. The residential area on the edge of the airport known as Model Colony is a poor area and heavily congested.

A resident of the area, Abdul Rahman, said he saw the aircraft circle at least three times, appearing to try to land before it crashed into several houses.

Police and military cordoned off the area.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted: "Shocked & saddened by the PIA crash. . . Immediate inquiry will be instituted. Prayers & condolences go to families of the deceased."

Local television reports showed smoke coming from the direction of the airport and video emerging of the aircraft flying low over a residential area seemed showed apparent flames shooting from one of the engines. Ambulances were on their way to the airport and there were reports of some injuries, possibly residents on the ground.

Airbus did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the crash. The flight typically takes an hour and a half from the northeastern city of Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, to Karachi.

Airworthiness documents showed the plane last received a government check on Nov. 1, 2019. PIA's chief engineer signed a separate certificate April 28 saying all maintenance had been conducted on the plane and that "the aircraft is fully airworthy and meets all the safety" standards.

Ownership records for the Airbus A320 involved in the crash showed China Eastern Airlines flew the plane from 2004 until 2014. The plane then entered PIA's fleet, leased from GE Capital Aviation Services.

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

**By The Associated Press undefined**

Your daily look at nonvirus stories in the news:

1. SUPREME COURT WEIGHS TRUMP'S BID TO BLOCK SUBPOENAS The president won at least a temporary reprieve from the Supreme Court earlier this week in keeping secret grand jury materials from the Russia investigation away from Democratic lawmakers.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 24 of 79

2. CHINA BOOSTS SPENDING BUT NO BIG STEPS ON VIRUS-HIT ECONOMY China's No. 2 leader promises higher spending to revive its pandemic-stricken economy and curb surging job losses but steered clear of launching a massive stimulus.

3. MAN WHO VIDEOTAPED ARBERY SHOOTING VIDEO CHARGED IN HIS SLAYING The Georgia man whose cellphone video of Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting helped reignite the case is charged with murder.

4. KHASHOGGI'S SONS FORGIVE SAUDI KILLERS The family of slain Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi announces they have forgiven his Saudi killers, giving legal reprieve to the five government agents who'd been sentenced to death.

5. WILL VIRUS KEEP FLORIDA SPECTATORS FROM ASTRONAUT LAUNCH? In the age of coronavirus, Florida officials and NASA are split on whether it's a good idea for spectators to show up for next week's space launch.

## Virus accelerates across Latin America, India, Pakistan

By LORI HINNANT, SHEIKH SAALIQ and DAVID BILLER Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic accelerated across Latin America, Russia and the Indian subcontinent on Friday even as curves flattened and reopening was underway in much of Europe, Asia and the United States.

Many governments say they have to shift their focus to saving jobs that are vanishing as quickly as the virus can spread. In the United States and China, the world's two largest economies, unemployment is soaring.

The Federal Reserve chairman has estimated that up to one American in four could be jobless, while in China analysts estimate around a third of the urban workforce is unemployed.

But the virus is roaring through countries ill-equipped to handle the pandemic, which many scientists fear will seed the embers of a second global wave.

India saw its biggest single-day spike since the pandemic began, and Pakistan and Russia recorded their highest death tolls. Most new Indian cases are in Bihar, where thousands returned home from jobs in the cities. For over a month, some walked among crowds for hundreds of miles.

Latin America's two most populous nations — Mexico and Brazil — have reported record counts of new cases and deaths almost daily this week, fueling criticism of their presidents, who have slow-walked shut-downs in attempts to limit economic damage.

Cases were rising and intensive-care units were also swamped in Peru, Chile and Ecuador — countries lauded for imposing early and aggressive business shutdowns and quarantines.

Brazil reported more than 20,000 deaths and 300,000 confirmed cases Thursday night — the third worst-hit country in the world by official counts. Experts consider both numbers undercounts due to widespread lack of testing.

"It does not forgive, it does not choose race, or if you are rich or poor, black or white," Bruno Almeida de Mello, a 24-year-old Uber driver, said at his 66-year-old grandmother's burial in Rio de Janeiro. "It's sad that in other countries people believe, but not here."

She had all the virus's symptoms, but Vandaelma Rosa's death certificate reads "Suspected of COVID-19," he said, because her hospital lacked tests. That means she didn't figure in the death toll, which nevertheless on Thursday marked its biggest single-day increase: 1,181.

President Jair Bolsonaro has scoffed at the seriousness of the virus and actively campaigned against state governors' attempts to limit movement and commerce.

Bolsonaro fired his first health minister for supporting governors. His second minister resigned after openly disagreeing with Bolsonaro about chloroquine, the predecessor of the anti-malarial often touted by U.S. President Donald Trump as a viable coronavirus treatment.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador downplayed the threat for weeks as he continued to travel the country after Mexico's first confirmed case. He insisted that Mexico was different, that its strong family bonds and work ethic would pull it through.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 25 of 79

The country is now reporting more than 400 deaths a day, and new infections still haven't peaked.

Armando Sepulveda, a mausoleum manager in the massive Mexico City suburb of Ecatepec, said his burial and cremation business has doubled in recent weeks.

"The crematoriums are saturated," Sepulveda said. "All of the ovens don't have that capacity." Families scour the city looking for funeral services that can handle their dead, because the hospitals can't keep the bodies, he said.

Meanwhile Mexico's government has shifted its attention to reactivating the economy. Mining, construction and parts of the North American automotive supply chain were allowed to resume operations this week.

Russian health officials registered 150 deaths in 24 hours, for a total of 3,249. Many outside Russia have suggested the country is manipulating its statistics to show a comparatively low death rate. The total confirmed number of cases exceeded 326,000 on Friday.

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, who himself recovered from coronavirus, said earlier this week that only 27 regions out of 85 are ready to gradually lift their lockdowns. At least three cabinet ministers also contracted the disease, as well as the Kremlin spokesman.

China announced it would give local governments 2 trillion yuan (\$280 billion) to help undo the damage from shutdowns imposed to curb the spread of the virus that first appeared in the city of Wuhan in late 2019 and has now infected at least 5.1 million people worldwide, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The Bank of Japan said it would provide \$280 billion in zero-interest, unsecured loans to banks for financing small and medium-size businesses.

European countries also have seen heavy job losses, but robust government safety-net programs in places like Germany and France are subsidizing the wages of millions of workers and keeping them on the payroll. Tourism, a major income generator for Europe, has become a flashpoint as countries debate whether to quarantine new arrivals this summer for the virus's two-week maximum incubation period.

Spain's National Statistics Institute published its tourism report Friday showing columns of zeros for overnight stays, average length of stays and occupancy rates in April. Spain is Europe's second most popular tourist destination, after France, and an economic recovery without visitors is all but unthinkable.

Nearly 39 million Americans have lost their jobs since the crisis accelerated two months ago. States from coast to coast are gradually reopening their economies and letting people return to work, but more than 2.4 million people filed for unemployment last week alone.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said over the weekend that U.S. unemployment could peak in May or June at 20% to 25%, a level last seen during the depths of the Great Depression almost 90 years ago. Unemployment in April stood at 14.7%, a figure also unmatched since the 1930s.

In an eerie echo of famous Depression-era images, U.S. cities are authorizing homeless tent encampments, including San Francisco, where about 80 tents are now neatly spaced out on a wide street near city hall as part of a "safe sleeping village" opened last week. The area between the city's central library and its Asian Art Museum is fenced off to outsiders, monitored around the clock and provides meals, showers, clean water and trash pickup.

Nathan Rice, a 32-year-old who is camping there, said he'd much rather have a hotel room than a tent on a sidewalk.

"I hear it on the news, hear it from people here that they're going to be getting us hotel rooms," he said. "That's what we want, you know, to be safe inside."

Despite an often combative approach to scientists who disagree with him, Trump's approval ratings have remained steady, underscoring the way Americans seem to have made up their minds about him. A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research says 41% approve of his job performance, while 58% disapprove. That's consistent with opinions of him throughout his three years in office.

The World Bank announced a \$500 million program for countries in East Africa battling COVID-19 and deadly flooding along with historic swarms of ravenous desert locusts. The added threat of the pandemic has further imperiled a region where millions lack regular access to food.

While many African countries have been praised for their response to the coronavirus, Tanzania is the most dramatic exception, run by a president who questions — or fires — his own health experts and says prayer has solved the crisis.

The East African country's number of confirmed virus cases hasn't changed for three weeks, and the international community is openly worrying that Tanzania's government is hiding the true scale of the pandemic. Just over 500 cases have been reported in a country of nearly 60 million people.

## Trump lashes out at scientists whose findings contradict him

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "A Trump enemy statement," he said of one study.

"A political hit job," he said of another.

As President Donald Trump pushes to reopen the country despite warnings from doctors about the consequences of moving too quickly during the coronavirus crisis, he has been lashing out at scientists whose conclusions he doesn't like.

Twice this week, Trump has not only dismissed the findings of studies but suggested — without evidence — that their authors were motivated by politics and out to undermine his efforts to roll back coronavirus restrictions.

First it was a study funded in part by his own government's National Institutes of Health that raised alarms about the use of hydroxychloroquine, finding higher overall mortality in coronavirus patients who took the drug while in Veterans Administration hospitals. Trump and many of his allies had been trumpeting the drug as a miracle cure and Trump this week revealed that he has been taking it to try to ward off the virus — despite an FDA warning last month that it should only be used in hospital settings or clinical trials because of the risk of serious side effects, including life-threatening heart problems.

"If you look at the one survey, the only bad survey, they were giving it to people that were in very bad shape. They were very old, almost dead," Trump told reporters Tuesday. "It was a Trump enemy statement."

He offered similar pushback Thursday to a new study from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. It found that more than 61% of COVID-19 infections and 55% of reported deaths — nearly 36,000 people — could have been prevented had social distancing measures been put in place one week sooner. Trump has repeatedly defended his administration's handling of the virus in the face of persistent criticism that he acted too slowly.

"Columbia's an institution that's very liberal," Trump told reporters Thursday. "I think it's just a political hit job, you want to know the truth."

Trump has long been skeptical of mainstream science — dismissing human-made climate change as a "hoax," suggesting that noise from wind turbines causes cancer and claiming that exercise can deplete a body's finite amount of energy. It's part of a larger skepticism of expertise and backlash against "elites" that has become increasingly popular among Trump's conservative base.

But undermining Americans' trust in the integrity and objectivity of scientists is especially dangerous during a pandemic when the public is relying on its leaders to develop policies based on the best available information, said Larry Gostin, a Georgetown University law professor who is an expert in public health.

"If the president is politicizing science, if he's discounting health experts, then the public is going to be fearful and confused," Gostin said, calling it "dismaying."

The White House rejected that thinking, noting that Trump has followed his administration's public health officials' recommendations through much of the crisis.

"Any suggestion that the president does not value scientific data or the important work of scientists is patently false as evidenced by the many data-driven decision he has made to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including cutting off travel early from highly-infected populations, expediting vaccine development, issuing the 15-day and later 30-day guidance to 'slow the spread,' and providing governors with a clear, safe road map to opening up America again," said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

Yet Trump has made clear that, at least when it comes to hydroxychloroquine, he has prioritized anecdotal

dotal evidence, including a letter he told reporters he'd received from a doctor in Westchester, New York, claiming success with the drug.

Asked this week what evidence he had that the drug was effective in preventing COVID-19, Trump responded: "Are you ready? Here's my evidence: I get a lot of positive calls about it."

That veterans study, funded by grants from the NIH and the University of Virginia, was not a rigorous experiment, but a retrospective analysis by researchers at several universities looking at the impact of hydroxychloroquine in patients at veterans' hospitals across the nation. It found no benefit and more deaths among those given hydroxychloroquine versus standard care alone. The work was posted online for researchers and has not been reviewed by other scientists.

The Columbia study, in draft form, also hasn't yet been published or reviewed by other experts. The researchers ran numbers through a mathematical model, making assumptions about how quickly the coronavirus spreads and how people behave in hypothetical circumstances.

Trump's criticism of the studies also comes as his allies have been eager to counter messaging from public health experts who say Trump is putting lives at risk by pushing states to quickly reopen in an election year. Republican political operatives have been recruiting pro-Trump doctors to go on television to advocate for reviving the U.S. economy as quickly as possible, without waiting to meet federal safety benchmarks.

Gostin said Trump should leave it to his public health agencies to assess emerging data and the value of various studies.

"I think there are real dangers," he said, "for the president to play scientist and doctor on TV."

## **Man who filmed Arbery shooting video charged in his slaying** **By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press**

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — The Georgia man whose cellphone video of Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting helped reignite the case was charged with murder Thursday, making him the third person arrested more than two months after the slaying.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said 50-year-old William "Roddie" Bryan Jr. was arrested on charges of felony murder and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment. Agents later searched Bryan's home, several TV stations reported. The GBI said in a statement that it would hold a news conference Friday morning.

Arbery was slain Feb. 23 when a white father and son armed themselves and pursued him after spotting the 25-year-old black man running in their neighborhood. More than two months passed before authorities arrested Gregory McMichael, 64, and his son, Travis McMichael, 34, on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault. Gregory McMichael told police he suspected Arbery was a burglar and that Arbery attacked his son before being shot.

Bryan lives in the same subdivision just outside the port city of Brunswick, and the video he took from the cab of his vehicle helped stir a national outcry when it leaked online May 5.

The video quickly drew a strong reaction from Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican who called it "absolutely horrific." The Georgia Bureau of Investigation soon took over the case from local police, and the arrests of the McMichaels followed on May 7.

Under Georgia law, a person can be charged with felony murder for committing any felony that causes the death of someone else. It does not require intent to kill and carries an automatic life sentence.

In the Glynn County police incident report on the shooting, Gregory McMichael told an officer that at one point Arbery "began running back the direction from which he came and 'Roddy' attempted to block him which was unsuccessful." It's the only mention in the police report of any potential involvement by Bryan.

Bryan's attorney, Kevin Gough, did not immediately return a phone message Thursday. He has previously insisted Bryan played no role in Arbery's death.

"Roddie Bryan is not now, and has never been, more than a witness to the shooting," Gough said in a statement on the case Monday. "He is not a vigilante. Roddie did not participate in the horrific killing of this young man. Mr. Bryan has committed no crime, and bears no criminal responsibility in the death of

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 28 of 79

Ahmaud Arbery.”

Meanwhile, attorneys for Arbery’s parents cheered the news of Bryan’s arrest.

“We called for his arrest from the very beginning of this process,” attorneys S. Lee Merritt, Benjamin Crump and L. Chris Stewart said in a statement. “His involvement in the murder of Mr. Arbery was obvious to us, to many around the country and after their thorough investigation, it was clear to the GBI as well.”

Bryan’s video of the shooting was taken from the driver’s seat of a vehicle following Arbery as he runs along a residential street. A pickup truck is parked in the road ahead of Arbery, with one man in the truck’s bed and another standing beside the open driver’s side door.

The video shows Arbery run around the truck to the right before he cuts back in front of it. Then a gunshot can be heard, followed by a second shot. Arbery can be seen punching a man holding what appears to be a shotgun, who then fires a third shot point-blank. Arbery staggers and falls face down in the street.

Gregory McMichael retired last year after more than two decades as an investigator for the local prosecutor’s office. Because of those ties, Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jackie Johnson recused herself from the case. Two outside prosecutors assigned the case have also stepped aside.

The McMichaels remain jailed in Glynn County waiting for a preliminary court hearing and for a judge to decide whether to free them on bond pending trial. Attorneys for the father and son have urged people not to rush to judgment in the case.

## Hong Kong opposition slams China national security law move

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers sharply criticized China’s move to take over long-stalled efforts to enact national security legislation in the semi-autonomous territory, saying it goes against the “one country, two systems” framework in which Beijing promised the city freedoms not found on the mainland.

The proposed bill, submitted Friday on the opening day of China’s national legislative session, is aimed at forbidding secessionist and subversive activity, as well as foreign interference and terrorism. It comes after months of pro-democracy demonstrations last year that at times descended into violence between police and protesters.

The bill, one of the most controversial items on the agenda of the National People’s Congress in years, drew strong rebukes from the U.S. government and rights groups. Despite that, Beijing appears to have lost patience and is determined to assert greater control in Hong Kong and limit opposition activity following last year’s protests.

“Xi Jinping has torn away the whole pretense of ‘one country, two systems,’” former pro-democracy lawmaker Lee Cheuk-yan said of China’s leader.

He said at a news briefing by opposition parties and activists that the move shows Beijing is “directly taking control.”

“They’re trying to ban every organization in Hong Kong who dares to speak out against the Communist Party,” he said, describing it as a challenge to global values such as freedom and liberty.

Wang Chen, vice chairman of the National People’s Congress, said the protests and violence in Hong Kong had challenged the “one country, two systems” principle and the aim of the legislation was to stop any behavior that posed potential security threats.

Wang said Hong Kong’s legal system and enforcement must be established and improved “at the state level” to “change the long-lasting situation of defenselessness in the national security affairs in Hong Kong.”

China’s foreign ministry said Hong Kong is China’s internal affair and “no foreign country has the right to intervene.”

“The Chinese government is determined in safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and development interests, following through the policy of ‘one country, two systems,’ and opposing any external interference in Hong Kong affairs,” ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing.

A previous effort to pass such legislation in Hong Kong’s legislature was shelved after massive street

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 29 of 79

protests in 2003. This time, Beijing has decided to circumvent the territory's lawmaking body using what critics say are dubious legal grounds under the Basic Law, which has served as a sort of constitution for Hong Kong since its return to China from British colonial rule in 1997.

Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam said in a statement that the national security law "will not affect the legitimate rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents under the law, or the independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, exercised by the Judiciary in Hong Kong."

"I deeply believe that the national law to be enacted by the Standing Committee of the NPC will seek to practically and effectively prevent and curb acts and activities that seriously undermine national security, as well as sanction those who undermine national security by advocating "Hong Kong independence" and resorting to violence," Lam said.

While the enactment of such legislation is required under Article 23 of the Basic Law, Beijing has decided not to try to ram it through the Hong Kong legislature, said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Instead, it has chosen what he called a "worse option" by proposing the National People's Congress enact a national security law for the territory.

"For many in Hong Kong, the NPC enacting for Hong Kong will be tantamount to the effective end of the 'one country, two systems' model," Tsang said. "I find it hard to believe this will not trigger either a massive peaceful and orderly demonstration or more vocal and aggressive protests or, indeed, most probably, a combination of both."

A return of violent protests would be a further drag on the territory's creaking economy, prompting multinational companies to reconsider their presence and Washington to review its policy of granting Hong Kong more advantageous trade conditions than mainland China, Tsang said.

Hong Kong's main stock market index fell 5.6% on news of the bill. Other Asian markets also declined due to concern about U.S.-Chinese tension, but none by such a wide margin.

Former Hong Kong leader C.Y. Leung defended the introduction of the legislation in an interview with Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. He warned that the pro-democracy opposition should not "underestimate the determination of the Chinese government to deal with the issues of Hong Kong."

Pro-Beijing lawmaker Martin Liao said that Hong Kong had "legal obligations" to introduce national security legislation and since 23 years have passed and there is no foreseeable plan to do so, that now was a "proper time to deal with this."

"For 23 years, in the absence of proper national security legislation, I think the central government has been very tolerant," Liao said in a news briefing by the pro-Beijing camp.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Tanya Chan countered that the proposal violates the Basic Law. "It is a complete dishonor of promises made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, as well as all the promises made by the Chinese government to us and the world," she said.

## **Biden accuser's life marred by abuse and financial hardship**

**By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, BRIAN SLODYKO, MARYCLAIRE DALE and MARTHA MENDOZA**

**Associated Press**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP) — One thing is clear in the complicated, sometimes contradictory and often chaotic story of Tara Reade: Her life has not been easy.

Her earliest childhood memory was of being abused by her father, she told her former husband, a man she would later leave after he abused her, too.

She was also a child of big dreams, of being an Olympic skier and studying acting at Juilliard, before developing an interest in politics. She was hired in 1992 for a low-level staff job for one of the nation's highest-profile senators at the time, Joe Biden. Less than a year later, Reade said, she was again the victim of abuse, assaulted by Biden in the hallway of a Senate office building — an allegation he vehemently denies.

That accusation, which Reade made publicly for the first time in March, has revived difficult questions

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 30 of 79

about how to evaluate allegations of assault in the era of #MeToo. It also has thrust Reade's life story into the 2020 presidential race and, with it, scrutiny of a woman with a winding trail of extreme debt, an unfounded claim of educational attainment and questionable business practices. Along the way, some people who dealt with her found her duplicitous and deceitful, while others found her a heroic survivor.

And Reade's story about the alleged assault by Biden is hardly a straight line. It has changed over the past year, from accusations of uncomfortable, harassing behavior to allegations of assault. Reade came forward publicly with her most serious accusation just as Biden was securing a path to the Democratic presidential nomination.

It is often not possible to conclusively resolve an allegation like the one Reade has made, where there are no witnesses and no timely police report.

So how her claim is evaluated turns largely on her credibility.

By some accounts, Reade is a bright and engaging woman who has tried her best as a single mother to raise her daughter while constantly looking for a fresh start. In others, Reade uses her charm and flair for drama to manipulate those supporting her until their goodwill runs out.

Reade says her critics have her wrong.

"I'm not a lying, manipulative user," she said in a Wednesday interview with The Associated Press. "I've really understood what it's like to be struggling and poor. I've really tried to help people when I could."

