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"WHAT YOU DO TODAY IS  
IMPORTANT BECAUSE  
YOU ARE EXCHANGING  
A DAY OF YOUR LIFE  
FOR IT...LET IT BE  
SOMETHING GOOD."

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul



Pictured are Legion Commander Robert Wegner, Legion Auxiliary Members who read the role call Tami Zimney and Deb Frederickson, and guest speaker, Lyle G. Bein. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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

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

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## Groton holds Memorial Day Program

Groton was one of few places where a full Memorial Day program was held. The event, as usual, was held at the Groton Union Cemetery. The roll call of 313 Veterans buried at the cemetery was read by Tami Zimney and Deb Frederickson. The Groton American Legion Post #39 had the 21-gun salute and Legion Commander Robert Wegner raised the flag to full mast after the event.

The event was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and also some of those in attendance stayed in their vehicle and listened to the speakers on their FM radio.



**Groton Legion Commander Robert Wegner raises the flag to full mast after the Memorial Day program.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Lyle G. Bien, vice admiral, United States Navy, was the guest speaker.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**The 21-gun salute was presented by the Groton American Legion Post #39.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**A nice crowd was on hand for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Groton Union Cemetery.**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



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Starting soon, we'll be breaking down the Minnesota Vikings' roster. This week, however, I wanted to touch on a question I get asked a lot: how good are the Vikings at drafting, and is there hope that the team will get significant playing time from some of the 15 rookies the team drafted this year?

In order to gauge this year's draft picks, we need to look back at how well Rick Spielman has drafted since he became the team's GM in 2012. Since then, he has overseen nine drafts which produced 93 players. Since we can't truly evaluate a draft until the players have been in the league a couple years, we'll disregard the 2019 and 2020 draft for now. That leaves us with 66 players to evaluate. Let's get into it.

First Round Picks: Success Rate 57%

First round picks are generally regarded as the "safest" picks. They are the best of the best; with the expectation they will come in and make an impact right away. From 2012-2018, the Vikings drafted 10 players in the first round and hit on four: Harrison Smith, Xavier Rhodes, Anthony Barr and Trae Waynes. The team missed on three: Matt Kalil, Cordarrelle Patterson and Laquon Treadwell. Three players, because of injury, have not been able to play enough to be labeled either way: Sharrif Floyd, Teddy Bridgewater and Mike Hughes. If we exclude the three injured players, the Vikings have hit on 4/7 first round picks (57%) which isn't great.

Second and Third Round Picks: Success Rate 67%

Second and third round picks should be playing within a couple years and develop into starters or very important backups. Since Spielman likes to move up into the first round, or back to pick up additional picks, the Vikings have only drafted nine players in the second and third round from 2012-2018. Out of those players, the Vikings hit on six picks: Jerick McKinnon, Eric Kendricks, Danielle Hunter, Mackensie Alexander, Dalvin Cook and Brian O'Neill – an incredibly good 67% hit rate. The three players the team missed on were Josh Robinson, Scott Crichton and Pat Elflein (and there's still hope for Elflein, but this is a make or break year for him).

Fourth Through Seventh Round picks: Success Rate

Players selected on the third day of the draft are gambles. Most of them won't amount to more than a backup player, so that's the line we'll use when applying the hit or miss tag. The Vikings drafted 47 players in the fourth through seventh rounds from 2012-2020. Of those 47 players, the Vikings hit on 21 picks: Jarius Wright, Rhett Ellison, Audie Cole, Gerald Hodges, Michael Mauti, Antone Exum, Shamar Stephen, MyCole Pruitt, Stefon Diggs, Kentrell Brothers, David Morgan, Stephen Weatherly, Jayron Kearse, Jaleel Johnson, Ben Gedeon, Danny Isadora, Bucky Hodges, Ifeadi Odenigbo, Jaylon Holmes, Tyler Conklin and Ade Aruna. The 47% hit rate is solid, considering how much of a crap shoot the later rounds of the draft are.

If we take those stats and apply them to this year's draft picks, the Vikings will likely hit on one of their two first-round picks, both of their day-two picks, and five day-three picks. That equals one impact player, two solid starters, and five solid backups. That is a solid haul for one draft. Skol!

Which players do you think will make the biggest impact from this year's draft, and which players will be busts when it's all said and done? Let me know by reaching out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)



By Jordan Wright



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## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Today is looking good.

We're at 1,669,700 cases in the US. New case numbers held steady today, slipping just over 20,000 again. NY leads with 367,625 cases with new cases well down, showing decline for a second consecutive day. NJ has 155,092 cases, a decline in new cases to below 1000 again. It is looking very much as though Friday's drastic decline followed by a good-sized increase yesterday probably was a reporting thing, not a real phenomenon. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 112,248, CA – 96,947, MA – 93,271, PA – 72,356, TX – 56,483, MI – 54,816, FL – 51,738, and MD – 47,754. These ten states account for 66% of US cases. 2 more states have over 40,000 cases, 4 more states have over 30,000 cases, 5 more states have over 20,000 cases, 9 more have over 10,000, 8 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, TX, GA, MI, and LA. States where new case reports are increasing include NC, SC, TN, NV, WI, OK, AL, and AR. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, CT, NJ, CO, MA, RI, PA, and NE. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 98,184 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths declined for the second day. NY has 29,138, NJ has 11,144, MA has 6416, MI has 5240, PA has 5159, IL has 4912, CA has 3808, and CT has 3742. All of these states is reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today. There are 3 more states over 2000 deaths, 7 more states over 1000 deaths, 8 more over 500, 13 more + DC and PR over 100, and 11 + GU, VI, and MP under 100. Things are still going our way.

The current status of this pandemic in the US is complicated by our geographic size and demographic complexity; all states are not equal in terms of transmissibility of this infection. You will recall that  $R_e$ , or effective reproduction number, is an estimate of how many people will be infected by one infected person and that an  $R_e$  below 1.0 means an epidemic will die down over time because the virus is hitting a lot of dead ends due to either immune individuals or precautions taken against spread, whereas an  $R_e$  over 1.0 means it will continue to increase in the population without more severe measures to limit transmission. According to Imperial College London researchers who have been modeling from US data, we now have 26 states plus DC with an  $R_e$  below 1.0 and in which the epidemic is waning. The 24 states where  $R_e$  remains above 1.0 as of Thursday, from largest  $R_e$  to smallest, are as follows: Texas, Arizona, Illinois, Colorado, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Alabama, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, New Mexico, Missouri, Delaware, South Carolina, Massachusetts, North Carolina, California, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Maryland. I will also note that other modeling efforts pretty much concur with these researchers' conclusions.

This model, based in part on cell phone data to track general movement in the population, show some potentially serious scenarios if people move around without taking precautions, estimating, for example, that death rates could spike to 1000 per day by July in some states without mitigation efforts. This holiday weekend that heralds the start of summer for most folks will be, as David Rubin, Director of PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, says, "the first test of the system," adding that "[t]hose areas that succeed this weekend are going to succeed because they've developed strong regulations on how they're going to do this." Where the plans around reopening are not well thought-out, it is likely increased movement will drive that  $R_e$  up, and case reports will spike. It will be difficult to put that cork back into the bottle a second time, especially starting with a higher base number of infected individuals and stresses already on the health care system in most locales, not to mention lockdown fatigue everywhere. Getting it right the first time is going to be way easier than having to back up and take another run at it.

There is an additional challenge posed by the fact that, as people begin moving around more, some of them will be traveling from places where there is a fair number of cases in the community to areas where things have been more or less under control, but whose  $R_e$  isn't far below 1.0; this has the potential to cause trouble that spreads just like a virus. Short of closing its borders (something about the legality of



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which I have no clue), a state with stringent measures may have difficulty protecting itself against influx from its neighbors with rather lax or no restrictions at all. I foresee this creating regional conflict here and there throughout the country. As noted in the Washington Post, "There are communities where wearing facial coverings is culturally the norm, while in other places it is rejected on grounds of personal liberty or as refutation of the consensus view of the hazards posed by the virus." It seems reasonable to expect a mask-wearing, restriction-imposing state or region to exhibit considerable resentment toward visitors from a state with no such norms who bring in new cases.

One of the great difficulties attendant on easing is figuring out what to do if case numbers surge. David Aronoff, Director of the Vanderbilt University infectious disease division, said if a surge happens, "the tricky part will be putting the toothpaste back in the tube." I think we all recognize a second shutdown would be far more difficult than the initial one.

Many mayors and governors are appealing to their citizens' personal responsibility and sense of community. I hope this is sufficient, but I honestly have my doubts.

New estimates from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union are that, among the grocery workers it represents, 10,000 have been exposed, at least 3257 have been infected, and 68 have died from the coronavirus. Remembering that this union represents less than one-third of grocery workers across the country, it is clear the nationwide numbers are certain to be much higher than these. Cases have increased by 200% in the past five weeks. Stores report it has become difficult to get customers to wear masks while shopping. One worker reported she asked a customer to put on a mask for the sake of the workers, and the customer responded with, "I don't give a damn about your health." Well, OK then. I guess there's still plenty of ugly to go around.

There is some positive news from a vaccine trial underway in China by the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology. This is a new-fangled vaccine that uses a weakened version of an adenovirus, which causes colds, to deliver viral genetic material to cells in the recipient's lymph nodes, where antibody to the virus will be made. The vaccine was given to 108 healthy adults, and the report says, "a single dose caused production of virus-specific antibodies and T cells in 14 days." There were no serious adverse effects from the vaccine, and those mild effects that did occur lasted an average of two days. The antibodies produced appear to be neutralizing antibodies, that is, antibodies which can render the virus ineffective at establishing infection. (Remember, there is always the question whether the antibodies produced will actually do any good to protect the owner from virus; it appears these do.)

Problems noted include that about half of trial patients have pre-existing antibodies to the cold virus which slowed the vaccine's effect and may have lowered the response—because those anti-adenovirus antibodies were interfering with the cold virus's ability to establish itself in the patients. Final results will be evaluated at six months, and at that time, it should be possible to discover whether the response is a lasting one. Meanwhile, a second trial involving 500 healthy adults is already underway; one of the goals of this phase of the trials will be to determine how it affects patients over 60, people whose immune responses are generally negatively affected by age. It's still early times, but there is reason to be hopeful.

This next topic stems from a question: What's a life worth? Now I know the knee-jerk response is that a human life is priceless; but that's not really true in stark economic terms. To pose an extreme example, let's suppose there is an innovation to automotive technology that could save one life on the road each year, but the cost of the technology would be \$100,000 per automobile manufactured. Who says that's a good investment? So, in fact, we can—and do—place an economic value on a human life, and it will be somewhat less than whatever \$100,000 times the number of automobiles produced annually in the US comes out to. Right?

Well, believe it or not, there are people whose full-time job is figuring out what a human life is worth, that is the value of a statistical life (VSL), how much we'd be willing to spend to cut risk enough to save one life. To do that, economists use public opinion surveys on mortality risk, looking at how much more dangerous jobs pay and how much people are willing to spend for safety devices. This calculation is used to help judge things like whether to require pilots to train and test with flight simulators, whether to set



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tougher standards for automotive safety, whether to set new labeling standards on food or drugs, how to establish new road safety laws or pollution controls. And based on the answer to this question, policymakers can do a cost-benefit analysis.

The VSL at most federal agencies right now, a figure developed over several decades, is around \$10 million, so if a new regulation is estimated to avoid one death a year, it can cost up to \$10 million a year and still make economic sense. And this work can form the basis for decisions about how efforts to avoid Covid-19 deaths compare to the considerable economic fallout. (And I'm just going to add here that, if the life saved is your own or that of someone you love, no cost seems too high; but these calculations are intended to prevent the sort of emotional basis for decisions that pertains when it is your own personal life you are contemplating.)

When making decisions about how to balance lives lost against incomes lost in the current situation, such calculations could be highly instructive. The CDC and the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Council of Economic Advisers are accustomed to doing just this sort of computation, as recently as when they were accounting for economic losses from opioid overdose deaths in setting policy around that crisis. That said, they have not applied this work to the current situation as yet. Might be a good time to start.

Economists at the University of Wyoming have done a cost-benefit analysis of efforts to "flatten the curve" in this pandemic, weighing the economic benefits of lives saved to the massive hit to the country's economy from a shutdown. University of Chicago economists have made an estimate as well. Using models projecting the pandemic's death toll, the effects of mitigation efforts, and the economic impact of those efforts, the estimate is that the US GDP would shrink by \$6.49 trillion from an uncontrolled pandemic whereas it would shrink by \$13.7 trillion from a pandemic curtailed by social distancing. Then we account for the facts that social distancing would cut the peak infection rate in half, which results in 1.2 million fewer deaths and that those lives have a VSL of \$12 trillion. When all the math is worked into the model, turns out the net value of social distancing would be around \$5.16 trillion, a huge positive economic impact. The problem when you fail to apply these same standards to this pandemic that you would to any other public policy issue involving lives lost or saved is that you bring the public focus solely to job losses and declining GDP (real and important issues, to be sure) and ignore the economic value of the lives saved in the process. This failure can easily erode voluntary compliance with these useful measures, and it is this which I think we're seeing play out right now.

None of this work captures whether older people should be assigned the same VSL as younger people. In a pandemic that is particularly deadly for the elderly, this is an important point, albeit a contentious one, for good reason. The Chicago study cited here did look at this point using a VSL that declines with age. They found that, even though about 90% of the benefit would go to saving the lives of people at least 50 years old, social distancing still makes economic sense for the country. These are considerations which ought to play a role in policymaking—and in explaining the measures taken to the public to build support for difficult decisions.

I just read an interesting story about a nursing home owner in New York who took a creative approach to protecting his residents by renting RVs, parking them on the home's lot, and offering staff big bonuses to move into those RVs for two months, essentially quarantining with their residents. With no staff contact with their own families, the home has managed to hold infections at zero while there have been 1627 deaths in facilities around the state. I hope, but do not expect, homes across the country will also consider creative approaches to protecting their vulnerable residents; I am aware many of them ran on razor-thin margins before this pandemic, which limits their options.

I also read today about a 10-year-old girl in Connecticut who founded her own charity last summer; she'd been wanting to for a while, and when she turned 10, her parents decided she could go ahead. Chelsea Phaire collects donations and puts together art kits—markers, crayons, paper, coloring books, colored pencils, and gel pens—for children experiencing hard times. Having learned from her own experience with the loss to violence of a beloved teacher that art is therapeutic, this girl decided to offer the same means for dealing with trauma to other children, so she asked for her birthday gifts last summer to be in the form

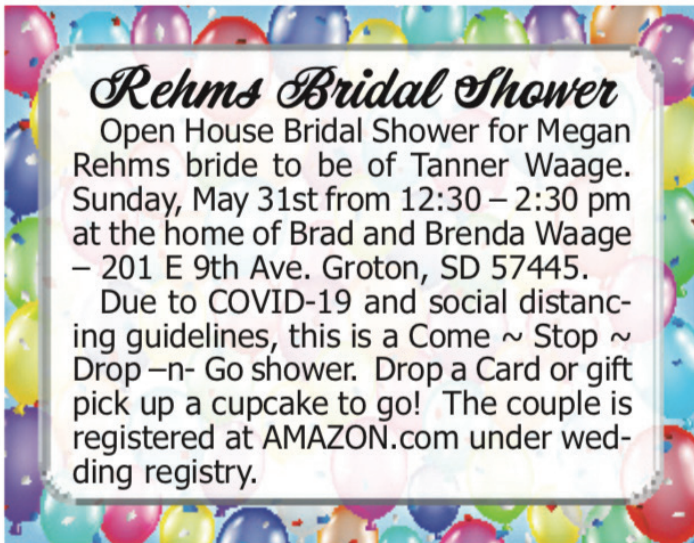


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of art supplies, which she packaged up and sent off to other children. She followed up with fund-raising so that, by the time her school closed in March, she'd already sent out around 1000 of these kits and had traveled with her mother to visit some of the recipients so they could draw together and exchange art tips. Since March, she has sent off another 1500 of these kits to homeless shelters and foster homes, and she continues to gather money and art supplies to expand her work. This kid might not change the world, but she's fixing up a whole lot of corners in it for people she doesn't know and will probably never meet. I don't expect all of us to start our own version of Chelsey's Charity (the official name), but surely you can see a need somewhere around you, a need you can help to meet. Do that. You don't want to look like a putz next to a kid, do you?

Keep healthy, and we'll talk again.



**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  
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## 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	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26
Minnesota	17,029	17,670	18,200	19,005	19,845	20,573	21,315
Nebraska	10,846	11,122	11,425	11,662	11,989	12,134	12,355
Montana	471	478	479	479	479	479	479
Colorado	22,482	22,797	23,191	23,487	23,964	24,174	24,269
Wyoming	583	596	608	608	615	638	644
North Dakota	1,994	2095	2229	2317	2365	2418	2457
South Dakota	4,085	4177	4250	4356	4468	4563	4586
United States	1,528,661	1,551,853	1,577,758	1,602,148	1,622,670	1,643,499	1,662,768
US Deaths	91,938	93,439	94,729	96,013	97,087	97,722	98,223
Minnesota	+657	+641	+530	+805	+840	+728	+742
Nebraska	+221	+276	+303	+237	+327	+145	+221
Montana	+1	+7	+1	0	0	0	0
Colorado	+280	+315	+394	+296	+477	+210	+95
Wyoming	+6	+13	+12	0	+7	+23	+6
North Dakota	+63	+101	+134	+88	+48	+53	+39
South Dakota	+58	+92	+73	+106	+112	+95	+23
United States	+20,493	+23,192	+25,905	+24,390	+20,522	+20,829	+19,269
US Deaths	+600	+1,501	+1,290	+1,284	+1,074	+635	+501

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## May 25th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

Do I dare say "Happy Memorial Day!" It seems like the COVID-19 virus has virtually taken a day off here in South Dakota, at least according to today's numbers. Brown County had no new cases of COVID-19 with 12 being recovered, moving the percent recovered up 4 points to 65 percent.

Overall in South Dakota, we had more people recovered than positive cases, moving the state percent need up 1 point to 75 percent being recovered.

I don't report county list if there are no positive or recovered cases; however, I did have a request for Day County, so here are your stats today: 3 active cases, 12 total positive cases, 9 recovered, 3 ever hospitalized, 116 negative tests. And while I'm at it, here is Marshall County: 3 active cases, 4 total positive cases, 1 recovered, 1 ever hospitalized and 83 negative tests. Spink County has no active cases, 4 recovered of the four positive cases, none hospitalized and 177 negative tests.

Have a safe day and let's keep these numbers coming down!

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: -12 (86)

Recovered: +12 (163)

Total Positive: None (249)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (10)

Deaths: 0

Negative Tests: +31 (1325)

Percent Recovered: 65% (+ 4 percentage points)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +23 (4,586 total) (72 less than yesterday)

Negative: +1637 (30,697 total)

Hospitalized: +6 (370 total) - 99 currently hospitalized (14 more than yesterday)

Deaths: 0 (50 total)

Recovered: +44 (3415 total)

Active Cases: 1121 (21 less than yesterday)

Percent Recovered: 75% (+1 percentage point)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett -1 (25), Brule +1 (117), Butte +5 (164), Campbell 20, Custer 122, Dewey -4 (287), Edmunds +1 (55), Gregory 59, Haakon +2 (30), Hanson -2 (52), Harding 6, Jones 8, Kingsbury +4 (127), Mellette -2 (44), Perkins 21, Potter 56, unassigned +35 (957).

Beadle: +1 positive, +4 recovered (26 of 132 recovered)

Brown: +12 recovered (163 of 249 recovered)

Douglas: +1 positive (1 of 3 recovered)

Jerauld: +4 recovered (10 of 28 recovered)

Lincoln: +1 positive, +1 recovered (186 of 230 recovered)

Minnehaha: +14 positive, 16 recovered (2688 of 3274 recovered)

Moody: +2 recovered (15 of 18 recovered)

Pennington: +4 positive, +4 recovered (28 of 256 recovered)

Sanborn: +1 positive (4 of 11 recovered)

Turner: +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 of 23 recovered)



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Fully recovered from positive cases: Davison 9-9, Deuel 1-1, Faulk 1-1, Hand 1-1, Hutchinson 3-3, Hyde 1-1, Lawrence 9-9, McPherson 1-1, Miner 1-1, Spink 4-4, Sully 1-1, Walworth 5-5, Ziebach 1-1.

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 2,043 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 40 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,457. NDDoH reports one new death (54 total).

State & private labs have reported 84,503 total completed tests.

1,551 ND patients are recovered.

