

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 1 of 77

- [1- Orthopedic Physical Therapy](#)
- [1- Rehms Bridal Shower](#)
- [1- March for Jesus is tonight](#)
- [2-Governor Noem Signs Emergency Declaration for Day County](#)
- [3- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [6- SD Dept. of Tourism COVID-19 Weekly Research Update](#)
- [7-Associated General Contractors of South Dakota Highway-Heavy-Utilities Chapter Awards 2020 Scholarships to Area Students](#)
- [8- 4th Quarter 2019-20 Groton Area School Year Honor Roll](#)
- [9- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [10- May 29th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [13- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [14- Weather Pages](#)
- [17- Daily Devotional](#)
- [18- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [19- News from the Associated Press](#)



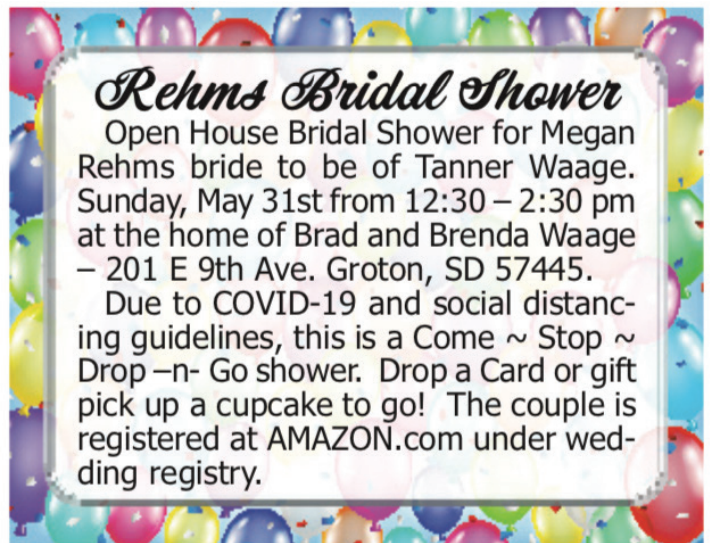
“ DON'T RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE FOR YOUR HAPPINESS AND SELF-WORTH. ONLY YOU CAN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT. ”

-STACEY CHARTER

Chicken Soup for the Soul

March for Jesus is tonight

We will be having a March for Jesus in Groton at 7pm at the Groton City Park on May 30th. The vision is to see churches united in public worship of the Lord Jesus Christ and Christians working together to impact our city, with praise and prayer. We will be practicing social distancing and people of all ages are welcome! March for Jesus is a national event that unites the entire body of Christ in cities across the nation for one purpose: to worship Jesus! Bring a lawn chair and if it rains we will meet at the Groton United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Groton Area Churches.



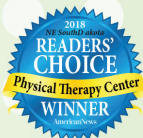
Rehms Bridal Shower

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.

Are You Looking For Relief From Back or Neck Pain?

Proven Relief



Lee Goetz, PT, OCS



Eric Johnson, PTA



Taylor Spellman, PT, DPT



Macey Severson, PT, DPT



Erica Pfaff, PT, DPT

Try **Physical Therapy First!**



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

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

SD-838047-1

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-27

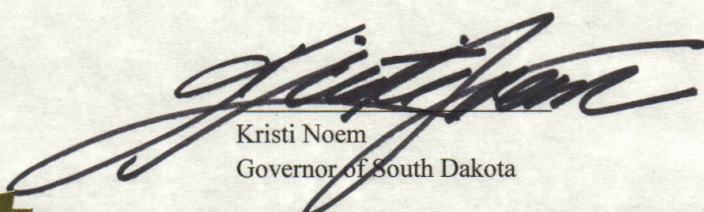
Whereas, On or about April 6, 2020 Day County, South Dakota began to experience basin flooding due to spring runoff. As a result, Day County sustained severe damage to its road systems, which include bridges, roadbeds, and other facilities including Federal-aid highways; and,

Whereas, Damage throughout Day County has been of such an extent that immediate repairs have been necessary. Such conditions constitute an emergency as is contemplated by the terms of Sections 125 and 120(e) of Title 23, U.S.C.; and,

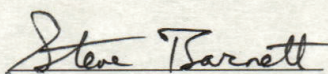
Whereas, The immediate repair and reconstruction of the damaged highways is vital to the security, well-being, and health of the citizens of the State of South Dakota; and the Federal Highway Division Administrator is hereby requested to concur in the declaration of this emergency:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota order an emergency to exist in Day County as a result of basin flooding and runoff conditions and resulting danger to life and damage to property including Federal-aid highways.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota this 28th day of May, 2020.


Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:


Steve Barnett
Secretary of State



Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are holding.

We're at 1,754,300 cases in the US. New case numbers were steady today, still over 20,000. NY leads with 373,108 cases holding steady. NJ has 158,844 cases, a decline in new cases. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 117,790, CA – 106,916, MA – 95,512, PA – 75,073, TX – 62,020, MI – 56,589, FL – 54,489, and MD – 51,631. These ten states account for 66% of US cases. 3 more states have over 40,000 cases, 3 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 TX, OH, FL, IN, MD, TN, GA, and WA. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, WI, VA, AL, NC, MI, MN and SC. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, PA, NJ, MI, IL, CT, MA, and LA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 102,800 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths was steady. NY has 29,535, NJ has 11,531, MA has 6718, PA has 5467, MI has 5406, IL has 5308, CA has 4141, and CT has 3868. All but one of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; one over 100. There are 5 more states over 2000 deaths, 6 more states over 1000 deaths, 8 more over 500, 13 more + DC and PR over 100, and 10 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

Here's a sobering set of numbers: So far in this pandemic, New York City (that's City, not State) has almost 400,000 confirmed cases and more than 29,000 deaths, more than all but three countries, US, UK, and Italy.

Today, in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine, I read a paper about this multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) that we've talked about before. It features case studies of four affected children and posits that this is a post-infectious cytokine release syndrome, that is the same sort of cytokine storm we see in adults, only in a children's version. We've talked about cytokine storms on and off over the weeks. This is, you may recall, an effect of a runaway immune response, a self-reinforcing pattern where more response begets more response, which begets still more. The chemicals and cells that normally fight infection and clean up the damage start causing damage to tissues instead. As we discussed when we first talked about MIS-C, we noted this has features similar to something called Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome with prolonged fever, gastrointestinal symptoms, maybe a rash, sometimes progressing to shock and possibly death. The children whose cases are described in the paper all recovered after treatment with an immunosuppressant, tocilizumab, to inhibit the inflammatory response which is causing the damage; but not all recover.

The authors recommend "high clinical suspicion" for the condition in children with known or suspected recent infection, lab testing including testing for cytokine markers, and admission with careful monitoring because a child who appears to be in relatively good shape might suddenly and rapidly go downhill.

Here's a tantalizing piece of news: Several studies are underway using wearable body-monitoring technology (Fitbit, AppleWatch, Oura, etc.) to detect slight variations in body temperature, heart rate, and other parameters and to use those variations to predict Covid-19 infections in advance of symptoms—during that couple of days when you're most infectious before you know you're sick. Right now, rather than clinical trials, what we have are retrospective studies that collect information from the devices and survey results from wearers in an attempt to correlate the two data sets in an individual.

There are initial findings available from an academic study that may be promising. West Virginia University Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute and WVU Medicine have created an app to collect "psychological, cognitive, and behavioral biometrics," tracking indicators like stress, anxiety, and memory. This information is combined with physiological data like body temperature, heart rate variability, resting heart rate, respiratory rate, sleep and activity patterns, and its own "readiness" health metric, then with an AI-guided model, "forecast and predict the onset of COVID-19 related symptoms (e.g. fevers, coughing, breathing difficulties, fatigue, and others) three days in advance with over 90 percent accuracy."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 4 of 77

There's been no release of findings from other studies, and we're a few months away from clinical testing; but key to any of these efforts is going to be the ability to detect changes from normal in a given individual. This sort of thing is not entirely unprecedented; Apple has received FDA clearance for an Apple Watch app that can identify atrial fibrillation and now has an additional electrocardiogram app. These things are not yet ready for prime time, but they're a sure indication there may be novel ways to use technology in dealing with this virus.

Speaking of uses for technology, earlier today, I posted a link to a Washington Post article with information on how people's movements are changing, based on cell phone location information, as states open up. Every state is represented, so you can look at your state and others in your region. That post is set to public for those who might be interested.

A new food-related concern on the horizon is produce. We've seen this virus roar through the meat-packing industry, and now it's beginning to do the same among fruit and vegetable pickers and packers. These workers typically follow the season and the crops, moving from farm to farm and state to state as crops are ready. They are transported together in crowded buses, live together in crowded dormitories, and work together shoulder-to-shoulder in the fields. While outdoor work is, at least theoretically, safer in terms of transmission, communal living conditions and those bus rides are not.