This account of Reade's life is based on interviews with more than a dozen of her friends, relatives and personal and professional associates, as well as numerous interviews with Reade. The AP also reviewed hundreds of pages of court documents, emails and Reade's own writings.

## CHILDHOOD OF DREAMS, DISAPPOINTMENT

Reade was born Tara Moulton in the coastal town of Monterey, California, and says she spent most of her childhood living on a farm in northern Wisconsin. Her father, Robert Reade Moulton, worked as a sportswriter for the Wausau Daily Herald in the 1960s before taking a public relations job with a defense contractor in Minnesota; Reade said her mother, Jeanette Altimus, was an artist.

Reade has written that she was an accomplished skier who qualified for the Junior Olympics team in downhill skiing at age 12 in Wisconsin and trained for three years before her parents' divorce prompted a move to Athens, Georgia.

A stepbrother said most people in Wausau skied, mainly at nearby Rib Mountain, but he does not remember Reade being a standout.

"I'm sure Tara did, but I don't really remember her getting some significant accolades for her performance," said Scott Thoma, 56, of Mound, Minnesota, who was a year ahead of Reade in middle school, when his mother married her father.

Reade and her brother Collin lived with her mother after her parents' split, eventually moving to Georgia, while Moulton and his new wife moved to the Minneapolis area.

Another of Reade's aspirations was to be an actress, performing in "school theatre, community and regional theatre, sprinkled with some radio and television commercials," according to her blog. She set out for California to pursue acting at age 17 and said she got a referral from a friend to informally train with Robert Reed, an actor best known for his role as the "Brady Bunch" father. She also said she scored an audition in New York for The Juilliard School's exclusive acting program.

Reade said she learned at the audition that no scholarships were available and returned home broken-hearted when her father said he wouldn't pay the tuition. The school declined to confirm whether Reade was selected for an audition.

She wrote in January that her father, who died in 2016, was physically and emotionally abusive throughout her childhood.

"Thwarting my college dreams was the mild bit, the rejection and the physical assaults set the stage for how I would walk into the world," she wrote.

Reade often discussed the issue with her former husband, Ted Dronen, according to Dronen's account in the couple's divorce filings.

"She referenced a long history of events dating back to her first memories in which her father would

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 31 of 79

physically and emotionally, and mentally abuse her. She stated also that her mother seemed not to interfere with petitioner's father's abuse," he wrote.

Thoma described Reade's parents as alcoholics but said he never saw Moulton become angry when he drank, or emotionally or physically abuse Reade or anyone else.

"He got frustrated at her," said Thoma, adding that Reade started more things than she finished. "He would have to put the kibosh on whatever she wanted. But no, I never saw Bob lay a hand on any of us kids, or Collin and Tara."

Dronen, in the court documents, described Reade as also having a sometimes tumultuous relationship with her mother, who he said kicked her out of her house during a fall 1994 argument while Reade was in the late stages of a pregnancy.

Reade has said her mother, who also died in 2016, was one of the few people she confided in about Biden's alleged assault.

Early abuse can inform a victim's relationships for the rest of his or her life, according to Barbara Ziv, a forensic psychologist and sexual assault expert.

"If you grow up in an abusive household, where your needs, your basic needs aren't met and you aren't taught to appropriately identify boundaries or emotions, then that's going to impact the way that you develop as an adult," Ziv said.

## AN EYE TOWARD POLITICS

There's little public accounting of the next few years of Reade's life, after she says her Juilliard dreams were dashed.

She eventually attended Pasadena City College, where she says her strong performance in a political science class helped her land an internship in Washington with then-California Rep. Leon Panetta.

Reade said in the 2019 interview that she then worked as a field manager for Santa Barbara County Supervisor Gloria Ochoa in her campaign against Rep. Michael Huffington, the former husband of Arianna Huffington. A few days after Ochoa's loss, Reade said, she got a call to interview for a job with Biden — which she described as a dream job. It was unclear how that interview came about.

"I just always wanted to work for Biden. Because at the time, he was the champion of women's legislation, women's rights legislation," she told the AP.

Reade said she traveled to Washington and was interviewed by Biden's executive assistant, Marianne Baker. During their conversation, she said, Biden walked in and was introduced to the young job prospect.

"He kind of smiled and said, 'Hire her,'" Reade said. "That was it."

## WORKING FOR BIDEN

Once she was in Washington, multiple friends described Reade as a young woman coming into her own.

Stacey Lentz, a friend at the time who worked in North Dakota Sen. Kent Conrad's office, said the two would get together for lunch on Capitol Hill, and on days off, they'd peruse antique shops or enjoy a ballgame.

Another close friend of Reade's, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect her family's privacy, described her as a laid-back Californian in contrast to her own East Coast conservative upbringing. All three lived in Thompson Markward Hall, a women's dormitory across the street from the Hart Senate Office Building.

Over the years, Reade spoke favorably about working for Biden.

Margie Estberg, of Aptos, California, said she got to know Reade after hiring her in late 2017 to pet sit. Over a pizza dinner and cocktails in 2018, Estberg said she asked Reade what Biden was like — and whether Biden was one of the "bad guys."

"I said, 'Is he a nice guy?' And she said, 'Yeah, he is,'" Estberg recently recalled. "I said, 'Oh, good. Because I hate to see somebody who you think is a decent person and somebody shuts them down and says, 'No, they aren't.'"

Reade said she didn't share details of the alleged assault with Estberg because she wasn't ready to discuss it.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 32 of 79

But Reade's friend, the one who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity, said Reade told her a much different story about Biden in 1993. That's when Reade says she was asked to deliver a gym bag to Biden in a Senate office building; when she met him, she says, he kissed her and digitally penetrated her.

The friend said Reade called her a few nights after the assault allegedly occurred, and the friend described in vivid detail feeling "so physically sick" at the disclosure that she ran to the bathroom and threw up in the middle of their conversation.

Reade recommended that the AP interview the friend, and reporters spoke to her multiple times, beginning in 2019. Initially, the friend confirmed Reade's original, limited account of harassment by Biden. When Reade added assault to her allegation in March of this year, this friend also added those details to her own recollection.

This friend says she counseled Reade not to file a police report, and now expresses deep regret for what she characterized as leading Reade astray in dealing with the situation.

Reade left Washington shortly after the alleged assault. She says she tried to complain about harassment by Biden — but not assault — to a Senate personnel office and the senator's top advisers, but felt retaliated against and ultimately said she was encouraged to find another job and quit.

## MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, ABUSE

During her time in Washington, Reade met Ted Dronen, whom she describes in a 2009 essay as "a smiling 6'4" blonde Nordic-looking man" who playfully shot her with a water gun at a party one spring night in 1993.

Facing financial difficulties after leaving Biden's office, Reade moved in with Dronen and ultimately asked to follow him to North Dakota, where he was working on a campaign that winter, according to his account in court records.

In her divorce filing, Reade described early warning signs that Dronen was explosive and unstable and says she fled North Dakota for California after Dronen became upset that she was pregnant. She soon came back to him, however, and they married in July 1994 and had a daughter that November.

In a domestic violence case filed 15 months later, Dronen admits that he attacked Reade but alleges that Reade got violent with him as well.

"I admit that on February 21, 1996 my wife and I were involved in a heated argument and during that argument that I may have acted out in an inappropriate manner. During our marriage my wife and I had arguments. She has on past occasions struck me; specifically, in the face. That fact, however, does not excuse my conduct on the date in question," he states.

Dronen did not respond to several requests for comment.

In court documents, he suggested that Reade conflated childhood traumas with her recollections of abuse by him.

"I believe these incidences, in addition to the abuse, harassment and other traumatic (sic) events in Petitioner's life, color Petitioner's perception and judgment in the instant case and I believe them to be the underlying psychological reasons that Petitioner is making me out to be some sort of monster," he said.

During their divorce proceedings, Dronen also told the court that Reade said she was harassed while working in Biden's office, but made no mention of assault, a detail that was first reported by the San Luis Obispo Tribune.

"On several occasions petitioner related a problem that she was having at work regarding sexual harassment in U.S. Senator Joe Biden's office," he wrote. Reade "eventually struck a deal" with Biden's chief of staff and left the office, and Dronen supported her financially as she looked for work.

## TURBULENT TIMES

The past two decades of Reade's life have been tumultuous. In her own telling, she had to flee Dronen's abuse, took shelter in domestic violence safe houses and moved to Washington state, where she changed her name to Alexandra Tara McCabe. She also said she received a new Social Security number to protect her safety, putting her in a "really vulnerable economic situation."

She said the focus on her financial difficulties since coming forward with her allegation against Biden



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 33 of 79

was "classist" and should have no bearing on the credibility of her accusation.

"How high does your credit score have to be to be believed as a victim of sexual assault?" Reade asked.

Reade's resume states that she graduated from Antioch University with a bachelor's degree in political science and later worked at the school's Seattle campus as an "Ongoing Online Visiting Professor for degree completion." But school officials said she did not graduate and was never a faculty member, though she was paid to do several hours of administrative work as an independent contractor.

Reade disputed this, but could not produce evidence that she graduated.

She was accepted to Seattle University Law School through an alternative admissions program and obtained a law degree in 2004, but struggled to keep a job. She was helped by sympathetic strangers drawn to her story of escaping abuse, but often failed to meet financial obligations and was perpetually in debt and frequently entangled in legal battles.

By May 2006, she was back in California, working as a victims' advocate for the Monterey County YWCA.

There, Reade lodged a series of complaints with the chapter's board within months of taking the job, alleging that she and others were harassed and discriminated against by managers, which formed the basis of a 2007 lawsuit.

Reade and three co-workers alleged that two managers, who were both black, potentially mispent funds and favored African American employees who were members of their church. One supervisor, the lawsuit alleged, made racist comments. Meanwhile, Reade and her three co-workers, all of whom were white, said they were denied benefits and promotions.

"I find your response to my recent complaint unacceptable. Therefore, I am taking the next step to get some resolution," Reade wrote in a Nov. 9, 2006, memo to her boss.

She was also upset because someone called her "whitebread," according to the memo, which was circulated to the board.

Bridgette Allen, the former YWCA chapter president, was among those sued. She said she viewed Reade's persistent emails as an effort to build a court case.

"I was the first black board president in the history here. You have to look at the dynamics: It was four white women that accused three black women," Allen said.

But to some of Reade's co-workers, she was a hero empowered by a difficult past.

"She was such a great example of what I wanted to be as a mom and a woman and an advocate," said Diane Wegner, a former YWCA employee who was part of the lawsuit, which was settled out of court for an undisclosed sum.

Reade soon found a new job as executive director at the Animal Friends Rescue Project in Pacific Grove.

She also needed a new place to live and, in 2008, turned to Austin Chung, an inexperienced property manager, and inquired about a cottage he was renting out that offered a glimpse of the waves at nearby Monterey Bay.

She told him she was fleeing abuse and had no credit history, explaining her change of name and Social Security number. But she did have a law degree and a job, she told him.

"My heart went out to her right away," Chung said.

Chung said he had the interior painted and installed new flooring to make the home welcoming.

Within five months, she was behind on rent. Pretty soon, she was out of a job, too, after her management style grated on some employees and supporters of the animal shelter, according to former board members.

"There wasn't any one big thing that happened. It was just, over time, her not really being competent," said Carie Broecker, a longtime former board member. Broecker said she remained friends with Reade until Reade recently threatened to sue her because she publicly discussed her tenure at the agency.

Reade said she was proud of her work for the animal shelter.

Chung moved to evict Reade after she fell \$3,600 behind on rent; Reade accused him of harassment in an email.

She eventually left behind a house in need of \$8,000 in repairs that included carpets so stained by animal waste that they needed to be replaced, according to Chung, who provided emails and video footage

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 34 of 79

of the home's interior.

In 2011, Reade was again in a relationship that turned violent. Neighbors called Santa Cruz police to her home, and her live-in boyfriend, Edward Walker, was charged with corporal injury and battery against Reade and her daughter.

"Male subject battered live-in girlfriend, causing visible injury. During the altercation, the suspect also battered the victims daughter," police said in an April 3, 2011 report.

Reade, who had spent years testifying in court as an advocate for domestic violence victims, acknowledged that Walker slapped her daughter at one point. She paid his bail and continued to live with Walker, caring for him after he suffered a stroke in 2012, court records show.

Walker, who could not be reached for comment, pleaded guilty and was given probation. A judge dismissed the charges in 2016.

Financial and legal turmoil followed her as she continued to move around California's central coast, living in some of the most scenic and affluent parts of the state:

— She sought a restraining order in 2012 against a neighbor whom she accused of harassment and making racist threats against Walker. A judge dismissed the petition, and Reade dropped the matter.

— Months later, Reade was evicted again over \$12,750 in unpaid rent. She filed for bankruptcy and listed \$406,407 in debts, including nearly \$300,000 in unpaid school loans, \$1,715 owed to a bail bondsman and \$2,100 due to a locally owned grocery store.

— Reade enrolled in an advanced legal degree program through Southwestern Law School. The school sued Reade in 2016 over \$22,000 in loans, which remain unpaid, according to an attorney working on the case.

— She launched a charity that aimed to provide pet food to impoverished animal owners. The group's nonprofit status was revoked in 2017 after Reade failed to submit three years of mandatory tax filings, though she continued to solicit donations. In 2016, Reade tweeted that she was raising money for a nonprofit called Boudicca Rising Legal Assistance, which included a link to a GoFundMe page she created. There is no record of a nonprofit by that name in the IRS database. Reade raised \$210 but said she eventually abandoned the effort because it was too difficult to sort out the logistics.

In 2014, Reade started volunteering at a Watsonville, California, nonprofit horse farm called the Pregnant Mare Rescue. She proved to be a dedicated volunteer who excelled at caring for abused horses, but "always had drama and craziness going on in her life," according to Lynn Hummer, the organization's founder. "She was always broke and in a crisis," Hummer said.

The two had a falling out in 2016 after Reade charged \$1,400 in veterinary care for her horse to the Pregnant Mare Rescue, billing records show.

In a June 8, 2016, email to Hummer, Reade acknowledged that she charged the bill to the organization but said that she was poor, that her mother's health was failing and that she was "disgusted and appalled" that Hummer would "villainize" her poverty.

Reade said that she planned on paying back the money but decided against it after Hummer "started trashing me" on social media.

At the time, Reade had been asking for money to finance a cross-country move to take care of her mother. She also told acquaintances that Dronen, her ex-husband, had reappeared and was harassing her.

According to a letter from a domestic violence advocacy group that Reade shared, Dronen sent her and her daughter "friend requests" via Facebook after 15 years without contact, and the two were scared for their safety. She also inquired about changing her legal name back to Tara Reade, which she goes by now.

Eventually, a man in Seattle raised \$3,500 for her through GoFundMe.

## FALLOUT

Reade says her decision to go public with her claims against Biden has brought her more hardship. She describes facing death threats online and feeling abused and abandoned by the Democratic Party, which she says she's supported her whole life. Numerous prominent Democrats have said they believe Biden's denials.

But she's targeted critics, too. Reade said she recently filed a police report against Hummer in Nevada

County, California, and Reade's attorney, Douglas Wigdor, followed up last week with a cease-and-desist letter, accusing the former friend of making statements that were "intended to tarnish and impugn Ms. Reade's character and reputation."

Still, Reade, a woman who's spent her life trying to regain her footing in the face of myriad setbacks, said her decision to come forward has been empowering.

"It's made my life so difficult in so many ways, but I'm doing this for more of an existential reason, and also for my own justice," she said. When she first spoke out about the sexual assault allegation, Reade said, "I felt this release, of this burden, this secret that I've kept."

## Tanzania says virus defeated through prayer, but fears grow

By TOM ODULA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — On just one day this month, 50 Tanzanian truck drivers tested positive for the coronavirus after crossing into neighboring Kenya. Back home, their president insists that Tanzania has defeated the disease through prayer.

All the while, President John Magufuli has led a crackdown on anyone who dares raise concerns about the virus's spread in his East African country or the government's response to it. Critics have been arrested, and opposition politicians and rights activists say their phones are being tapped.

The country's number of confirmed virus cases hasn't changed for three weeks, and the international community is openly worrying that Tanzania's government is hiding the true scale of the pandemic. Just over 500 cases have been reported in a country of nearly 60 million people.

While many African countries have been praised for their response to the coronavirus, Tanzania is the most dramatic exception, run by a president who questions — or fires — his own health experts and has refused to limit people's movements, saying the economy is the priority.

Fatma Karume, a human rights activist and former president of the Tanganyika Law Society, said authorities are discouraging people from going to hospitals to avoid overwhelming them, but they are not giving adequate guidance about the virus.

"When you are disempowering a whole nation by withholding information and creating doubt on how they should respond to the crisis, the outcome can be disastrous," Karume said.

The president has refused to shut churches, mosques and other gathering places, such as pubs and restaurants. He has questioned the accuracy of tests done by the national laboratory, saying the swabs used may themselves be tainted with the virus.

He has suspended the head of the laboratory and fired the deputy health minister. On Thursday, Magufuli ordered the Health Ministry and other agencies not to receive personal protective equipment from donors until tests are done to ensure it works and is safe.

While Magufuli halted international passenger flights in April, he is now allowing them to resume — and says any visitor who doesn't have a fever will be allowed in.

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.

The president has argued that if restrictive measures are adopted, Tanzanians may have nothing to eat. In fact, rather than urge Tanzanians to keep their distance, one Magufuli ally encouraged them to flood the streets this weekend to celebrate.

"Make all kinds of noise as a sign of thanksgiving to show our God has won against disease and worries of death that were making us suffer," Paul Makonda, the regional commissioner of commercial hub Dar es Salaam, said at a news briefing. In March, Magufuli ordered three days of national prayers against COVID-19 and has since said they have been answered.

While health experts say recorded coronavirus cases and deaths the world over are undercounts, opposition leaders accuse Magufuli's government of hiding the outbreak's true toll.

Government spokesman Hassan Abbas told The Associated Press that it would be impossible to cover up an outbreak. He also dismissed reports that hospitals were overwhelmed, noting that one, which has

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 36 of 79

room for over 160 patients, only had 11.

"It is unfortunate that COVID-19 has come up with lots of misinformation, propaganda and false news," he added.

He said Tanzania has taken measures to curb the disease, and infection rates are falling, though he gave no data.

He said the country's health officials have been working hand in hand with international experts, including at the World Health Organization.

Officials outside Tanzania remain worried.

"We strongly call on Tanzania, encourage Tanzania, to share data in a timely fashion," the head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, John Nkengasong, said this month, adding that fighting the virus is more difficult without accurate data from all member states.

"No country is an island," he warned. On Thursday, Nkengasong said Tanzania still had not provided the body with any more information — but officials were still hoping the government would eventually cooperate.

Kenya closed its border with Tanzania this month except for cargo traffic and imposed stringent testing measures on Tanzanian truck drivers after more than 50 of them tested positive for the virus in a single day.

The U.S. Embassy in Tanzania has issued an unusual statement, warning its citizens that "all evidence points to exponential growth of the epidemic" and that hospitals in Dar es Salaam have been overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases.

"On Tanzania, yes, it's very disappointing," the top U.S. diplomat for Africa, Tibor Nagy, told reporters this week. "Obviously, they are very concerned with the economic impact that the loss of the tourism industry is going to have on them, but I can't imagine any tourists flocking back there in such an uncertain environment."

In a more subtle note of concern, the British High Commission announced a charter flight for British nationals who want to leave.

Meanwhile, the climate of fear has grown inside Tanzania, rights groups and critics say, as Magufuli seeks a second term in an October election that shows no sign of being delayed despite the pandemic.

Magufuli has stifled independent journalism since taking office and severely restricted the work of non-governmental organizations, according to rights groups.

"People in Tanzania cannot express themselves," said Roland Ebole, an Amnesty International researcher based in neighboring Kenya.

Lawyer Albert Msando was arrested in late April after a video circulated showing him distributing masks to journalists and talking about the importance of the news media's role in informing the public, according to the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition.

Tanzanian authorities have also targeted media that have attempted to report on the pandemic, according to Amnesty International.

Three media organizations were fined for "transmission of false and misleading information" about the government's response, and a newspaper had its online publishing license suspended for publishing a photo that it said showed the president flouting "global social distancing guidelines." Authorities contend the photo was not recent.

## **In virus chaos, some find solace, purpose in helping others**

**By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — In April, as the coronavirus was ravaging New York, Susan Jones learned her older brother had been diagnosed with a blood cancer.

His supervisor at work launched a GoFundMe page to help with costs, and Jones shared it on Facebook. What happened next stunned her.

While Jones, who works as principal ballet mistress at American Ballet Theatre, was confident her clos-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 37 of 79

est friends would help, she was stunned to see scores of colleagues — some she didn't even know that well, and didn't even know she had a brother — donating, despite their own economic challenges in a struggling dance community.

Jones found herself asking: Would the response have been the same just two months earlier, before the pandemic? She's fairly certain it wouldn't. Instead, she thinks the instinct to help shows, along with simple kindness, how people are striving to make a difference. At a time of helplessness, she says, helping others makes a mark on a world that seems to be overwhelming all of us.

"People everywhere are trying to keep control of their lives, grasping at anything to preserve who they are," Jones says.

That helping others can feel good is not just an anecdotal truth but an idea backed by research, says Laurie Santos, psychology professor at Yale University and teacher of the school's most popular course to date: "Psychology and the Good Life."

"The intuition that helping others is the key to our well-being right now fits with science," Santos says. "There's lots of research showing that spending our time and money on other people can often make us happier than spending that same time or money on ourselves."