Please note: one positive case reported Sunday was determined to be a false positive and removed from the state's count.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	525	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	893	19%
Hispanic	791	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	399	9%
Other	585	13%
White, Non-Hispanic	1393	30%

## COVID-19 DEATHS IN SOUTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	2
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	43
Pennington	3

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	22	2	100
Beadle	132	26	310
Bennett	0	0	25
Bon Homme	8	4	181
Brookings	15	14	591
Brown	249	163	1325
Brule	0	0	117
Buffalo	9	1	128
Butte	0	0	164
Campbell	0	0	20
Charles Mix	13	5	179
Clark	4	3	108
Clay	15	12	289
Codington	32	17	957
Corson	4	3	46
Custer	0	0	122
Davison	9	9	489
Day	12	9	116
Deuel	1	1	108
Dewey	0	0	287
Douglas	3	1	62
Edmunds	0	0	55
Fall River	4	2	142
Faulk	1	1	42
Grant	10	5	117
Gregory	0	0	59
Haakon	0	0	30
Hamlin	4	3	129
Hand	1	1	41
Hanson	0	0	52
Harding	0	0	6
Hughes	19	13	485
Hutchinson	3	3	162

Hyde	1	1	31
Jackson	1	0	22
Jerauld	28	10	62
Jones	0	0	8
Kingsbury	0	0	127
Lake	6	4	206
Lawrence	9	9	437
Lincoln	230	186	2340
Lyman	12	3	152
Marshall	4	1	83
McCook	5	4	167
McPherson	1	1	36
Meade	10	4	561
Mellette	0	0	44
Miner	1	1	37
Minnehaha	3274	2688	12435
Moody	18	15	163
Oglala Lakota	17	2	123
Pennington	156	28	2602
Perkins	0	0	21
Potter	0	0	56
Roberts	35	16	278
Sanborn	11	4	51
Spink	4	4	177
Stanley	9	8	73
Sully	1	1	23
Todd	18	13	281
Tripp	6	3	116
Turner	23	18	250
Union	79	54	491
Walworth	5	5	102
Yankton	51	33	1096
Ziebach	1	1	45
Unassigned****	0	0	957

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	431	0
20-29 years	858	0
30-39 years	1045	2
40-49 years	809	1
50-59 years	762	7
60-69 years	433	7
70-79 years	122	5
80+ years	126	28

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2136	27
Male	2450	23



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## 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

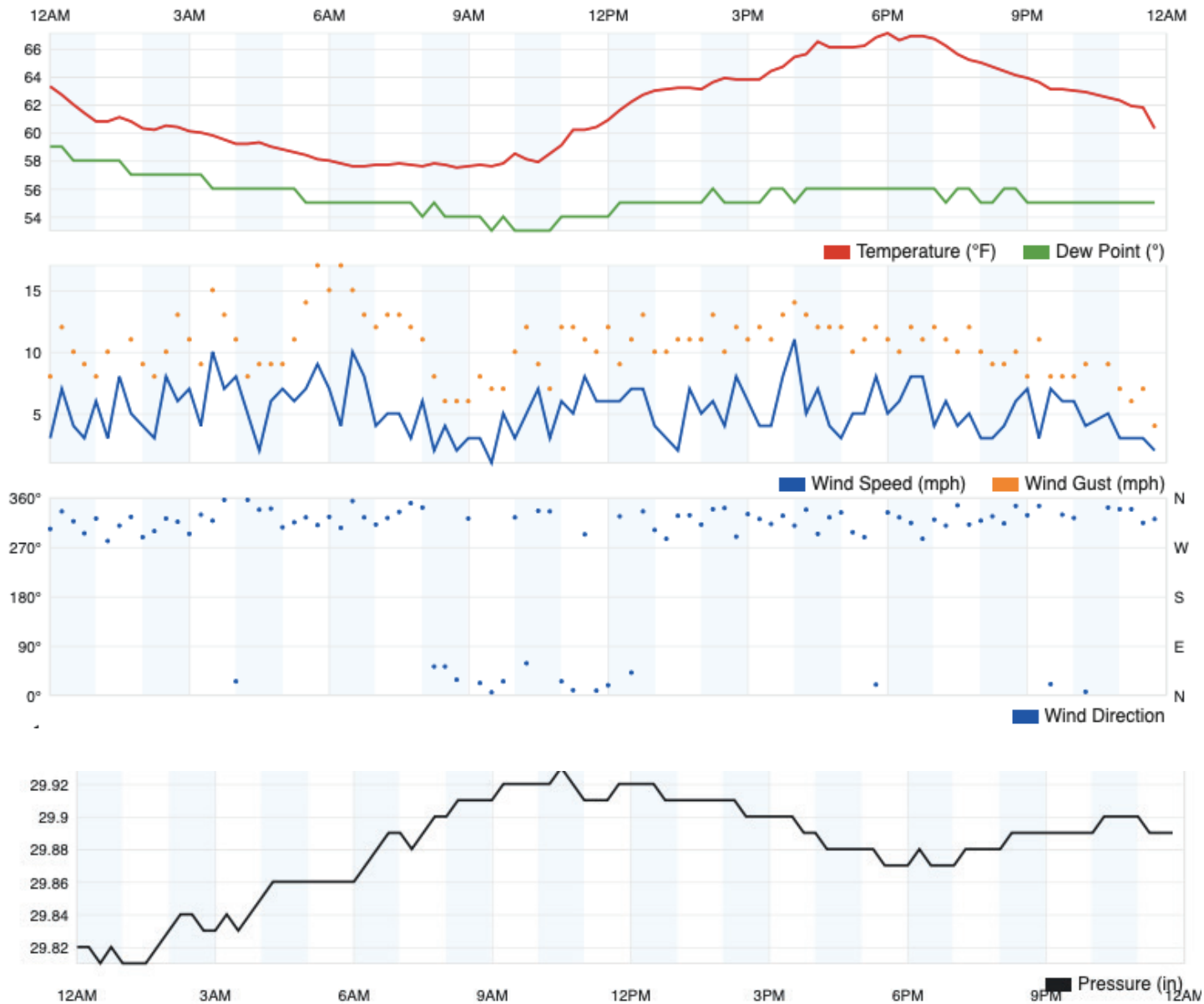
605-448-0048

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

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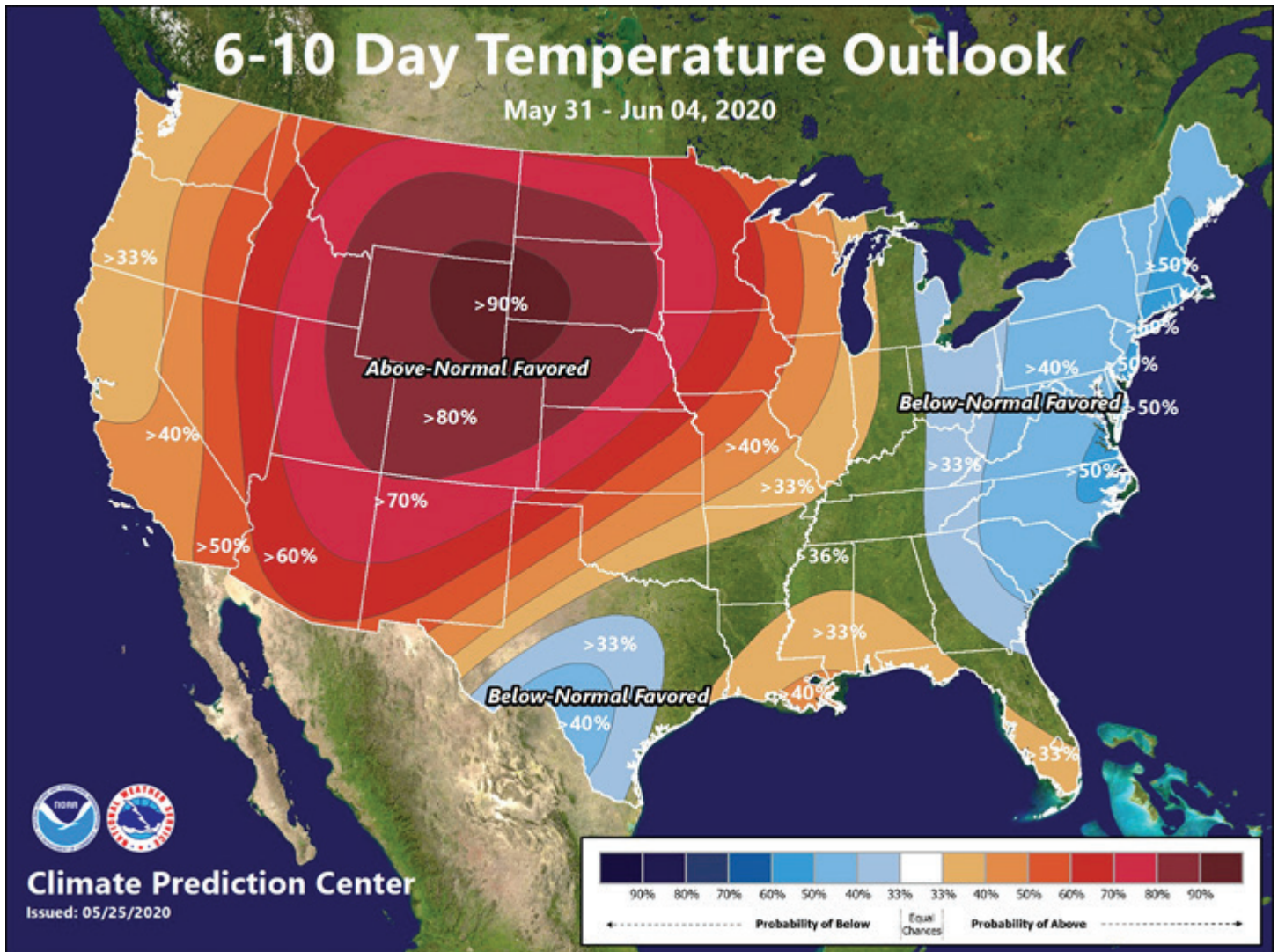
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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**Some above average/summer-like temperatures are likely on the way next week (first week of June)! Outlooks are from the NWS Climate Prediction Center: [cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)**

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Today



Decreasing  
Clouds

High: 75 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 52 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 83 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Chance  
Showers

Low: 55 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 73 °F

## Seasonable Weather



May 26, 2020

NWS ABERDEEN  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Central SD fog and Eastern SD rain possible

This  
Morning

High temperatures: 72 to 78°

Today

Low temperatures: 50 to 54°

Tonight

Warmer, clouds build late. Highs 78 to 84°

WED

Light rain possible during the evening / night

WED  
Night

High temperatures: 70 to 75°

THU

Low temperatures: 44 to 48°

THU  
Night

You may run into some fog across portions of Central South Dakota, or a few light rain showers across eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota this morning, but conditions should improve as the day progresses. Only light rain makes a potential return Wednesday evening, otherwise a fair share of sunshine and dry conditions are anticipated through the rest of the work-week.



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## Today in Weather History

May 26, 1983: Unofficial rainfall of up to 5 inches caused widespread flooding of basements and streets in and near Aberdeen. Only 1.72 inches of rain was reported at the Aberdeen airport.

May 26, 1985: Hail of unknown diameter was five inches deep, 1 mile north of Rosholt. Some hail remained on the ground until the following morning.

May 26, 1992: A widespread frost and hard freeze hit most of South Dakota except portions of the southeast causing up to \$14 million in potential crop losses to growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and other crops. Some low temperatures include; 23 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 26 at one mile west of Highmore and 23 north of Highmore; 27 in Kennebec; and 28 degrees 1 NW of Faulkton and at Redfield.

1771: Thomas Jefferson recorded the greatest flood ever known in Virginia. The great Virginia flood occurred as torrential rains in the mountains brought all rivers in the state to record high levels.

1917: A major tornadic thunderstorm took a 293-mile track across parts of central Illinois and Indiana. Once believed to be a single tornado, the later study indicated it was likely at least eight separate tornadoes. The first touchdown was about 50 miles south-southeast of Quincy, Illinois. The tornadic storm tracked due east, before beginning a northeast curve near Charleston; separate tornadic storms then curved southeast from Charleston. The towns of Mattoon and Charleston bore the brunt of the tornado. Damage from this severe tornado in Mattoon was about 2.5 blocks wide and 2.5 miles long, with over 700 houses destroyed, while the Charleston portion was 600 yards wide and 1.5 miles long, with 220 homes damaged. Dozens of farms were hit along the path, and at least three farm homes were swept away between Manhattan and Monee. Another estimated F4 tornado touched down 6 miles south of Crown Point and devastated a dozen farms. A total of 7 people died, and 120 were injured. 53 people were killed in Mattoon, and 38 were killed in Charleston. Overall, 101 people in Illinois were killed during the tornado outbreak, with 638 injured.

2003: A BMI Airbus bound for Cyprus from Manchester, England encountered a violent thunderstorm over Germany. The plane bounced and twisted violently as it ran into severe turbulence with huge hailstones pounding the exterior. A football-sized hole was punched in the aircraft's surface. None of the 213 passengers or eight crew members was seriously hurt.

2009: Northeast of Anchorage, Alaska, two hikers climbed a ridge to see a developing storm better. Lightning knocked the couple unconscious. Regaining consciousness, they called emergency services as the woman was unable to walk. The man's shoes looked as though they had melted.

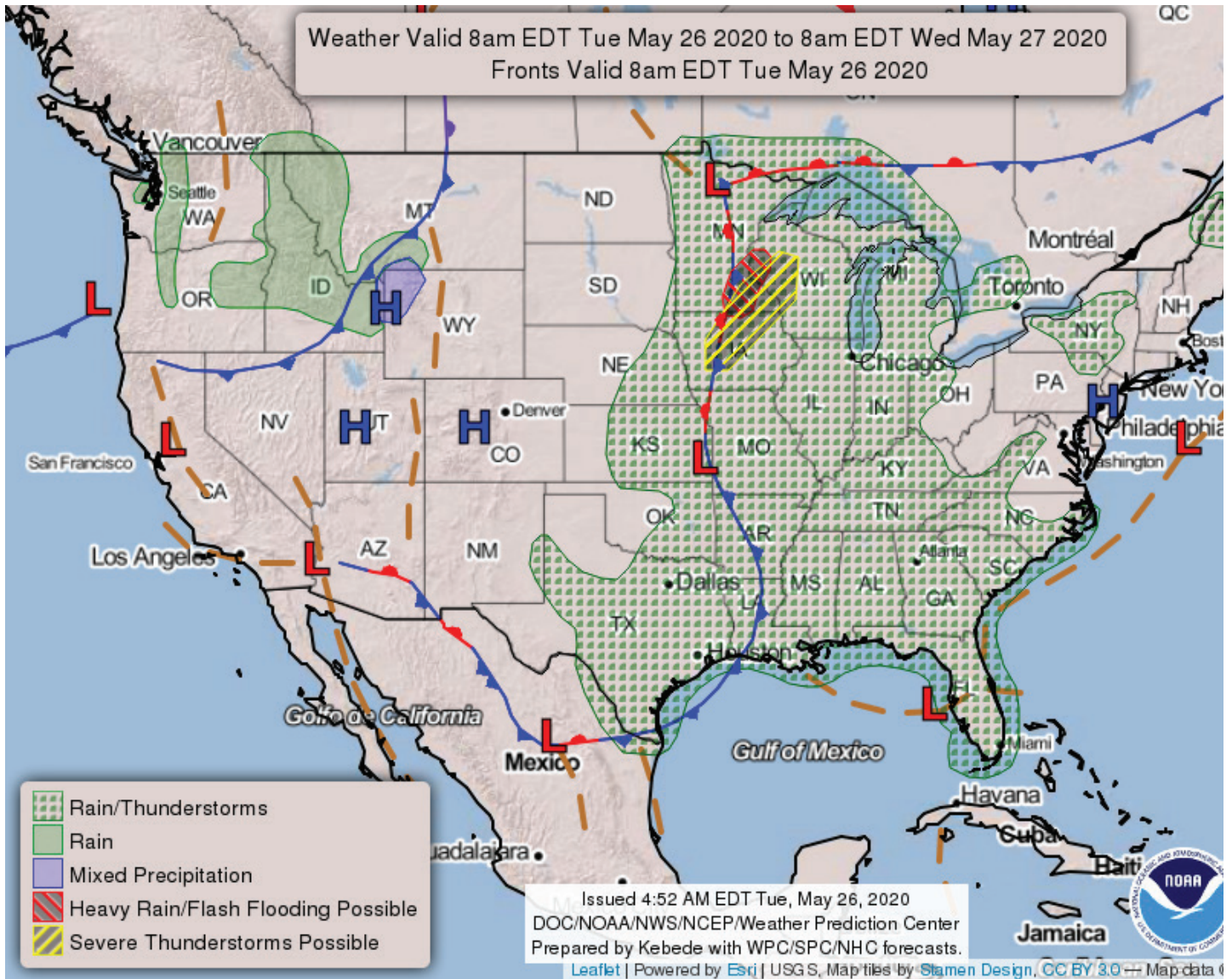
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 67 °F at 5:49 PM**  
**Low Temp: 58 °F at 6:33 AM**  
**Wind: 17 mph at 5:43 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 97° in 2018**  
**Record Low: 30° in 1992**  
**Average High: 71°F**  
**Average Low: 48°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 2.53**  
**Precip to date in May.: 2.73**  
**Average Precip to date: 6.56**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.63**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:10 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.**





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## GET UP AND GO ON

Little Lola was having a hard time learning to skate. Every time she got up and started to skate, she fell. The bruises were multiplying and covering all of the available space on her knees, hands, and elbows.

A neighbor passing by watched her try and try again. Finally, he approached her and asked, "Why don't you give up?"

"Because," she cried with tears streaming down her cheeks, "my father didn't give me these skates to give up with but to go on with."

Our Lord gives us His gracious favor and wonder-working power to "go on with." A good example of this is the Apostle Paul. God did not remove His affliction. He did promise, however, to provide His strength, courage, and power to him wherever he was, no matter what, "to go on with."

No matter what we believe to be our weaknesses, He wants to give us help and hope, endurance and victory. When we willingly admit our weaknesses and limitations to God, we are forced to depend upon Him for our effectiveness and accomplishments. Surrendering to Him when we need His help forces us to admit our inabilities and His abilities. Admitting our limitations enables us to develop our Christ-likeness, deepen our respect for God's presence and power in our lives, and encourages us to a deeper sense of worship.

Prayer: Father, we truly need Your involvement in our lives. When we are weak - give us Your strength; when we are down - raise us with Your power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
  - **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
  - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
  - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
  - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
  - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
  - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
  - **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

### Worker shortage concerns loom in immigrant-heavy meatpacking

By **STEPHEN GROVES** and **SOPHIA TAREEN** Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — When Martha Kebede's adult sons immigrated from Ethiopia and reunited with her in South Dakota this year, they had few work opportunities.

Lacking English skills, the brothers took jobs at Smithfield Foods' Sioux Falls pork plant, grueling and increasingly risky work as the coronavirus sickened thousands of meatpacking workers nationwide. One day half the workers on a slicing line vanished; later the brothers tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

"It was very, very sad," Kebede said. "The boys teared up seeing everyone."

The brothers — who declined to be identified for fear of workplace retaliation — are among roughly 175,000 immigrants in U.S. meatpacking jobs. The industry has historically relied on foreign-born workers — from people in the country illegally to refugees — for some of America's most dangerous jobs.

Now that reliance and uncertainty about a virus that's killed at least 20 workers and temporarily shuttered several plants fuels concerns about possible labor shortages to meet demand for beef, pork and chicken.

Companies struggling to hire before the pandemic are spending millions on fresh incentives. Their hiring capability hinges on unemployment, industry changes, employees' feelings about safety, and President Donald Trump's aggressive and erratic immigration policies.

Trump has restricted nearly all immigration, but his administration recently granted seasonal workers 60-day extensions, affecting a smattering in meat and poultry.

Roughly 350 foreign workers were certified for meat and poultry gigs in 2019, according to Daniel Costa at the Economic Policy Institute. Such H-2B visa holders, capped at 66,000 annually, are commonly used in landscaping and resorts.

But there's been willingness to expand. A plan to add 35,000 seasonal workers — which Trump supports in tight labor markets — was suspended in April for "present economic circumstances."

Immigrants make up nearly 40% of the industry's roughly 470,000 workers, with higher concentrations in states like South Dakota, where they are 58% of workers, and Nebraska, where they're 66%, according to the nonprofit Migration Policy Institute. Estimates on illegal immigrants vary from 14% to the majority at some plants.

The industry argues it offers ample jobs with benefits and opportunities to advance for all workers. Paulina Francisco said her 21 years at Smithfield in Sioux City, Iowa, helped her buy a home, something she didn't think possible when she immigrated from Guatemala. She's now a citizen.

Still, most jobs are rural, limiting workers' access to lawyers, favorable union laws and other jobs. Hourly pay averages as low as \$12.50 for backbreaking work, often conducted side-by-side. Workers in the country illegally fear deportation for speaking up.

"Vulnerable populations work well for them," Joshua Specht, a University of Notre Dame professor, said of the industry.

Chicken plants extensively recruited immigrants in the 1990s as union organizing among majority African American workers increased. One Morton, Mississippi, plant advertised in Miami's Cuban stores and newspapers, busing workers willing to accept lower wages, a tactic replicated across the South, according to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill anthropologist Angela Stuesse.

Initially, it was immigrants with work authorization, but they were replaced by Mexicans and Guatemalans here illegally. Argentinians, Uruguayans and Peruvians followed. By the 2000s, the labor pool was self-sustaining with word-of-mouth.

"This is part of the way this industry works, is by having these different communities they can lean into to keep costs down and keep the lines running," said Stuesse.

One window into the industry's response to sudden labor shortages is immigration raids.