"Taking time to do something nice for someone else," she says, "is a powerful strategy for improving our well-being."

One recent day, Damien Escobar, a contemporary violinist based in New York whose touring gigs have been halted by the pandemic, was heading into a neighborhood chain drugstore when he saw a homeless man begging outside.

Escobar rifled through his pockets and found a dollar or two before he realized what the man was really seeking: a mask, so he could enter the store and buy water and essentials.

"That blew my mind," says Escobar, 33, who himself was homeless less than a decade ago, sleeping on the subways. He also found that employees at a nearby parking garage were asking for spare masks.

"There was a huge need here," he says. He'd already been getting protective equipment to first responders, raising \$50,000 from a charity concert, but pivoted to a new campaign, "Masks for the Masses," to get masks to the homeless and low-income families.

Escobar is clear about the benefits not only to those on the receiving end, but to himself.

"I'm essentially unemployed. I make my money on the road. If I weren't doing this I'd probably be stuck at home battling a bout of depression," he says. "They say once you get out of the world and into the world of someone else, your problems don't really exist anymore."

In her practice, psychologist Catherine Lewis has often found people are happier when they can take action.

"In the work of trauma, we know that people who have good outcomes are the people who are doing something — mobilizing, fighting back," she says. "The hardest piece is when you are stuck, confined, frozen."

When the pandemic struck, Blake Ross, a 37-year-old mother of a toddler in New York, was testing the waters to re-enter the job market — in the field of event programming, as it happens. During her break, she'd been enjoying the company of other young mothers. Like many Manhattanites, it was the very density of the city that had led to her greatest pleasures there.

Suddenly "all that was taken away, very swiftly." Ross wondered how she could remain connected with the world — not just with friends and family, but also people she didn't know, those random, fortuitous encounters that make city life appealing for many. She hit on the idea of a website to connect people who wanted to help with those who need it.

Taking a cue from her theater-industry background, she called her site "Kindness of Strangers" after the line in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire." Some 500 people from New York and around the world have signed on.

"It's been everything from 'I just want a friendly face to laugh with' to offering one-on-one yoga instruction, to an energy healer, offers to buy groceries, job-search coaching, tutoring children and reading stories," Ross says. The service connected a choir teacher who wanted to keep the music going with a

singer, and a librarian in Michigan with a librarian in Alaska.

Ross has partnered with Enlivant, which runs senior homes in 20 states, and has set up an adopt-a-grandparent program.

"The essence of volunteering is that you feel wonderful after giving of yourself," Ross says. "You certainly get as much as you give."

There are many such initiatives, from more organized ones to simple scrawled signs in apartment elevator banks, from younger residents offering to go shopping for older ones. That doesn't mean, however, that traditional philanthropy is in good shape.

"Sure, individuals and some nonprofits are stepping forward to help," says Marcia Stepanek, a professor in Columbia University's Nonprofit Management Program. But for the most part, she says, recent surveys of nonprofits show that donations are dropping precipitously because donors are "skittish about the economy as well as the job market."

"COVID-19 is upending the sector," she says.

Be that as it may, many individuals are finding, in the process of reaching out to others, not only satisfaction and purpose but also perhaps a means of asserting their identity. That's how Jones, the ballet mistress, sees it. Friends and colleagues have contributed nearly \$6,000 to her brother's care.

"This virus has robbed us of our identities," she says. Giving, she says, "makes one feel included, not alone, and lends us a sort of new identity."

She adds: "I'm feeling deeply touched to be on the receiving end of that."

## Virus fallout dampens spirits as Muslims mark major holiday

By **JOSEPH KRAUSS** and **NINIEK KARMINI** Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Muslims worldwide will celebrate one of their biggest holidays under the long shadow of the coronavirus, with millions confined to their homes and others gripped by economic concerns during what is usually a festive time of shopping and celebration.

The three-day Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan for the world's 1.8 billion Muslims. People usually celebrate by traveling, visiting family and gathering for lavish meals — all of which will be largely prohibited as authorities try to prevent new virus outbreaks.

The holiday will begin on Saturday or Sunday, depending on the sighting of the new moon, and the dawn-to-dusk fasting of Ramadan will come to an end.

Some countries, including Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, will impose round-the-clock curfews for the duration of the holiday. In Saudi Arabia — home to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina — people will only be allowed to leave their homes to buy food and medicine.

But even in countries that have largely reopened, the holiday won't be the same.

Most restrictions have been lifted in Jerusalem, but the Al-Aqsa mosque compound — the third holiest site in Islam — will remain closed until after the holiday. Shopkeepers in the Old City, which has been emptied of tourists and pilgrims since March, are reeling from the effects of six weeks of lockdown.

The Jafar family's famous sweets shop in the Old City is normally a hive of activity, with tourists and locals enjoying knafeh, a syrupy cheese-filled pastry. These days the seating area is empty and dark as only takeout is allowed.

"It had a huge impact on us," said Ali Jafar, one of the owners, as he worked the counter. He said business has dropped by more than two thirds, forcing them to lay off 10 workers.

In Egypt, authorities have extended the nighttime curfew, which will now begin at 5 p.m. instead of 9 p.m., and halted public transportation until May 29. Shopping centers, malls, beaches and parks — which would ordinarily be packed — will be closed.

Manal Zakaria, who lives in the city of Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast, said her family usually celebrates by gathering for big meals, singing, dancing and taking group photos.

"I am very, very, very sad because I will not be seeing my siblings and their children," she said. "No matter how much we talk over the phone, there is nothing like coming together."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 39 of 79

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

In Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority country, President Joko Widodo said restrictions would remain in place through the holiday. The country, with a population of 270 million, has reported more than 18,000 cases, including around 1,200 deaths.

"I emphasize, there is no relaxing the policy of large-scale social restriction yet," Widodo said during a virtual Cabinet meeting on Monday.

Since the start of the Ramadan, the government has imposed an outright ban on "mudik," a holiday tradition in which millions of Indonesians living in big cities flock to their hometowns to celebrate with relatives. Health experts had warned it could set off a wave of new cases.

"This ongoing pandemic has changed our tradition, separated us in celebrating Eid," said Noor Hidayat Asri, a civil servant in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta. "We are like dealing with a merciless and invisible enemy this time around."

Malaysia will allow people to visit relatives who live nearby, but such gatherings are limited to 20 people. Visitors are urged to wear face masks and to refrain from hugging, kissing and sharing plates. Some mosques have reopened, but congregations are limited to 30 people.

India's 172 million Muslims are also preparing for a subdued holiday, with large gatherings banned. They have faced heightened stigma, threats and boycotts by many Hindus, who blame the local outbreak on a three-day convention of Islamic missionaries held in March.

In some states, Indian Muslims have launched campaigns urging people to refrain from buying new clothes for the holiday and instead give to the needy.

In Iran, which has endured the deadliest outbreak in the Middle East, authorities have imposed few restrictions ahead of the holiday aside from cancelling mass prayers in Tehran traditionally led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran has faced criticism for not imposing the kind of lockdown seen elsewhere in the region, but authorities have said they had to weigh the effects on an economy eviscerated by U.S. sanctions. Iran has reported nearly 130,000 cases and more than 7,000 deaths, but the rate of new infections has declined in recent weeks.

In Iraq, the government has allowed most businesses to reopen in the last few weeks but plans to reinstate a 24-hour curfew over the holiday. The streets were busy in the days leading up to Eid as people shopped for clothes, toys and home appliances.

"Many people buy presents for Eid. It's good business for us," Ahmed Hashem said as he arranged bicycles outside his shop. "The past few months have been difficult."

In war-ravaged Somalia, authorities have urged the cancellation of large gatherings and celebrations, but it's unclear whether that will be enforced. Shoppers have packed into markets and shopping centers in the capital, Mogadishu, in recent days.

In the United Arab Emirates, home to the futuristic commercial hub of Dubai, parks and private beaches will be open but groups will be limited to five people. Children under 12 and adults over 60 are barred from malls in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and other restrictions limit the number of people allowed inside. Restaurants can only operate at 30% of capacity.

Despite the more relaxed approach aimed at buoying the economy, the government announced a nationwide curfew during Eid al-Fitr lasting from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

## Lives Lost: At veterans' home, towering legacies of the dead

By DAVID GOLDMAN and MATT SEDENSKY Associated Press

Each of their stories was different, but common strains repeat: Of humility and generosity; of finding joy in the unpretentious; of a sharp mind disappearing into fog or a hale body betrayed by age.

And, of service, in war or in peace, that often went unspoken when they returned home.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 40 of 79

In their final years, these veterans found their place at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts. And in their final days, as the coronavirus engulfed the home and killed more than 70, they found battle again.

Left behind by these victims of the pandemic are those who were blessed by their kindnesses. Memorial Day dawns for the first time without them here, and a new emptiness pervades the little Cape Cods and prim colonials they once shared.

At these doorsteps, they were heroes not for valor, not for the enemies they defeated, but for the tenderness they showed. Peek through their bay windows and screen doors and bedroom panes. There is no blizzard of ticker tape, no gunfire of salute, just a void, a hole, a chasm of what's been lost.

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

Seeking to capture moments of private mourning at a time of global isolation, Associated Press photographer David Goldman visited the homes of 12 families struggling to honor spouses, parents and siblings during a lockdown that has sidelined many funeral traditions.

Goldman used a projector to cast large images of the veterans onto the homes of their loved ones, who looked out from doors and windows. The resulting portraits show both the towering place each veteran held in their loved ones' lives — and the sadness left behind. Here are their stories:

Alfred Healy, 91, loved corny jokes and adored his family. He listened to audiobooks constantly and closely followed the news. He devoured history and was quick with facts on U.S. presidents. He was humble. He won a Bronze Star, but his family only found out how decorated a soldier he was when he was gone. He was a longtime U.S. Postal Service employee who rose to become a town postmaster. He was sharp as a tack and liked to deem things "snazzy" or "classy." On his last night, the nurses gave him chocolate ice cream and showed him photos of some young relatives. And by dawn, he was gone.

Constance Pinard, 73, had a life with struggles: A marriage gone sour, the pressures of raising two children on her own, family rifts that grew worse with an aggressive case of dementia. But there were so many joys, too: The miles she drove in her Jeep or flew in the air to reach new places as a travel nurse, the rank of captain she achieved, the thrill of meeting Barry Manilow, the musician she loved. Her sister Tammy Petrowicz remembers a woman overflowing with energy "like the Energizer Bunny," who was 16 years older but "still could run circles around me." The Air Force veteran loved meeting new people wherever she went. Petrowicz recalls standing in a grocery store line with her, chit-chatting with strangers like they were old friends. "She talked to anybody and everybody," her sister says.

James Sullivan, 99, grew up with nothing and appreciated everything, a consummate gentleman who found joy in the small things — the Red Sox on TV, a cold Bud Light in his hand, a fresh tomato out of the garden. Sullivan was an artillery technician in the Army during World War II who won the Bronze Star. He had a mischievous side, as evidenced by the time his father told him he couldn't play ball because he had to paint the garage. He obliged, painting it top to bottom, windowpanes and all. He was a liquor store clerk, a school custodian and a city councilman, a man who always beamed with a smile right up to the end of his life. He died four days shy of his 100th birthday. Quiet, unselfish, inquisitive about others. "How you doing, pal?" he'd ask. Whenever someone would ask him the same, he offered something similar: "Never had a bad day."

Charles Lowell, 78, was a missile guide technician and an IBM operations manager, a Masonic lodge master and town selectman, a volunteer firefighter and paramedic. Along the way, his life was littered with good deeds — the troubled teenager he'd take in, the hungry family he'd help with groceries — done with little notice or unmentioned altogether. "He didn't tell people things like that," his daughter Susan Kenney says. She remembers a father always teaching her something new and always trying to make people laugh,



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 41 of 79

something his wife, Alice Lowell, says his colleagues appreciated. "It wasn't like going to work," she says of the man she knew since she was a child. "It was going to play with Chuck."

Stephen Kulig, 92, always had a smile on his face and hard candies in his pocket. The list of roles he played was long: veteran of World War II and Korea, devoted Boston sports fan, bingo caller, school dance chaperone, altar server, soup kitchen volunteer, Knights of Columbus member. His daughter Elizabeth DeForest remembers a man who was a natural caregiver — for his wife of 63 years, for his five children and for his parents and in-laws. "I use the word fierce to describe him," DeForest says. "He was really fiercely proud of his family. He was fierce in the way that he practiced faith and he taught it to our family and to all of us. Just fierce in the way he loved and protected the people that mattered to him."

Chester LaPlante, 78, had a knack for improving things wherever he went. He restored cars and could repair just about anything, and in the lives of his three children, he was the jack-of-all-trades father who knew how to make them smile. His son Randy LaPlante remembered his father giving him "bear rides" around the living room, rubbing his beard against his little face and buying him a go-kart. Later, the elder LaPlante took his son under his wing and taught him about being a machinist, a career he holds to this day. "I don't know where I would be without him," LaPlante says.

Harry Malandrinos, 89, was a quiet man, but had many stories to tell: of fighting a war in Korea, of touring the U.S. as a band's drummer, of four decades as a public school teacher. "When he spoke, you listened, because he didn't waste his words," his daughter-in-law Cheryl Malandrinos says. He always had a joke, was a master woodworker, avidly rooted for the Patriots, Red Sox and Bruins and would happily settle for "Family Feud" if his teams weren't on TV. Every now and again, his son Paul Malandrinos would run into a former student of his father's who would sing his praises. "He was pretty much the working class guy that represents so many of us," his daughter-in-law says.

Francis Foley, 84, never learned to read music but could play any song by ear. He loved a cup of coffee and something sweet from Dunkin' Donuts. He kept the nurses at the home laughing. He was fiercely protective of his family. Ask his family about the man they lost, and the words flow easily about the card-carrying union carpenter, Army veteran, devoted husband of 54 years and father of four. "He was strong. He was funny. He was engaging. He was ornery. He was feisty," his daughter Keri Rutherford says. "He was still full of life. And then within days, he's gone."

Roy Benson, 88, whistled a lilting song throughout his life, one of the things imprinted on the minds of those who loved him, like the way he'd stir sugar into his morning coffee or holler for a visitor to return the minute they stepped out the door. His daughter Robin Benson Wilson calls them "comfort sounds" that signaled "the world is good." He was a towering 6-foot-4. He made friends easily and often, always finding a familiar face wherever he went. He was a mechanic in the Korean War and it seemed like he could fix anything. With old age, his ability to whistle faded. But during a Christmastime visit by Benson Wilson to the Soldiers' Home, her father managed to pucker his lips and offer a bit of that familiar tune one last time.

Emilio DiPalma, 93, had gone off to war as a happy-go-lucky kid, but it didn't take long for his Hollywood visions of battle to dissolve into the reality of watching friends die. After the Germans were defeated, DiPalma was sent to Nuremberg, where he made copies of documents detailing war crimes, watched over Nazis in their prison cells and stood guard beside the witness box in the courtroom where the evils of genocide were detailed. One time, he filled the glass of one of the most powerful Nazis — Hermann Göring — with toilet water. Back home in the U.S., he lived a life of humility, rarely talking about his service. "He did all of this in World War II and we hardly knew about it," says his daughter Emily Aho.

James Mandeville, 83, had a playfulness to him that never seemed to fade. With his grandchildren, he'd

swim and wrestle and play basketball, even after he started using a wheelchair. He'd play cards with his daughter Laurie Mandeville Beaudette and, if she left the table, she'd return to find the deck had been stacked. She took to calling him "Cheater Beater." He found joy in babies and dogs and for all his fun-lovingness, he imparted something deep in those who were close to him. "He always made me feel like I was the most important person in the world," she says. "We were best friends."

Samuel Melendez, 86, would clam up and appear sad when someone would ask about his time in Korea. But he was affectionate and easygoing, a man who'd let a young relative have a seat on his lap or give them a dollar from his pocket, which made them feel rich. He loved the island of his heritage, Puerto Rico. He loved dominoes and family gatherings and would jump on a plane whenever someone needed him. When he became less independent, he went to live with his niece Janet Ramirez and when he needed more help, he moved to the Soldiers' Home, where she is a nurse's aide. She lost her own father when she was young and as her uncle grew sicker, Ramirez slipped away to his room to hold his hand or to play Spanish music on her phone and put it to his hear. "I felt like he was my dad," she says.

## Will virus keep Florida spectators from astronaut launch?

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — In ordinary times, the beaches and roads along Florida's Space Coast would be packed with hundreds of thousands of spectators, eager to witness the first astronaut launch from Florida in nine years.

In the age of coronavirus, local officials and NASA are split on whether that's a good idea.

NASA and SpaceX are urging spectators to stay at home next Wednesday for safety reasons. Officials in Brevard County, home to the Kennedy Space Center, are rolling out the welcome mat in an effort to jump-start a tourism industry hit hard this spring by coronavirus-related lockdowns.

If people are comfortable coming and watching the launch, "by all means, come. If they aren't, I respect that too," said Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey.

"I'm not going to tell Americans they can't watch a great piece of history. I'm just not going to do it," he said.

The sheriff said he is asking visitors to practice social distancing as they watch the launch of astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken on a test flight of SpaceX's Dragon crew capsule. Liftoff is set for 4:33 p.m. EDT.

Around 85 reserve deputies will be on hand to monitor crowds and ask people to comply with social distancing if they are in groups. A local chain of beach shops is distributing 20,000 masks to spectators in coordination with the sheriff's office, Ivey said.

The sheriff, who grew up in Florida watching launches, wants a new generation to be able to experience the energy, excitement and feelings of patriotism that comes from watching a U.S. launch with astronauts.

"NASA is a true part of our history in Brevard County," Ivey said.

Earlier this month, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine asked potential spectators to watch the launch online or on TV from home. The space agency is also offering a "virtual launch experience."

NASA is doing its best to facilitate social distancing inside the Kennedy Space Center by limiting access, although it may be hosting two VIPs. Vice President Mike Pence says he plans to be there, and President Donald Trump said he's thinking of attending.

The visitor center at Kennedy, usually a prime spot for viewing launches, is closed to the public.

NASA astronauts have not launched from the U.S. since the space shuttle program ended in 2011. It will be the first attempt by a private company to fly astronauts to orbit for the space agency.

"The challenge that we're up against right now is we want to keep everybody safe," Bridenstine said. "And so we're asking people not to travel to the Kennedy Space Center, and I will tell you that makes me sad to even say it. Boy, I wish we could make this into something really spectacular."

Although crowd sizes varied, a high-profile space shuttle launch could attract a half million visitors to the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 43 of 79

Space Coast. Local tourism officials think next week's launch will bring in no more than 200,000 spectators.

With airline passenger traffic drastically down and nearby Orlando theme parks closed because of the pandemic, "we're not going to be getting the out-of-state traffic we may have gotten during the shuttle era," said Peter Cranis, executive director of the Space Coast Office of Tourism.

"The environment is different with COVID and people now reemerging from stay-at-home orders," Cranis said. "There are going to be a number of people who are hesitant."

The Space Coast's tourism business is down by about 40% for the year, and that could cost the area \$1 billion, he said.

"A launch like this after a big long weekend could really give us a shot in the arm," Cranis said.

Local hoteliers are looking forward to the influx of visitors after two bad months. Tom Williamson, who is general manager of two hotels on the Space Coast, each with 150 rooms or more, said one hotel was closed and the other only had 15% occupancy in April. He expects both hotels to be at or near capacity on the night of the launch.

"We're glad to seem some signs of life," Williamson said.

Steven Giraldo works as a technical consultant for a software company in St. Petersburg, Florida, but he has a side gig with some space-buff friends offering charter boat tours for watching launches. For next week's SpaceX launch, he had booked around 150 people from as far away as Australia for \$75 a head on a fleet of boats. He ended up scrapping those plans.

"It would take too much logistical effort to see if everyone is wearing a mask, making sure no one has a fever, and how to you social distance on a boat?" Giraldo said.

Instead, he plans to watch the launch with seven other friends, some from Arizona and Indiana, in a boat on the Banana River.

"This was going to be our biggest event. The historical significance of it created a lot of buzz," Giraldo said. "But I just don't know how we could have done it."

## **GOP weighs jobless aid cuts to urge Americans back to work**

**By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reconsideration of jobless aid is fast becoming the focus of congressional debate over the next virus aid package

After the Senate decided to take a "pause" on new pandemic proposals, senators faced mounting pressure to act before leaving town for a weeklong Memorial Day break. Republicans are staking out plans to phase out coronavirus-related unemployment benefits to encourage Americans to go back to work.. The Senate also began efforts to fast-track an extension of a popular small business lending program.

"Republicans and the White House are reaching consensus on the need for redesigning the unemployment benefits so they are not a barrier to getting people back to work," Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters on a conference call. President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell huddled at the White House to discuss the issues.

The flurry of activity comes after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pushed a new \$3 trillion aid package through the House last week. The Senate, under McConnell, says there is no urgency to act, and senators are expected to reconsider more aid only in June.

With the nation's death toll poised to hit 100,000 and layoffs surpassing 38 million, some lawmakers see a failure by Washington to act as untenable. Yet Congress has moved beyond the political consensus reached at the outset of the crisis and is now splitting along familiar party lines.

The difference in approach and priorities between Democrats and Republicans reflects the partisan split that is defining both parties before the 2020 election.

At least one Republican, Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, was trying to prevent the Senate from recessing unless it considered more aid. No votes, however, were taken.