In 2006, agents swept Swift & Co. plants, netting 1,300 arrests, the largest single-worksites raid in U.S.

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history.

Full production resumed within months. One Greeley, Colorado, plant offered more pay, hiring about 75 workers, mainly U.S. citizens and Somali refugees, according to the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports restricting immigration.

Today, meatpacking has the fifth-highest concentration of refugee workers, according to the nonprofit Fiscal Policy Institute.

Sudanese refugee Salaheldin Ahmed, 44, heard about Smithfield's jobs while in New Hampshire and moved to South Dakota six years ago. After escaping war, little fazes the forklift driver, not even a positive COVID-19 test.

"They were killing in front of you," Ahmed, who experienced mild symptoms, said of atrocities he once witnessed. "The coronavirus is nothing."

Some data suggests raids may temporarily decrease immigrant hiring.

Noncitizens comprised 52% of meatpacking in 2006, dropping to 42% by 2008, according to Michael Clemens at the Center for Global Development. He cited an annual March employment survey.

But that trend reversed during the Great Recession's high unemployment. By 2011, noncitizens were roughly 56%.

After raids last year on Mississippi poultry plants, some citizens were hired but many immigrants returned to work, according to activists and local leaders.

"There is a need of workers and they don't have any other possibilities," said Rev. Roberto Mena, whose Forest congregation includes poultry workers.

Koch Foods and Peco Foods, the largest companies targeted, didn't return messages. Both have touted use of the federal E-Verify system to confirm worker eligibility.

Some blame the business model. With rapid turnover, it's not uncommon for plants to rehire an entire workforce annually, says worker advocate National Employment Law Project.

"This is the industry's own short-sightedness," said Debbie Berkowitz, a director. "They want to look for workers they can exploit, rather than workers that would feel comfortable raising concerns."

After the outbreak closed several plants, they got Trump's help; he issued an order classifying meat processing as critical.

The North American Meat Institute estimates most plants are at 70% production. Many added plexiglass barriers and other protections.

Little, the institute spokeswoman, noted that many meatpacking companies continued to pay employees even when plants shuttered and suggested more people might be drawn to meatpacking amid high unemployment.

"There's so many unknowns," she said. "I don't know what's in store for us."

The pandemic has accelerated some workers' decisions.

Guadalupe Paez, 62, likely won't return to his job cleaning cattle at JBS Packerland in Green Bay, Wisconsin, after being hospitalized for COVID-19. Weaker, he fears more illness, says his daughter Dora Flores. Paez immigrated from Mexico through a 1980s guest worker program and obtained a green card.

"He only goes out for the doctor appointments," she said. "He's traumatized."

## Procession through Sioux Falls cemeteries honors veterans

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dozens of cars and motorcycles flying American flags looped through Sioux Falls cemeteries Monday on a Memorial Day with social distancing.

The procession halted in St. Michael Catholic Cemetery next to a row of American flags. Divers and passengers remained in their vehicles while an American Legion honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and a bugle played taps in the rain.

The cavalcade then continued on to other local cemeteries to continue to honor those who died while serving in the armed forces, the Argus Leader reported.

On a normal Memorial Day, American Legion Post 15 would have planted flags at graves in Sioux Falls.

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This year's Memorial Day felt "quite different," said Post 15 Commander Bob Johnson. It was also the first time the honor guard had been together in months because traditional funerals with 21-gun salutes are on hold.

"Overall, it was very dignified and, I think, appreciated by people that were there," he said.

The Sioux Falls VA holds a Last Roll Call every quarter to honor veterans who have died in recent months. This year it held a virtual tribute on social media.

"We're trying to be very creative with how we're honoring our veterans, sending out our messages and letting them that we miss them," VA spokeswoman Erin Bultje said.

## Black Hills Community Foundation grants fight hunger

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Black Hills Area Community Foundation is awarding over \$17,000 in grants to three western South Dakota school districts that provide free summertime meals to children — and often to their parents and grandparents too.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program reimburses schools and other youth programs for meals served to kids under 18, it doesn't fund meals for accompanying adults, many of whom are also food insecure.

So the Black Hills Area Community Foundation has been working with local organizations to help alleviate hunger among family members as well, the Rapid City Journal reported Monday.

The grants include \$7,500 to Rapid City Area Schools, \$5,000 to the Meade School District and \$5,000 to the Custer School District. United Way of the Black Hills is matching the funds for the Custer School District for a total impact of \$10,000.

In addition, Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota is partnering with all three districts to reimburse them for meals served to adults 60 and over who are present when kids receive their food.

## South Dakota reports 23 new coronavirus cases; no new deaths

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Health reported 23 new coronavirus infections on Monday but no new deaths from COVID-19.

The department said 3,274 of the state's 4,586 coronavirus cases have been reported in Minnehaha County, the most populous county in South Dakota and the site of a large outbreak at a pork processing plant. That's up 14 from Sunday.

The number of South Dakota deaths tied to the coronavirus remained at 50 Monday, the department said. The state had 1,121 active cases, down 21 from Sunday.

The number of hospitalized patients was 99 on Monday, up 14 from the previous day. A total of 370 cases have ever required hospitalization.

Officials said 3,415 people have recovered from the coronavirus in South Dakota.

Health officials have warned the actual number of infections is higher because many people may not display symptoms or have not sought testing for mild symptoms. For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

## Sioux Falls victim scammed by caller of \$45,000

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating a fraud case involving a victim who lost \$45,000. Police say the individual got a call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft.

The caller said they found a problem with the victim's computer and gave instructions on how to allow the caller to gain remote access.

Once the caller had access to the computer, the scammer had access to all the victim's information.

Police Sgt. Sean Kooistra said that because the victim was afraid of losing that information, the victim



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followed the caller's directions and ended up giving the caller \$45,000, the Argus Leader reported.

"It's so important that people understand that when they receive phone calls from people identifying themselves being from Microsoft or any type of explanation allowing them access to their computer, it is absolutely fraudulent," Kooistra said. "Please do not fall for that or find yourself in a position where you don't know what to do."

If residents do get a suspicious call, they should stop all communication with the caller and alert police, he said.

## WHO warns that 1st wave of pandemic not over; dampens hopes

By ELAINE KURTENBACH and MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — As Brazil and India struggle with surging coronavirus cases, a top health expert is warning that the world is still smack in the middle of the pandemic, dampening hopes for a speedy global economic rebound and renewed international travel.

"Right now, we're not in the second wave. We're right in the middle of the first wave globally," said Dr. Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's executive director.

"We're still very much in a phase where the disease is actually on the way up," Ryan told reporters, pointing to South America, South Asia and other areas where infections are still on the rise.

India saw a record single-day jump in new cases for the seventh straight day. It reported 6,535 new infections Tuesday, raising its total to 145,380, including 4,167 deaths.

The virus has taken hold in some of India's poorest, most densely populated areas, underscoring the challenges that authorities face in curbing the spread of a virus for which a vaccine or cure isn't yet in sight.

Most of India's cases are concentrated in the western states of Maharashtra, home to the financial hub of Mumbai, and Gujarat. Infections have also climbed in the east as migrant workers stranded by lockdowns returned to their native villages from India's largest cities.

Despite this, India allowed domestic flights to resume Monday following a two-month hiatus, but at a fraction of normal traffic levels.

WHO poured cold water on the hopes of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and others of quickly re-opening the economy, warning that authorities must first have enough testing in place to control the spread of the pandemic. Brazil has 375,000 coronavirus infections — second only to the 1.6 million cases in the U.S. — and has counted over 23,000 deaths but many fear Brazil's true toll is much higher.

Ryan said Brazil's "intense" transmission rates means it should keep some stay-at-home measures in place, regardless of the negative impacts on its economy.

"You must continue to do everything you can," he said.

But Sao Paulo Gov. João Doria has ruled out a full lockdown in Brazil's largest state economy and plans to start loosening restrictions on June 1.

In Rio de Janeiro, Mayor Marcelo Crivella, an evangelical bishop, designated religious institutions as "essential services" so they could stay open with social distancing rules despite recommendations for people to stay at home and most businesses remaining shut.

A U.S. travel ban was taking effect Tuesday for foreigners coming from Brazil, moved up two days earlier than its original date. It does not apply to U.S. citizens.

In Europe, the Russian government reported a record daily spike Tuesday of 174 deaths, bringing the country's confirmed death toll to 3,807. Russia's coronavirus caseload surpassed 360,000 — the third highest in the world — with almost 9,000 new infections registered.

The country's comparatively low mortality rate has raised questions among experts both in Russia and in the West. Russian officials, however, vehemently deny manipulating any figures and attribute the low numbers to the effectiveness of the country's lockdown measures.

The question of who can travel where and when remains a dilemma that officials still have yet to solve.

Spain's foreign minister said Tuesday that European Union members should commonly agree to open borders and jointly determine which non-EU countries are designated as safe for travel. Arancha González

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Laya told Cadena SER radio that resuming cross-border travel should be decided collectively even if countries in the 27-nation bloc are phasing out lockdowns at different dates.

"We have to start working with our European partners to retake the freedom of movement in European territories," she said.

The minister said Spain is eager to welcome tourists to shore up an industry that accounts for 12% of the country's GDP but plans to do it with "health, sustainability and safety."

South Korea on Tuesday began requiring people to wear masks on public transit and in taxis. The country is tracing dozens of infections linked to nightclubs and other entertainment venues as it prepares for 2.4 million students to return to school on Wednesday.

But South Korean rights groups have criticized government plans to require some businesses to register customers with smartphone QR codes. They say the country's technology-driven approach to controlling COVID-19 has increased state surveillance too much.

South Korea's Health Ministry said beginning in June "high-risk" businesses such as bars, nightclubs, gyms, karaoke rooms and concert halls will be required to use QR codes to register customers so they could be found more easily when infections occur.

In a joint statement Tuesday, groups including privacy watchdog Jinbo Net called the move excessive. "That's exactly how we step into a surveillance state," the statement said.

Tests by a U.S. biotechnology company, Novavax, have begun in Australia with hopes of releasing a proven vaccine this year. A Novavax executive said 131 volunteers were getting injections in the first phase of the trial to test the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

Novavax expects the results of the Australian trial to be known in July.

About a dozen experimental vaccines are in early stages of testing or poised to start, and it's not clear whether any will prove safe and effective. But they use different methods and technologies, increasing the odds that one might succeed.

"We are in parallel making doses, making vaccine in anticipation that we'll be able to show it's working and be able to start deploying it by the end of this year," Novavax's research chief, Dr. Gregory Glenn, told a virtual news conference from the company's headquarters in Maryland.

Meanwhile, WHO said it will temporarily drop hydroxychloroquine — the malaria drug U.S. President Trump said he is taking — from its global study into experimental COVID-19 treatments.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said there would be a "temporary pause" on the hydroxychloroquine arm of its global clinical trial. The announcement came after a paper in the Lancet showed that people taking the drug were at higher risk of death and heart problems.

Still, several countries in Europe and North Africa are using chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 patients. Brazil's Bolsonaro has ordered an army lab to boost its production of chloroquine.

Other treatments in the WHO study, including the experimental drug remdesivir and an HIV combination therapy, are still being pursued.

Worldwide, the virus has infected nearly 5.5 million people, killing over 346,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Europe has had about 170,000 deaths and the U.S. has seen nearly 100,000. Experts say the tally understates the real effects of the pandemic due to counting issues in many nations.

## Latam Airlines seeks bankruptcy protection as travel slumps

By ADAM SCHRECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Latam Airlines, South America's biggest carrier, sought U.S. bankruptcy protection Tuesday as it grapples with a sharp downturn in air travel sparked by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing underscores the severity of the financial challenges facing the travel industry as a result of the lockdowns, quarantines and other measures taken by governments the world over to stem the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Passenger and cargo flights will continue to operate during the reorganization, and employees will still be paid, the Santiago, Chile-based airline said. Travelers with existing tickets and vouchers can still use them.

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Chief Executive Roberto Alvo said Latam was profitable before the pandemic brought most of the world's flights to a halt, but is now facing a "collapse in global demand."

"We are looking ahead to a post-COVID-19 future and are focused on transforming our group to adapt to a new and evolving way of flying, with the health and safety of our passengers and employees being paramount," he said in a statement announcing the bankruptcy filing.

Latam Airlines said that it and several of its affiliated companies launched the Chapter 11 reorganization effort in the United States in a bid to reduce its debt and find new financing sources.

Air travel has plunged to a fraction of the levels it was just months ago as the virus spread from China to countries around the globe, prompting growing alarm in the aviation industry. The International Air Transport Association last month predicted that airlines' revenue from hauling passengers would drop \$314 billion this year, meaning they could bring in less than half of what they did in 2019.

Latam's move comes little more than two weeks after another major Latin American airline, Avianca Holdings, filed for bankruptcy protection in New York. Australia's second-largest carrier, Virgin Australia, sought bankruptcy in its home market last month.

Latam's bankruptcy filing includes parent company Latam Airlines Group S.A. and its affiliated airlines in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, as well as its businesses in the U.S.

The company is not including its affiliates in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay in the turnaround effort. It says it is talking with the Brazilian government about how to proceed with its operations there.

Latam is South America's largest carrier by passenger traffic. It operated more than 1,300 flights a day and transported 74 million passengers last year.

The airline had more than 340 planes in its fleet and nearly 42,000 employees on its payroll, according to its more recent annual report. It reported a profit of \$190 million in 2019.

It said the reorganization effort has the support of two prominent shareholders — the Cueto family in Chile and Brazil's Amaro family — as well as Qatar Airways, which owns 10% of the company.

Those three shareholders have agreed to provide up to \$900 million in financing as Latam makes its way through the bankruptcy process. It currently has \$1.3 billion on hand, it said.

Latam reached a deal to sell a 20% stake to Delta Air Lines for \$1.9 billion last year. Its announcement Tuesday made no mention of the Atlanta-based airline.

Delta CEO Ed Bastian expressed confidence in Latam's management in an emailed statement responding to questions.

"Airlines globally have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, for which no business plan could have adequately prepared. We remain firmly committed to our partnership with LATAM and believe that it will successfully emerge a stronger airline and Delta partner for the long term," Bastian said.

He did not say whether Delta might provide further financial support, and the company declined to comment further.

## Lebanon's migrant workers' plight worsens as crises multiply

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Long before the pandemic struck, they lived and worked in conditions that rights groups called exploitative — low wages, long hours, no labor law protections.

Now, some 250,000 registered migrant laborers in Lebanon — maids, garbage collectors, farm hands and construction workers — are growing more desperate as a crippling economic and financial crisis sets in, coupled with coronavirus restrictions.

Lebanon's unprecedented foreign currency crisis means that many migrants have not been paid for months or that the value of salaries is down by more than half. Others have lost their jobs after employers dumped them on the streets or outside their embassies.

"We are invisible," said Banchi Yimer, an Ethiopian former domestic worker who founded a group that campaigns for domestic workers' rights in Lebanon. "We don't even exist for our governments, not just the Lebanese government."



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In just three days, she said, 20 Ethiopian domestic workers were abandoned by their sponsors and left outside the embassy. A photo she posted shows women with as little as a backpack or a purse, lined up along the walls of the embassy — some sitting on the floor.

The pandemic delivered just the latest blow to a Lebanese economy, already devastated by a financial crisis brought on by decades of corruption and mismanagement. In recent weeks, the Lebanese pound, pegged to the dollar for more than two decades, has lost 60% of its value against the dollar and prices of basic goods soared. Unemployment has risen to 35% and an estimated 45% of the country's population is now below the poverty line.

In this crisis, migrant workers are among the most vulnerable.

Among them are 180,000 domestic workers, most of them women and many from Ethiopia and the Philippines. Thousands live illegally, after escaping their employers to whom they were tied under an ill-reputed sponsorship system, known in Arabic as 'kafala,' which dates back to the 1960s.

Many are trapped, unable to go home, because they cannot afford the exorbitant costs of repatriation flights or because global air travel is severely restricted.

Their plight is similar to that of migrant workers in other countries, including foreign laborers in oil-rich Gulf Arab states who now find themselves jobless, as COVID-19 stalks their labor camps.

In the Lebanese capital of Beirut, the financial chaos has added to their despair.

On Saturday, a Filipina domestic worker took her own life a day after arriving at a shelter run by the Philippines Embassy for workers waiting to return home after losing their jobs. In a statement Monday, the embassy said she died after jumping from a room she was sharing with two others.

Both the Philippines Embassy and Lebanese authorities said they were investigating the death.

Suspected suicides or escape attempts of foreign household workers have become a frequent occurrence in Lebanon, with local reports recording at least one incident a month.

Such desperate acts are often blamed on the sponsorship system, which rights groups say creates near slave-like conditions. Some employers do not allow their helpers to go out on the street alone or have a day off.

Domestic workers are not protected by labor law and are often shackled in a 24-7 work schedule with no right to resign.

"Some of their employers abuse them mentally physically and there is no law to protect them. Their employers ... treat them like slaves," said Tsigereda Brihanu, an Ethiopian activist with Eгна Legna, Yimer's organization.

A 2016 International Labor Organization study found that out of 1,200 employers surveyed, more than 94% withheld their workers' passports.

Last week, security forces violently quelled a protest by Bangladeshi sanitation workers who were demanding an adjustment of their salaries to new market rates.

The pandemic has also taken its toll. A few dozen foreign workers living in overcrowded apartments in Beirut have tested positive for the coronavirus. Riot police are often deployed outside their buildings to enforce isolation.

Last week, Ethiopian workers staged a symbolic demonstration outside their embassy to demand free repatriation.

"We don't have the power to bring a plane and to take out everybody from this country. I wish we can do that," Brihanu said. "Regular life in Lebanon is very difficult even to survive. It is not worth it to stay here."

One Ethiopian worker said that even though her sponsor still pays her salary, she is already checking into going home because she knows the dollars will run out and prices will continue to increase. "Lebanon's finished," she said, declining to give her name in order to speak freely.

The virus lockdown has exacerbated work conditions. Some workers are not able to communicate with their own families and friends, the hours are much longer and the demands by employers are unrealistic, said Zeina Mezher of the International Labor Organization.

"They say that we are all in the storm, but it doesn't affect us all in the same way," she said.

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Yimer, who founded Eгна Legna in 2017, is now in Canada, where the group is registered as a non-profit organization, because it is illegal for domestic workers to be activists in Lebanon, and the government has refused to register a union for them.

Eгна Legna, meaning "from us migrants to us migrants" in Amharic, Ethiopia's official language, now offers food packages for some who lost their jobs and helps others pay rent.

"I have not worked for nearly three months," said Kumari, a household worker from Sri Lanka.

Kumari used to hold down work in several homes in order to send money to her 5-year-old daughter who is being raised by her mother back home.

"Nobody has work. I want to go home but I can't until corona finishes," she said.

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

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. HONG KONG LEADER SAYS CIVIL RIGHTS NOT AT RISK FROM CHINA Carrie Lam says there is "no need for us to worry" over legislation proposed by China signalling its determination to take greater control of the semi-autonomous territory.

2. VIRGIN ORBIT, WE HAVE A PROBLEM A test launch by a Richard Branson company of a new rocket to put satellites into space failed off the coast of Southern California shortly after the rocket was dropped from beneath a wing of a jumbo jet.

3. PIONEER OF MODERN GAMBLING IN CHINA DIE S Stanley Ho, the 98-year-old Macao casino tycoon known as the "King of Gambling," was also an accomplished ballroom dancer and suspected by the U.S. of ties to organized crime.

4. BLAME IT ON THE WEATHER The planned launch Wednesday in Florida of a SpaceX rocket with astronauts aboard, a first for a private company, may be delayed by unfavorable meteorological conditions.

5. 'KIND OF BLUE' DRUMMER DIES Jimmy Cobb, who was 91, was the last surviving member of the group of musicians who recorded Miles Davis' groundbreaking 1959 album.

## Shunned by his party, Iowa's Steve King fights for his seat

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Rep. Steve King is fighting for his political life — but not because he's compared immigrants crossing the border illegally to cattle. His Republican opponents in next week's primary aren't raking him over the coals for making light of rape and incest. His chief rival's ads don't mention the time he wondered when the term "white supremacist" became offensive.

Instead, the nine-term congressman known for his nativist politics is fighting to prove he can still deliver for Iowa's 4th Congressional District. Since Republican leaders stripped him of his committee assignments, in a rare punishment, King has been dogged by questions over whether he's lost all effectiveness. Some longtime supporters are turning away, not because of his incendiary remarks but because they think he can no longer do the job.

"We all want to feel that we're being represented in Washington, D.C., that we have a voice," said Iowa state Sen. Annette Sweeney, a former King supporter.

Establishment Republicans in Iowa and Washington, some of whom share King's policy views and have long tolerated his provocative remarks, have largely abandoned the congressman, throwing their weight behind Randy Feenstra, a conservative state senator.

That sets up the June 2 primary, a five-way fight in a GOP-heavy district, as a test of whether the establishment can effectively police the party and distance itself from racist and far-right voices who critics say have been amplified in recent years.

But Republican activists in King's district, a sprawling swath of corn, soybeans and towering wind turbines, haven't been quick to accept the influence from outsiders.

"He's not what he's portrayed to be by certain media outlets," said Barb Clayton, a leading GOP activist

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in the district. Clayton says she “respects” King and believes his comments about white supremacy were taken out of context. Still, she’s backing one of his four opponents, though she won’t say whom, because she’s worried King’s diminished influence would cost him in November.

“My primary issue is being able to hold the seat. It makes it more difficult to do that when he’s lost his committees,” she said.

Sweeney, who has endorsed Feenstra, offered only glancing criticism of King.

“His comments at times were just off the cuff,” she said. “Sometimes some of them might have been him trying to be funny or cute, though some weren’t. In fact, some were repulsive.”

Still, Sweeney hosted two fundraisers at her home for King in 2014, when he faced what was expected to be a competitive challenge from former Iowa first lady Christie Vilsack, a Democrat. King won decisively.

By then, King had a reputation for controversial statements about race, immigration and religion.

In 2006, King proposed electrifying the U.S.-Mexico border fencing to curb illegal border crossings, saying, “We do that with livestock all the time.”

In 2013, he said for every one well-intended “Dreamer,” immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children, 100 more “weigh 130 pounds and they’ve got calves the size of cantaloupes” from hauling drugs across the desert.

In recent years, King received scrutiny for his overtures to foreign, right-wing extremists. The outreach prompted the House campaign committee to pull its financial backing in 2018. King was stripped of his membership on the House judiciary and agriculture committees the following January after he was quoted in the New York Times seeming to defend white nationalism.

The punishment sidelined King from defending President Donald Trump during the impeachment hearings, a spotlight King would have relished. It also silenced him on agriculture policy, a blow in a district that ranks second nationally in agricultural production, according to federal statistics.

But it hasn’t muted King. He’s continued to defend his hard-right abortion stance with provocative comments. Asked in August about his opposition to abortion in cases of rape and incest, he wondered whether there would be “any population of the world left” if not for births stemming from rape and incest.

Feenstra has called the comments “bizarre” but hasn’t made them the focus of his critique of King. Instead, the 51-year-old former candy company executive promotes his work in the statehouse on big issues such as tax cut legislation and attacks King for a lack of sway on farming and agribusiness issues.

“Steve King, the congressman who couldn’t,” the narrator says in Feenstra’s television ads. “Steve King couldn’t protect our farmers and couldn’t protect President Trump from impeachment.”

It’s a tack Iowa Republicans say is working, in part because it doesn’t shame Iowans who have long defended King.

“You move away from the argument that he’s an embarrassment and into an argument of effectiveness — when you get into that zone, people say this matters,” said Iowa Republican strategist John Stineman, who’s unaffiliated with any campaign in the race.

King argues that establishment Republicans have targeted him for being such an effective defender of conservative causes.

“It’s no single thing,” King said. “But it gets back to their argument that this is part of a pattern with me they are uncomfortable with.”

But Feenstra’s focus on King’s diminished role also appears to have hit a nerve. In recent candidate forums, King started telling voters he has struck a deal with House leaders to resume his committee posts if he wins reelection.

King told The Associated Press that Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said he would vouch for him when King appeals to his GOP colleagues for reinstatement.

McCarthy has dismissed King’s claim.

“Congressman King’s comments cannot be exonerated, and I never said that,” McCarthy told reporters last week. “He’ll have the opportunity to make his case, talking to the members of the Steering Committee. I think he’ll get the same answer that he got before.”



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If King pulls out a primary win, McCarthy could have another headache on his hands. Some fear mainstream Republicans might leave the ballot empty rather than vote for King, allowing Democrat J.D. Scholten, who lost by 2 percentage points in 2018, to win.

The National Republican Congressional Committee, the GOP's congressional campaign arm, declined Friday to say whether it would support King in November or opt for a second time to withhold support.

## Atlanta is home to 2 potential contenders for Biden's VP

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Neither public rivals nor personal friends, Keisha Lance Bottoms and Stacey Abrams spent years climbing parallel ladders at Atlanta City Hall and the Georgia Capitol.

They are now Georgia's most influential African American women.

Bottoms, the 50-year-old Atlanta mayor, is a top surrogate for Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. Abrams is the 46-year-old voting rights activist who nearly became the first black female governor in American history. Now, the pair occupy the same political intersection: Biden's list of potential running mates.

That potential has highlighted the different styles of the two lawyers-turned-politicians. Abrams embraces the possibility of the vice presidency and, already having acknowledged her own presidential aspirations, openly touts how she'd help Biden win and govern. Bottoms, while not sidestepping the talk, plays the more traditional role of loyal party lieutenant.

While the possibility of being up for the same job could stoke conflict, Abrams, Bottoms and their associates instead frame their national profiles as a boost for black women.

"I see them leading in very different ways because of the positions they hold, and I adore them both," said state party chairwoman Nikema Williams. It's "inspiring" to watch "two black women from the South be elevated."

Beyond Abrams and Bottoms, Biden is believed to be considering other women of color as his running mate, including California Sen. Kamala Harris and Rep. Val Demings of Florida.

In separate Associated Press interviews, Abrams declared Bottoms an "extraordinary" mayor and called herself "proud to be an Atlanta citizen under her leadership," while the mayor praised Abrams' "authentic leadership," especially on behalf of underrepresented voters.

"I can't say we're close personal friends," Bottoms said, adding that she sees their roles as outgrowths of the civil rights history that surrounds them in Martin Luther King Jr.'s hometown. "Atlanta has always been a special place where people of color are able to break traditional molds and change the landscape of who we are as a country."

Unquestionably the more widely known of the two, Abrams was floated as a presidential candidate herself after her unsuccessful 2018 governor's bid. She parlayed that narrow loss into an invitation to deliver the 2019 response to President Donald Trump's State of the Union address. Throughout 2019, she was a regular stop on Democratic contenders' visits to Georgia.

In recognition of Biden's stature as former vice president, Abrams visited him in Washington last year, but she didn't endorse until May 12, well after Biden emerged as the presumptive nominee. Before that, she willingly fielded questions about joining him on the ticket.

"As a young black girl growing up in Mississippi, I learned that if I didn't speak up for myself, no one else would," Abrams said recently on NBC's "Meet the Press."

She told the AP days before her endorsement that she'd "put my resume against anyone else's." She noted her state legislative work included international relations and highlighted her 2018 success in drawing hundreds of thousands of new voters to the polls.

Bottoms, meanwhile, was among Biden's earliest endorsers. She recalled writing in a leather-bound campaign journal, "I feel vulnerable," having declared loyalties among such a crowded field. That shouldn't be confused with regret, she said, citing Biden's "experience and the goodness of who he is."

The mayor was a precinct captain in overwhelmingly white Iowa, where Biden finished an embarrassing

fourth, before going on to the Southern states that reversed his fortunes.

"She didn't run away when he was down," said Tharon Johnson, a Bottoms confidant.

Asked what she'd bring to the ticket, Bottoms, a former judge and city councilor, noted that she's served in each branch of government, with her executive tenure overlapping with a massive cyberattack on city government's technology infrastructure and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You've got to have proven leadership that's been tested in the midst of crisis," she said.

As Abrams remains a favorite of many progressive activists, Bottoms has gotten a prominent mention from influential black leaders like House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, who is close to Biden, and Biden campaign co-chairman Cedric Richmond.

The different approaches reflect how Bottoms has operated mostly within existing political machinery while Abrams has sought to build her own.

Three years ago, Abrams was the Georgia House minority leader building her 2018 campaign for governor; Bottoms was a city councilor running for mayor. Abrams had impressed Capitol circles but faced such skepticism as a statewide candidate that many older, white Democratic power brokers backed a white state representative from the Atlanta suburbs.

Bottoms, conversely, had the backing of outgoing Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, himself once viewed as a potential governor. Abrams' primary opponent — not an Atlanta resident — endorsed Bottoms, while Abrams stayed on the sidelines. Bottoms, in turn, didn't wade into the governor's primary, but campaigned for Abrams later against Republican Brian Kemp.

"They've just operated in different spaces," said Williams, the state party chairwoman.

Both politicians have shown signs of practicality.

Bottoms benefited from Reed's help in 2017, but she's since distanced herself from her predecessor, whose administration has been the subject of a federal criminal probe. She was among the big-city mayors to blast Trump's immigration policies, and she ended the city jail's contract with federal immigration enforcement. She's leading the U.S. Conference of Mayors' efforts on the census and housing policy.

And while Abrams calls for significant changes in U.S. social and political structures, she spent her tenure at the Capitol as an unapologetic pragmatist cutting deals with Republican Gov. Nathan Deal and GOP House leadership.

For her part, Bottoms says she has "a good working relationship" with Kemp, who defeated Abrams.

And while her style is more low-key, Bottoms makes clear that she has no problem with Abrams' direct approach to ambition.

"I don't think there's ever anything wrong with touting and highlighting your work," she said. "What I do on my day-to-day work hopefully shows the type of leader I am."

## Death and denial in Brazil's Amazon capital

By RENATA BRITO Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) — As the white van approached Perfect Love Street, one by one chatting neighbors fell silent, covered their mouths and noses and scattered.

Men in full body suits carried an empty coffin into the small, blue house where Edgar Silva had spent two feverish days gasping for air before drawing his last breath on May 12.

"It wasn't COVID," Silva's daughter, Eliete das Graças insisted to the funerary workers. She swore her 83-year-old father had died of Alzheimer's disease, not that sickness ravaging the city's hospitals.

But Silva, like the vast majority of those dying at home, was never tested for the new coronavirus. The doctor who signed his death certificate never saw his body before determining the cause: "cardiorespiratory arrest."

His death was not counted as one of Brazil's victims of the pandemic.

Manaus is one of the hardest hit cities in Brazil, which officially has lost more than 23,000 lives to the coronavirus. But in the absence of evidence proving otherwise, relatives like das Graças are quick to deny the possibility that COVID-19 claimed their loved ones, meaning that the toll is likely a vast undercount.

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As ambulances zip through Manaus with sirens blaring and backhoes dig rows of new graves, the muggy air in this city by the majestic Amazon River feels thicker than usual with such pervasive denial. Manaus has seen nearly triple the usual number of dead in April and May.

Doctors and psychologists say denial at the grassroots stems from a mixture of misinformation, lack of education, insufficient testing and conflicting messages from the country's leaders.

Chief among skeptics is President Jair Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly called COVID-19 a "little flu," and argued that concern over the virus is overblown.

Asked by a reporter about the surging number of deaths on April 20, Bolsonaro responded, "I'm not a gravedigger, OK?"

He has resisted U.S. and European-style lockdowns to contain the virus' spread, saying such measures aren't worth the economic wreckage. He fired his first Health Minister for supporting quarantines, accepted the resignation of a second one after less than a month on the job, and said that the interim minister, an army general with no background in health or medicine, will remain in charge of the pandemic response "for a long time." In a cabinet meeting last month, a visibly enraged Bolsonaro insulted governors and mayors enforcing stay-at-home measures.

The president's political followers are receptive to his dismissal of the virus, as determined as he is to proceed with life as usual.

On a recent Saturday in Manaus, locals flocked to the bustling riverside market to buy fresh fish, unaware of the need for social distancing, or uninterested. As swamped intensive-care units struggled to accommodate new patients airlifted from the Amazon, the faithful returned to some of the city's evangelical churches. Coffins arriving by riverboat did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of young people at clandestine dance parties. And in the streets, masks frequently covered chins and foreheads rather than mouths and noses.

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

The new sickness made its way to Manaus in March, in the middle of the rainy season. At least that's when health officials first became aware of it in the capital of Amazonas state, which is at once remote and international. One precarious road connects the city to the rest of Brazil, and other municipalities are hours away by boat. But tropical fauna and flora normally draw tourist cruises up the Amazon, and business people fly in from around the world, to visit its free trade zone. Just last October, Manaus sent a delegation to China looking for investors.

The city's first virus fatality was reported on March 25 and deaths have surged since then. But due to a lack of testing, just 5% of the more than 4,300 burials performed in April and May were confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to city funeral statistics.

To accommodate its swelling number of coffins, the public Nossa Senhora Aparecida cemetery razed an area of tropical forest to dig dozens of trenches in the rust-colored soil for burials.

These mass graves sparked anger toward city officials among families of the deceased. Why did their loved ones' bodies have to be buried in such a way, they asked, if there was no evidence the deaths were caused by COVID-19?

Das Graças was among those who had hoped that her father could have a proper sendoff. But it wasn't to be. The white-suited men informed her that his coffin would be sealed, a precaution taken now regardless of cause of death. He would be sent to the public cemetery's refrigerated container to await burial.

"A person can't even die with dignity," das Graças, 49, said through tears. "He's going to spend the night in the freezer when we could be doing his wake at home!"

Home wakes are no longer permitted. But workers from SOS Funeral, which provides free coffins and funeral services to those who can't afford them, have found homes packed with relatives touching the bodies of loved ones, hugging each other and wiping away tears with ungloved hands—a potentially contagious farewell.



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Overwhelmed emergency services have encountered similar reluctance to acknowledge viral risk. Ambulance doctor Sandokan Costa said patients often omit the mention of COVID-19 symptoms, putting him and his colleagues at greater risk. "What has most struck me is people's belief that the pandemic isn't real."

Costa fell ill with the virus in late March but has worked non-stop since recovering and is astonished to see his fellow citizens on the streets acting as though nothing is going on. There is a stigma attached to the new disease, he said. "Coronavirus has become something pejorative."

Health care officials attribute much of that to Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic.

Rather than take precautions, Bolsonaro has supported the use of chloroquine, the predecessor of an anti-malaria drug that U.S. President Donald Trump has advocated for treatment of coronavirus and is taking himself to ward it off. Bolsonaro ordered the Army's Chemical and Pharmaceutical Laboratory to boost its chloroquine production despite a lack of clinical proof that it is effective. A large study recently published in the Lancet medical journal suggests that the malaria drugs not only do not help but are also tied to a greater risk of death in coronavirus patients.

In Manaus, scientists stopped part of a study of chloroquine after heart rhythm problems developed in a quarter of people given the higher of two doses being tested.

Visiting the hard-hit Amazon capital was a priority for Bolsonaro's second health minister, Nelson Teich, who donned a body suit to tour several hospitals. But he resigned days later after disagreeing with the president's demand that the ministry recommend chloroquine be prescribed to patients with mild coronavirus symptoms.

Amazonas Gov. Wilson Lima, a Bolsonaro ally, downplayed the virus at first. "There's huge hysteria and panic," Lima said March 16, three days after the first virus case in Manaus was confirmed in a woman who had traveled from Europe. That same day he declared a state of emergency, but his first measures were limited—cancellation of events organized by the state, suspension of classes and prison visits. For the rest, he recommended avoiding crowds and good hand washing.

It was only on March 23, when his state had 32 cases including local transmissions that he ordered the suspension of non-essential services. But the restrictions were never imposed on the city's industrial zone.

A month later, hospitals in Manaus were overwhelmed with thousands of cases and hundreds of dead.

In late-April the governor announced plans to progressively reopen commerce, but backed down as the death toll continued to climb. This month, he told the Associated Press in an interview that the unusual surge in deaths can only be explained by the outbreak.

"There's no doubt that the majority (have died) because of COVID-19," Gov. Lima said as he sat in a vast but empty meeting room in the state government headquarters in Manaus. "We don't have any other explanation for this if not COVID."

He admitted lack of testing makes it nearly impossible to have a clear idea how many people in the state are infected.

But even with vast under-reporting, Amazonas state has the highest number of deaths by COVID-19 per capita in the country with more than 1,700 fatal victims.

Poor and crowded neighborhoods have been particularly affected. Unable to afford private consultations and fearing the chaos of the public health system, many only sought medical help when it was too late. Others preferred to die at home rather than alone at a hospital.

Lima's administration has come under fire for spending half a million dollars (2.9 million Brazilian reais) to buy 28 ventilators at quadruple the market price from a wine importer and distributor. The breathing machines were deemed inadequate for use on coronavirus patients after inspections by the regional council of medicine and Manaus' health surveillance office.

Lima denies any wrongdoing. Asked if he would have done anything differently to confront the virus, the governor shook his head.

"Even if I had stopped it (economy), if I had closed the city for 30 days, no one goes in and no one goes out. At some point I would have had to open and at some point the virus would have gotten here," he said.

The virus has, in the meantime, spread upriver from Manaus, creeping into remote towns and indigenous

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territories to infect indigenous tribes. The sparsely populated but vast rainforest region is completely unprepared to cope. Some towns can't get oxygen tanks refilled or don't have breathing machines, forcing nurses to manually pump air into lungs. When they do have machines, power cuts frequently shut them down.

Many patients are being airlifted to Manaus, the only place in the state of 4 million people with full intensive care units.

Although health experts warn that the pandemic is far from over in the Amazon region, or the rest of the country, national polls show adherence to lockdowns and quarantines falling, and a growing number of Brazilians are neglecting local leaders' safety recommendations.

"Every day there are different messages coming from the federal government that clash with measures by the cities and states, and with what science says" said Manaus-based physician Adele Benzaken.

A public health researcher who until last year lead the HIV/AIDS department at the Health Ministry, Benzaken already has lost four colleagues in the pandemic.

Meanwhile, misinformation and disinformation about the virus is swirling, some of it shared by the president himself. On May 11, Instagram labeled one of his posts as fake news after he falsely claimed a state had seen a drop in respiratory disease this year. Facebook also blocked one of his posts in March that showed him praising the healing powers of chloroquine to supporters.

One false claim circulating on social media said the death rate in Manaus plummeted the day after the health minister's visit. Another purported to show an empty coffin being unearthed at Manaus' cemetery, implying the city was inflating its death toll. But the photo was taken in Sao Paulo three years ago.

Still, the messages take root and spread like jungle foliage.

"My opinion is that they're making this up and trying to make money from it" Israel Reis, 54, said outside Manaus' fish market. He didn't specify who "they" might be.

Reis, who recently lost his job in an electronics maintenance company due to the pandemic, spoke without a mask and said he "of course" agrees with Bolsonaro the severity of the pandemic is exaggerated and death toll inflated.

He recently advised his nephew against seeking help at the local health clinic for an earache. "Any dizziness and they'll say it's that thing," he said, referring to the virus.

One recent late afternoon, a group of paunchy middle-aged men seated in plastic chairs on the sidewalk debated measures to fight the virus. The street bar, just a few blocks from a police station in downtown Manaus, was operating in violation of state COVID-19 restrictions, yet officers in a passing squad car didn't even slow down to reprimand them.

Icy beer provided relief from the sweltering heat, and tropical insects had begun sounding their pre-dusk drone. The men, too, were getting worked up.

"Put on your mask!" yelled one friend.

"I don't need one!" screamed another, Henrique Noronha.

Noronha, 52, argued that only the elderly and those with health problems should stay home – as Bolsonaro affirms -- and the fit should return to normal. Despite his age and full figure, Noronha didn't believe he's at risk.

"This virus came to clean things up," he said. "But I'll be fine."

## Jimmy Cobb, 'Kind of Blue' drummer for Miles Davis, dies

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

Jimmy Cobb, a percussionist and the last surviving member of Miles Davis' 1959 "Kind of Blue" groundbreaking jazz album which transformed the genre and sparked several careers, died Sunday.

His wife, Eleana Tee Cobb, announced on Facebook that her husband died at his New York City home from lung cancer. He was 91.

Born in Washington, D.C., Cobb told The Associated Press in 2019 he listened to jazz albums and stayed up late to hear disc jockey Symphony Sid playing jazz in New York City before launching his professional

career. He said it was saxophonist Cannonball Adderley who recommended him to Davis, and he ended up playing on several Davis recordings.

But Cobb's role as a drummer on the "Kind of Blue" jam session headed by Davis would forever change his career. That album also featured Adderley and John Coltrane.

The album, released on Aug. 17, 1959, captured a moment when jazz was transforming from bebop to something newer, cooler and less structured.

The full takes of the songs were recorded only once, with one exception, Cobb said. "Freddie Freeloader" needed to be played twice because Davis didn't like a chord change on the first attempt, he said.

Davis, who died in 1991, had some notes jotted down, but there weren't pages of sheet music. It was up to the improvisers to fill the pages. "He'd say this is a ballad. I want it to sound like it's floating. And I'd say, 'OK,' and that's what it was," Cobb recalled.

The album received plenty of acclaim at the time, yet the critics, the band and the studio couldn't have known it would enjoy such longevity. He and his bandmates knew the album would be a hit but didn't realize at the time how iconic it would become.

"We knew it was pretty damned good," Cobb joked.

It has sold more than 4 million copies and remains the best selling jazz album of all time. It also served as a protest album for African American men who looked to Davis and the jazz musicians to break stereotypes about jazz and black humanity.

Cobb would also work with such artists as Dinah Washington, Pearl Bailey, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Wynton Kelly and Stan Getz. He'd also release a number of albums on his own.

He performed well into his late 80s and played in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2017, as part of the New Mexico Jazz Festival. Jazz fans from throughout the American Southwest came to pay their respects in what many felt was a goodbye.

Cobb released his last album, *This I Dig of You*, with Smoke Sessions Records in August 2019.

## California lays out pandemic rules for church reopenings

By STEFANIE DAZIO and ROBERT JABLON undefined

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rabbi Shalom Rubanowitz looks forward to reopening his synagogue doors — if his congregation can balance the laws of God and California during the coronavirus pandemic.