"Now is not the time for the Senate to go home," tweeted Gardner, who is among the most politically

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 44 of 79

endangered GOP senators running for reelection in the fall.

Gardner wanted agreement to extend the small business Paycheck Protection Program and pushed for more funds for state and local governments facing layoffs. He told reporters he had called Trump to express his concerns.

As a result, senators were trying to fast-track a proposal to extend the Paycheck Protection Program's expiration. The proposed fix would double from eight to 16 weeks the window for business owners absorbing losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic to spend their federally backed loans and still qualify to have them forgiven. The program was established in March under an earlier coronavirus response bill.

While the House works remotely, the lights-on Senate has the legislative stage to itself. But the chamber that considers itself the world's greatest deliberative body spent May debating almost anything but the pandemic. It confirmed several of Trump's executive and judicial nominees, including John Ratcliffe on Thursday as director of national intelligence.

"You wouldn't even know there's a COVID crisis," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York told ABC's "The View." "Crazy. It's just so wrong."

McConnell argued that his side of the Capitol led passage of the earlier \$2 trillion package. Better to assess how that money is being spent, he said, before approving more. He rejects the new \$3 trillion package approved by the Democratic-led House last week as a "liberal wish list."

On Thursday, McConnell mocked the House for working remotely and voting by proxy while senators in masks show up like other Americans returning to work. The District of Columbia remains under stay-home orders through June 8.

"The self-described 'People's House' has been suspiciously empty of people," McConnell said. "Every one of my Senate colleagues should be proud of how we've helped our nation win this first battle."

Pelosi shot back: "We have the Heroes bill," she said about the House-passed aid measure. "He has the zeroes bill."

Unemployment insurance, though, was quickly becoming a new priority for Republicans staking out the next aid package.

Brady warned that generous benefits, with a \$600 weekly boost during the pandemic approved under the earlier aid bill, would "handcuff" workers and discourage them from returning to work.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said, "It was a mistake to make it so high to begin with. It would be a mistake to extend it."

Republicans are hopeful that as states reopen, the economy will improve, lessening the need for more federal funds. But if workers refuse to return to work, they worry companies can't begin to rebound.

Brady proposes giving workers a one-time \$1,200 bonus to get back to work. He said conversations were happening at the highest levels at the White House.

But polling shows Americans are concerned about a second wave of the virus as shops and workplaces reopen. A poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found 83% of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that lifting restrictions in their area will lead to additional infections, with 54% saying they are very or extremely concerned.

## Trump counting on Supreme Court to block probes, lawsuits

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump won at least a temporary reprieve from the Supreme Court earlier this week in keeping secret grand jury materials from the Russia investigation away from Democratic lawmakers. The president and his administration are counting on the justices for more help to stymie other investigations and lawsuits.

The high court is weighing Trump's bid to block subpoenas for his tax, banking and financial records. It will soon be asked by the administration to kill a lawsuit alleging that Trump is illegally profiting from his luxury hotel near the White House. And a dispute over Congress' demand for the testimony of former White House counsel Don McGahn also could find its way to the justices before long.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 45 of 79

Trump has predicted that the court with a conservative majority that includes two of his appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, would be more sympathetic than lower courts that have repeatedly ruled against him. And his administration has sought the court's emergency intervention at early stages of court cases far more often than both Democratic and Republican predecessors, according to data compiled by University of Texas law professor Stephen Vladeck.

The administration says Democrats are obsessed with embarrassing Trump at all costs. Trump has called himself a victim of "presidential harassment" and ordered his administration not to cooperate with investigations by the Democratic-led House.

In arguing for the invalidation of congressional subpoenas for Trump's private financial records, the Justice Department told the Supreme Court that the subpoenas pose "a serious risk of harassing the President and distracting him from his constitutional duties."

McGahn should not be forced to appear before Congress, the administration argues, because he is among a band of presidential advisers who have "absolute immunity" from testifying about their interactions with the president. The full federal appeals court in Washington recently heard arguments in the case and could rule at any time.

The president's critics argue that Trump has embraced a dangerous view of the presidency as being above the law.

"The common theme throughout the Trump presidency has been a complete lack of accountability," said Ben Berwick, a lawyer with the anti-Trump group Protect Democracy. "In case after case, the position taken by Trump and his lawyers is that nothing and no one -- not courts, not Congress, not federal or state law enforcement, not inspectors general -- can hold him accountable or act as a check on his power."

In the dispute over grand jury materials from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell called out the Justice Department and the administration. "The reality is that DOJ and the White House have been openly stonewalling the House's efforts to get information by subpoena and by agreement, and the White House has flatly stated that the Administration will not cooperate with congressional requests for information," Howell wrote in ordering that the materials be turned over. Her ruling is on hold.

The Supreme Court has so far refrained from definitive rulings in these clashes. But Trump has been the chief beneficiary of the court's actions because they have prevented investigators from obtaining what they are seeking.

"We've already lost nine months of time in this investigation due to this lawsuit," New York prosecutor Carey Dunne said in his arguments in support of enforcing a subpoena for Trump's tax returns. Trump's lawyers said local prosecutors should not be allowed even to investigate Trump while he is president.

Each passing day without a court decision, Dunne said, amounts to "the same kind of temporary absolute immunity that the President is seeking here."

It's possible that the decisions in the subpoena cases, expected by early summer, could leave legal issues unresolved and lead to additional consideration by lower courts, further delaying a final order on the subpoenas.

That would suit Trump and his supporters, who would like to run out the clock at least until after Election Day.

It might also suit the Supreme Court and especially Chief Justice John Roberts, who has warned of the dangers of having the court viewed as just another political institution. Federal judges have made clear they prefer that the White House and Congress resolve their disagreements without judicial intervention, when possible.

In the event Democrat Joe Biden is elected president or Republicans regain control of the House of Representatives, legal fights over subpoenas and grand jury materials might end. Biden's administration might have little interest in fighting to protect the Russia grand jury documents. If Republicans were in charge of the House, they probably would abandon subpoena fights aimed at Trump.

In either case, the Supreme Court would avoid having to make a decision that might split the justices

along liberal and conservative lines and underscore perceptions of a politically motivated court.

## Flood raises fears of pollution at Michigan toxic waste site

By JOHN FLESHER AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — It took seven years to settle on a plan for cleansing two rivers and floodplains polluted with dioxins from a Dow Chemical Co. plant in central Michigan. The work itself has lasted nearly twice as long, with plenty still to do.

Now, scientists and activists fear some of the progress may have washed away with floodwaters that overwhelmed two dams this week, chasing 11,000 people from homes in and near Midland, the company's headquarters city.

The Tittabawassee River flows past the Dow plant and eventually meets the Saginaw River, which continues into Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. That 50-mile stretch is tainted with dioxins — highly toxic compounds that researchers say can damage reproductive and immune systems and cause cancer. The area is on the federal Superfund list of hazardous sites.

Regulators and company officials said Thursday it was too early to tell whether the swollen river had damaged spots that had been repaired or swept pollutants farther downstream. Dow said it would inspect each cleanup location as floodwaters recede and sample for new contamination.

The projects "held up remarkably well" during a 2017 flood "and we are confident that we will see a similar outcome this time," spokesman Kyle Bandlow said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it would team with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to evaluate any chemical releases from the plant, although Dow had reported none. Damage from the flood three years ago was "minimal" and required only minor repairs, EPA's regional office in Chicago said.

But a similar outcome is unlikely after this week's considerably bigger flood, said Allen Burton, a professor of environment and sustainability at the University of Michigan.

"There's no reason to expect that everything would remain in the same place after a massive flood like this," Burton said. "No scientist out there would predict that will happen."

Erik Olson, a toxic chemicals specialist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said floods produced by hurricanes have covered hazardous waste sites and carried contaminated wastes long distances.

"You can think you've contained toxic chemicals to a limited area, but a flood can scour that up and move it," Olson said. "We saw that with Katrina. What happened there is exactly what we're worrying about happening in Midland."

In a report last year, the Government Accountability Office said EPA should take additional steps to safeguard Superfund sites from the effects of climate change, including flooding that might result from heavier downpours. It said 60 percent of Superfund sites not on federal property were vulnerable to floods, storm surge, wildfires, and sea level rise associated with global warming.

Dioxins are byproducts of some of the hundreds of chemicals manufactured over the years at the Dow plant, which began operating in 1897. It now produces silicones used in a variety of home and personal care products and electronics.

The plant also has a small nuclear reactor, used for research, Bandlow said. Dow notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Tuesday that it had been shut down earlier because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Liquid wastes containing dioxins from the plant were dumped into the river in the early 20th century. The compounds later were incinerated, producing air pollution that settled into sediments, riverbanks and floodplains over decades.

Their discovery along the Tittabawassee River in 2000 sparked a lengthy clash between Dow, regulators and environmental groups over the seriousness of the problem and how to fix it.

Dow began cleanup in 2007, supervised by EPA. The Tittabawassee and its banks were divided into seven segments. The first five are mostly complete. Work on the remaining two began last year.

Thousands of cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been removed and banks have been stabilized.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 47 of 79

In areas where digging up the dioxins was judged too difficult or impractical, tainted soils were covered with protective mats and deep-rooted plants.

More cleanup is planned along 21 miles of floodplains. EPA expects the Tittabawassee section to be finished next year, followed by work on the Saginaw River.

"We've been feeling pretty confident that this is going to be a successful cleanup," said Terry Miller, chairman of the advocacy group Lone Tree Council and member of a community advisory panel. "But this 500-year flood is a wild card."

Thorough inspections and analysis will be crucial to determine whether the projects are intact and need repairs, he said.

"The post-flood assessments will help identify if any additional cleanup is needed," EPA said.

Environmentalists said they were concerned about releases of pollutants aside from dioxins, although Dow said there had been none.

"The long-term threats to the health and safety of the community are significant, given what we know is in the river and the holding ponds and the Superfund site," said Lisa Wozniak, executive director of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

## **FBI says Texas naval base shooting is 'terrorism-related'**

**By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press**

A shooting at a Texas naval air station that wounded a sailor and left the gunman dead early Thursday was being investigated as "terrorism-related," the FBI said, but divulged few details as to why.

The suspect was identified as Adam Alshali of Corpus Christi, according to three officials familiar with the investigation who were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

At about 6:15 a.m., the gunman tried to speed through a security gate at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, opening fire and wounding the sailor, a member of base security, U.S. officials told the AP. But she was able to roll over and hit the switch that raised a barrier, preventing the man from getting onto the base, the officials said.

Other security personnel shot and killed the man.

There was an initial concern that he may have an explosive device, but Navy experts swept the area and the car and found nothing. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details about an ongoing investigation. Officials were still working to process the crime scene late into the day and had recovered some type of electronic media.

Later, federal agents were seen carrying items from inside a house that a Corpus Christi police tactical unit had surrounded and a public records search by local television station KRIS indicated was Alshali's last known address. A police spokesman would not confirm that the activity was related to the shooting at the Naval station.

The base was on lockdown for about five hours, but it was lifted shortly before noon. The main gate was reopened, though the gate where the incident occurred was still shut down.

FBI Supervisory Senior Resident Agent Leah Greeves said at a news conference that investigators were working to determine whether a second person of interest was at large but did not elaborate. She also would not discuss a potential motive or specify what led investigators to believe the shooting was related to terrorism.

"We have determined that the incident this morning at the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is terrorism related," Greeves said. "We are working diligently with our state, local and federal partners on this investigation, which is fluid and evolving."

The FBI's field office in Houston has taken the lead on the investigation, and neither investigators nor the Navy provided details on the shooter or a possible motive. Attorney General William Barr has also been briefed, a Justice Department spokeswoman said.

The injured sailor was discharged from a hospital where she was treated for minor injuries, according

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 48 of 79

to a statement from the command.

The air station is surrounded by water on three sides and is home to Naval pilot training since 1941, according to its website. Marine Corps, Navy, U.S. Coast Guard student pilots train there. It's also home to the Corpus Christi Army Depot, a depot for the Department of Defense rotary wing aircraft.

The station had a similar lockdown last December. In another incident at the base last year, a man pleaded guilty to destruction of U.S. government property and possession of a stolen firearm for ramming his truck into a barricade at the Corpus Christi station.

The shooting also comes months after a Saudi Air Force officer who was training at a Navy base in Pensacola, Florida, killed three U.S. sailors and wounded eight other people in a shooting that American officials described as an act of terrorism. The country's top federal law enforcement officials said this week that the gunman in December's attack, Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, had been in touch with al-Qaida operatives about planning and tactics in the months before the shooting. Alshamrani was killed by a sheriff's deputy.

According to U.S. officials, unlike Pensacola, there are no international or foreign national students at the Texas base. The military put a number of new safety procedures in place after the Pensacola shooting to restrict and better screen international students.

## Nearly 39 million have lost jobs in US since virus took hold

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits in the two months since the coronavirus took hold in the U.S. has swelled to nearly 39 million, the government reported Thursday, even as states from coast to coast gradually reopen their economies and let people go back to work.

More than 2.4 million people filed for unemployment last week in the latest wave of layoffs from the business shutdowns that have brought the economy to its knees, the Labor Department said.

That brings the running total to a staggering 38.6 million, a job-market collapse unprecedented in its speed.

The number of weekly applications has slowed for seven straight weeks. Yet the figures remain breathtakingly high — 10 times higher than normal before the crisis struck.

It shows that even though all states have begun reopening over the past three weeks, employment has yet to snap back and the outbreak is still damaging businesses and destroying jobs.

"While the steady decline in claims is good news, the labor market is still in terrible shape," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said over the weekend that U.S. unemployment could peak in May or June at 20% to 25%, a level last seen during the depths of the Great Depression almost 90 years ago. Unemployment in April stood at 14.7%, a figure also unmatched since the 1930s.

Over 5 million people worldwide have been confirmed infected by the virus, and more than 330,000 deaths have been recorded, including over 94,000 in the U.S. and around 165,000 in Europe, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University and based on government data. Experts believe the true toll is significantly higher.

In other developments:

— President Donald Trump's approval ratings have remained steady amid the crisis, underscoring the way Americans seem to have made up their minds about him. A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research says 41% approve of his job performance, while 58% disapprove. That's consistent with opinions of him throughout his three years in office.

— Trump made a trip to Michigan to tour a Ford factory that has been retooled to manufacture ventilators, and he did not wear a face covering despite a warning from the state's top law enforcement officer that a refusal might lead to a ban on his return. The president has been locked in a feud with Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer over the outbreak and also has threatened to withhold federal funds over Michigan's expansion of voting by mail.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 49 of 79

— Whitmer has prevailed after Republican lawmakers sued over her authority to declare emergencies and order sweeping restrictions during the pandemic. The Republican-controlled Legislature didn't extend her declaration in late April but she acted anyway. That means her stay-at-home decree stands, which has drawn anger from gun-toting protesters and is likely to be extended beyond May 28.

Across the U.S., some companies have begun to rehire their laid-off employees as states have eased restrictions on movement and commerce. On Monday, more than 130,000 workers at the three major American automakers, plus Toyota and Honda, returned to their factories for the first time in two months.

Still, major employers keep cutting jobs. Uber said this week that it will lay off 3,000 more employees because demand for rides has plummeted. Digital publishers Vice, Quartz and BuzzFeed, magazine giant Conde Nast and the owner of The Economist magazine announced job cuts last week.

Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont, said the latest layoffs may be particularly worrisome because they are happening even as states reopen.

"There's a high probability that those layoffs could persist for longer than those that were a function of (businesses) just being closed," Stanley said.

The latest figures do not mean 38.6 million people are out of work. Some have been called back, and others have landed new jobs. But the vast majority are still unemployed.

An additional 1.2 million people applied for unemployment benefits last week under a federal program that makes self-employed, contractor and gig workers eligible for the first time. But those figures aren't adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn't include them in the overall number of applications.

Alexis Weber, laid off from her job as a bartender at an Atlanta restaurant, said it was a struggle to secure unemployment benefits — she filed on April 1 and had to wait until early May to get her first payment. She is not sure when her employer will want her back, or if she will want to return.

"Social distancing doesn't really apply very well to the hospitality business," Weber said. "I don't feel safe returning right now."

One rehired worker, Norman Boughman, received an email last week from his boss at a secondhand clothing store in Richmond, Virginia, where he worked part time, asking him to return. But even with a mask, he worries about his health.

"We're having to sort through people's things, and I feel like that puts us at a higher risk," he said.

European countries also have seen heavy job losses, but robust government safety-net programs in places like Germany and France are subsidizing the wages of millions of workers and keeping them on the payroll.

Meanwhile, doubts are growing over ambitious plans by European governments to use contact-tracing smartphone apps to fight the spread of the virus as they ease their lockdowns. The apps can help authorities determine whether people have crossed paths with those who are infected.

British Security Minister James Brokenshire told the BBC that an app that was supposed to be introduced by mid-May is not ready, suggesting "technical issues" were to blame. Similarly, France delayed last week's roll-out of its app because of technical problems and privacy concerns.

As for the search for a vaccine, drugmaker AstraZeneca said it has secured agreements to produce 400 million doses of a still experimental and unproven formulation that is being tested at the University of Oxford. It is one of the most advanced projects in the international race for a vaccine.

AstraZeneca said it has received more than \$1 billion from a U.S. government research agency for the development, production and delivery of the vaccine.

Around the world, the effort to get back to business is raising worries over the risk of new infections, from hard-hit Milan, Italy, to meatpacking plants in Colorado and garment factories in Bangladesh.

China's top economic official promised higher spending to revive the economy and curb job losses as the fight persists against the virus, which emerged in Wuhan late last year. The budget deficit will swell by 1 trillion yuan (\$140 billion) this year to help meet targets that include creating 9 million jobs, Premier Li Keqiang said at the country's ceremonial legislature.

## Divided Senate confirms Ratcliffe as intelligence chief

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sharply divided Senate confirmed John Ratcliffe as director of national intelligence on Thursday, with Democrats refusing to support the nomination over fears that he will politicize the intelligence community's work under President Donald Trump.

All Democrats opposed Ratcliffe, making him the first DNI to be installed on a partisan vote since the position was created in 2005. The tally was 49-44.

Ratcliffe will take over the agency at a tumultuous time. The nation faces threats from Iran and North Korea, Russian disinformation campaigns to interfere in the U.S. elections and tensions with China over rising competition and the spread of the coronavirus. At the same time, Trump has viewed the intelligence agencies with distrust and ousted or fired multiple officials.

The Texas Republican seemed unlikely to get the position when Trump in February announced plans to nominate him, as he had already been selected for the job last year and then withdrew after Republicans questioned his experience. But senators warmed to him as they grew concerned about the upheaval in the intelligence community and wanted a permanent, confirmed director.

Ratcliffe will replace Richard Grenell, the current acting director who has overseen some of the personnel changes. Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany, has a thin intelligence background and is seen as a loyalist to Trump.

As acting director, Grenell made personnel changes and ordered reviews of the national intelligence director's office that critics feared were an attempt to clean house. Some members of the Senate intelligence committee said an acting director shouldn't be engaging in reforming the intelligence apparatus. But Grenell's office disputed fears of a purge and said some of the reforms he was considering or implementing had been recommended by past directors.

The last Senate-confirmed intelligence director, former Indiana Sen. Dan Coats, was popular with his former colleagues in Congress but left the post last summer after clashing with the president.

Democrats allowed a quick vote on Ratcliffe's nomination, dropping their usual procedural delays in a signal that despite their skepticism, they prefer him in the job over Grenell.

Ratcliffe insisted during his confirmation hearing that he would be an independent leader, but faced skepticism. A member of the House intelligence and judiciary committees, he has been an ardent defender of the president through House impeachment and investigations into Russian interference.

Maine Sen. Angus King, an independent who caucuses with Democrats and a member of the Senate intelligence panel, said he has concerns that Ratcliffe has limited experience in the intelligence community yet extensive experience in politics. "A dangerous combination," he said.

"Now more than ever it is vital that the DNI respect the critical firewall that must exist between intelligence and political calculations — especially if the truth isn't what the boss wants to hear," King said.

Before being elected to Congress in 2014, Ratcliffe was mayor of Heath, Texas, and a U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Texas. When he was first nominated, senators questioned whether he had enough intelligence experience and whether he was picked because of his willingness to defend Trump.

But given a second chance, Ratcliffe worked to separate himself from the president at his confirmation hearing, including by saying he believed Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, a conclusion Trump has resisted. He said he would communicate to Trump the intelligence community's findings even if he knew Trump disagreed with them and might fire him.

Still, the position carries unique challenges, given the president's seeming inclinations to politicize intelligence and bend intelligence agencies to his will. Trump has openly rejected intelligence community assessments at odds with his own viewpoint, including on Russian election interference.

Trump has also shown himself as eager to have intelligence agencies investigate matters that he hopes will support his political positions, with agencies seeking to determine whether the coronavirus was the result of an accident in a Chinese laboratory or if it began through contact with infected animals.

In addition, the DNI in recent weeks has been declassifying information from the Russia investigation

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 51 of 79

that Trump allies hope will cast senior Obama administration officials — including former vice president and 2020 Trump opponent Joe Biden — in a negative light.

Last week, for instance, Senate Republicans released a declassified list of former Obama administration and intelligence officials who requested the identity of an American from intelligence reports. The American turned out to be former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn.

On Tuesday, Republicans released a January 2017 email that Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's national security adviser, wrote to herself. The message memorialized a sensitive conversation about Flynn and his Russian contacts that she had participated in earlier that month with Obama and then-FBI Director James Comey. Grenell declassified the full memo after Republicans requested it.

There also have been pushes from some Democrats, and even Flynn's own lawyer, to release transcripts of phone calls during the presidential transition period between Flynn and then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about those communications, though the Justice Department has since moved to dismiss the case.

"No lawyer for Flynn has ever seen it or heard the recording," Flynn's lawyer, Sidney Powell, said in an email to The Associated Press. "I would want both."

Lisa Ruth, a former CIA officer, said in a telephone interview Thursday that the administration's expectations have made it a challenging time for an intelligence community that is supposed to be apolitical.

"The administration has signaled that they see the intelligence community, as well as other agencies, as support for the administration," Ruth said in a telephone interview. "It puts things in a very different paradigm than what the intelligence community was meant to be and was supposed to be."

## China may pass bill to crack down on Hong Kong opposition

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's legislature will take over long-stalled efforts to enact national security legislation in Hong Kong, a move that could limit opposition activity in the semi-autonomous territory and signals the central government's determination to take greater control after months of pro-democracy protests last year.

The announcement drew sharp criticism from the U.S., which has threatened to withdraw preferential trade status for Hong Kong, and seems likely to prompt more protests in the short run.

The National People's Congress, which starts a one-week annual session Friday, will deliberate a bill on "establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to safeguard national security," spokesman Zhang Yesui said at a late-night news conference previewing the meeting.

Such a move has long been under consideration and was hastened by the months of anti-government protests last year in the former British colony that was returned to China rule in 1997.

Hong Kong's government is bound by Article 23 of the Basic Law, its constitution, to enact laws to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition or subversion against China. It proposed legislation to do so in 2003, but withdrew it after hundreds of thousands of people came out to protest.

Beijing has increasingly pushed for measures such as punishment for disrespecting the Chinese national flag and anthem and increased pro-China patriotic-themed education in schools, but opposition in Hong Kong's Legislative Council makes it unlikely a national security bill could pass at the local level.

Now, China appears to be sidestepping Hong Kong's lawmaking body to enact the legislation. Zhang said that the new measures are required by the "new situation and demands" and that action at the national level is "entirely necessary."

Dennis Kwok, an opposition lawmaker in the city, called the move the end of Hong Kong and the "one country, two-systems" framework under which it is part of China but has its own legislature and judicial system.

"Make no mistake about it, that Beijing, the Central People's Government, has completely breached its promise to the Hong Kong people, a promise that was enshrined in the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 52 of 79

the Basic Law," he said.

In Washington, where President Donald Trump and his top national security officials have been increasingly critical of China for both its response to the coronavirus pandemic and actions in Hong Kong, the State Department said such a move would "undermine the PRC's commitments and obligations in the Sino-British Joint Declaration."

"Any effort to impose national security legislation that does not reflect the will of the people of Hong Kong would be highly destabilizing, and would be met with strong condemnation from the United States and the international community," spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said. She added that attempts to limit human rights and fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong would affect "the United States' current treatment of Hong Kong."

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper said a draft resolution would be brought before the National People's Congress on Friday afternoon and voted on at the end of its session on May 28. The congress' standing committee that handles most actual legislation will then consider the details of the measure, the newspaper said.

A vote at the NPC will add to concerns in Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp that Beijing is chipping away at the territory's rights to assembly and free speech that greatly exceed those permitted by the ruling Communist Party in mainland China.

The decision to circumvent Hong Kong's Legislative Council to enact the security legislation is an "unprecedented and highly controversial intervention," Johnny Patterson, director of the non-governmental organization Hong Kong Watch, said in a statement.

Patterson questioned whether charities and groups such as his own and Amnesty International could be outlawed as subversive under the legislation.

"A broad-brush interpretation of this law would signal the end of Hong Kong as we know it," Patterson said.

The annual session of the congress is getting underway after a two-month delay because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thursday saw the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body. That will be followed Friday by the start of the 3,000-member NPC at which Premier Li Keqiang will deliver a keynote speech outlining economic and social goals for the year.

The holding of the "two sessions," as the annual meetings are known, is a further sign of what the party says is its success in bringing the outbreak under control, although clusters of cases are still popping up in some parts of the country.

Members of the Consultative Conference will "tell the world about how China, as a responsible major country, has taken firm action and contributed to international cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic," Wang Yang, the chairman of the body, said in a report to the opening session.

Wang's comments were in the prepared text distributed to journalists, although he skipped over them in his delivery, apparently to save time.

Rank-and-file members wore masks in the vast auditorium inside the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing. Other top officials, including Wang, Li and President Xi Jinping, did not.

This year's meeting of the two bodies is being shortened to one week from the usual two as part of virus-control measures. Media access has been largely reduced and only a limited number of reporters, diplomats and observers were permitted into the meeting hall.

Backed by massive state propaganda support, Xi has received plaudits at home for having contained the virus, even while the U.S. and others question China's handling of the initial outbreak.

The Chinese public is also largely seen as backing Xi's tough approach to foreign policy challenges, including criticism from the U.S., Australia and others.

Abroad, however, that policy has further bolstered concerns about China's intentions. That may ultimately add to Xi's difficulties in reviving economic growth and jobs at a time when global markets are partly shut and skepticism toward China runs high.

## **GOP weighs jobless aid cuts to urge Americans back to work**

**By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell huddled Thursday at the White House as Republicans stake out new plans to phase out coronavirus-related unemployment benefits to encourage Americans to go back to work.

Revamping jobless aid is fast becoming the focus of debate over the next virus aid package. After the Senate decided to take a "pause" on new pandemic proposals, senators faced mounting pressure to act before leaving town for a weeklong Memorial Day break. The Senate also began efforts to fast-track an extension of a popular small business lending program.

"Republicans and the White House are reaching consensus on the need for redesigning the unemployment benefits so they are not a barrier to getting people back to work," Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters on a conference call.

The flurry of activity comes after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pushed a new \$3 trillion aid package through the House last week. The Senate, under McConnell, says there is no urgency to act, and senators are expected to reconsider more aid only in June.

With the nation's death toll poised to hit 100,000 and layoffs surpassing 38 million, some lawmakers see a failure by Washington to act as untenable. Yet Congress has moved beyond the political consensus reached at the outset of the crisis and is now splitting along familiar party lines.

The difference in approach and priorities between Democrats and Republicans reflects the partisan split that is defining both parties before the 2020 election.

At least one Republican, Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, was trying to prevent the Senate from recessing unless it considered more aid. No votes, however, were taken.

"Now is not the time for the Senate to go home," tweeted Gardner, who is among the most politically endangered GOP senators running for reelection in the fall.

Gardner wanted agreement to extend the small business Paycheck Protection Program and pushed for more funds for state and local governments facing layoffs. He told reporters he had called Trump to express his concerns.

As a result, senators were trying to fast-track a proposal to extend the Paycheck Protection Program's expiration. The proposed fix would double from eight to 16 weeks the window for business owners absorbing losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic to spend their federally backed loans and still qualify to have them forgiven. The program was established in March under an earlier coronavirus response bill.

While the House works remotely, the lights-on Senate has the legislative stage to itself. But the chamber that considers itself the world's greatest deliberative body spent May debating almost anything but the pandemic. It confirmed several of Trump's executive and judicial nominees, including John Ratcliffe on Thursday as director of national intelligence.

"You wouldn't even know there's a COVID crisis," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York told ABC's "The View." "Crazy. It's just so wrong."

McConnell argued that his side of the Capitol led passage of the earlier \$2 trillion package. Better to assess how that money is being spent, he said, before approving more. He rejects the new \$3 trillion package approved by the Democratic-led House last week as a "liberal wish list."

On Thursday, McConnell mocked the House for working remotely and voting by proxy while senators in masks show up like other Americans returning to work. The District of Columbia remains under stay-home orders through June 8.

"The self-described 'People's House' has been suspiciously empty of people," McConnell said. "Every one of my Senate colleagues should be proud of how we've helped our nation win this first battle."

Pelosi shot back: "We have the Heroes bill," she said about the House-passed aid measure. "He has the zeroes bill."

Unemployment insurance, though, was quickly becoming a new priority for Republicans staking out the next aid package.

Brady warned that generous benefits, with a \$600 weekly boost during the pandemic approved under

the earlier aid bill, would “handcuff” workers and discourage them from returning to work.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said, “It was a mistake to make it so high to begin with. It would be a mistake to extend it.”

Republicans are hopeful that as states reopen, the economy will improve, lessening the need for more federal funds. But if workers refuse to return to work, they worry companies can’t begin to rebound.

Brady proposes giving workers a one-time \$1,200 bonus to get back to work. He said conversations were happening at the highest levels at the White House.

But polling shows Americans are concerned about a second wave of the virus as shops and workplaces reopen. A poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found 83% of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that lifting restrictions in their area will lead to additional infections, with 54% saying they are very or extremely concerned.

## Tech giants are embracing remote work. Others may follow

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — For a preview of the future of office work, watch how the biggest tech companies are preparing for a post-pandemic world.

Silicon Valley and Seattle giants — Facebook, Microsoft, Apple, Twitter — were the first to send their employees home as the virus spread to the U.S. Now they’re among the last to return them to the office. Some of their employees might never go back.

The companies are studying what their highly-paid, highly-valued employees want, using their own technology to make remote work easier and looking to hire new workers outside of big city hubs. It’s a potentially huge turnaround after years in which companies like Amazon and Google chased scarce tech talent by opening or expanding offices in hip urban locations such as San Francisco and New York.

Such a shift might also amount to a repudiation of the notion that creative work demands corporate campuses reminiscent of college, with free food, ping pong tables and open office plans designed to encourage unplanned interactions.

The result could re-imagine not just Silicon Valley but other cities as the companies expand hiring in places like Atlanta, Dallas and Denver, where Facebook plans to open new “hubs” for its new, mostly remote hires.

Change won’t happen quickly, though. “We want to make sure we move forward in a measured way,” said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg during an employee town hall Thursday that was broadcast live on his Facebook page.

Facebook, which has nearly 45,000 employees, is looking five to 10 years down the line as it plans for more remote work, even when COVID-19 is no longer a threat that requires most of its employees to work from home. Since the coronavirus has upended work and office life, even companies with fewer resources and slower-moving cultures are likely to follow.

“Many companies are learning that their workers are just as or even more productive working from home,” said Andy Challenger, senior vice president of staffing firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Zuckerberg said a Facebook employee survey found that about 20% of workers were “extremely or very interested” in moving to full-time remote work after virus-related restrictions are lifted. Another 20% were “somewhat” interested and the largest group wanted flexibility, with some remote and some in-office work. Eventually, Zuckerberg said, as many as half of Facebook’s workers could be working remotely. But he cautioned that this is years, perhaps even a decade, away.

Twitter went even further, announcing last week that it will allow some employees to work from home on a permanent basis, a plan CEO Jack Dorsey hatched before the coronavirus. His other company, Square, which like Twitter is based in San Francisco, is doing the same. Some new U.S.-based job listings for Twitter give the option for hires to work in cities like San Francisco, New York and Washington D.C. but also remotely full time anywhere in the country.

It’s too early to know whether remote work options will mean an exodus of highly-paid tech workers from San Francisco and Silicon Valley, where they’ve contributed to skyrocketing rents and housing prices. But

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 55 of 79

Facebook's employee survey suggests that at least some of its employees would leave the San Francisco Bay Area if given the option.

For companies that have built their empires on letting people communicate with far-flung friends and colleagues, moving toward remote work is not too hard of a sell. But there are many challenges. Collaboration, spontaneity, face-to-face interactions that aren't on a scheduled call — all look different when people are working alone from their homes.

There are also some jobs — in Facebook's case, the toughest content reviewing that deals with suicides, child abuse and other traumatizing material; sales; building, upgrading and maintaining data centers; lawyers who have to be in court and so on — that can't be done remotely.

Newer employees, especially recent college grads or those with little experience and lower performers might also fall into this group, Zuckerberg said. At Facebook, the CEO said employees will have to meet certain criteria to be considered for permanent remote work. This includes a level of seniority, strong performance and, naturally, being part of a team that supports remote work.

For now, workers at Facebook, Google, Twitter and elsewhere can work remotely through 2020. At Microsoft, employees can work from home until October. But the company's work-from-home flexibility has fit with the software giant's broader effort to capitalize on what CEO Satya Nadella calls a shift to "remote everything."

"Every organization will increasingly need the ability at a moment's notice to remote everything from manufacturing to sales, to customer support," Nadella said this week at the company's Build developer conference.

The company's chief technology officer, Kevin Scott, had already been working a lot from home, in part because he is based in Silicon Valley and most of the rest of the leadership team is in Redmond, Washington.

"We are all on this accelerated timeline figuring out how to work from home.... It's learning the culture and the rhythms of interacting with your colleagues by video conference and doing your work remotely," he said, speaking not just of Microsoft but workplaces in general. "That is getting so much better so quickly that I don't think I'm going to be commuting nearly as frequently as I was before."

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

By The Associated Press undefined

Pandemic politics shadowed President Donald Trump's trip to Michigan to highlight lifesaving medical devices, with the president and officials from the electoral battleground state clashing over federal aid, mail-in ballots and face masks.

The president did not wear a face covering Thursday despite a warning from the state's top law enforcement officer that a refusal to do so might lead to a ban on Trump's return.

Trump visited Ypsilanti, outside Detroit, to tour a Ford Motor Co. factory that had been repurposed to manufacture ventilators, the medical breathing machines governors begged for during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The visit came as the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits in the two months since the coronavirus took hold in the U.S. hit nearly 39 million even as states gradually let people go back to work after nationwide business shutdowns triggered by the outbreak. The Labor Department says more than 2.4 million people filed for jobless aid last week alone.

The continuing trend of heavy job cuts reflects an economy that is sinking into the worst recession since the Great Depression. The National Association of Realtors reports that sales of existing homes plunged 17.8% in April, the largest one-month decline since a 22.5% fall in July 2010.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— Many U.S. colleges are looking to reopen this fall, with dramatic changes like scrapping big lectures,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 56 of 79

limiting the capacity of dorms and requiring mandatory testing for the coronavirus. At some smaller schools, students may be barred from leaving campus.

— A church in Mississippi has been destroyed by a suspected arson fire about a month after its pastor filed a lawsuit challenging restrictions because of the coronavirus. Investigators at the scene of the First Pentecostal Church in Holly Springs, Mississippi, found graffiti at the scene that read “bet you stay home now you hypokrites.”

— Russian medical workers say they face mistrust, low pay and even hostility as they battle both the coronavirus and a system that fails to support them. Doctors who try to speak out about a lack of protective equipment and dire working conditions are accused of lying, and some are being fired or face prosecution.

— As much of California reopens businesses amid easing coronavirus restrictions, a farming region bordering Mexico is struggling with a spike in cases. A spokesman for the largest hospital in the Imperial Valley area east of San Diego believes American citizens living in the Mexicali, Mexico, are crossing the border to the U.S. for treatment.

— Fast-food restaurants have fared better than sit-down restaurants as the coronavirus pandemic gripped the U.S., but that gap appears to be closing with the opening of dining rooms, especially chain eateries.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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

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

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

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

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

## ONE NUMBER:

— 300,000: Growing numbers of health professionals around the world are filling an important role in the effort to guard against a resurgence of the coronavirus. They’re known as contact tracers. Some estimate as many as 300,000 of them would be needed in the U.S. to adequately curtail the spread. While some states like Utah have reported having enough contact tracers, others are short hundreds or even thousands of people.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

— **FEEDING THE MASSES:** A golden-domed Sikh temple for centuries has been the symbol of equality in India’s capital city. It’s serving free meals to millions of people and playing an important role despite the country’s coronavirus lockdown banning religious congregations. The Bangla Sahib Gurdwara’s kitchen is cooking up to 100,000 meals a day that the New Delhi government distributes at shelters and drop-off points throughout the city.

— **SISTERS REUNITED:** A New Zealand woman is reunited with her dying sister in Australia after gaining an exemption from pandemic travel restrictions on compassionate grounds. The country had turned down her request to fly on four previous occasions. Christine Archer’s only sister, Gail Baker, was diagnosed with incurable ovarian cancer in late March after both countries stopped international travel.



## Job market remains grim even as U.S. tentatively reopens

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Signs of renewed business activity are surfacing across the country as states gradually reopen economies and some businesses call a portion of their laid-off staffers back to work. Yet with millions more Americans seeking unemployment aid last week, the U.S. job market remains as bleak as it's been in decades.

More than 2.4 million laid-off workers filed for jobless benefits last week, the government said Thursday, the ninth straight week of outsize figures since the viral outbreak forced millions of businesses to closer their doors and shrink their workforces.

And while the number of weekly applications has slowed for seven straight weeks, they remain immense by any historical standard — roughly 10 times the typical figure that prevailed before the virus struck. Nearly 39 million people have applied for benefits since mid-March.

"There is little evidence that the reopening of the economy has, as yet, led to any sudden snap back in employment," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

Nearly half of Americans say that either their incomes have declined or they live with an adult who has lost pay through a job loss or reduced hours, the Census Bureau said in survey data released Wednesday. More than one-fifth of Americans had little or no confidence in their ability to pay the next month's rent or mortgage on time, the survey found.

Most economists and business leaders say the lifting of restrictions on business activity won't likely be enough to spur significant hiring in the weeks and months ahead. Surveys suggest that consumers will remain wary of shopping, traveling, eating out or congregating in large groups until a vaccine is available or they're otherwise confident they can avoid infection.

For now, workers who do return to their jobs expect far fewer customers.

On Tuesday, Phillip Skunza will be back at his job as a waiter and bartender at the Happy Greek restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. Skunza had been laid off in mid-March after the state shuttered all restaurants and bars.

Skunza said his employer expects sales to reach maybe half their pre-virus level. The restaurant has reduced tables and cut barstools from 10 to four. Skunza, 52, expects to bring home only about 50% of what he made before because of fewer tips.

"When you're making anywhere between \$300 to \$500 a week, and that gets cut down to \$150 to \$250 a week, that's going to be an issue," he said.

He said that he's hopeful of keeping his job and that as business picks up during summer, more workers can be rehired.

During April, U.S. employers shed 20 million jobs, eliminating a decade's worth of job growth in a single month. The unemployment rate reached 14.7%, the highest since the Depression. Millions of other people who were out of work weren't counted as unemployed because they didn't look for a new job. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has said he expects the rate will peak at 20% to 25% in May or June.

An additional 1.2 million people sought aid last week under a new federal program for self-employed, contractor and gig workers, who are now eligible for jobless aid for the first time. (These figures aren't adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn't include them in the overall number.)

China, the original epicenter of the pandemic, has reopened earlier. Yet its experience has been mixed. Some employees have returned to factories, restaurants and shops, which are open but with few customers. Movie theaters, gyms and bars are closed.

Fitch Ratings estimates that up to 30% of China's urban workers lost jobs at least temporarily in the first quarter. Another wave of job cuts is possible as global demand for China's exports weakens.

Some economists see tentative signs that U.S. economic activity is starting to recover, if only slightly, now that all states have moved toward relaxing some restrictions on movement and commerce.

Data from Apple's mapping service shows that more people are driving and searching for directions. Restaurant reservations have risen modestly in states that have been open longer, according to the app OpenTable. But those numbers are still far below pre-virus levels. In South Carolina, one of the earliest

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 58 of 79

states to reopen, reservations have increased but are still down nearly 69% from a year ago.

In most industries, employees are working more hours than in mid-April, the peak of the virus-related shutdowns nationwide. Data from Kronos, a workforce management software company, shows that shifts worked at its 30,000 client firms are up 16% since then but still down 25% from pre-virus levels.

Even in states that have been reopened the longest, like Georgia, not enough shoppers are visiting stores and restaurants to support significant rehiring, said David Gilbertson, an executive at Kronos.

"Our data is suggesting this recovery is going to take a while," Gilbertson said.

Jimmy Page, a small business owner in San Diego, is a bit more optimistic now than he was two months ago. Page, who owns a digital marketing company, Inseev Interactive, has added back five of the 12 employees he laid off when the coronavirus hit. A loan from the government's small business lending program helped, he said.

Revenue has slightly increased this month, Page said, compared with April, a faster rebound than he expected. If he can get his company's sales back to pre-virus targets by fall or winter, he may look to hire more.

"The reality is that it has stabilized," Page said. "It seems everything is going in the right direction."

Still, major employers continue to announce significant job cuts. Uber said this week that it will lay off 3,000 employees, on top of 3,700 it has already cut. Vice, a TV and digital news organization tailored for younger people, has announced 155 layoffs globally.

Digital publishers Quartz and BuzzFeed, magazine giant Conde Nast and the company that owns the business-focused The Economist magazine have also announced job cuts.

The depth of the layoffs vary sharply from state to state. Nearly one-third of Washington state's workforce has been approved to receive jobless aid, according to the government's data, the highest proportion of any state. Second-highest is in Nevada, where one-quarter of the state's workers have been approved, followed by Oregon and Florida.

Yet in 14 states, fewer than 10% of workers are receiving benefits. In Utah and South Dakota, it's just 6%, the smallest proportion, followed by Nebraska and Wyoming.

## Lace them up: Boxing set for June 9 return in Las Vegas

By TIM DAHLBERG AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Add boxing to the list of sports on the comeback trail.

Promoter Bob Arum said Thursday he plans to stage a card of five fights on June 9 at the MGM Grand, the first of a series of fights over the next two months at the Las Vegas hotel. A second fight card will be held two nights later, with ESPN televising both cards, kicking off twice weekly shows at the hotel in June and July.