On Monday, the state released a framework that will permit counties to allow in-person worship services. They include limiting worshipers to 100 or less, taking everyone's temperature, limiting singing and group recitations and not sharing prayer books or other items.

The Orthodox congregation of Shul on the Beach in Los Angeles County's Venice Beach will follow the guidelines, consulting with rabbinical authorities who place a high importance on preservation of life, Rubanowitz said.

"We can do it, it's just a question of how," he said, noting that Orthodox believers are barred from using technology or carrying many personal items on the Sabbath.

The path of reopening provides "a great deal of hope," he added. "That's what people need."

Houses of worship are the latest focus as the state eases mid-March stay-at-home orders that shut down all but essential services and kept 40 million Californians at home to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Social distancing precautions are cited for reducing rates of hospitalizations and deaths and most of California's 58 counties are deep into phase two of Gov. Gavin Newsom's four-stage plan to restart the battered economy. The state on Monday cleared the way for in-store shopping to resume statewide with social distancing restrictions, although counties get to decide whether to permit it.

Individual counties also will decide whether to allow the reopening of in-person services for churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious institutions. In-person religious services are relegated to phase three, which Newsom had said could be weeks away.

But they could come much sooner under the guidelines. Counties that are having success controlling the



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virus are likely to move quickly. Others with outbreaks — such as Los Angeles County, which has about 60% of California's roughly 3,800 deaths — may choose to delay.

Orange County supervisors may consider a resolution being introduced Tuesday to reopen houses of worship next weekend under federal and state health guidelines.

Worshippers who are allowed to return will find some jarring changes. The state guidelines limit gatherings to 25% of building capacity or 100 people, whichever is lower. Choirs aren't recommended. Neither are shaking hands or hugging. Worshipers are urged to wear masks, avoid sharing prayer books or prayer rugs, keep their distance in pews and skip the collection plate. Large gatherings such as for concerts, weddings and funerals should be avoided.

The guidelines say even with physical distancing, in-person worship carries a higher risk of transmitting the virus and increasing the numbers of hospitalizations and deaths and recommend houses of worship shorten services.

Each county will have to adopt rules for services to resume within their jurisdictions and then the guidelines will be reviewed by state health officials after 21 days.

Some church leaders aren't eager to reopen. The Rev. Amos Brown, pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco and head of the local NAACP chapter, led a protest Monday against reopening.

"We are not going to be rushing back to church," he said by phone, noting that many leaders of his denomination have been sickened or died nationwide. Freedom of religion is "not the freedom to kill folks, not the freedom to put people in harm's way. That's insane," he said.

But a few churches have defiantly reopened their doors already, a handful have sued the governor, and several thousand were threatening to ignore his orders and reopen for Pentecost on May 31.

Cross Culture Christian Center, a Lodi church that defied the governor and then sued him, said the guidelines were welcome but didn't change anything.

"Our church and places of worship across California have suffered greatly because our leaders chose to marginalize and criminalize faith-based gatherings," Pastor Jon Duncan said in a statement. "If we are to remain free, we must never allow this to happen again."

Some places of worship around the country opened over the weekend after President Donald Trump declared them essential and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for reopening faith organizations.

But some of the largest religious institutions in California are taking a more cautious approach.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange announced last week that it is phasing in public Masses beginning June 14, starting with restricted numbers of worshipers. At first, choirs will be banned, fonts won't contain holy water and parishioners won't perform rituals where they must touch each other.

"We know that God is with us, but at the same time we have to be careful and make sure that we protect each other in this challenging time," Bishop Kevin Vann said Friday.

Two church services that already were held without authorization have been sources of outbreaks; one in Mendocino County and the other in Butte County.

For most people, the new 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. As of Monday, California had at least 94,558 confirmed cases of COVID-19, more than 3,000 hospitalizations and 3,795 deaths.

## Biden marks Memorial Day at veterans park near Delaware home

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

NEW CASTLE, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden made his first in-person appearance in more than two months on Monday as he marked Memorial Day by laying a wreath at a veterans park near his Delaware home.

Since abruptly canceling a March 10 rally in Cleveland at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee has waged much of his campaign from his home in Wilmington. When Biden emerged on Monday, he wore a face mask, in contrast to President Donald Trump,

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who has refused to cover his face in public as health officials suggest.

Biden and his wife, Jill, laid a wreath of white flowers tied with a white bow, and bowed their heads in silence at the park. He saluted. "Never forget the sacrifices that these men and women made," he said after. "Never, ever, forget."

"I feel great to be out here," Biden told reporters, his words muffled through his black cloth mask. His visit to the park was unannounced, and there was no crowd waiting for him.

Biden briefly greeted a county official and another man, both wearing face masks and standing a few feet away. Biden also yelled to a larger group standing nearby, "Thank you for your service." His campaign says Biden has gone to the park for Memorial Day often in the past, though services were canceled Monday amid the pandemic.

Though low-key, the appearance was a milestone in a presidential campaign that has largely been frozen by the coronavirus outbreak. While the feasibility of traditional events such as rallies and the presidential conventions are in doubt, Biden's emergence suggests he won't spend the nearly five months that remain until the election entirely at home.

Trump, eager to project a country coming to life even as the pandemic's death toll approached 100,000, presided over back-to-back events at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and Fort McHenry in Baltimore.

After a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington, Trump mourned the fallen in remarks at the Baltimore historic site and praised the contribution of service members "on the front lines of our war against this terrible virus."

The coronavirus has upended virtually all aspects of American life and changed the terms of the election. Trump's argument that he deserves another term in office because of the strong economy has evaporated as unemployment rises to levels not seen since the Great Depression.

As a longtime senator and former vice president, Biden is trying to position himself as someone with the experience and empathy to lead the country out of a crisis. Trump counters that he is the leader who can preside over an economic rebound later this year or in 2021.

Biden has adjusted to the coronavirus era by building a television studio in his home, which he's used to make appearances on news programs, late-night shows and virtual campaign events. Some of those efforts have been marred by technical glitches and other awkward moments.

Some Democratic strategists have openly worried that Biden is ceding too much ground to Trump by staying home. The president himself has knocked Biden for essentially campaigning from his basement.

Biden's advisers say they plan to return to normal campaign activities at some point, including travel to battleground states. But they're in no hurry, preferring to defer to the advice of health experts and authorities' stay-at-home and social distancing recommendations.

At 77, Biden is among the nation's senior population thought to be especially vulnerable to the effects of the coronavirus — though so is Trump, who turns 74 next month.

"We will never make any choices that put our staff or voters in harm's way," Biden campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said recently, adding that the campaign would hold more traditional activities "when safety allows, and we will not do that a day sooner."

Trump has not resumed the large rallies that were the hallmark of his 2016 campaign and presidency but has begun traveling outside Washington in recent weeks. He visited a facility producing face masks in Arizona and a Ford plant in Michigan that has been converted to produce medical and protective equipment.

Trump even played golf at his club in Virginia over the weekend, hoping that others will follow his lead and return to some semblance of normal life and gradually help revive an economy in free fall.

It was the president's first trip to one of his money-making properties since March 8, when he visited his private golf club in West Palm Beach. The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic on March 11, and Trump followed with the national emergency declaration two days later.

Biden's campaign wasted little time producing an online video offering blurry, faraway footage of Trump on the golf course, imposed over images evoking the virus ravaging the nation as the number of Americans dead from the pandemic rose. The video concluded by proclaiming: "The death toll is still rising. The president is playing golf."

Trump is traveling to Florida on Wednesday to watch U.S. astronauts blast into orbit.

## Trump honors fallen soldiers as nation battles against virus

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — President Donald Trump honored America's war dead in back-to-back Memorial Day appearances colored by an epic struggle off the battlefield, against the coronavirus.

Eager to demonstrate national revival from the pandemic, Trump doubled up on his public schedule Monday, while threatening to pull the Republican National Convention out of Charlotte in August unless North Carolina's Democratic governor gives a quick green light to the party's plans to assemble en masse.

The U.S. death toll from the pandemic approached 100,000; North Carolina two days earlier reported its largest daily increase yet in COVID-19 sickness.

Trump first honored the nation's fallen at Arlington National Cemetery. Presidents on Memorial Day typically lay a wreath and speak at the hallowed burial ground in Virginia. But the coronavirus crisis made this year different.

Many attendees arrived wearing masks but removed them for the outdoor ceremony in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Trump, maskless as always in public, gave no remarks. He approached a wreath already in place, touched it and saluted.

Trump then traveled to Baltimore's historic Fort McHenry, where he declared: "Together we will vanquish the virus and America will rise from this crisis to new and even greater heights. No obstacle, no challenge and no threat is a match for the sheer determination of the American people."

He praised the tens of thousands of service members and National Guard personnel "on the front lines of our war against this terrible virus."

His Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, chose Memorial Day to make his first public appearance in the two months since the pandemic closed down the nation. Biden emerged unannounced from his Delaware home to lay a wreath at a nearby park, with no crowd gathered to greet him. It was a milestone in a presidential campaign that has largely been frozen.

Biden's words were muffled through a black cloth face mask. "Never forget the sacrifices that these men and women made," he said after. "Never, ever forget."

The U.S. leads the world with more than 1.6 million confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 98,000 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Trump tweeted his frustration with North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, who has been moving his state into a cautious reopening that will keep indoor entertainment venues, like its NBA arena, closed for the time being. The state reported a daily high of 1,100 new cases Saturday, and has lost about 750 residents to the pandemic.

The president said Republicans will be "reluctantly forced" to find a convention site in another state unless Cooper can guarantee that the GOP will be able to fill its convention spaces, including the arena in Charlotte.

Cooper's office said state officials are working with the GOP on convention decisions.

Changing sites would be difficult for numerous reasons, including the contract between Republican officials and Charlotte leaders to hold the gathering there.

Trump is intent on accelerating his own schedule as he urges the country to get to work. This month, Trump has toured factories in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Michigan that make pandemic supplies. He plans to be in Florida on Wednesday to watch two NASA astronauts rocket into space, and he played golf at his private club in Virginia on Saturday and Sunday.

The Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine commemorates the site where Francis Scott Key wrote a poem after a huge American flag was hoisted to celebrate an important victory over the British during the War of 1812. That poem became "The Star-Spangled Banner." The fort is closed to the public because of the pandemic.

Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young objected to Trump's visit in advance, saying it sends the wrong



message about stay-at-home directives and the city could not afford the added cost of hosting him when it is losing \$20 million a month because of the pandemic.

He cited the disproportionate effect the virus has had on his city and called on Trump to "set a positive example" by not traveling during the holiday weekend.

Trump was not dissuaded.

"The brave men and women who have preserved our freedoms for generations did not stay home and the president will not either as he honors their sacrifice by visiting such a historic landmark in our nation's history," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in an emailed statement Sunday.

Trump last summer described a congressional district that includes Baltimore as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" where "no human being would want to live." He visited Baltimore months later to address a meeting of congressional Republicans, and a giant inflatable rat adorned with Trump-style hair and a red necktie taunted him from a few blocks away. Trump did not visit any Baltimore neighborhoods.

## In Bolsonaro's Brazil, everyone else is to blame for virus

By DAVID BILLER Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — With Brazil emerging as one of the world's most infected countries, President Jair Bolsonaro is deflecting all responsibility for the coronavirus crisis, casting blame on mayors, governors, an outgoing health minister and the media.

By contrast, he portrays himself as a clear-eyed crusader willing to defend an unpopular idea — that shutting down the economy to control COVID-19 will ultimately cause more suffering than allowing the disease to run its course. The refusal of governors to fall into line with his decree allowing gyms to open, he said, verged on authoritarianism.

Confronted with a travel ban imposed on Brazil by the U.S. because of widespread COVID-19, one of his advisers called it press hysteria.

Since the outbreak started, the Brazilian leader has avoided acknowledging the potential effects of his actions, particularly in undermining local leaders' stay-at-home recommendations. A rare exception came in mid-April, as Bolsonaro appointed a new health minister tasked with sparing the economy from the coronavirus.

"Reopening commerce is a risk I run because, if it (the virus) gets worse, then it lands in my lap," he said.

Less than two weeks later, as Brazil's death toll blew past 5,000, he told reporters, "You're not going to put on my lap this count that isn't mine."

Almost a month on, the death toll in the country of 211 million has more than quadrupled, to 23,473, and continues to accelerate.

The Brazilian Supreme Court determined that states and cities have jurisdiction to impose isolation measures. So Bolsonaro on May 7 walked purposefully across the capital's Three Powers Plaza to the top court, a tight cluster of ministers and business leaders in tow, and demanded local restrictions be tempered.

"Some states went too far in their restrictive measures, and the consequences are knocking on our door," he said, adding that tens of millions of Brazilians have lost their income. He has repeatedly singled out some local leaders by name.

When governors defied Bolsonaro's subsequent decree that gyms, barbershops and beauty salons be allowed to operate as essential services, he accused them of undermining the rule of law and suggested the move would invite "undesirable authoritarianism to emerge in Brazil."

On Saturday night, Bolsonaro ventured into the capital of Brasilia to lead by example, this time eating a hot dog bought from a street vendor. Video he posted to Facebook showed supporters snapping selfies and calling him by his nickname — "Myth!" — while those in self-quarantine in overlooking apartments banged pots and pans in protest.

A May 17-18 poll by XP/Ipespe found 58% of those surveyed rated Bolsonaro's pandemic response as bad or terrible, and only 21% as good or excellent. Governors fared more than twice as well in both counts. The poll had a margin of error of 3.2 percentage points.

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Latin America's largest nation has confirmed about 375,000 COVID-19 cases, more than any nation except the U.S., and experts say that figure is a significant undercount due to insufficient testing. The strain on Brazil's underfunded hospitals has pushed them to the brink of collapse in multiple states and prevents some patients from getting treatment.

Havoc and heartache are unfolding beneath a void of leadership, according to Miguel Lago, executive director of Brazil's Institute for Health Policy Studies, which advises public health officials. Two health ministers have left office during the pandemic, making Brazil the world's only nation that can claim such distinction, he said.

Brazil is "completely incapable of dealing with and responding to this crisis as this crisis should be responded to — with complete leadership, clear messages, political stability and unity," Lago said. "That's not the case here. Basically, what we're seeing is a complete lack of seriousness and competence."

The far-right leader fired his first health minister, Luiz Henrique Mandetta, for supporting governors' restrictions. In his departing address, Mandetta referred to Bolsonaro in what he later confirmed to magazine *Época* was an allusion to the Albert Camus book "The Plague." The novel about a diseased city includes a passage that says those who did not believe in the plague were first to die because they took no precautions.

Bolsonaro's second minister, Nelson Teich, resigned about a month later after openly disagreeing with Bolsonaro over chloroquine, the predecessor of the anti-malarial often touted by U.S. President Donald Trump as viable treatment. Bolsonaro in his 17-month tenure has often expressed open admiration for Trump and the U.S.

Trump would have to fire his government's top expert on the virus and the expert's successor, attend anti-pandemic rallies and expand chloroquine treatment "to approach the level of crisis incompetence" shown by Bolsonaro, Ian Bremmer, the president of political consultancy Eurasia Group, said on Twitter this month.

Weeks after praising chloroquine and directing the Army to ramp up production, Bolsonaro admitted last week that there is no scientific evidence of its effectiveness, but said the nation is "at war," and it is better to fight and lose than not fight at all. The country still has only an interim health minister: a general with no health experience whatsoever before April.

In the capital on Sunday, pro-Bolsonaro supporters staged a small demonstration in front of the presidential palace, as they have for several weeks. Bolsonaro joined and once again lifted children in his arms.

He shared a video from a helicopter flyover of the demonstration that revealed a sparsely occupied plaza. There were perhaps 1,000 people in attendance, in a city of 3 million. One banner read "Lockdowns kill more than the Chinese virus!!!"

That same day, Trump prohibited entry to the U.S. of foreigners coming from Brazil. Trump had already banned certain travelers from China, Europe, the United Kingdom and Ireland and, to a lesser extent, Iran. He has not moved to ban travel from Russia, which has the world's third-highest number of infections.

Bolsonaro's special adviser on international affairs, Filipe Martins, tweeted that the ban was the natural result of Brazil's large population. "There isn't anything specifically against Brazil. Ignore the hysteria from the press," he said. Bolsonaro shared Martins' comment on social media but has not commented himself.

Upon leaving the presidential residence Monday morning, Bolsonaro declined to answer reporters' questions. One supporter grabbed his attention, and she begged him to launch a "massive publicity" campaign to improve his negative image abroad.

"The global press is leftist," Bolsonaro explained coolly, then outstretched his arm fully to point at journalists.

After Bolsonaro got into his car, his supporters turned toward reporters, blasting them as "trash" and "communists," making obscene gestures and threats. Mainstream media outlets Globo and Folha de S.Paulo later announced they would stop covering Bolsonaro's informal press conferences outside the residence due to concern for their journalists' safety.

## US company trials coronavirus vaccine candidate in Australia

By **ROD McGUIRK Associated Press**

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A U.S. biotechnology company began injecting a coronavirus vaccine candidate into people in Australia on Tuesday with hopes of releasing a proven vaccine this year.

Novavax will inject 131 volunteers in the first phase of the trial testing the safety of the vaccine and looking for signs of its effectiveness, the company's research chief Dr. Gregory Glenn said.

About a dozen experimental vaccines against the coronavirus are in early stages of testing or poised to start, mostly in China, the U.S. and Europe. It's not clear that any will prove safe and effective. But many work in different ways, and are made with different technologies, increasing the odds that at least one approach might succeed.

"We are in parallel making doses, making vaccine in anticipation that we'll be able to show it's working and be able to start deploying it by the end of this year," Glenn told a virtual news conference in Melbourne from Novavax' headquarters in Maryland.

Animal testing suggested the vaccine is effective in low doses. Novavax could manufacture at least 100 million doses this year and 1.5 billion in 2021, he said.

Manufacture of the vaccine, named NVX-CoV2373, was being scaled up with \$388 million invested by Norway-based Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations since March, Glenn said.

The results of the first phase of clinical trials in Melbourne and Brisbane are expected to be known in July, Novavax said. Thousands of candidates in several countries would then become involved in a second phase.

The trial began with six volunteers being injected with the potential vaccine in Melbourne on Tuesday, said Paul Griffin, infectious disease expert with Australian collaborator Nucleus Network.

Most of the experimental vaccines in progress aim to train the immune system to recognize the "spike" protein that studs the coronavirus' outer surface, priming the body to react if it was exposed to the real virus. Some candidates are made using just the genetic code for that protein, and others use a harmless virus to deliver the protein-producing information. Still other vaccine candidates are more old-fashioned, made with dead, whole virus.

Novavax adds another new kind to that list, what's called a recombinant vaccine. Novavax used genetic engineering to grow harmless copies of the coronavirus spike protein in giant vats of insect cells in a laboratory. Scientists extracted and purified the protein, and packaged it into virus-sized nanoparticles.

"The way we make a vaccine is we never touch the virus," Novavax told The Associated Press last month. But ultimately, "it looks just like a virus to the immune system."

It's the same process that Novavax used to create a nanoparticle flu vaccine that recently passed late-stage testing.

## Branson's Virgin Orbit fails on first rocket launch attempt

By **JOHN ANTCZAK Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit failed Monday in its first test launch of a new rocket carried aloft by a Boeing 747 and released over the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California.

The inaugural launch had appeared to be going well until moments after the rocket was dropped from beneath the left wing of the jumbo jet dubbed Cosmic Girl.

"We've confirmed a clean release from the aircraft. However, the mission terminated shortly into the flight. Cosmic Girl and our flight crew are safe and returning to base," Virgin Orbit said in its official Twitter commentary on the launch.

There was no immediate word on what went wrong with the rocket, which carried a test satellite.

Will Pomerantz, Virgin Orbit's vice president for special projects, commented during a preflight briefing Saturday that about half of first rocket launches fail.

"History is not terribly kind, necessarily, to maiden flights," he said.

Chief Executive Officer Dan Hart said during the briefing that there had been numerous tests, discus-



sions and introspection to verify that the system was ready.

"In the end the questions are always, has everything been thought about and are there any gaps or seams, and those are the questions you only learn when you commit to flight," Hart said.

The highly modified jumbo jet took off from Mojave Air and Space Port in the desert north of Los Angeles and flew out just beyond the Channel Islands, where the drop occurred.

The rocket was supposed to fall for a few seconds before the first of its two stages ignited and hurtled it down the coast toward the South Pole for insertion of its demonstration payload into a low Earth orbit.

The purpose of the flight was to gather data on every step of the launch process rather than to have a useful satellite in orbit; the demonstration payload was described as an inert mass and the intended orbit was very low to avoid contributing to the problem of space junk.

The attempt followed five years of development of the 70-foot-long (21.3 meter) LauncherOne rocket.

How long the setback will affect the company was not immediately clear. It has six additional rockets under construction in its factory.

"The team's already hard at work digging into the data, and we're eager to hop into our next big test ASAP," the company tweeted. "Thankfully, instead of waiting until after our 1st flight to tackle our 2nd rocket, we've already completed a ton of work to get us back in the air and keep moving forward."