No fans will be allowed, and Arum said fighters and everyone else will be tested at least twice during fight week for the new coronavirus. The fights are pending approval of the Nevada Athletic Commission, which meets next week to consider the events, along with two cards that the UFC plans to stage at its facility in Las Vegas.

They are also pending the reopening of the MGM and other Las Vegas hotels, something that is widely expected to happen the first week of June, though no dates for a second phase of easing virus restrictions have been announced by Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak.

"Once we get those fights in and UFC gets its initial fights in, both of us will ask for additional dates," Arum told The Associated Press. "The key was getting enough testing, and we've got plenty of testing in Nevada to hold our events."

In addition to Arum's fights, British promoter Eddie Hearn said this week he plans to hold fights beginning sometime in July from the backyard garden of the family mansion outside London where he was raised. Hearn told The Athletic that the first fight card is tentatively set for July 15.

Golden Boy promoter Oscar De La Hoya has also talked about returning with a July 4 card, though he has offered no details. UFC returned to action earlier this month with cards in Florida, including a pay-per-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 59 of 79

view event, that took place without fans.

Arum declined to say who would be fighting on June 9, saying ESPN wanted to make the announcement after the fights are approved. But he said the cards would feature the same quality of fighters who were on ESPN before the shutdown of sports around the world.

The cards would be expanded to three-hour shows, Arum said, and feature a main event, a co-main and three supporting fights.

"These will be the same guys we were going to have before to the extent possible," he said. "Guys like (Olympic medalist) Shakur Stevenson and others who would have been fighting on our cards."

Stevenson was set to headline a Top Rank card in March at Madison Square Garden when it was called off at the last minute because of the pandemic. Another Top Rank fighter, Ireland's Michael Conlan, was to fight in New York on St. Patrick's Day, but Arum said Conlan won't be on the upcoming cards because he's unable to travel from Ireland.

Arum said fighters and cornermen will be tested when they arrive in Las Vegas the week of the fight and will be housed on a "bubble" floor at the MGM Grand. They will be allowed out only to eat at an approved restaurant in the hotel or to train at the Top Rank gym.

Fighters will also be tested the night before they fight. The double tests should eliminate the issue the UFC had when a fighter tested positive and was removed from the UFC 249 card, Arum said.

"Our protocols will be much more stringent than UFC had in Florida," Arum said. "In ours you wouldn't have a fighter testing positive the day of the fight or the day before."

Arum credited Jim Murren, the former MGM CEO who leads a state task force dealing with the virus, with making sure there are enough tests available for fighters, judges, commissioners and anyone else involved on site. He said 60-70 people may be tested on fight day alone, using tests that can give results in a couple hours.

While pre-pandemic fights were held in the 16,000-seat MGM Grand Garden, Arum said the fights will be held in a convention area or ballroom at the hotel. There will be no media allowed, at least at the beginning, he said, because of the logistical difficulty of testing more people.

Arum's Top Rank has a long-term deal with ESPN for fights that before the pandemic hit were on the main network and streaming service ESPN+. The network also combined with Fox to televise the pay-per-view of the Tyson Fury-Deontay Wilder heavyweight title card in February that was Top Rank's last card.

Arum said he talked to Fury on Thursday and that plans are underway to hold the rematch — probably somewhere outside the U.S. — late this year. He said there are also still plans for a highly anticipated lightweight title unification fight between Vasiliy Lomachenko and Teofimo Lopez by the end of the year.

## Forecasters predict busy 2020 Atlantic hurricane season

By FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — With forecasters predicting another intense Atlantic hurricane season with as many as 13 to 19 named storms, disaster preparedness experts say it's critically important for people in evacuation zones to plan to stay with friends or family, rather than end up in shelters during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Shelters are meant to keep you safe, not make you comfortable," said Carlos Castillo, acting deputy administrator for resilience at FEMA.

"Social distancing and other CDC guidance to keep you safe from COVID-19 may impact the disaster preparedness plan you had in place, including what is in your go-kit, evacuation routes, shelters, and more," Castillo said. "With tornado season at its peak, hurricane season around the corner, and flooding, earthquakes and wildfires a risk year-round, it is time to revise and adjust your emergency plan now."

Six to 10 of these storms could develop into hurricanes, with winds of 74 mph or more, and three to six could even become major hurricanes, capable of inflicting devastating damage.

"It is not possible to predict how many will hit land," said Neil Jacobs, acting administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center. The agency will update the forecast

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 60 of 79

in August as the Atlantic region heads into its most active months.

The region has been a "high activity era" since 1995, with warmer ocean temperatures and stronger West African monsoons causing above-average activity, NOAA forecaster Gerry Bell said.

An average Atlantic season has 12 named storms, but last year was the fourth consecutive season to have more, with 18 named storms, including three intense hurricanes — Dorian, Humberto and Lorenzo. The only other period on record that produced four consecutive above-normal seasons was 1998-2001.

The season officially extends from June through November, but Tropical Storm Arthur jumped the gun last week off the eastern U.S. coastline.

"As Americans focus their attention on a safe and healthy reopening of our country, it remains critically important that we also reAP-NORC poll: State and U.S. government virus approval dips

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Views of how government at all levels is handling the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. have deteriorated somewhat over the past month, as a growing minority of Americans prefer that states lift restrictions on social and economic life.

Still, Americans remain more likely to approve of the actions of their state government than of the federal government or Congress. At the same time, the new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows ratings of President Donald Trump's overall performance remain remarkably steady, as they have for much of his presidency.

Among other findings in the survey of American adults, conducted May 14-18:

— Only about a third of Americans approve of how the federal government is handling the pandemic, while more — roughly half — now disapprove. The balance of opinion has shifted from one month ago, when 4 in 10 approved and about as many disapproved.

— Meanwhile, approval of how leaders in Congress have responded during the outbreak remains low, with just about a quarter expressing approval and half disapproving. Disapproval is up from roughly 4 in 10 one month ago, shortly after the passage of a well-received \$2 trillion rescue plan that sent direct payments to millions of Americans and provided loans to both small businesses and large corporations.

— The bleak assessment of the federal government and Congress compares with more positive opinions of how state governments are doing dealing with the coronavirus outbreak. Currently, 51% approve of state governments' response, while 33% disapprove. Still, approval of states has also dipped since April, when 63% approved of the response from state governments.

— While overall views have soured, state governments still see bipartisan support from Americans who favor COVID-19 restrictions. Among those who support stay-at-home orders, close to 7 in 10 across party lines approve of their state government's response.

But Americans who oppose stay-at-home orders — most of whom are Republican — are far more negative in their assessments, with 56% saying they disapprove of how state governments are handling the outbreak.

— Stay-at-home orders and other virus restrictions are still supported by majorities of Americans. But there's been a modest dip in support over the past month, concentrated particularly among Republicans. Just 45% of Republicans now say they favor stay-at-home orders, while about as many (41%) are opposed. In April, 70% of Republicans expressed support. Seventy-eight percent of Democrats are in favor, down from 91% last month.

— Partisans also diverge significantly over the necessary conditions for lifting restrictions in their area, though there is agreement that people exposed to the virus must isolate themselves if restrictions are to be lifted. Eighty-seven percent of Democrats and 68% of Republicans describe this as essential.

But while majorities of Democrats think of many other things as essential for reopening, fewer than half of Republicans describe any other condition asked about in the poll that way. That includes requiring people to wear masks when around others outside of their homes, to keep six feet apart in most places and to have their temperature checked before entering businesses or crowded places.

— There's also a significant partisan gap over the importance of a vaccine: 56% of Democrats, but just 36% of Republicans, say a vaccine available to the public is essential before restrictions can be lifted.

## NASA, SpaceX bringing astronaut launches back to home turf

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — For the first time in nearly a decade, U.S. astronauts are about to blast into orbit aboard an American rocket from American soil. And for the first time in the history of human spaceflight, a private company is running the show.

Elon Musk's SpaceX is the conductor and NASA the customer as businesses begin chauffeuring astronauts to the International Space Station.

The curtain rises next Wednesday with the scheduled liftoff of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon capsule with two NASA astronauts, a test flight years in the making.

The drama unfolds from the exact spot where men flew to the moon and the last space shuttle soared from Kennedy Space Center.

While Florida's Space Coast has seen plenty of launches since the shuttle's farewell tour in 2011 — even at the height of the coronavirus pandemic — they were for satellites, robotic explorers and space station supplies. The only route to orbit for astronauts was on Russian rockets.

NASA's newest test pilots, Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken, are launching from home turf with SpaceX presiding over the countdown.

"Getting a chance again to see human spaceflight in our own backyard," Behnken said. "That's the thing that's most exciting for me."

The cosmic-size shift to private companies allows NASA to zero in on deep space travel. The space agency is busting to return astronauts to the moon by 2024 under orders from the White House, a deadline looking increasingly unlikely even as three newly chosen commercial teams rush to develop lunar landers. Mars also beckons.

"We're building momentum toward a much more exciting future," said John Logsdon, founder of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute and a professor emeritus.

The Russian launch site in Kazakhstan is out of the way and out of sight. Launching crews again from Florida is sure to fire up the public, Logsdon noted.

Adding to the appeal is the flash generated by Musk, SpaceX's chief executive, designer and founder who shot his red Tesla Roadster into outer space two years ago during the first flight of a supersized Falcon Heavy rocket.

In a touch of Musk showmanship — he also runs the electric car company — Hurley and Behnken will ride to the launch pad in a gull-winged Tesla Model X, white with black trim just like the astronauts' spacesuits and the rocket itself.

The Dragon riders appreciate Musk's hands-on approach.

"On more than one occasion he has looked both Bob and I right in the eye and said, 'Hey, if there's anything you guys are not comfortable with or that you're seeing, please tell me and we'll fix it.'" Hurley said.

While trumpeting the return of astronaut launches, NASA is urging spectators to stay away because of the pandemic. But beaches near Kennedy are now open, and the local sheriff is welcoming visitors even though inside the space center, the number of guests will be severely limited. Among the exceptions: both astronaut wives — who have flown in space themselves — and their young sons. Vice President Mike Pence, chairman of the National Space Council, is also going, and President Donald Trump told reporters Thursday that he's thinking of attending, too.

Liftoff is set for 4:33 p.m. EDT Wednesday.

"It's going to be a great inspiration to the country next week to see you two go aloft from the Kennedy Space Center," Pence told the astronauts Tuesday.

It will be just the fifth time NASA astronauts strap into a spanking new U.S. space system for liftoff — following Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and shuttle. NASA owned and operated all those spacecraft, built by contractors to NASA's precise specifications. The commercial crew program, by contrast, calls for private businesses to handle and own it all, with input and oversight by NASA.

Only three countries have launched humans — Russia, the U.S. and China in that order — making SpaceX's attempt all the more impressive.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 62 of 79

"My heart is sitting right here," SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said, pointing to her throat at a news conference earlier this month, "and I think it's going to stay there until we get Bob and Doug safely back from the International Space Station."

Hurley, 53, a retired Marine, and Behnken, 49, an Air Force colonel, will spend one to four months aboard the orbiting lab, currently down to a three-man, half-size crew. They'll lend a hand with experiments and possibly spacewalks, before ending their mission with an Atlantic splashdown, a scene not seen for a half-century.

As liftoff looms, the two are hesitant to consider their place in space history. "It seems premature until we've pulled it off," Behnken said.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said the U.S. needs its own access to the space station in order to take full advantage of the \$100 billion lab — the sooner, the better, pandemic or no.

When shuttle Atlantis soared for the final time on July 8, 2011, with Hurley as the pilot under commander Chris Ferguson, NASA envisioned a gap of three to five years.

Ferguson now works for Boeing, the other company hired by NASA in 2014 to transport crews. Plagued with software problems, Boeing's Starliner capsule is still a year from launching with Ferguson and two NASA astronauts.

While disappointed Boeing is trailing, Ferguson said he'll cheer Hurley and Behnken from the sidelines. The SpaceX duo will lay claim to a small U.S. flag that flew on NASA's first and last shuttle flights, and was left on the station by Ferguson and Hurley for the first commercial crew to arrive.

"Regardless of who might get there first, it's a win for America," Ferguson said

NASA's commercial crew effort builds on industry's space station shipments, now in the eighth year. SpaceX led the field with its original Dragon cargo capsules. Musk's California-based company was also first out the gate with its souped-up, tricked-out Dragon crew capsule.

Crew Dragon made its debut early last year, launching successfully to the space station with a test dummy named Ripley after the "Alien" films' hardcore heroine. But the next month, the capsule exploded on the engine test stand at Cape Canaveral, a monumental setback.

Boeing's Starliner capsule made its premiere last December with Rosie the mannequin, but ended up in the wrong orbit. Boeing will repeat the demo this fall, on its own dime, before putting Ferguson and the others on board.

Wayne Hale, a retired space shuttle flight director and program manager who serves on the NASA Advisory Council, views SpaceX's upcoming astronaut flight as an experiment with lessons carrying over to Artemis, NASA's new-generation, moon-landing effort.

Hale and others contend SpaceX and Boeing could be flying astronauts by now if Congress had provided more funding early on. The contracts with NASA are worth billions. NASA's inspector general has estimated the per-seat cost for SpaceX at \$55 million, while the price of a Russian Soyuz seat has averaged \$80 million in recent years. Boeing's Starliner will top that: an estimated \$90 million a pop.

An earlier NASA test pilot, Robert Crippen, wishes at least one space shuttle had kept flying until a replacement was ready. The longest previous hiatus between astronaut launches stretched six years — from Apollo-Soyuz in 1975 to the shuttle's debut in 1981 with Crippen and John Young.

Crippen also wishes the shuttle's replacement was more futuristic-looking and landed on a runway.

The capsule has the familiar cone shape, but inside touchscreens replace the customary, countless switches. The walls are gleaming white, not dull gray. There's even a curtained-off toilet.

It has built-in escape engines designed to fling the capsule off the rocket in an emergency, from the time Hurley and Behnken strap in until they reach orbit.

"This crew will have a good escape system," Crippen said. "John and I had our ejection seats, but they wouldn't have done much for us on liftoff," sending them straight through the rockets' trail of fire.

A capsule is generally simpler and thus safer than a winged spacecraft like the shuttle, Hurley and Behnken noted. In terms of launch power, the relatively small Falcon 9 has far less than the space shuttle did, another layer of safety.

But it's still just the second flight of the crew capsule, and "the statistics will tell you that's riskier than

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 63 of 79

the 15th flight or 20th flight of the vehicle," said Hurley, a former fighter pilot.

At the suggestion of its technicians, SpaceX added photos of Hurley and Behnken to every work order as a constant reminder that lives — not just freight — are at stake.

"I don't think I need to remind my employees how important this is," Shotwell, the company president, said. "They remind themselves."

## Clinton and Patterson again team up for political thriller

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After co-writing the best-selling adult novel of 2018, Bill Clinton and James Patterson have teamed up for another political thriller.

"The President's Daughter" will be released in June 2021, the book's publishers announced Thursday. As with the million-selling "The President Is Missing," the new novel will be a rare joint release by rival companies: Alfred A. Knopf, which has released Clinton's "My Life" among other works, and Little, Brown and Company, Patterson's longtime publisher.

"I never imagined I'd be writing a book with a master storyteller like Jim, much less two," Clinton said in a statement. "I was grateful for the success of the first book, and I believe readers will enjoy reading 'The President's Daughter' as much as I'm enjoying working on it."

Added Patterson, one of the world's best-selling and most prolific authors: "Working with President Clinton has been a highlight of my career, and I'm thrilled to have the chance to write with him again."

Clinton and Patterson will give interviews for the book, although specific plans are undetermined, in part because of uncertainty about the endurance of the coronavirus pandemic. "The President's Daughter" is not a sequel to "The President Is Missing," but a stand-alone novel with new characters, albeit one with a familiar occupation.

"It follows a former president of the United States, now relocated to rural New Hampshire, whose daughter is kidnapped," the publishers announced. "Like their earlier book, the story will be told with Patterson's signature suspense and will be informed by details that only a president can know."

According to an excerpt from the novel being released next week along with a paperback edition of "The President Is Missing," a motivation for the kidnappers is retaliation for U.S. drone strikes overseas against suspected foes. Drones have long been used for surveillance, but armed drones date back to the administration of Clinton's successor, George W. Bush, and were expanded significantly under President Barack Obama.

"For years," one of the kidnappers thinks, "the West has used these drones to rain down hell fire upon his friends, his fighters, and, yes, his family and other families. Fat and comfortable men (and women!) sipping their sugary drinks in comfortable chairs in safety, killing from thousands of kilometers away, seeing the silent explosions but not once hearing them, or hearing the shrieking and crying of the wounded and dying, and then driving home without a care in the world."

The first book by Clinton and Patterson sold more than 3 million copies even as Clinton initially faced renewed questions in the #MeToo era over his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. "The President Is Missing" focused on a potentially devastating cyber attack, but also briefly referred to impeachment proceedings, a reminder of Clinton's being impeached in 1998 after his relationship with Lewinsky was revealed.

The plot for "The President's Daughter" would seem uncomfortable for Clinton, who has a daughter, Chelsea. "This novel is completely and fully fiction," says Washington, D.C. attorney Robert Barnett, who handles book deals for Clinton and Patterson.

"The President's Daughter" is a reunion for the authors and for the book's editors: Michael Pietsch, the CEO of Little, Brown parent company Hachette Book Group, and Knopf publisher and executive vice president Reagan Arthur, the former publisher of Little, Brown. In January, Arthur joined Knopf after the death of its longtime chairman, Sonny Mehta, who worked with Pietsch on "The President Is Missing."

Financial terms for "The President's Daughter" were not disclosed. Clinton and Patterson were represented by Barnett and Deneen Howell of Williams & Connolly. The initial pairing of Clinton and Patterson

was suggested by Barnett, according to the two authors, each of whom expressed surprise the other wanted to work with him.

## **AP-NORC poll: Trump approval remains steady during pandemic**

**By JULIE PACE and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the coronavirus pandemic stretches on, Americans' views of the federal and state government response to the crisis are starting to sour — yet President Donald Trump's personal approval rating has remained steady.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that 41% of Americans approve of the president's job performance, while 58% disapprove. That's consistent with opinions of Trump before the pandemic, as well as throughout his more than three years in office.

The survey highlights one of the remarkable features of Trump's tenure as president: Despite a steady drumbeat of controversies, an impeachment trial and now a historic public health crisis, few Americans have changed their views of him. He's failed to increase his support in any measurable way, yet he also has retained the approval of his core backers, including the overwhelming majority of Republicans.

"The Trump presidency is a perfect example of the Rorschach test of politics," said Alice Stewart, a Republican strategist who worked for Sen. Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign. "People that want to see that the president is doing a good job will see that regardless of where the chips fall. If they want to see that he's doing a crappy job, they will see that regardless of what happens."

Less than six months from his Election Day face-off against Democrat Joe Biden, the consistency of Trump's support appears to leave him with the same narrow path to victory that first propelled him to the White House in 2016, even as the pandemic and resulting economic crisis upend nearly every aspect of American life.

Biden's campaign believes Trump's uneven handling of the crisis will ultimately cost him his job in November.

"The scale of the loss is staggering and it's infuriating," Biden said this week. "But more than that, it's heartbreaking to think how much fear, how much loss, how much agony could have been avoided if the president hadn't wasted so much time and taken responsibility."

The AP-NORC survey comes as the death toll in the U.S. from COVID-19 nears 100,000 people. Robust testing remains a challenge, and a vaccine is months or years away. Yet the scope of the economic toll — nearly 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment since March — has also increased the urgency in many states to begin reopening businesses.

Overall, the poll shows that 39% of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the virus.

Just 31% of Americans approve of the federal government's response. Forty-eight percent disapprove, including 20% of Trump's supporters — suggesting that some view the president apart from the sprawling federal apparatus he oversees.

Approval ratings for the federal government have slipped as the pandemic has stretched on, from 40% approval one month ago to 31% now. State governments continue to get higher marks from the public, though support there is slipping as well. About half of Americans — 51% — say they approve of the job being done by their states, down from 63% in April.

State governments have ultimate control over when and how restrictions on businesses, schools and public transportation are lifted. In hard hit areas like New York City, strict limitations remain in place. In other parts of the country, including Texas and Georgia, restaurants, malls and other businesses have started to welcome back customers.

Majorities of Americans continue to favor stay-at-home orders and other virus restrictions, though that support has ebbed over the last month.

Trump pushed aggressively for states to start reopening businesses almost from the start of the crisis, outraging many Democrats and frustrating even some Republicans who feared he was dismissing the advice of public health experts and struggling to show empathy with those who were sick or had lost



loved ones to the virus.

He's also embraced dangerous and controversial remedies for combating COVID-19, musing in a televised briefing that drinking bleach could help combat the virus. He announced this week that he was taking the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to ward off COVID-19, despite warnings from the Food and Drug Administration about potentially fatal side effects.

The AP-NORC survey shows that 62% of Americans say Trump isn't listening to health experts enough as he navigates the pandemic response. Among Democrats, 91% say he is not listening to the experts enough. Three in 10 Republicans also say he isn't listening enough, while a majority — 59% — think he is doing about right.

"He almost takes pride in doing that," said Maria Cardona, a Democratic strategist. "That is dangerous for everyone."