A successful launch by Virgin Orbit would have marked a dramatic step in getting back on track after the coronavirus pandemic sent most employees home earlier this year while work spaces, procedures and mission control were adjusted.

Virgin Orbit is targeting the market for launching satellites ranging in size from toasters to household refrigerators.

The time is right for the small satellite launch market, Hart said on Saturday.

Technology advancements have enabled satellites much smaller than traditional payloads to do "real work" in space, typically from low Earth orbit, and for markets ranging from commercial to national security, he said.

While other companies are developing rockets for the small satellite market and builders of big rockets like SpaceX can carry them into orbit in a ride-share arrangement with large satellites, Virgin Orbit's air launch system based on the aviation industry's workhorse 747 is intended to put a satellite up when and where a customer needs it, Hart said.

"We can fly to space from any place that can host a 747, which is almost any place," he said.

Virgin Orbit says it has dozens of missions on the books for customers including the U.S. Space Force and the Royal Air Force. Internationally, it is working on plans for launches from the United Kingdom and Japan.

Hart did not provide a specific dollar value for the missions it has on the books but characterized it as "hundreds of millions."

Air launch technology dates back decades, including use by X-15 rocket planes in the 1950s and '60s. For satellites the method is currently in use by what is now Northrop Grumman's Pegasus rocket program, which has had several dozen launches since 1990.

Virgin Orbit, headquartered in Long Beach, California, began as a sister company of Virgin Galactic but has since separated. Virgin Galactic is preparing to begin flights carrying passengers into the lower reaches of space from southern New Mexico.

## **Pandemic brings smaller, subdued Memorial Day observances**

**By AMY FORLITI and MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press**

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Americans settled for small processions and online tributes instead of parades Monday as they observed Memorial Day in the shadow of the pandemic, which forced communities to honor the nation's military dead with modest, more subdued ceremonies that also remembered those lost to the coronavirus.

On the weekend that marked the unofficial start of summer, authorities warned people heading to beaches, parks or backyard barbecues to heed social-distancing rules to avoid a resurgence of the disease

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that has infected 5.4 million people worldwide and killed over 345,000, including nearly 100,000 Americans, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Memorial Day commemorations were canceled or toned down across the country. Veterans, along with nursing home residents, have made up a significant portion of those who died in the U.S. outbreak.

Frank Groblebe and his wife placed lilacs on several graves at Mountview Cemetery in Billings, Montana, including those of his mother and father, who served in the Philippines as a Navy Seabee during World War II. Groblebe said he approved of plans to curtail the ceremony, which included a motorcycle procession and moments of quiet remembrance.

"This is our freedom. This is our history. It's what they fought for," Groblebe said, briefly choking up with tears. "Anything that shows respect for it is all right with me."

Sharon Oakland placed mums on the grave of her father, also a Navy veteran in World War II. She watched from a distance as the motorcycles rolled by. "What they've done is remarkable given what's going on with the virus," she said.

The day looked different across the U.S. The 37,000 American flags traditionally placed on the Boston Common to honor Massachusetts military members who died in service were replaced with just 1,000 flags, to limit volunteers and onlookers. In Minneapolis, several bagpipers and drummers lined up outside the Minnesota Veterans Home and played as a parade of cars drove past.

The city of Woodstock, Georgia, held its ceremony online. American Legion Post 316 Commander Julian Windham recognized service members who helped in the global fight against COVID-19.

"Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful," Windham said. The ceremony, which included readings, vocal performances and gunshots from a ceremonial rifle team, were filmed over a series of days last week and edited together, Windham said.

In Chicago, a neighborhood group that's been holding a parade for more than a half century also moved its event online, with video clips from previous years and messages from special guests, including veterans and Mayor Lori Lightfoot. In the suburb of Lisle, a convoy of vehicles from fire departments and VFW posts drove silently through village streets.

Fallen military members were honored in New York City with car convoys and small ceremonies.

"It's something we're upset about, but we understand," said Raymond Aalbue, chairman of the United Military Veterans of Kings County, which usually puts on a parade in Brooklyn. There's "no reason to put anybody in harm's way," he said, adding "it's really cutting quick to the heart of all the veterans."

On Long Island, a small group of veterans saluted, wearing masks and spaced several feet apart, as a parade of cars passed beneath a large American flag.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined a private ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Manhattan, with both the sacrifices of military members and the challenge of the coronavirus on his mind.

"Over 100,000 Americans will lose their lives to this COVID virus. How do we honor them? We honor them by growing stronger together," he said.

"We want to make sure we remember them and thank our heroes today."

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden made his first in-person appearance in more than two months by laying a wreath at a veterans park near his Delaware home. He wore a face mask as he and his wife bowed their heads in silence. He saluted and could be heard saying "Never forget."

Biden told reporters, "I feel great to be out here." He also yelled to a group standing nearby, "Thank you for your service."

After two days of playing golf, President Donald Trump visited Arlington National Cemetery, where he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which overlooks rolling hills dotted with white tombstones. He later spoke at Baltimore's historic Fort McHenry, noting that tens of thousands of service members and national guard personnel are currently "on the front lines of our war against this terrible virus."

Trump said brave warriors from the nation's past have shown that "in America, we are the captains of our own fate."

Tens of thousands of Americans still headed outdoors over the weekend to shake off some pandemic

restrictions. Missouri's health director issued a dire warning Monday after photos and video showed weekend revelers partying close together. One video posted on social media showed a crammed pool at Lake of the Ozarks. Many of those seen in the video were young people, who may not experience symptoms.

"When they then carry the virus and transmit it to a more vulnerable person, this is when we tend to see the long-lasting and tragic impact of these decisions that are being made," said Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams. St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson called such high-risk behavior "irresponsible and dangerous."

## California issues guidelines for church reopenings

By **ROBERT JABLON** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Religious services in California will look much different under rules unveiled Monday that limit attendance to 100 people and recommend worshippers wear masks, limit singing and refrain from shaking hands or hugging.

The state released guidance under which county health departments can approve the reopening of churches, mosques, synagogues and other houses of worship. They have been closed since Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a stay-at-home order in March to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

It's not immediately known how soon in-person services will resume. Counties that are having success controlling the virus are likely to move quickly. Others with outbreaks — such as Los Angeles County, which has about 60% of California's roughly 3,800 deaths — may choose to delay.

The guidelines ask worshippers to wear masks, avoid sharing prayer books or prayer rugs and skip the collection plate. They also say to avoid large gatherings for holidays, weddings and funerals and warn that activities such as singing or group recitation "negate" the benefits of social distancing.

The guidelines say even with physical distancing, in-person worship carries a higher risk of transmitting the virus and increasing the numbers of hospitalizations and deaths and recommend houses of worship shorten services.

Each county will have to adopt rules for services to resume within their jurisdictions and then the guidelines will be reviewed by state health officials after 21 days. The guidelines include limiting gatherings to 25% of building capacity or 100 people, whichever is lower.

In Los Angeles County, Rabbi Shalom Rubanowitz of the Shul on the Beach in Venice Beach said he hopes his congregation can meet for this week's Shavuot holiday, to celebrate when Jews received the Torah.

The congregation will have to figure out how to provide temperature checks and provide a place for individual prayer books and shawls. Orthodox Jews do not use technology during the Sabbath and may not carry most personal items.

Some church leaders aren't eager to reopen. The Rev. Amos Brown, pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco and head of the local NAACP chapter, led a protest Monday against reopening.

"We are not going to be rushing back to church," he said by phone, noting that many leaders of his denomination have been sickened or died nationwide. Freedom of religion is "not the freedom to kill folks, not the freedom to put people in harm's way. That's insane," he said.

Many have been eagerly waiting an announcement on religious services after Newsom began relaxing constraints on stores and other secular outlets as part of a four-phase plan to reopen the economy.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange announced last week that it is phasing in public Masses beginning June 14, starting with restricted numbers of worshippers. At first, choirs will be banned, fonts won't contain holy water and parishioners won't perform rituals where they must touch each other.

"We know that God is with us, but at the same time we have to be careful and make sure that we protect each other in this challenging time," Bishop Kevin Vann said Friday.

Some 47 of the state's 58 counties have received permission to move deeper into the reopening by meeting standards for controlling the virus. The state on Monday cleared the way for in-store shopping to resume statewide with social distancing restrictions, although counties get to decide whether to permit it.

Some places of worship around the country opened over the weekend after President Donald Trump



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declared them essential and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for reopening faith organizations.

In California, most houses of worship have complied with social distancing, making do with online, remote and a few drive-in services.

In the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Archbishop Jose Gomez called on parishes to celebrate Pentecost — a major religious day for many Christians — next Sunday by holding food and blood drives.

"I think it is important for all us of to be aware that this is a very dangerous illness, and we are making sure that everything is OK when we come back and celebrate the Eucharist together," he said.

But several thousand churches have vowed to defy the current stay-at-home order on Pentecost, arguing they can do so safely.

Two church services that already were held without authorization have been sources of outbreaks; one in Mendocino County and the other in Butte County.

Newsom's cautious approach to reopening has angered opponents who claim the rules violate religious freedoms.

A Pentecostal church in San Diego County lost a federal appeal Friday in its quest to reopen immediately. The South Bay United Pentecostal Church of Chula Vista immediately filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

The nonprofit Center for American Liberty, which has filed several lawsuits over church restrictions, said the guidelines don't go far enough.

Newsom "lacks authority to dictate to California's faithful, how they may worship," said Harmeet Dhillon, a San Francisco lawyer and the group's CEO. "Let people who wish to worship safely and together, do so."

For most people, the new 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. As of Monday, California had at least 94,558 confirmed cases of COVID-19, more than 3,000 hospitalizations and 3,795 deaths.

The state is still seeing troubling COVID-19 flare-ups. More than 150 employees at a Farmer John meatpacking plant in Vernon, an industrial city south of Los Angeles, contracted the coronavirus. Imperial County, across the border from Mexico, has seen a surge. Two inmates from the California Institution for Men in San Bernardino County died Sunday from what appear to be complications related to COVID-19.

## Arbery family lawyer: Feds looking into how case handled

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A lawyer for the family of Ahmaud Arbery said Monday that a federal prosecutor told the slain man's mother federal officials are investigating potential misconduct by local officials who handled the case.

Lawyer Lee Merritt said U.S. Attorney Bobby Christine, whose jurisdiction includes southern Georgia, met with him and Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, on Thursday.

"They wanted us to know they had already been involved in the investigation," Merritt said.

Barry Paschal, a spokesman for Christine, declined to confirm or deny whether the meeting happened.

"Our office does not discuss active investigations, including addressing whether or not those investigations exist," Paschal said.

Arbery was fatally shot Feb. 23 when a white father and son pursued the 25-year-old black man after spotting him running in their subdivision just outside of Brunswick. They told police they believed he was responsible for break-ins in their neighborhood. More than two months passed before Gregory McMichael and his son, Travis McMichael, were arrested on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault.

Brunswick Circuit District Attorney Jackie Johnson has defended her office's involvement. The elder McMichael worked for her as an investigator before retiring a year ago, which required the office to step away from the case.

She handed the case to Waycross Circuit District Attorney George Barnhill. That prosecutor also recused

himself, but not before writing a letter saying he believed the McMichaels had been justified in trying to hold Arbery until police arrived and their actions were "perfectly legal."

## Federal coronavirus testing plan puts burden on states

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's new strategy for coronavirus testing puts much of the burden on states while promising to provide supplies such as swabs and material to transport specimens.

The plan, which was delivered Sunday to members of Congress, drew harsh criticism Monday from Democrats. In a joint letter, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. and Washington Sen. Patty Murray said the administration "still does not have a serious plan for increasing testing to stop the spread of the virus."

The report comes as the U.S. death toll from the pandemic is approaching 100,000. President Donald Trump, who has been eager to revive the economy by loosening coronavirus-related restrictions, vowed Monday, "Together we will vanquish the virus and America will rise from this crisis to new and even greater heights."

The 81-page document from the Department of Health and Human Services says, "State plans must establish a robust testing program that ensures adequacy of COVID-19 testing, including tests for contact tracing, and surveillance of asymptomatic persons to determine community spread."

It says the federal government will "ensure that States have the collection supplies that they need through December 2020." To that end, the administration plans to acquire and distribute 100 million swabs and 100 million tubes of viral transport media.

The HHS document, which The Washington Post first reported, recommends that all states "have an objective of testing a minimum of 2 percent of their population in May and June."

The Democratic lawmakers, who released the HHS report along with their joint letter, said it "confirms that President Trump's national testing strategy is to deny the truth that there aren't enough tests and supplies, reject responsibility and dump the burden onto the states."

"The Trump Administration still does not take any responsibility for ramping up our nation's testing capacity, instead pushing the burden onto the states — forcing states to compete with each other to procure vital supplies to administer tests from the private market," the lawmakers wrote.

They also called on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to act on the \$3 trillion virus release package passed earlier this month by the House, saying it would "deliver a clear strategy and \$75 billion for the testing and contact tracing necessary to stop the spread of this vicious virus."

## Ewing out of hospital after being treated for COVID-19

By The Associated Press undefined

Georgetown basketball coach and former NBA great Patrick Ewing has been released from the hospital and is recovering from COVID-19 at home, his son said Monday.

The 57-year-old Hall of Famer, who played for the Hoyas in college and the New York Knicks in the NBA, announced Friday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus and was being treated at a hospital.

Patrick Ewing Jr. said three days later on Twitter that his father was getting better after receiving treatment and thanked the doctors and nurses who looked after him during his hospital stay. He also thanked fans for their thoughts and prayers after his father's announcement.

"My father is now home and getting better," Ewing Jr. wrote. "We'll continue to watch his symptoms and follow the CDC guidelines. I hope everyone continues to stay safe and protect yourselves and your loved ones."

As a player, the 7-foot Patrick Ewing helped Georgetown win the 1984 NCAA men's basketball championship and reach two other title games. During his four years playing, Georgetown went 121-23, a winning percentage of .840.

He was taken with the No. 1 overall pick in the 1985 draft after the Knicks won the NBA's first lottery.

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Ewing wound up leading New York to the 1994 NBA Finals, where they lost to Hakeem Olajuwon and the Houston Rockets.

Ewing played 17 seasons in the NBA, 15 with the Knicks.

After retiring as a player, he spent 15 years as an assistant or associate coach with four teams in the pros. In April 2017, he returned to Georgetown for his first job as a head coach at any level.

In his first three seasons at his alma mater, Ewing's teams went a combined 49-46, with zero trips to the NCAA Tournament.

In 2019-20, Georgetown finished the season with seven consecutive losses and a 15-17 record.

## New York marks 'especially poignant' Memorial Day amid virus

By JENNIFER PELTZ and MICHAEL R. SISAk undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — New Yorkers marked Memorial Day with car convoys and small ceremonies instead of big parades as the coronavirus reshaped the solemn holiday, blending tributes to virus victims and frontline workers with the traditional remembrance of the nation's war dead.

In a year that marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, veterans wore masks and saluted while standing at social-distancing intervals at observances shrunk by virus precautions.

At the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Manhattan — the former aircraft carrier USS Intrepid — Gov. Andrew Cuomo honored both veterans and essential workers on a Memorial Day he called "especially poignant and powerful."

"We know something about loss, and we're living it again," the Democratic governor said.

In Rochester, officials looked ahead to the construction of the city's War on Terror Memorial. In Long Island's Nassau County, a small group of veterans in masks saluted flag-bedecked vehicles at a car parade and wreath-laying that was closed to the public but streamed online.

In Brooklyn, about 30 to 40 cars, including an old-style checkered cab, rode along the route usually covered by marchers at the United Military Veterans of Kings County parade.

They finished by circling a Veterans Affairs hospital, many honking their horns, and laying a wreath near monuments at the hospital's fence.

"We weren't sure if we were going to be able to do anything," said parade chairman Raymond Aalbue. But he said he didn't want the parade "to die on my watch."

He said this year's Memorial Day observance also honored people working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 virus fight.

"All day long we're thinking about these health care workers and first responders and essential workers who are putting their lives on the line, daily, and have been doing that for a couple of months now to keep us safe," said Aalbue. "We owe them a very deep debt of gratitude for all they've done all these months."

Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, joined a wreath-laying at the Brooklyn War Memorial, saying it was "a different kind of Memorial Day, but our appreciation for the heroes who gave their lives for our country has never been stronger."

More celebratory Memorial Day traditions also were altered by rules meant to keep the virus in check.

Police kept a watchful eye over lighter-than-usual crowds at Jones Beach on Long Island. A group of teenagers was ordered to leave because they weren't wearing masks and keeping the required distance from one another.

Brianna Paredes said she was "just trying to have a nice day" with her friends after the pandemic upended their senior year in high school.

"I understand. I work and I wear my mask and my gloves," the Levittown resident said. But outside at the beach?

"I'm over it by now. I feel like a lot of people are. I think that it's kind of annoying," she said while being escorted off the beach.

While the virus crisis has eased in New York, COVID-19 is still killing roughly 100 people a day statewide. There were 96 deaths Sunday, according to figures released Monday.



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As the holiday approached, Cuomo loosened coronavirus-related restrictions last week to allow small public gatherings — initially just for Memorial Day observances and religious services. He extended the eased rules Friday to all gatherings after the New York Civil Liberties Union sued, saying that if it was safe to gather to honor veterans and practice religion, the Constitution requires the same right be extended to other gatherings.

The rules now allow get-togethers of as many as 10 people, provided that participants stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from one another or cover their faces when unable to maintain that distance.

At a news briefing after a ceremony at the Intrepid, Cuomo remembered veterans killed in combat and, more recently, by the coronavirus. He also emphasized “our heroes of today” — health care, emergency and other essential workers “who showed up and did their duty, lost their lives, to keep others of us safe.”

“In many ways, that is a microcosm of what we’re here talking about today on Memorial Day,” he said, announcing that the state would make sure that public workers on the frontlines who died of COVID-19 got death benefits through state and local pension plans. His office didn’t immediately provide further details.

While many Memorial Day ceremonies this year reflected the World War II anniversary, officials in Rochester held a ceremonial groundbreaking for a memorial that commemorates Americans killed in more recent conflicts.

The city’s forthcoming War on Terror Memorial will honor local members of the military who have died in wars since the 1990s. Construction is due to start next year.

Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, a Democrat, called the planned memorial an enduring reminder “of what it takes to be the land of the free,” WROC-TV reported.

In Queens, the group behind the Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade arranged for one person to lay a wreath, another to do a flag ceremony and a third to play “Taps” while some others watched. It was a far cry from the crowds that usually attend the event.

But “we felt the need to do something,” executive director Vincent Mimoni said.

On Staten Island, another convoy of cars, led by motorcycles, took off in a procession after a wreath-laying ceremony at Hero Park.

## UK leader’s aide says he won’t quit over lockdown road trip

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British leader Boris Johnson’s powerful chief aide insisted Monday that he wouldn’t resign for driving the length of England while the country was under strict lockdown — a trip he made without informing the prime minister first.

The government is facing a tide of anger from politicians and the public over the revelation that Dominic Cummings traveled more than 250 miles (400 kilometers) from London to his parents’ home in Durham, northeast England at the end of March.

Cummings says he traveled so that extended family could care for his 4-year-old son if he and his wife, who had suspected coronavirus, both fell ill. He said the three of them stayed in isolation in a building on his father’s farm.

His trip came after the government imposed a strict “stay home” order, and Cummings is being accused of flouting the rules he expected the rest of the country to follow. Many Britons have taken to social media and radio phone-ins to recount how the lockdown had prevented them from visiting elderly relatives, comforting dying friends or attending the funerals of loved ones.

In a televised news conference in the garden of 10 Downing St. — all but unheard of for an unelected adviser — Cummings tried to quash the controversy with a detailed but unrepentant account of his movements.

Cummings insisted that “the rules ... allowed me to exercise my judgment” and that his need to ensure childcare for his son was an “exceptional situation.”

The government’s stay-at-home rules, introduced March 23, said people with children should comply “to the best of your ability.” Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jenny Harries later said that “if you have adults who

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are unable to look after a small child, that is an exceptional circumstance." She said in that case people without child care or family support should contact their local authority for help — something Cummings didn't do.

"I don't regret what I did," Cummings said, though he acknowledged that "reasonable people" might disagree with his actions.

Cummings said he didn't tell the prime minister, who had just been diagnosed with COVID-19, about his decision to leave London, because "he was ill himself and he had huge problems to deal with."

"Arguably this was a mistake," Cummings said.

Johnson has stood by Cummings, saying he "followed the instincts of every father and every parent."

"Of course I do regret the confusion and the anger and the pain that people feel," Johnson said at the government's daily news briefing. "That's why I wanted people to understand exactly what had happened."

A self-styled political disrupter who disdains the media and civil service, the 48-year-old Cummings has been essential to Johnson's rise to power. He was one of the architects of the successful campaign to take Britain out of the European Union, and orchestrated Brexit champion Johnson's thumping election victory in December.

Five months on from that triumph, Johnson's government is facing criticism for its response to a pandemic that has hit Britain harder than any other European country. Britain's official coronavirus death toll stands at 36,914, the second-highest confirmed total in the world after the United States.

The coronavirus laid low a swath of senior U.K. officials, including Cummings, Health Secretary Matt Hancock and Johnson himself, who spent several days in intensive care at a London hospital in April.