The federal government's handling of the crisis still ranks above that of Congress: Just 23% of Americans approve of the congressional leaders' response. In March, Congress approved a \$2 trillion rescue plan that sent direct payments to millions of Americans and provided loans to both small businesses and large corporations. Work was expected to quickly start on an additional round of rescue money, and the Democratic-led House approved a \$3 trillion plan last week. However, the bill faced no prospects of passage in the GOP-controlled Senate, and negotiations on a compromise package appear to be slow-moving.

## 2 accused of false Alzheimer's diagnoses charged with fraud

By JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — A former director of an Ohio memory-loss clinic accused by dozens of patients of falsely diagnosing them with Alzheimer's disease has been indicted on federal fraud charges.

The U.S. Justice Department said Sherry-Ann Jenkins was not trained or licensed to provide any medical care but presented herself as a doctor and billed patients for unneeded treatments.

She and her husband, Dr. Oliver Jenkins, were indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Toledo on charges of conspiracy along with mail, wire and health care fraud.

The indictment did not directly accuse the couple of falsely diagnosing her patients, but more than 60 people filed lawsuits beginning in 2017 that said Sherry-Ann Jenkins lied and told them they had Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.

The patients said they spent months undergoing treatment while planning out their final years, thinking they would die soon. Some quit their jobs or took one last special trip. One killed himself; others said they considered suicide.

Sherry-Ann Jenkins operated the Toledo Clinic Cognitive Center through the Toledo Clinic, a multi-specialty medical center, for slightly more than two years until 2016, according to court records.

She would diagnose and treat patients and order tests despite having no training or qualifications, the indictment said. She also billed patients for treatments that weren't medically necessary, including memory exercises and using coconut oil to treat cognitive disorders, prosecutors said.

Her husband, a licensed doctor and a former partner in the Toledo Clinic, signed off on the tests and was listed as the referring physician on billing even though he was rarely at the clinic and never saw the patients, the indictment said.

Oliver Jenkins declined to comment on Thursday, referring questions to the couple's attorney who also declined comment. The couple no longer lives in Ohio.

The patients who sued the couple and the clinic resolved the cases out of court, said attorney David Zoll. He would not comment on the indictment.

Nearly all of those diagnosed by Jenkins began seeing her after suffering traumatic brain injuries or worsening cognitive issues.

Don Tanner told The Associated Press in 2017 that he was sent to the clinic after suffering a severe brain injury in a fall. Dealing with the devastating diagnosis of Alzheimer's became unbearable, he said.

"She gave me a death sentence," said Tanner, who said he considered taking his own life. It wasn't until

after the clinic had closed that a new doctor told him there was no way he had Alzheimer's.

Kay Taynor said she and her husband along with a couple of friends were diagnosed with Alzheimer's by Jenkins.

Her husband, Gary, fell into depression, and killed himself in their garage, she said in an interview three years ago. An autopsy did not show any signs of Alzheimer's, she said.

## Cape Town is virus hot spot for South Africa and continent

By **ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press**

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Cape Town has become the center of the COVID-19 outbreak in South Africa and one of Africa's hot spots.

The popular tourist destination at the southern tip of Africa had more than 12,000 confirmed cases as of Thursday, representing 63% of South Africa's 19,000 cases and about 10% of Africa's 95,000 cases.

Gauteng province containing Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city, and the capital, Pretoria, had been expected to be the country's epicenter with its population density and poverty levels, but Cape Town defied predictions with high levels of community transmission.

"No model upfront predicted what we see in Western Cape (province)," Health Minister Zwelini Mkhize told journalists Thursday. "The explosion of cases in Western Cape is out of the expected range and it may be that we need to have additional interventions to try and contain those numbers."

Cape Town's mountains and beaches may have contributed to its high number of COVID-19 cases. With direct flights to several European capitals, it is believed that tourists not showing symptoms brought the virus and it began to spread undetected.

Cape Town is expected to reach its peak of cases around the end of June, while the rest of South Africa is expected to peak in August or September.

South Africa may see between 40,000 to 45,000 deaths by November, according to the Modelling and Simulation Hub, Africa, a group of scientists and academics advising the government.

By year's end some 13 million of South Africa's 57 million people could be infected, their study said.

While South Africa reportedly has adequate hospital beds it remains short of intensive care facilities. It has about 3,300 intensive care beds but predictions suggest more than 20,000 could be needed.

"It is not just a question of beds, it is trained staff and ventilators that will be needed and those are difficult to provide quickly," said Juliet Pulliam, director of the South African Center for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis, who contributed to the study. Cape Town could experience a shortage of ICU beds by the end of June, she warned.

Cape Town and Western Cape province are six to eight weeks ahead of the rest of South Africa in the outbreak, health experts said.

"The lessons we are learning now, we are sharing with the rest of the country," said Dr. Nomafrench Mbombo, Western Cape's top health officer.

Khayelitsha, a shantytown of nearly 500,000, is one of Cape Town's hot spots. A field hospital is being constructed to increase the capacity of Khayelitsha District Hospital and should open by June 1, according to Doctors Without Borders.

One local problem is a delay in test results, in some cases up to eight to 10 days, said Dr. Claire Keene, medical coordinator for the Doctors Without Borders project. Another is that some healthcare workers have tested positive.

A second hot spot in the outbreak is the Tygerburg area near Cape Town International Airport.

Cape Town has suffered a massive economic slump from the tourism slump and lockdown restrictions, said Western Cape premier Alan Winde, estimating that 200,000 jobs have been lost and 1.2 million to 1.8 million people in the province are hungry.

Winde, in self-isolation after coming in contact with a TV cameraman who later died of COVID-19, wants restrictions relaxed to boost economic activity.

"We need to see the economy open up with the new normal operations, but without putting our health

system under severe strain," he told reporters. "We need to keep the curve as flat as possible."

Meanwhile the rest of South Africa eagerly anticipates the relaxation of lockdown restrictions on June 1. Some government officials have said Johannesburg and other parts of the country will allow more people to return to work and resume the sale of alcohol and cigarettes.

Schools will resume classes, starting with students in grades 7 and 12, but many teachers and parents have expressed concern they will be exposed to the virus.

## Top educator taught Kansas preschoolers alongside retirees

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press**

MISSION, Kan. (AP) — Teacher Tabatha Rosproy's preschool class met inside a nursing and retirement home in rural Kansas, forming a bond with residents that continued even when social distancing requirements due to the coronavirus pandemic forced her classroom to close down.

After a school year of unprecedented disruptions, Rosproy was chosen as the 2020 National Teacher of the Year for bridging the worlds of her community's oldest and youngest. Her selection from among 55 award-winning teachers around the country was announced Thursday by the Council of Chief State School Officers, with the selection committee praising her in a statement for embodying "hope and inspiration."

The Winfield school district in which Rosproy teaches established the early childhood program two years ago inside Cumbernauld Village, a retirement community and nursing home that sits on 44 acres (17.8 hectares) in south-central Kansas. One year into the partnership, the program boasted the highest preschool literacy and math scores in the district. But more than that, Rosproy said, her students were "well connected and well loved" and the residents engaged as they snuggled with children while reading stories to them.

"Many of them don't live near their own grandchildren or don't have grandchildren," Rosproy said. "They felt so fortunate to be near the joy and livelihood of children."

Intergenerational programs have existed in various forms for over a century, with more than 100 in existence, said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United, which advocates for them. Some combine child care with adult day care, while others house after-school programs in senior facilities or senior programs inside high schools.

Many have been closed amid the virus, although some with separate entrances have been allowed to continue operating with restrictions. Despite the challenges, Butts sees hope for the future, noting that the group's own polling shows public support for the model. She said older adults who are engaged with children are less depressed and report having more of a reason to live.

"Isolation," she said, "is so harmful for older adults but also for younger people."

At Cumbernauld Village, the residents — Rosproy called them "grandparents" — joined the youngsters as they planted in the garden and played bingo and the beanbag game cornhole. They also watched from their windows as the children leaped into piles of leaves, took walks in the rain clad in galoshes and made snowmen.

"My heart is in that classroom," she said. "This was what I was born to do."

Soon after the coronavirus was declared a pandemic, schools across the state were closed. With thousands of COVID-19 nursing home deaths around the world, Cumbernauld Village also began restricting visitors. So far, it has had no cases, but the earliest preschoolers are expected to return there is the fall of 2021. The classroom, located in the heart of the main building, doesn't have its own entrance, making it impossible to fully separate the groups. It was a blow to residents.

"Not only was it a fun thing to have and a happy thing, but they felt they were making a difference in children's lives," said Linda Voth, executive director of Cumbernauld Village. "We miss them so much. This coronavirus thing really stinks. We hope to get them back as soon as possible."

With Rosproy no longer allowed inside her classroom, she wrote messages on the windows of the nursing home. Parents also took pictures of the youngsters holding signs of encouragement, and Rosproy printed them off and gave them to the staff to hang inside.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 68 of 79

The transition also has been a challenge for her students, some of whom were thrust into hastily arranged child care. She conducts Zoom meetings with them, but they aren't old enough to do worksheets or much else on their own, so she created packets filled with craft materials like googly eyes and made letter flashcards.

"A lot of what my role has become is parent coaching and encouragement," she said. "This has been hard on them. The whole world has been turned upside down. It is not easy to do all the things we do and monitor students' learning at the same time."

National Teachers of the Year typically travel the country, advocating for students and teachers. But amid the coronavirus, Rosproy plans to take advantage of digital platforms and media appearances to continue that same work.

## Using face masks and sanitizer, couples say 'I do' in Vegas

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The bride wore a white beaded dress and a white cloth face mask that said "Mrs." in curly black letters. Her new husband, dressed in black, wore one that said "Mr."

Vaughan Chambers and Alicia Funk put the face coverings on shortly after they exchanged vows and kissed in front of a neon-lit sign in a Las Vegas wedding chapel and posed for photos with an Elvis impersonator who officiated at their wedding.

The Chicago couple had put their wedding plans on hold in March because of the coronavirus. But when they realized it would be a long time until they could gather friends and family for a celebration, they decided to go ahead.

In early May, they invited a handful of close friends who live near Las Vegas — the self-proclaimed "Wedding Capital of the World" — and bought cheeky face masks for the nuptials.

"It's really nice to have something good in the middle of all of this bad," Funk said.

For couples getting married in Sin City's famous chapels, the vows they make to love each other "in sickness and in health" take on fresh meaning in the time of the coronavirus.

Brides and grooms sanitize their hands and get their temperature checked before walking down the aisle. Guests are rare and typically don face masks. And drive-thru weddings are more popular than ever.

The few guests who can attend ceremonies keep their distance. Other loved ones who can't attend sometimes watch via videoconferencing.

Funk and Chambers are among more than 1,500 couples who have been issued marriage licenses in Las Vegas since the county clerk's office reopened on April 27 after closing for nearly six weeks to slow the spread of the virus.

"We're seeing a lot of the kind of traditional, old school elopements with just the couple," said Melody Williams, executive director of chapel operator Vegas Weddings. "They'll get back to their big to-do at a later time."

With new safety protocols calling for masks and social distancing at weddings, the clerk's office is issuing about 72 licenses a day — well below the 200 typically issued before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Many of those newlyweds prefer drive-thru ceremonies — a speedier service that some chapels were offering long before the coronavirus emerged and businesses began moving transactions outside to keep customers safe in their cars.

Williams said her 15-minute drive-thru service is the easiest option for couples that want to marry quickly.

"It's contactless," she said. "We still try to make it a nice, elegant ceremony as best we can."

Couples can work in personalized vows or a scripture reading and get a video recording of the service, and chapel staff hand out a long-stemmed rose to the bride.

Many couples have been scrambling to find rental gowns or tuxedos because the clothes they initially planned to wear may have been stuck in transit or at a shuttered alterations shop.

That's what happened to Jennifer Escobar and Luz Sigman of San Francisco, who decided to pick replacement wedding outfits from their closets.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 69 of 79

They initially planned to marry on May 8 — a date they had engraved on their wedding bands and hoped to keep. But when they couldn't find a county clerk's office closer to the Bay Area that would issue a wedding license, they decided to make the 11-hour drive to Las Vegas.

Escobar's sister and niece who live in Las Vegas joined them for the ceremony, wearing face masks as they watched the special moment.

"Everything got canceled but at least we still got to do this," Escobar said.

Escobar said she and her new wife hope to have a reception in October with more family and friends. They're considering making it a masquerade party.

"People could still wear masks," she joked.

## Sikh kitchens feed New Delhi's masses in virus lockdown

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — At first, the kitchen at the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara cooked 40,000 meals each day for the hungry who live on the streets of India's capital city, or who have lost their livelihoods to the coronavirus lockdown.

But the need was greater than that. So workers at the golden-domed temple in central New Delhi made 80,000 meals daily. Then 100,000. Soon, they expect to be making 300,000 -- all provided free to the growing ranks of the unfortunate.

For centuries the faithful have flocked to the temple for its healing waters and a free meal at the community kitchen, the symbol of equality found at every Sikh temple complex and open to all visitors.

The Bangla Sahib Gurdwara has remained open through wars and plagues, serving millions of people simple vegetarian food on the cool marble floor of its enormous dining hall. But during India's ongoing lockdown -- among the world's most stringent -- religious congregations are banned.

Bangla Sahib has kept its kitchen open, with the help of about four dozen men who sleep at the temple's guesthouse. To save time commuting to and from the temple and avoid the risk of infecting loved ones, they haven't seen their families since the lockdown began March 25.

In colorful turbans and cloth bandanas tied over their noses and mouths, they work in the industrial kitchen in 18-hour shifts.

Head cook Balbir Singh stirs an enormous ladle through a potato and soybean stew, simmering with ghee and coriander in a giant cook pot. A machine that every hour makes 5,000 chapati -- thin, unleavened bread -- whirs long before the sun rises and after it sets.

Singh, 44, lights the flames at 3 a.m. so that 35,000 lunches are ready for pickup by 9 a.m.

"If we serve at this time, God will give us more. It's a give and take system," Singh said.

Bangla Sahib is the largest of New Delhi's 10 gurdwaras, whose kitchens together form a vital part of the city's strategy to feed the poor during the pandemic.

The city government approached the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee just after India's nationwide lockdown began in late March, according to the committee president, Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

Bangla Sahib, which usually prepares around half a million meals per week using donated ingredients and equipment, is quickly ramping up to produce six times that many, Singh Sirsa said.

The government sends trucks to pick up the meals each day and distribute them to a network of shelters and drop-off points, but pays nothing for the food.

Singh Sirsa struggles to protect his workers and collect donations to keep the enterprise going. "This is the biggest challenge for me in my entire life," he said.

Anticipating many months of hardship ahead, he appears nightly on the Bangla Sahib's own TV channel to appeal for more donations.

A man from Montreal recently pledged \$10,000, another from London offered \$100,000, he said. The dining hall heaves with sacks of rice, flour and lentils and cans of oil -- six months of supplies, said Jagpreet Singh, a 27-year-old temple clerk.

"We believe in God. He's giving us this power, so we provide," he said.

## Cities find green ways to reduce storm floods

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — For more than a century, New Orleans has depended on canals and pumps to get rid of stormwater in a city where about half the land is below sea level.

Now the bustling Mississippi River port that expanded by filling in wetlands is spending \$270 million to create spaces for rainwater, such as the water garden planned on a 25-acre site provided by nuns who lived there before Hurricane Katrina.

The city is also installing underground holding tanks, porous pavement and other measures to reduce storm flooding and stress on huge pumps built in the 1910s.

"We've got a scenario for everything," said Mary Kincaid, the city's chief resilience officer.

Tropical storms can dump amazing amounts of rain, and hurricane season starts June 1. But smaller storms can also overwhelm storm drainage.

So cities around the country are taking creative steps to tame stormwater as climate change increases the number and intensity of hurricanes and other storms. Rising sea levels also elevate groundwater levels in coastal communities, reducing the soil's ability to absorb rain.

"Stormwater runoff is one of the fastest growing sources of pollution," the federal Environmental Protection Agency states on its website. "When rain hits rooftops, parking lots and roads instead of wetlands, forests and grasslands, it tends to run into storm drains that are directly connected to our waterways."

In Pittsburgh, as in about 850 other areas where storm drains tie into sewer lines, sewage sometimes backs up into basements, floods streets and pours into rivers.

To attack one neighborhood's problem, the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority installed underground tanks and planted grasses and other native plants near a hilltop as a water-absorbent "bioswale."

In New Orleans, where the highest neighborhoods reach 10 to 11 feet (3 to 3.3 meters) above sea level, Kincaid said, "We want to put in storage in the higher ground areas." The aim is to capture the rain before it can reach lower ground and pool up.

One such project is just off Bayou St. John and down the street from Parkway Bakery and Tavern, where owner Jay Nix switched his parking lot from concrete to much more expensive permeable pavement. That has noticeably lowered flooding in the restaurant, said Nix, who once had to use big plastic bags of "fish fry" breading as sandbags. He has high hopes for the city's project, which features an underground storage tank and rain gardens.

"I think it's going to work. It has to work," he said.

Other techniques include planting trees and digging lagoons in wide roadway medians. Jurisdictions such as Portland, Oregon, require greenery-covered "ecoroofs" on some buildings.

Earlier, Portland bought 60 houses over 15 years, then turned a regularly flooded neighborhood into Foster Floodplain Natural Area. The work, which included creek restoration for migrating salmon and steelhead trout, increased the flood storage capacity six-fold — enough to fill nearly 70 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Since the 63-acre park's completion in 2012, an adjoining highway that flooded annually has flooded only once, officials said. And more than 600 nearby homes and businesses north of the highway also are seeing less flooding.

Nearly all money for New Orleans' projects comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, so Kincaid said they're not affected by new coronavirus-related budget holes.

The city won a \$141 million HUD grant in 2016 to make New Orleans' Gentilly neighborhood a "resilience district."

The centerpiece will be a big water garden where the Congregation of St. Joseph's convent was destroyed by Katrina flooding in 2005 and a later fire. The nuns are leasing the land to the city for \$1 a year as long as it's used for water management and environmental education.

"We wanted to do something that could benefit the future and that dealt with an immediate need," said

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 71 of 79

Sister Joan Laplace, 79, who lived at the convent on and off since 1960.

Atlanta's \$90 million in current and planned "green infrastructure" projects have included replacing more than four miles of neighborhood streets with porous pavers and adding 32 stormwater planters alongside.

Since Hurricane Irma toppled trees in 2017, Miami has moved away from planting palms and has planted nearly 4,700 live oaks and other trees that take up more water and provide shade.

Miami expects to finish updating its long-term stormwater management plan next year, said Jane Gilbert, the city's chief resilience officer.

Florida, once a coral reef, is now "one big porous limestone bed," Gilbert said. "As the sea level rises, so do our groundwater levels," reducing drainage.

"We have to look at as many ways as possible of absorbing, containing, slowing the flow of water," she said.

When Hurricane Katrina broke New Orleans' levees and killed more than 1,400 people, that raised global awareness of the limits of flood protection by dikes and pumping stations, said Stephane Hallegatte, a lead economist with the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

"We need protection which can fail gracefully," he said. "The advantage to a nature-based system is they tend not to fail in catastrophic fashion."

## 'Invisible demon': Virus hits even top-rated nursing homes

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Abbott Terrace Health Center in Waterbury, where 41 residents have died from the coronavirus, has been cited by regulators for infection control violations and fined three times by the state and federal governments over the last several years. It has the lowest nursing home overall rating issued by the federal government — one star, for "much below average."

About 40 miles (65 kilometers) away, the Kimberly Hall North nursing home in Windsor has the highest rating, five stars, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. It has had one infection control citation, but no state or federal fines, over the past several years. Yet 43 residents there have died from the virus.

The coronavirus has had no regard for health care quality or ratings as it has swept through nursing homes around the world, killing efficiently even in highly rated care centers.

Preliminary research indicates the numbers of nursing home residents testing positive for the coronavirus and dying from COVID-19 are linked to location and population density — not care quality ratings — said Vincent Mor, professor of health services policy and practice at Brown University's School of Public Health.

"It is not necessarily related to the good star, bad star ... of the home," Mor said, "because really good homes, they have staff who go home and they are going to be living in an environment with lots of COVID and the staff will bring it in with them."

In a study funded by the National Institute on Aging, Mor and fellow researchers reviewed data from nursing homes in 26 states, including information provided by Genesis HealthCare about its nursing homes in those states. The initial findings are supported by a similar study of nursing home data in 20 states led by researchers at Harvard Medical School.

They found homes where residents were infected with the coronavirus tended to be larger than other facilities, in urban areas and in counties with higher infection numbers. The data also showed the number of infections did not correlate to quality ratings or prior infection violations.

In Connecticut, eight nursing homes have had 30 or more coronavirus deaths. Of the eight, three have five-star ratings, two were given four stars, one had three stars, one had two stars and one had one star. All eight have been fined or cited by state or federal health officials in the past five years, according to an Associated Press review of regulatory actions.

The star ratings are based on the results of health inspections, staffing levels and the quality of resident care measures, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The virus has refocused attention to longstanding problems in the industry, including infection control

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 72 of 79

lapses and staffing problems. In Connecticut as of May 14, there were 1,927 COVID-19-related nursing home deaths, about 60 percent of the more than 3,200 total deaths statewide on that date. Nearly 7,000 nursing home residents have tested positive for the virus.

A key factor in the coronavirus entering nursing homes was not knowing, at the beginning of the pandemic, that asymptomatic people could spread the virus, said Mor and Dr. Sunil Parikh, an associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health. Testing and personal protective equipment also were initially in short supply.