The U.K. is gradually easing its lockdown, initially by allowing more outdoor recreation. The government plans to reopen schools starting on June 1, and Johnson said Monday that the vast majority of shops in England will be able to open two weeks later, as long as they can become "COVID-19 secure."

Some scientists said Cummings' behavior would make it harder to enforce continued social distancing.

Stephen Reicher, a social psychologist who sits on a group advising the government, said "more people are going to die" because the episode would undermine adherence to the lockdown rules.

The opposition Labour Party said the government's message was that there was "one rule for Boris Johnson's closest adviser, another for everybody else."

Ominously for Johnson, some Conservative lawmakers also expressed unease. Member of Parliament Paul Maynard said the aide's actions were "a classic case of 'do as I say, not as I do,'"

The conservative Daily Mail newspaper, usually supportive of Johnson, blared "What planet are they on?" in a headline about Cummings and the prime minister."

Cummings, who usually exerts power from the sidelines, looked uncomfortable but didn't admit fault during a live media grilling that lasted more than an hour.

He said that people felt "understandable anger," but insisted much of it was "based on reports in the media that haven't been true." However, he confirmed most of the details in media reports of his travels, including the journey to Durham and an April 12 drive to a scenic town half an hour away — taken, Cummings said, to check whether his eyesight, which had been affected by illness, had recovered enough for him to drive.

"I don't think there is one rule for me and one rule for other people," he said, insisting he had done what he thought was right at the time.

He said he hadn't considered resigning. Asked whether Johnson should consider sacking him, Cummings said: "That's not for me to decide. It's up to him to decide."

## Gucci, Saint Laurent seek radical redo of fashion calendars

By COLLEEN BARRY and THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

SOAVE, Italy (AP) — Gucci and Saint Laurent are two of the highest profile luxury fashion houses to announce they will leave the fashion calendar behind, with its relentless four-times-a-year rhythm, shuttling cadres of fashionistas between global capitals where they squeeze shoulder-to-shoulder around runways

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for 15 breathless minutes.

The coronavirus lockdown, which has hit luxury fashion houses on their bottom lines, has also given pause to rethink the pace of fashion, offering the possibility to return to less hectic, more considered periods of creativity and production — and perhaps consumption.

Gucci creative director Alessandro Michele imagines a twice yearly appointments — one in the fall and one in the spring — to present co-ed collections, getting away from the hyped-up calendar which has come to require pre-season collections before the major women's and men's runway shows and a one-off cruise collection, increasingly in exotic locations.

"Two appointments a year are more than enough to give time to form a creative thought, and to give more time to this system," Michele said in a video conference Monday, expanding on an idea he launched over the weekend in a series of Instagram posts from his own lockdown diaries.

The virus-imposed shutdown — while stopping production and consumption that feed the fashion cycle — also recharged creativity among those who found new time for reflection. "It is a great gift that our planet gave us, a great gift that cannot be discarded," Michele said.

Michele said he hopes that a new calendar and new rhythms would be decided within the fashion system and in cooperation with other designers.

It has been clear for the last few years that the fashion world has been suffering under the current pace: More luxury houses have been combining men's and women's shows as genderless and even seasonless dressing becomes a global theme; it hasn't been unheard-of for major brands to skip a season or to venture away from their fashion cities to expand their audience.

Saint Laurent hasn't articulated its intentions, but said in a statement last month that it would "take control" of the fashion schedule "conscious of the current circumstances and its waves of radical change."

Luxury fashion was one of the first industries to show suffer from coronavirus, first with the China shut-down that closed boutiques and blocked travelers already in January from a region responsible for a third of global luxury. And the pandemic appeared in Europe just as Fall-Winter 2020-21 shows were underway in Milan and then Paris.

Illustrating just how vulnerable the show system is in the face of a fast-spreading global virus, Giorgio Armani showed his collection in a closed theater on Feb. 23 — just two days after Italy became the first Western country with a coronavirus outbreak.

Armani also has called for a major rethink of changes in luxury fashion during his 45 years as a stalwart of Milan fashion.

In a letter to Women's Wear Daily last month, Armani said he found it "immoral" for luxury fashion to adopt the pace of fast fashion — the drive to deliver more in pursuit of profits "yet forgetting that luxury takes time, to be achieved and to be appreciated." That has included moves toward see-now, buy-now capsule collections by some brands, running in direct opposition to his notions of "timeless elegance."

"It makes no sense for one of my jackets or suits to live in the shop for three weeks before becoming obsolete, replaced by new goods that are not too different," Armani said.

Armani, who opened his Milan boutiques last week as the Italian economy slowly reopens, said he would keep summer collections in stores until September — running counter to recent practice that put linen dresses in stores in winter and Alpaca coats in the summer.

The British Fashion Council and the Council of Fashion Designers of America also have endorsed resetting "the way in which we work and show our collections." They encouraged brands "to slow down," and reconsider how much merchandise they produce.

The Italian Fashion Chamber is promoting three days of online presentation of men's and women's collections in July to substitute the regular June calendar. Gucci will participate with a collection called "Epilogue," to represent the end of an era.

When the fashion communication rebirth that Michele envisions will happen remains to be seen. He said September is too soon, while Saint Laurent only said it wouldn't participate in any previously scheduled events this year.



Fashion chamber president Carlo Capasa can't say when live shows might return to the agenda — but he says they are irreplaceable.

"I believe that the digital experience is important, but it should be tied with a physical experience," Capasa told AP. "Whoever has been to a fashion show knows the importance of the setting and the emotions."

## **Gucci, Saint Laurent seek radical redo of fashion calendars**

**By COLLEEN BARRY and THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press**

SOAVE, Italy (AP) — Gucci and Saint Laurent are two of the highest profile luxury fashion houses to announce they will leave the fashion calendar behind, with its relentless four-times-a-year rhythm, shuttling cadres of fashionistas between global capitals where they squeeze shoulder-to-shoulder around runways for 15 breathless minutes.

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Armani, who opened his Milan boutiques last week as the Italian economy slowly reopens, said he would keep summer collections in stores until September — running counter to recent practice that put linen

dresses in stores in winter and Alpaca coats in the summer.

The British Fashion Council and the Council of Fashion Designers of America also have endorsed resetting "the way in which we work and show our collections." They encouraged brands "to slow down," and reconsider how much merchandise they produce.

The Italian Fashion Chamber is promoting three days of online presentation of men's and women's collections in July to substitute the regular June calendar. Gucci will participate with a collection called "Epilogue," to represent the end of an era.

When the fashion communication rebirth that Michele envisions will happen remains to be seen. He said September is too soon, while Saint Laurent only said it wouldn't participate in any previously scheduled events this year.

Fashion chamber president Carlo Capasa can't say when live shows might return to the agenda — but he says they are irreplaceable.

"I believe that the digital experience is important, but it should be tied with a physical experience," Capasa told AP. "Whoever has been to a fashion show knows the importance of the setting and the emotions."

## Running on empty? Charity events wary in time of COVID-19

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

It wasn't exactly the finish line Ali Riecke had in mind.

The 27-year-old had envisioned something more tropical when she signed up to participate in her second "Run Across Haiti," an ambitious eight-day, 200-mile tour of the impoverished Caribbean nation sponsored by the nonprofit organization WORK.

Instead of celebrating with more than 30 others from across North America who raised north of \$200,000 to make the journey to run and to get a first-hand look at WORK's mission, the end for Riecke came as she neared her house in decidedly non-tropical Bellingham, Washington, on May 13.

Her boyfriend blasted an air horn as she hit the wire, her run over. Then she joined a Google Hangout so other members of the far-flung group could join in the party after the trip to Haiti was called off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was definitely bittersweet," said Riecke, who stressed it was still "very special in its own way."

And maybe a new normal. There are other complications for nonprofits and charities beyond stay-at-home orders and travel issues. For organizations that rely on participatory recreation events like the "Run Across Haiti" or the 5K at your local park, the concern is two-fold: How do you safely conduct these events in the era of social distancing? And how do you go about seeking money for a cause, any cause, when millions are out of work and people are literally dying by the thousands?

Riecke has collected more than \$4,000 this spring to help WORK, which is focused on helping Haitian families emerge from poverty in a sustainable way. That effort that isn't going away anytime soon regardless, virus or no virus. It is something Riecke, a business intelligence developer at a local credit union, tried to keep in mind as she went through the admittedly uncomfortable task of soliciting contributions.

"It's harder for those people to give obviously but it also feels harder to ask," she said.

Charitable giving by individuals has dipped in recent years even during a boom economy thanks in part to a change in the tax code. While the stimulus package Congress passed in March created a \$300 tax break for charitable giving, nonprofits of all sizes are anticipating a hit at the same time the need for aid is becoming greater than ever.

"I keep thinking of 'Rocky,' where he takes the hits and keeps moving forward," said James Kane, a senior manager of community development for the American Cancer Society's Northeast Region. "Some days it's going to be a step forward and two steps backward (but) at the end of the day the work we do hasn't become less important. Our mission hasn't stopped because cancer hasn't stopped."

In response to the pandemic, the American Cancer Society established the first "Lakes to Bay 5K." The virtual run is a relay that started around the Finger Lakes in New York on May 11 and will wrap up on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland on May 31. Runners who paid the \$20 registration fee are encouraged to take

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a picture during their respective legs and share it on social media as a way to replicate in some small way the sweaty, giddy camaraderie of an actual road race. Proceeds will help the society's COVID-19 Response Fund, which is focused on operational expenses like keeping a 24/7 cancer help line active.

Kane is heartened by the initial response but also wary of the bumpy path ahead.

"How do you keep people motivated when they are wondering what's going to happen with their job, their family?" he said.

WORK applied for and received federal aid from the Paycheck Protection Program so its staff of nine could keep at it while fearing a COVID-19 spike in Haiti over the summer. The Susan G. Komen Foundation — which raises tens of millions annually for the fight against breast cancer through events like the 3-Day walk and various Races for the Cure across the country — is considering taking some of its 60 affiliates "in house" in an attempt to cut expenses.

"There's pain involved, there's job loss," foundation President and CEO Paula Schneider said. "But we have to put Komen first."

Schneider described the 3-Day event as the "heart and soul" of the organization and it has been canceled this year, a huge blow to peer-to-peer fundraising. Schneider said she is confident that because of the often personal relationship between participants and breast cancer — be they survivors or caregivers or family members — the support will return.

Still, even as parts of the nation open back up, she is unsure whether the 30 spring fundraising events that were pushed to this fall will actually take place.

"Who knows what will happen 120 days from now?" she said.

Riecke plans to be there whenever WORK returns to Haiti. If it's next year, fine. If it's not, she plans to bring attention to the organization's mission in whatever small way she can.

While she didn't get to spend eight days on the island meeting the families WORK is helping, she did get to run 20 of the 200 miles with her dog Reese. She did get to hug her boyfriend at the end. She still raised money for something that has come to mean a great deal.

Maybe there's a metaphor in there between the training required to complete the "Run Across Haiti" — or any race for that matter — and what the nation is currently going through.

"We run long distances because we're good being at uncomfortable for awhile," Riecke said. "Being uncomfortable is OK. That's how you break through barriers. ... Anything I can do, I'm going to continue to do."

## UN virus therapy trial pauses hydroxychloroquine testing

By MARIA CHENG and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization said Monday that it will temporarily drop hydroxychloroquine — the anti-malarial drug U.S. President Trump says he is taking — from its global study into experimental COVID-19 treatments, saying that its experts need to review all available evidence to date.

In a press briefing, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that in light of a paper published last week in the Lancet that showed people taking hydroxychloroquine were at higher risk of death and heart problems, there would be "a temporary pause" on the hydroxychloroquine arm of its global clinical trial.

"This concern relates to the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine in COVID-19," Tedros said, adding that the drugs are approved treatments for people with malaria or autoimmune diseases. Other treatments in the trial, including the experimental drug remdesivir and an HIV combination therapy, are still being tested.

Tedros said the executive group behind WHO's global "Solidarity" trial met on Saturday and decided to conduct a comprehensive review of all available data on hydroxychloroquine and that its use in the trial would be suspended for now.

Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said there was no indication of any safety problems with hydroxychloroquine in the WHO trial to date, but that statisticians would now analyze the information.



"We're just acting on an abundance of caution based on the recent results of all the studies to ensure that we can continue safely with that arm of the trial," he said. WHO said it expected to have more details within the next two weeks.

Last week, Trump announced he was taking hydroxychloroquine although he has not tested positive for COVID-19. His own administration has warned the drug can have deadly side effects, and both the European Medicines Agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned health professionals last month that the drug should not be used to treat COVID-19 outside of hospital or research settings due to numerous serious side effects that in some cases can be fatal.

Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine are approved for treating lupus and rheumatoid arthritis and for preventing and treating malaria, but no large rigorous tests have found them safe or effective for preventing or treating COVID-19.

## Trump threatens to move RNC without assurances from governor

By JONATHAN DREW Associated Press

President Donald Trump threatened Monday to pull the Republican National Convention out of North Carolina if the state's Democratic governor doesn't immediately sign off on allowing a full-capacity gathering in August despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump's tweets about the upcoming RNC in Charlotte come two days after North Carolina's largest daily increase in virus cases yet.

On Friday, Gov. Roy Cooper moved the state into a second reopening phase by loosening restrictions on hair salons, barbers and restaurants. But he said the state must move cautiously, and he kept indoor entertainment venues, gyms and bars closed.

"Unfortunately, Democrat Governor, @RoyCooperNC is still in Shutdown mood & unable to guarantee that by August we will be allowed... full attendance in the Arena," Trump tweeted Monday.

He added that Republicans "must be immediately given an answer by the Governor as to whether or not the space will be allowed to be fully occupied. If not, we will be reluctantly forced...to find, with all of the jobs and economic development it brings, another Republican National Convention site."

Pre-pandemic, the GOP had estimated 50,000 would come to Charlotte for the convention centered around its NBA arena.

Cooper's office responded that state officials are working with the GOP on convention decisions.

"State health officials are working with the RNC and will review its plans as they make decisions about how to hold the convention in Charlotte," Cooper spokeswoman Dory MacMillan said in an email. "North Carolina is relying on data and science to protect our state's public health and safety."

Vice President Mike Pence said Monday on Fox News Channel that convention planning takes months and suggested a state that's loosened more restrictions could host. He praised reopenings in Texas, Florida and Georgia -- all states with Republican governors.

Calling Trump's remarks "a very reasonable request," Pence told Fox that "having a sense now is absolutely essential because of the immense preparations that are involved, and we look forward to working with Governor Cooper, getting a swift response and, if needs be, if needs be, moving the national convention to a state that is farther along on reopening and can say with confidence that we can gather there."

Changing sites would be difficult for reasons including the contract between GOP officials and Charlotte leaders to hold the convention there. In April, the City Council voted to accept a \$50 million federal grant for convention security. Before the vote, City Attorney Patrick Baker noted the overall contract requires parties to follow applicable laws and regulations, including Cooper's executive orders. Cooper's current order limits indoor gatherings to 10 people. Baker said then that GOP officials had discussed convention alternatives but did not elaborate.

A week ago, Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel vowed on a call with reporters that the convention slated for Aug. 24-27 would be held at least partly in person.

During a subsequent Charlotte-area visit, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar sounded less

certain when discussing convention preparations. He did not refer to a traditional in-person convention as a certainty, but rather noted that "we're several months away from the possibility of the RNC." Azar also praised Cooper's reopening moves.

The state reported nearly 24,000 positive cases Monday, a daily increase of about 740. On Saturday, the state reported 1,100 new cases, its biggest daily jump. Monday's state tally includes about 750 deaths and 600 current hospitalizations.

Before Monday, Cooper and Trump had displayed little friction during the pandemic. While Cooper has urged the federal government to provide more testing supplies and protective gear, he's avoided criticizing Trump by name. Trump, meanwhile, has largely refrained from calling out Cooper as he has other Democratic governors.

Cooper narrowly beat an incumbent Republican in 2016 while Trump won the state. In this year's gubernatorial election, Cooper faces Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, who has urged a faster reopening of businesses.

## Lock your cars! Vehicle theft spikes in COVID-19 pandemic

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The coronavirus hasn't been kind to car owners.

With more people than ever staying home to lessen the spread of COVID-19, their sedans, pickup trucks and SUVs are parked unattended on the streets, making them easy targets for opportunistic thieves.

Despite silent streets and nearly nonexistent traffic, vehicle larcenies shot up 63% in New York and nearly 17% in Los Angeles from Jan. 1 through mid-May, compared with the same period last year.

And many other law enforcement agencies around the U.S. are reporting an increase in stolen cars and vehicle burglaries, even as violent crime has dropped dramatically nationwide in the coronavirus pandemic. It's a low-risk crime with a potentially high reward, police say, especially when many drivers leave their doors unlocked or their keys inside.

"You might as well put a sticker on the window that says 'come take my stuff,'" said an exasperated Alex Villanueva, the Los Angeles County sheriff.

In Austin, Texas, last month, a whopping 72% of the 322 stolen vehicles had their keys nearby. The total number of auto thefts in April spiked about 50%, and burglaries to vehicles were up 2% from April 2019.

The virus has created a "perfect storm," said Austin police Sgt. Chris Vetrano, a supervisor in the 11-detective auto theft unit that investigates stolen vehicle cases.

The elements for that storm: Drivers are at home and not using or checking their cars regularly. School's out, so teenagers are trying their luck. Criminals are out of work and have more time on their hands or need fast money to support a drug habit.

"You can get on the internet nowadays and learn how to break into vehicles just searching YouTube," Vetrano said.

(He should know: Someone broke into his locked Ford F-150 pickup truck, one of the most commonly stolen vehicles, about a year ago.)

Salt Lake City police Detective Greg Wilking said a 22% spike in vehicle burglaries there could be from a few criminals working quickly on "car prowls."

"It's really 10 seconds," he said. "They're not spending a lot of time in your car. It's a smash-and-grab-and-go," sometimes in broad daylight.

Wilking worries the numbers will keep rising because "people get more desperate as time goes on."

In Baltimore, though, a push to reduce the city's historically high numbers of vehicle thefts and burglaries appears to have paid off. Thefts from autos plunged 24% and stolen vehicles dropped 19% from January to May compared with the same period last year.

Col. Richard Worley, the chief of patrol, in part credits aggressive efforts to remind residents to lock their cars, take their keys home and park in well-lit areas. In this case, however, the pandemic has actually helped police:

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Residents are home, driving less and keeping an eye on the neighborhood, and officers now have time for proactive patrols because calls for service and violent crime have decreased. A thief was recently arrested with 13 stolen catalytic converters during a motor vehicle stop.

Sometimes, however, it's just a matter of luck. Like for Lindsey Eldridge, the police department's community outreach coordinator, who left her keys in her car's cupholder. She realized her mistake just before falling asleep.

As Worley said: "She could have been a statistic."

## In his final days, Ahmaud Arbery's life was at a crossroads

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — He was at a crossroads, his life stretching out before him, his troubles largely behind him. He had enrolled at South Georgia Technical College, preparing to become an electrician, just like his uncles. But first, he decided, he would take a break. College could wait until the fall.

To help keep his head clear, he ran, just about every day. Off he'd go, out of the doors of his mother's house, down the long street toward Fancy Bluff Road. Then would come the right turn onto the two-lane road lined by oak trees draped with Spanish moss.

About a mile and a half into his usual route, Ahmaud Arbery would cross the four lanes of Jekyll Island Causeway into the subdivision of Satilla Shores.

Three months ago, at the age of 25, he ran through Satilla Shores for the final time.

On Feb. 23, Arbery was shot to death by a father and son who told police they grabbed guns and pursued him in a pickup truck because they believed he was responsible for break-ins in their neighborhood — a black man, killed by two white men.

A makeshift memorial of flowers now rests on the lawn of a house near where he died, along with a plaque reading, "It's hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember."

Before Arbery's name joined a litany of hashtags bearing young black men's names, he was a skinny kid whose dreams of an NFL career didn't pan out. Those who knew him speak of a seemingly bottomless reservoir of kindness he used to encourage others, of an easy smile and infectious laughter that could lighten just about any situation.

They also acknowledge the legal troubles that cropped up after high school — five years of probation for carrying a gun onto the high school campus in 2013, a year after graduation, and shoplifting from a Walmart store in 2017, a charge that extended that probation up until the time of his death.

In his final months on Earth, Arbery appeared to be someone who felt on the verge of personal and professional breakthroughs, especially because his probation could have ended this year, many of those close to him told The Associated Press.

His mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, accepted that he was a young adult living at home, like so many of his contemporaries, taking a breather to chart how he'd one day support himself.

She had one rule: "If you have the energy to run the roads, you need to be on the job."

So he worked at his father's car wash and landscaping business, and previously had held a job at McDonald's.

Born May 8, 1994, Ahmaud Marquez Arbery was the youngest of three children, answering to the affectionate nicknames "Maud" and "Quez."

As a teenager, he stuck to the family home so markedly that his family worried he never wanted to go out with friends. "And I was like, he'll get to the stage eventually," Cooper-Jones said. "He was a mama's boy at first."

As his mother predicted, that reserve was left behind when Arbery entered Brunswick High School's Class of 2012.