The Connecticut nursing home with the highest COVID-19 death toll, at 54, is the Riverside Health & Rehabilitation Center in East Hartford, one of the largest nursing homes in the state with 345 beds. It has a four-star rating.

Riverside's owner, National Health Care Associates, said the virus spread in the nursing home despite numerous precautions taken since the pandemic began including banning most visitors, screening staff for symptoms, limiting staff access to patient rooms and ending community meals among residents.

"We understood from the outset the grave threat that COVID-19 posed nursing home residents," it said in a statement.

The operators of Abbott Terrace and Kimberly Hall North and staff say it may never be known exactly how the virus got into the homes, but once it was there, it spread quickly.

"It was like walking into a fire and no one knew how to put it out," said Rosaina Rivera, a 41-year-old nurse at Abbott Terrace who tested positive for the virus in late March and recovered. "It was like an invisible demon possessing the building."

A fellow Abbott Terrace nurse and friend to Rivera, Ilkah Hernandez, died from the coronavirus last weekend, sending shock waves through the nursing home, she said.

The 205-bed Abbott Terrace isolated patients with symptoms early in the pandemic, Rivera said, but testing and N95 masks were scarce then. The nursing home also took staff members' temperatures and oxygen levels before they were allowed to work. No one knew then that people without symptoms could spread the virus, she said.

Staff members are frustrated by the low federal rating and negative publicity, Rivera said. Workers provide very good care, she said, but the home is large and its patients have more complex health and mental health problems — possible factors in having more reportable incidents than other nursing homes.

Timothy Brown, a spokesman for Abbott Terrace's owner, Athena Health Care Systems, said all violations found at Abbott Terrace were quickly corrected. He said staff are doing all they can to limit the reach of the coronavirus and are saving patients' lives every day.

An unannounced health inspection on April 29 at Abbott Terrace found infection control and social distancing violations — three residents in wheelchairs right next to each other not wearing masks, and one of them had tested positive for the coronavirus — according to a state Department of Public Health report released Monday. Nursing home officials told inspectors that staff were re-trained in mask and social distancing requirements.

The state has inspected all 215 nursing homes in the state during the coronavirus outbreak. Recent inspection reports for Kimberly Hall North and Riverside Health & Rehabilitation Center were not available Thursday.

Kimberly Hall North, the five-star nursing home, has 150 beds and is owned by Genesis HealthCare. "When the virus does get into a nursing home, it does not discriminate," said Dr. Richard Feifer, chief medical officer for Genesis HealthCare. "It impacts 5-star and 1-star buildings alike."

The virus swept through the nursing home with alarming speed, said Cambar Edwards, a certified nursing assistant who has worked at Kimberly Hall North for 24 years. When the outbreak began, she said, N95 masks were in short supply and workers had to reuse them for days, even weeks.

"It's like all hell breaks loose," she said. "Because it is an invisible enemy, it was very hard."



## As nation reopens, a historic referendum on risk begins

By MICHAEL TACKETT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — We are becoming a nation of amateur actuaries, calculating the risk of restarting our lives.

Can we go outside? Can we go back to work? Can we go to a restaurant or bar? Can we go to the beach? Can our children go back to school? Can we visit grandma?

The questions have an infinite run. The answers are less a product of math and hard science than one of highly variable, and often emotional assessment of the benefit relative to the cost.

We know the odds of pre-coronavirus daily living. The lifetime chances of getting struck by lightning in the U.S. is about 1 in 180,000. Of dying in a car crash, about 1 in 106. Dying from heart disease? About 1 in 6. Dying from a storm? 1 in 54,699.

Those statistics, drawn from the National Safety Council, have the whiff of precision but are taken for granted because they have been modeled for so long with a reliable process to gather statistics. The novel coronavirus has no specific predicate other than similar diseases. And the data is coming in from several sources, giving cable news channels a maudlin kind of scoreboard as two numbers — cases and deaths — seem to change almost by the hour.

As the federal government, states and — more important, perhaps — individuals start to design their own “Is it worth it?” calculus, Americans are subjectively measuring the stakes and unavoidably helping to frame a national referendum on risk.

What is a life worth? As cold as the question can seem, the federal government has been answering that question for years. When the government considers imposing a regulation, it makes a calculation called “the value of a statistical life” that puts a price tag on its people. It seemed rational when considering whether to require automakers to install seat belts, or require an industry to reduce pollution. But it hasn’t been used to address a public-health disaster.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has frequently said that if the strict lockdown measures he has imposed in New York saved a single life, he would consider them worth it. His calculus may be the more aspirational but not the most realistic. Others pushing to swing the doors to the economy open and continue the chase toward prosperity argue that the economic damage from staying home could be worse than the impact of the disease, a frame often used by President Donald Trump.

Risk analysis has been around in one form or another as long as there have been people, spawning the multi-trillion dollar insurance market, among other things. But most of that risk business relies on the premise that the risk can be spread so that when the damage comes, only a small number of policyholders will be affected.

The coronavirus is fundamentally different. It has struck in more than 180 countries, infected more than 5 million people and killed more than 320,000, all numbers that almost certainly are low.

The nature of the risk of returning to normal is in no way a normal form of risk-taking, or risk calculation. A farmer plants crops without any guarantee they will ever be sold at market.

There are several ways to hedge that risk. Engineers test the strength of a bridge so that you will risk crossing it. Investors make the bet that a stock will go up, with the risk that it could also go down. Harry Markowitz, a renowned economist and Nobel Laureate, was credited with proving why it was not a good idea to put all of your eggs in one basket.

Yet acceptance of some level of risk, even one when the choice was between life and death, has led to greatness and advances in modern society.

In his book, “Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk,” Peter L. Bernstein wrote: “The revolutionary idea that defines the boundary between modern time and the past is the mastery of risk: the notion that the future is more than a whim of the gods and that men and women are not passive before nature.”

“Until human beings discovered a way across that boundary,” he wrote, “the future was a mirror of the past on the murky domain of oracles and soothsayers who held a monopoly over knowledge of accepted events.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 74 of 79

It's one thing to assess the risk if man can fly, explore the frontier, quit a job to chase a dream. It's quite another to embrace the idea of dramatically raising the probability that you will encounter a disease that may be fatal for you, your family or your neighbors.

There is a point of view that so far we've only looked at one half of the equation, the benefit of social distancing, but haven't given the cost — economic, emotional and social — equal weight.

"I have become increasingly concerned that we are taking a very powerful medicine, in the form of social distancing, without a proper list of side effects," said Zach Finn, a professor of risk management at Butler University in Indianapolis.

"I liken social distancing to chemotherapy," he said. "I am so grateful for the health care professionals who have developed both. However, we do not recognize chemotherapy, or any medicine, as a panacea without risks and/or side effects. While it is true that chemo destroys cancer, it is known that it also destroys healthy cells."

A patient, he said, weighs the risk versus the reward.

Now, the patient is basically all of us. No one disputes that economic devastation can have profound medical and social consequences, including death. No one doubts that those consequences cannot be quickly reversed, even if the state and federal government give the green light.

So what are we willing to risk?

## 'Very unprepared:' DEA shakeup followed mounting criticism

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — It's an agency with a critical mission of keeping American streets safe from narcotics. But in recent years, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has needed protection from itself, with several agents charged with corruption and the agency engulfed by scandal.

This week came more upheaval as Attorney General William Barr installed the DEA's fourth acting administrator in five years. His choice: Tim Shea, the U.S. attorney in Washington who recently oversaw the controversial effort to dismiss charges against ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Barr had been looking to provide a soft landing spot for Shea, a close aide whose stint as acting U.S. attorney was set to end in June, barring an unlikely extension by the district court in Washington. But in so doing, he found an easy target in Uttam Dhillon, who drew mounting criticism in his less than two, tumultuous years as the nation's top U.S. anti-narcotics official.

Many field agents complained that Dhillon, a former Los Angeles federal prosecutor, was more of a bureaucrat than a leader, lacked experience and, as an acting administrator who was never confirmed, the full authority to implement meaningful reforms.

"If you're not from the agency, it takes a while to figure out how we work, where we work and what our issues are," said Jack Riley, a former deputy administrator of the DEA.

Dhillon inherited some of the problems from the Obama administration after the agency's last permanent administrator, Michele Leonhart, resigned in 2015 amid questions from Congress about her handling of agent misconduct allegations involving cartel-organized sex parties in Colombia.

"After that control became much more centralized and the culture more risk adverse," said Mike Vigil, the DEA's former chief of international operations. "But to do this work you need to trust your agents in the field."

Since 2015, at least a dozen DEA agents across the country have been charged federally on counts ranging from wire fraud and bribery to selling firearms to drug traffickers, according to an Associated Press review of hundreds of court records. At least eight of those agents have been convicted, while four are awaiting trial.

Last year alone, a longtime special agent in Chicago pleaded guilty to infiltrating the DEA on behalf of drug traffickers and was sentenced to four years in federal prison, while another was charged with accepting \$250,000 in bribes to protect the Mafia. In February of this year, a federal grand jury in Tampa indicted once-standout DEA agent Jose Irizarry on allegations he secretly used his position to divert mil-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 75 of 79

lions of dollars in drug proceeds from the DEA's control.

Dhillon "came in very, very unprepared," Riley said, and leaves an agency that's "been a little bit of a dysfunctional place for a while."

As part of this week's shakeup, Dhillon was moved to what officials would say only was a senior position in the Justice Department.

While pressure had been building on Dhillon for some time, the latest doubts emerged in the wake of a botched military raid May 3 of Venezuela by a ragtag contingent of U.S.-trained volunteer fighters seeking to arrest Nicolás Maduro, according to four former U.S. law enforcement officials who are in contact with senior Justice Department officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Maduro's government blamed two alleged DEA informants for providing logistical support to the mercenaries, although there's no evidence the U.S. government played any role in the undertaking. Trump even joked that had the U.S. government been involved it would have ended far worse for the socialist leader.

Still, in the raid's aftermath, questions have been raised in Congress and at the highest levels of the Trump administration about what the DEA — and other U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies — knew about Jordan Goudreau, the former U.S. Green Beret who claimed responsibility for the armed incursion.

As part of those inquiries, Dhillon reported back that the DEA knew nothing, one of the ex-officials said.

However, on May 6, the AP, citing two former U.S. law enforcement officials, reported that an informant approached the DEA in Colombia with an unsubstantiated tip about Goudreau's alleged involvement in weapons smuggling. The anti-narcotics agency, not knowing who Goudreau was at the time, didn't open a formal probe but suspected that any weapons would have been destined for leftist rebels or criminal gangs in Colombia — not Venezuelan freedom fighters.

Dhillon and the DEA referred requests for comment to the Justice Department, which said only that the Venezuela matter played no role in Dhillon's replacement. "To publish anything otherwise would be to publish a false story," said Kerri Kupec, a department spokeswoman.

Kupec declined to answer written questions on a host of issues about Dhillon's leadership including what, if anything, the DEA knew about Goudreau and the Venezuela raid.

Dhillon made no mention of an impending departure in a recent interview with the AP. And in a farewell email sent on his behalf Monday, a number of achievements during his tenure were highlighted.

"We have increased the number of agents going through the academy for the first time in over eight years; helped drive down drug overdose deaths for the first time in over two decades; and put some of the world's worst offenders behind bars," according to the message, a copy of which a recipient shared with the AP.

Former DEA officials embraced Shea's appointment as an opportunity for change within the agency, but cautioned that some problems can't be fixed until a permanent administrator is in place.

"He understands some of the issues we're up against," Riley said, "and having been a fresh U.S. attorney, I'm really hopeful."

## **VIRUS DIARY: When you prefer it anyway, staying in isn't bad**

**By COURTNEY BONNELL Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — Like you, I've been locked away at home for two months. But for me, not much has changed.

It's true that I don't go the grocery store in person like I used to. I don't grab brunch with friends, go to the gym, volunteer with a grief support group or pop in for a coffee or ice cream anymore. But overall, the pandemic hasn't disrupted my routine too dramatically.

That's because I'm an introvert who loves to stay in. My favorite thing is when friends cancel plans. I could go months (though preferably years) without talking on the phone or hopping on a Zoom call. I happily travel alone for weeks, work out by myself and watch hours of TV without going stir crazy.

Does that sound sad? Society tells us to be ashamed of staying home instead of going out with friends

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 76 of 79

and family, but the slew of introvert memes and think pieces has really liberated us to lock down.

I live with my boyfriend, still see my mom and do miss weekend brunches or dinners with close friends. Uncharacteristically, I'm actually glad I've been browbeaten into some Zoom calls — including with a group of old work pals scattered across the country whom I've probably talked to more in two months than in two years.

But besides the inordinate amount of banana bread I'm baking and walks I'm taking, not much has changed for me day to day since the coronavirus gripped our lives. I chat about the news with my boyfriend and mom, text some friends to check in every once in a while and otherwise carry on the same routine: exercise, work, food, TV, social media, dog snuggles, bed.

Obviously, this is privilege. I don't have kids or a sick loved one to take care of, I'm able to work from home and I'm not struggling to make ends meet in this crashing economy. I'm lucky that nothing has changed that's forced me to crack out of my shell. I'm allowed to be safely ensconced in the house I never wanted to leave to begin with.

But because travel is my passion, not going anywhere for the foreseeable future has downsides, even for me. A few times a year, I'd get thousands of miles away from this house I'm wedded to. Now I'm truly stuck, even if just by the unsafe feeling I'd get stepping on a plane or sleeping in a hotel room right now. No new cultures, foods and landscapes to fill my soul for those long stretches at home.

As society reopens and others stream back into the world with relief, I'm glad to stay locked down.

Here in Phoenix, people are getting their nails done, going to restaurants and gathering in groups again. Not me. And not only because of the continued health risks. But because even after two months of being stuck at home, this is still where I'd rather be.

Except maybe Greece.

## Detective, nurse, confidant: Virus tracers play many roles

By BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Health investigator Mackenzie Bray smiles and chuckles as she chats by phone with a retired Utah man who just tested positive for the coronavirus.

She's trying to keep the mood light because she needs to find out where he's been and who he's been around for the past seven days. She gently peppers him with questions, including where he and his wife stopped to buy flowers on a visit to a cemetery. She encourages him to go through his bank statement to see if it reminds him of any store visits he made.

Midway through the conversation, a possible break: His wife lets slip that they had family over for Mother's Day, including a grandchild who couldn't stop slobbering.

"Was there like a shared food platter or something like that?" Bray asks. "There was, OK, yep ... sharing food or sharing drinks, even just being on the same table, it can spread that way."

Suddenly, with a shared punch bowl, the web has widened, and Bray has dozens more people to track down.

She is among an army of health professionals around the world filling one of the most important roles in the effort to guard against a resurgence of the coronavirus. The practice of so-called contact tracing requires a hybrid job of interrogator, therapist and nurse as they try coax nervous people to be honest.

The goal: To create a road map of everywhere infected people have been and who they've been around.

While other countries have devised national approaches, a patchwork of efforts has emerged in the U.S. where states are left to create their own program.

Bray normally does this type of work to track contacts for people with sexually transmitted diseases. She is now one of 130 people at the Salt Lake County health department assigned to track coronavirus cases in the Salt Lake City area. The investigators, many of them nurses, each juggle 30 to 40 cases, and try to reach everyone the original person was within 6 feet (1.8 meters) of for 10 minutes or more. They stay in touch with some people throughout the 14-day incubation period, and calls can take 30 minutes or more as they meticulously go through a list of questions.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 77 of 79

Some estimate as many as 300,000 contact tracers would be needed in the U.S. to adequately curtail the spread. While some states like Utah have reported having enough contact tracers, others are hundreds or even thousands of people short.

The contact tracers often find themselves in a tangled web of half-truths and facts that don't match up. Language and cultural barriers arise that require interpreters and taxing conversations that leave the investigators wondering if the person understands what they're trying to do.

They land on occasion into complicated family dynamics where people are reluctant to tell the truth.

Health investigator Maria DiCaro found out days into a case that a father was sleeping in his car because he and his wife were separating. The man had stopped returning DiCaro's calls, and that key information came from his child.

"I get people that lie all time," DiCaro said. "I try to get as much information from the beginning but it's just not always the case. And time is one of those things you can't take back when you are trying to prevent and you know do these contact tracing investigations."

Each call is an exercise in good cop, bad cop. She needs people to cooperate, but no one is legally required to answer the questions. Usually kindness works better than strong words.

Some people lie because they're scared, or they forget an outing. Construction workers, housekeepers and others without paid sick time may gloss over symptoms so they can get back to work. Some immigrants without documentation brush off testing because they fear it could lead to deportation.

"People sometimes think contact tracing is black and white but there is a lot of gray that goes into it," said Bray, who often thinks about her parents and 97-year-old grandmother as she works to help stop the spread of the virus. "Our worst fear is that we push too hard and we lose someone. It's not just their health on the line, it's the people around them."

No matter the tension, Bray and DiCaro give frequent reminders of why it all matters: "Thank you for what you're doing. You're helping the community," DiCaro says during one call.

She knows that on the other end of the line, the first call from a tracer can be jarring. Sometimes, DiCaro and Bray have to break the news that someone was exposed or tested positive.

"It's normal to talk to like your doctor, but you don't ever expect the health department to call you and be like, 'You were exposed to a serious disease,'" said Anissa Archuleta.

The 23-year-old got a call from DiCaro after she, her sister and her mother took a rare break from hunkering down to help organize a drive-by birthday party for a young cousin. They dropped off a present, then caved and accepted an impromptu invitation to go inside to grab some food.

What they didn't know: the father of the birthday boy had the coronavirus, and unknowingly exposed more than a dozen people at the gathering.

After that first call, DiCaro checked in every day for two weeks. The fear slowly faded after their tests came back negative and they began building a rapport with DiCaro. She asked about their symptoms and how they were feeling each day and learned about how Archuleta's mother lost her voice to fibromyalgia. Archuleta would pass along messages her mother whispered in her ear.

And after a while, Archuleta began asking DiCaro about her life and how she was holding up.

About a week in to their calls, on the daily check-in, Archuleta thanked DiCaro for caring about them and checking in every day. Tears welled up in DiCaro's eyes.

"Ah thanks," she said as she grabbed a Kleenex to wipe her eyes.

After she hung up, she leaned back in her chair and closed her eyes for a few seconds.

"When you do this like 10-12 hours a day ... It's nice to get those positive reactions from people that are very grateful who do see the purpose of what we are doing," said DiCaro. "It's nice to be appreciated."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 78 of 79

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, May 22, the 143rd day of 2020. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

On this date:

In 1761, the first American life insurance policy was issued in Philadelphia to a Rev. Francis Allison, whose premium was six pounds per year.

In 1813, composer Richard Wagner (VAHG'-nur) was born in Leipzig, Germany.

In 1915, the Lassen Peak volcano in Northern California exploded, devastating nearby areas but causing no deaths.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri, crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his "Great Society," saying that it "rests on abundance and liberty for all" and "demands an end to poverty and racial injustice."

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time (Jay Leno took over as host three days later).

In 1998, a federal judge ruled that Secret Service agents could be compelled to testify before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. Voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland turned out to cast ballots giving resounding approval to a Northern Ireland peace accord.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

In 2014, Thailand's military seized power in a bloodless coup.

In 2017, a suicide bomber set off an improvised explosive device that killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England.

Ten years ago: Addressing graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, President Barack Obama said the U.S. had to shape a world order as reliant on diplomacy as on the might of its military to lead, a repudiation of the go-it-alone approach forged by his predecessor, George W. Bush. An Air India Express Boeing 737-800 crashed after overshooting a runway at Mangalore International Airport, killing all but eight of the 166 people aboard. Jordan Romero, at age 13, became the youngest climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest.

Five years ago: Ireland's citizens voted in a landslide to legalize gay marriage, with 62.1 percent saying "yes" to changing the nation's constitution to define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their gender. Mexican federal police got into a gunbattle with drug cartel suspects at a ranch in the western state of Michoacan (meech-wah-KAHN'); of the 43 people killed, all but one were suspected criminals, raising questions how the operation went down.

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly stalked out of a White House meeting with congressional leaders, declaring he would no longer work with Democrats unless they dropped all investigations in the aftermath of the special counsel's Trump-Russia report; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she was praying for Trump and the nation. A tornado touched down in Jefferson City, Missouri, causing heavy damage but no deaths or injuries in the state capital, as severe weather swept across the state. Historical officials said researchers working in the murky waters of the northern Gulf Coast had located the wreck of the Gulf

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 314 ~ 79 of 79

schooner Clotilda, the last ship known to have brought enslaved people from Africa to the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Constantine is 93. Conductor Peter Nero is 86. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 82. Actor Frank Converse is 82. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 80. Actress Barbara Parkins is 78. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 77. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 70. Actor-producer Al Corley is 65. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 63. Singer Morrissey is 61. Actress Ann Cusack is 59. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 59. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 58. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 56. Former White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 54. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 53. Actress Brooke Smith is 53. Actor Michael Kelly is 51. Model Naomi Campbell is 50. Actress Anna Belknap is 48. Actress Alison Eastwood is 48. Singer Donell Jones is 47. Actor Sean Gunn is 46. Actress A.J. Langer is 46. Actress Ginnifer Goodwin is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Vivian Green is 41. Actress Maggie Q is 41. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 38. Actress Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 34. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 33. Actress Anna Baryshnikov (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 28. Actress Camren (cq) Bicondova is 21.

Thought for Today: "Pride is an admission of weakness; it secretly fears all competition and dreads all rivals." — Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, American religious leader (1895-1979).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.