He took cues from his brother, Marcus Jr., and tried out for the Brunswick Pirates football team. His slender build certainly didn't make him a shoo-in for linebacker on the junior varsity squad, said Jason Vaughn, his former coach and a U.S. history teacher at the school.



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"As soon as practice started and Ahmaud started to really go, oh man, his speed was amazing," Vaughn recalled with a laugh. "He was undersized, but his heart was huge."

Off the field, Ahmaud had a talent for raising the spirits of the people around him — and a penchant for imitating his coach, Vaughn said.

"If I was standing in the hallway, kind of looking mean or having a bad day — maybe my lesson plan didn't go right — Maud could kind of sense that about me," Vaughn said. "He'd come stand beside me and be like, 'I'm Coach Vaughn today. Y'all keep going to class. Hurry up, hurry up! Don't be tardy! Don't be late!' That's what I loved about him. He was always trying to make people smile."

"Some students it's hard to get mad at," he said, "because you love them so much."

At the end of his final football season, no college recruiters tried to woo No. 21. But Arbery's high school football career still finished on a high note, his mother remembers.

In his final game, he intercepted a pass and ran the ball back to score a touchdown. A referee threw a flag on the play, but his mother insisted that his accomplishment still mattered: "I said, 'Guess what, son? You did it!' And he was very, very excited about it. That was a very good moment for us."

Former teammate Demetrius Frazier grew up just down the street from the Arberys, and his friendship with Ahmaud dated back to their days in a local pee-wee football program.

Frazier treasures their quieter moments in high school — just two friends playing video games, shooting hoops, wolfing down peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, hot dogs and chips.

Those were the times his friend seemed happiest, Frazier said, before his legal troubles bogged him down.

Frazier went on to play wide receiver for Middle Tennessee State University's football team and now holds down an office job and is raising a son in nearby Darien, Georgia.

Arbery's own football aspirations had been dashed, but he still wanted so much for himself, Frazier said.

"Ahmaud was just ready to put himself in a position to be where he wanted to be in life," he said. "That's what they took from him."

Less than two weeks before Arbery was killed, 34-year-old Travis McMichael had called 911 to report a possible trespasser inside a house under construction in the subdivision, describing him as "a black male, red shirt and white shorts" and saying he feared the person was armed.

The Arbery family's attorneys have confirmed that Ahmaud was captured on security cameras entering that home on the day he was killed. The property owner said nothing appeared to have been stolen, however, and surveillance footage also shows other people coming in and out of the construction site on other days, some apparently to access a water source on the property.

Travis McMichael and his 64-year-old father Gregory McMichael — a former police officer and retired investigator for the Glynn County district attorney — were charged with murder and aggravated assault on May 7, a day before Arbery would have turned 26.

Their arrests were sought by state law enforcement authorities after cellphone video of the shooting taken by another man at the scene was released to a local radio station. Gregory McMichael told police that Arbery attacked his son and then was shot in a struggle over Travis' shotgun.

On Thursday, state authorities arrested the man who filmed Arbery's killing, William "Roddie" Bryan Jr., on charges of felony murder and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment. His attorney has said Bryan bears no criminal responsibility for Arbery's death.

For Arbery's family, the pain of his loss is magnified by his final moments being captured on video.

"I didn't want to watch it. I didn't want my children to watch anything like that, to see their brother get killed," said Ahmaud's father, Marcus Arbery Sr., who noted that at least one of Ahmaud's siblings viewed the footage. "My daughter, she called me and broke down crying. They just turned my family upside down."

Cooper-Jones has said she believes her son was simply out for a jog when he encountered the men who had profiled him as a burglar. Their rush to judgment speaks to a larger problem of bias against young black men and boys, she said.

"I think that when he went into the property, he probably was looking to see how they were going to run the wire ... or how he would do the job if it was one of his assignments," she said, referring to his plan to become an electrician.

Lee Merritt, one of the Arbery family's civil rights attorneys, said the circumstances of Ahmaud's life

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touch on something deeper about American society.

"Our ravenous criminal justice system tends to take young black men in their teenage years, introduces them to the system and never lets them out again," he said. But when Ahmaud died, "he was at a point of transition."

His death will not be in vain, his sister told a crowd of supporters during a rally calling for justice that was held at the historic Glynn County courthouse in Brunswick earlier this month. Many attendees had driven hours from Atlanta to be there.

"I like to believe that our lives are already planned out before we even take our first steps," Jasmine Arbery said. "I hate to feel like he was sacrificed, but that's how I feel."

A caravan of predominantly black car and motorcycle club members retraced Ahmaud's running route to Satilla Shores. People riding in freshly waxed and polished Corvettes and Dodges laid flowers at the shooting scene.

Gazing at the tributes later that night, Cooper-Jones said she does not doubt that she raised her son right. As a mom, she had been a stickler; she knows that.

This month, she celebrated her first Mother's Day without her youngest child. Thinking about a greeting card he'd given her for the occasion two years ago made her smile.

"We don't see eye to eye, but I love you," she recalled Ahmaud writing. "That tells me, I had just got on his butt about something that he did."

Ultimately, she said, nothing her son did in his short life justifies the way he died.

"I will get answers — that was my promise," she said. "That's the last thing that I told him, on the day of his funeral, that Mama will get to the bottom of it."

## US communities face tough choices on opening public pools

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press**

MISSION, Kan. (AP) — Public pools will look very different this summer if they open at all with the coronavirus threat still looming, as teenage lifeguards will be tasked with maintaining social distancing and spotting COVID-19 symptoms in addition to their primary responsibility of preventing drownings.

Pools that do plan to open will take precautions, including screening temperatures on entry, requiring lifeguards to wear masks and significantly reducing the number of swimmers allowed in the water and locker rooms, said Dr. Justin Sempstrott, the medical director for the lifeguard certification program Starguard Elite and executive director of Lifeguards Without Borders, which works to reduce drownings worldwide.

"It's definitely not going to be business as usual this season," he said.

Amid the uncertainty, sales of inflatable pools that cost less than \$150 have increased by 165% over the seven-week period that began March 15, compared with the same period last year, according to NPD Group, a data and consulting firm. Meanwhile, most of the people who were planning to install in-ground pools in their yards before the COVID-19 shutdown caused economic havoc have decided to proceed, said Sabeena Hickman, the CEO of the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, an industry trade group, which reached out to the country's top 25 residential pool builders.

"It appears as if a lot of people are looking for pools and hot tubs for staycations," she said. "We are anticipating that it will be a strong season for backyard pools."

Walmart reported an uptick in the sales of pools and swimming gear such as foam noodles, and Bass Pro Shops said more people have been buying fishing gear and kayaks, though neither company provided specifics.

"If there is a bright spot in this horrible COVID-19 tragedy, it's the unprecedented interest from fathers, mothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles all wanting to take their family out to enjoy nature," said Johnny Morris, Bass Pro Shops' founder and CEO.

Properly chlorinated pools can kill the virus, but youngsters splashing around together could be unwittingly spreading it without knowing they are infected, said Sempstrott, who is also an emergency room doctor in Boise, Idaho, who has treated COVID-19 patients.

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Some pool operators have decided to delay opening or just offer lap swimming and lessons, while others have already called it quits. The National Recreation and Park Association, a nonprofit that advocates on behalf of public parks, recreation and conservation, said 31% of agencies with pools have decided not to open them this summer and 46% were awaiting additional guidance from government and health officials before making a decision. Of those that are opening, only 5% plan to operate fully; the other 18% will do so with truncated offerings.

Among those that have opted not to open their pools this summer is the Kansas City suburb of Mission. In normal times, its outdoor pool is packed with kids, including a roughly 300-strong swim team, afternoon day camps and neighborhood children just looking to cool off and have fun.

City spokeswoman Emily Randel said opening this summer would have been too difficult given the added responsibilities of enforcing social distancing that would largely have fallen to teenage lifeguards. Kansas officials also have made June 8 the earliest that public pools can open.

"Putting it on our youngest staff seems like quite a burden for them," she said.

Sempsrott said lifeguards will be "essential health care providers" this summer and will need to be provided with protective gear and a plan for what to do if a swimmer who arrives in apparently good health suddenly starts coughing or displaying other COVID-19 symptoms.

"The aquatic industry has been built on safety and prevention," Sempsrott said. "If we aren't able to safely open and reduce risk to an acceptable level, it doesn't make sense to open in the middle of a pandemic."

There are also financial concerns that need to be weighed. Some places have said they can't afford to open their pools because of the decline in tax revenue caused by the coronavirus and the efforts to slow its spread. New York City, for example, estimates it will save \$12 million by keeping its pools closed.

The closures will also mean the loss of many summer swim teams. USA Swimming has already canceled some high-level summer meets.

Sempsrott, meanwhile, warned that there could be more child deaths, as beginner swimmers take their chances in backyard pools without a lifeguard watching and with parents who may be distracted as they juggle working from home.

The kids are going to slip away into the backyard pool because you are on a Zoom meeting," said Sempsrott. "Before, they would have been in preschool."

Similar concerns were raised by the American Canoe Association, which also promotes kayaking and rafting. Beth Spilman, the interim executive director of the group, said it is hearing that boating could be at an all-time high this summer and is considering a social media campaign to promote safety.

"We know that there are concerns in the paddling community that there will be an influx of beginner or armature paddlers who are perhaps getting on the water without adequate instruction and that will cause an issue for local safety and rescue and perhaps for the Coast Guard," she said.

## Americans finding ways to stay active while keeping distance

By ERIC OLSON AP Sports Writer

Vicki L. Friedman always wanted to play golf with her adult sons but until this spring couldn't find time to learn the game and practice.

Shaun Warkentin was looking for a diversion when his young sons tired of jumping on the backyard trampoline and being indoors. He discovered the joy of taking them fishing.

Neighborhood and park trails across the country have been getting higher-than-usual use by runners, walkers and bicyclists as people find ways to get fresh air while maintaining social distancing during the coronavirus outbreak.

Golf courses are welcoming more beginners and people returning to the game, states have seen robust sales of fishing licenses since the coronavirus hit full force in the U.S. in March and fitness tracking technology has shown a surge in the number of steps recorded.

Friedman, who lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, took up golf at age 54 after the community college where she works ordered employees to do their jobs from home. That gave her more than an extra hour a day



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she otherwise would spend commuting.

"When you see what's happening around the world, you prioritize and ask yourself what are some of the things you want to do," she said. "I've always been geared toward work. Right now you want to invest in yourself. What else do I want to do that is fun?"

Friedman goes to the driving range a couple of times a week, hits plastic wiffle golf balls in her backyard and, as a Mother's Day gift from her son, went to a course for the first time and was treated to nine holes. She said on a recent afternoon she was about to play her fourth round in three weeks with the set of used clubs she bought for \$30.

"This is a way we can spend time together outside," she said. "It's something new. I like sports, and it's fun. It is more addicting than I would have ever dreamed."

Through last week, rounds posted to the GHIN handicap-tracking app were up 22% this May compared with May 2019, according to the USGA. Posted rounds were up 8% for the year.

CommonGround in Aurora, a Denver-area facility operated by the Colorado Golf Association, reported almost 4,800 rounds played on its 18-hole course in April, compared with just over 3,100 the same month in 2019. The number of rounds played on its nine-hole course for beginners wasn't available, but revenue from green fees was more than double what it was in April 2019, and for the first time reservations were required to ease congestion on the first tee.

National Golf Foundation president and CEO Joe Beditz said he's hearing similar reports from around the country.

"Courses are seeing people they haven't seen before or seen very much of," he said. "They're seeing husbands and wives plays, parents and kids. It's kind of surprising to them because even with some restrictions in states, they are still finding themselves to be busier than a similar time of past years."

Minnesota's fishing permit sales of 354,080 from mid-February to the first week of May were up 45% over a comparable period in 2019 and the highest since 2000. Vermont had issued 21,270 permits through April, up 57%. Missouri for one month waived the requirement that anglers have a permit so residents could have a diversion during the pandemic.

"If there is a bright spot in this horrible COVID-19 tragedy, it's the unprecedented interest from fathers, mothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles all wanting to take their family out to enjoy nature," Bass Pro Shops founder and CEO Johnny Morris said in a statement.

Warkentin said he's taken his sons Noah, 8, and Joe, 5, to fishing holes in and around Omaha, Nebraska, four or five times since school let out in March. Even on a chilly, windy day, they were at Carter Lake wetting their lines.

"We're trying to get out, get some fresh air and learn some new skills," Shaun said shortly before helping Joe reel in a tiny sunfish. "We're kind of new to fishing. I've fished most of my life, but these guys haven't done that much. It's a cheap way to get outside and do something different."

On a nearby bank, Lotplar Laywah of Omaha was wearing a facemask while fishing with his children and their cousins. The truck driver had no loads to deliver, so he suggested to the kids that they try fishing.

"The kids, all they do is watch TV and then they start fighting with one another and causing trouble, and mom really has to yell at them," Laywah said. "So we go fishing."

The simplest activities, like running and walking, are apparently popular, based on data generated by Garmin fitness tracker apps. Garmin reported steps recorded by U.S. walkers logging their activity was up 36% when comparing the first half of March with the second, when coronavirus-caused lockdowns began. Worldwide, logged activities like walking and running were up 24% in April compared with the same month in 2019.

Jean Knaack, executive director of the Road Runners Club of America, said the numbers reflect a combination of avid runners logging more miles than usual and people who aren't regular runners giving it a try.

"I think if you look at community chatter, which isn't super scientific, I would say most definitely there has been an uptick in running and walking during this pandemic, especially with places for exercise having been closed down like swimming pools, private gyms, public recreation spaces, basketball courts," she said.

"I've lived in my neighborhood for 15 years and I'm like, 'Who are all these people who are all over

walking around and running around this neighborhood? I think it's a sign people want to get out of their house, but I think people have a desire to run and exercise, and now they're just afforded that time right now, even though that's not the greatest way to get time, what we've all been going through."

## States give few details on billions spent on virus supplies

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — States are spending billions of dollars stocking up on medical supplies such as masks and breathing machines during the coronavirus pandemic. But more than two months into the buying binge, many aren't sharing details about how much they're spending, what they're getting for their money or which companies they're paying.

An Associated Press survey of all 50 states found a hodgepodge of public information about the purchase of masks, gloves, gowns and other hard-to-get equipment for medical and emergency workers.

Illinois has one of the most detailed tracking websites, showing the date, vendor, purpose, quantity and price of each purchase. In most states, it's not that easy. Some provided similar information only after the AP pointed to laws requiring the release of government documents.

The public can see only a piece of the procurement puzzle in many states — maybe an estimate of the total spent on supplies, but not the names of the providers or the price of each item, which could show whether the state got a good deal or was ripped off.

Those details are important because many states set aside purchasing safeguards amid a scramble for supplies among health care providers, states, the U.S. government and other countries. Instead of seeking competitive bids and vetting them for months, states have closed emergency deals in days with businesses claiming to have access to supplies. In some cases, states have prepaid to ensure orders aren't diverted elsewhere.

Some states say technological barriers prevent them from posting more information. Others provided no explanation for why they aren't doing so.

Transparency advocates say they're troubled by the difficulty in getting details about government spending, especially during a crisis that's shaken the economy and sickened about 1.6 million in the U.S.

"There's no reason that this information should be hard to come by, and there's no reason that the states should be keeping it under wraps. That just makes people suspicious," said Lisa Rosenberg, executive director of Open the Government, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that advocates for government transparency.

After an AP request in late April and early May, 44 states provided figures showing they had ordered or spent more than \$6 billion collectively on protective equipment and ventilators. The actual costs likely are higher, because some numbers were several weeks old and some reported only what they had spent so far, not what was in orders still to be delivered.

The AP hasn't received figures from Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey and Texas. Some provided no specific timeline for releasing the information.

States should prioritize requests for public records that relate to the coronavirus, said Anna Diakun, an attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University.

"As this crisis is unfolding, the value of that information is less after the government response has concluded," Diakun said. "There is still time to make course corrections, but only if the public knows they need to be taken."

Several states have made changes already. Missouri canceled orders worth \$34 million for over 9 million masks made in China after tests showed they didn't fit properly. A Chinese company refunded California \$247 million after missing a deadline for the U.S. to certify its N95 masks were safe and effective.

The AP's survey shows other states have yet to get their supplies. North Carolina placed orders for \$253 million in protective equipment but had received just \$21 million of it as of early May. Emergency managers say they're starting to cancel orders that probably won't be delivered.

Colorado said it ordered over \$58 million in protective equipment but has paid just \$44,000 so far be-

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cause it hasn't received most of the supplies. The state has declined to identify its vendors in case they "fall victim to fraud or customs delays" and can't deliver the goods, the health department said.

By contrast, Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza has created a website tracking coronavirus-related spending. It shows what was purchased, from what business, on what date, in what amount and at what cost. "Transparency, to me, is like a pathway to rebuilding trust in government," Mendoza said.

The website, for example, shows that the state paid nearly \$11.8 million to Steven MacGeachy on May 6 for 2.4 million N95 masks.

MacGeachy, who does business as The Rare Group LLC in suburban Chicago, declined to tell the AP where he got the masks. He said he specializes in accessing global government institutions and wealthy people.

"I got involved in this particular instance in an effort to make sure that the state of which I live in was able to procure good product at fair pricing," MacGeachy said.

State purchasing records show MacGeachy and numerous other businesses required full prepayment.

"Normally, we wouldn't be able to do that, nor would we ever even entertain the thought," Mendoza said. But "we kind of had a gun to our head — we didn't have the leverage to negotiate the best deals."

Though not posted online, officials in Georgia, Iowa, Kansas and Louisiana provided the AP with detailed lists showing how much they paid each vendor and how many supplies they got.

Other states are posting only certain information.

Minnesota publishes a biweekly online COVID-19 report detailing the prices and quantities purchased, but not the vendors. Washington state posts a list of vendors it uses to buy protective equipment, but not the amounts paid or ordered from each.

Missouri Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick launched a website showing how the state is using federal coronavirus aid. Because that money can reimburse state purchases, the site is gradually including some of the \$42 million spent on protective equipment. It shows the amount paid to each vendor but only for general categories like "medical and dental supplies."

Fitzpatrick said he's limited by a more than 20-year-old computer accounting system.

"In a perfect world, I'd love to be able to put a check and a copy of every invoice up so people could see what it was," he said. "But that's not a realistic thing for us right now. That would be a massive amount of document scanning and uploading and cataloging."

Ohio also said computer programming complications kept it from releasing more information. Three agencies have committed more than \$109 million for personal protective equipment, but "a comprehensive number would be very difficult to ascertain because there is no single code in the State accounting system to identify PPE," Bill Teets, a spokesman for the Department of Administrative Services, said in an email.

Missouri lawyer Dave Roland, who represents residents in public records lawsuits, said details of government coronavirus purchases should be easily available.

"It's 2020," he said. "There should be no difficulty in making this information available online."

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 26, the 147th day of 2020. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

On this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on the remaining charges.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began

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during World War II.

In 1971, Don McLean recorded his song "American Pie" at The Record Plant in New York City (it was released the following November by United Artists Records).

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1978, Resorts Casino Hotel, the first legal U.S. casino outside Nevada, opened in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley were married in the Dominican Republic. (The marriage, however, ended in 1996.)

In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court made it far more difficult for police to be sued by people hurt during high-speed chases. The Supreme Court also ruled that Ellis Island, historic gateway for millions of immigrants, was mainly in New Jersey, not New York.

In 2004, nearly a decade after the Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the attack. (Nichols later received 161 consecutive life sentences.)

In 2005, President George W. Bush received Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas at the White House; Bush called Abbas a courageous democratic reformer and bolstered his standing at home with \$50 million in assistance.

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. California's Supreme Court upheld the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid.

Ten years ago: BP launched its latest bid to plug the gushing well in the Gulf of Mexico by force-feeding it heavy drilling mud, a maneuver known as a "top kill" which proved unsuccessful. TV personality Art Linkletter died in Los Angeles at age 97. Lee DeWyze was crowned the winner of "American Idol" over Crystal Bowersox.

Five years ago: Challenging Hillary Rodham Clinton from the left, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders formally kicked off his Democratic presidential bid in Burlington, Vermont, with a pitch to liberals to join him in a "political revolution" to transform the nation's economy and politics.

One year ago: A tornado leveled a motel and tore through a mobile home park near Oklahoma City, killing two people and injuring more than two dozen others. Simon Pagenaud won his first Indianapolis 500 after a duel with Alexander Rossi, giving team owner Roger Penske his 18th victory in the race. Bart Starr, the Hall of Fame quarterback who led the Green Bay Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowl games, died in Birmingham, Alabama at the age of 85.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musberger is 81. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 75. Singer Stevie Nicks is 72. Actress Pam Grier is 71. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 71. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 71. Former British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 71. Actress Margaret Colin is 62. Country singer-songwriter Dave Robbins is 61. Actor Doug Hutchison is 60. Actress Genie Francis is 58. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 58. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 56. Actress Helena Bonham Carter is 54. Distance runner Zola Budd is 54. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 52. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 50. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 49. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 49. Singer Lauryn Hill is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 42. Actress Elisabeth Harnois is 41. Actor Hrach Titizian is 41.

Thought for Today: "I am never afraid of what I know." — Anna Sewell, English author (1820-1878).

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