A farm in Tennessee that had a case of Covid-19 tested all of its workers and found that every one of the 200 individuals tested positive. We're seeing new outbreaks in New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon. Workers are nearly all immigrants, both documented and undocumented, and there was a shortage of workers before the pandemic due to immigration restrictions and crackdowns. As they fall ill, things will get worse. These are people who frequently have no benefits and need their wages, so they're unlikely to stay out from work if they're sick and unlikely to seek medical attention if they're frightened of immigration authorities. This is a recipe for disaster.

Now, I'm not here to debate immigration policy, and I will not welcome that conversation here; but there is a humanitarian issue at hand. These are human beings who suffer and die just as I would if I were infected. If all of the undocumented farm workers were to disappear tomorrow, half of our farm work force would be gone. You and I eat cheap food because those workers pick and pack it for us.

There is also a social and economic issue here. These crops have a narrow window in which to be harvested or rot. If they rot, the days of cheap food will wither away with them. And that will put intolerable economic pressure on the most vulnerable among consumers in the US during a serious downturn, creating another humanitarian issue across the country. Odds are good that, if large numbers of these workers fall ill, Americans far from the farm will suffer with them. We've already seen some price spikes (strawberries and tomatoes, for example) and crops lost that will cause spikes in the near future (olives and citrus so far). There's more like that on the way.

There have been, apparently, some attempts underway to provide some protections for farm workers; but it's pretty much on a farm-by-farm basis. We do not now have federal policy in place to address the problem. And there's the root of my concern.

Now, I'd like to tell you about a mistake with consequences—good consequences, as it turns out. If you've been with me from the beginning or you've been keeping up with the news on Covid-19, you will remember reading way back in early March that it looked like this virus had been circulating undetected in the community in Washington for as long as six weeks before an outbreak was evident. That was based on the index case, dubbed WA1, a Chinese national who traveled from Wuhan to Sea-Tac International Airport near Seattle, arriving January 15 and tested on the 19th. Extensive contact tracing was done, and no further cases turned up; so it was initially believed the virus had been contained. Then on February 29, a second case, WA2 (creative names, these), was detected during a community influenza surveillance study. It was believed to be a direct descendent of WA1, and it looked very much like Washington was in deep trouble with a virus that had been cryptically circulating all those weeks. This played a decisive role in Washington's early adoption of intensive social distancing efforts, well ahead of the rest of the country.

There's been some new work done by a research group led by Michael Worobey, at the University of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 5 of 77

Arizona's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and including participants from across the US, the UK, Canada, and Belgium. I read their article in pre-print (which means, I caution, it has not yet been peer reviewed) that details extensive phylogenetic modeling of the virus from genomic analysis, essentially modeling the evolutionary steps between strains of the virus that appeared in various locations. This is done by examining the tiny genetic differences among them and figuring out which ones would have come first and then how the others resulted from first one mutation and then another until we had each successive version, building a sort of family tree showing ancestors and descendants along the way. In this manner, it is possible to calculate to some degree of probability just how likely one outbreak is to be related to another, that is, whether someone in City A must have traveled to and transmitted the virus to people in City B or in City C—or vice versa. The work was illuminating.

Here's the big surprise: It appears WA2 was not a direct descendant of WA1, that, in fact, the virus did not circulate silently in Washington for 6 weeks before rearing its ugly head again in February. It appears that second case was a second introduction around February 13, also from China, not a continuation of the first introduction. Which means Washington issued rather draconian measures in response to a massive, hidden outbreak that did not actually exist. And that it, in the process, quite likely saved itself from becoming New York. Those early measures, measures similar to those adopted later in their outbreaks in New York and many other places, were remarkably effective because they were taken so early in the outbreak. Before today, I have cited epidemiologists here saying a few days is an eternity during an epidemic. Here's your real-life evidence of that.

When Washington issued its stay-at-home order on March 23, they were seeing about three new cases a day per 100,000 people. With aggressive testing, that number has never gone above eight. On the other hand, when New York issued its stay-at-home order on March 22, they were seeing about 17 new cases a day per 100,000 people, and at one point in April that number was as high as 52. As of yesterday, Washington had 283 cases and 15 deaths per 100,000 whereas New York had 1910 cases and 151 deaths per 100,000. Sometimes, it pays to get it wrong. And, by the way, this stuff works. Never doubt it. We know what to do; we just need the will to do it, a lesson we'll do well to remember as reopening proceeds in fits and starts across the country.

People who know me will not be surprised to learn I am a member of a number of Facebook cooking groups. In one of them, a member told a story about how he'd smoked a brisket and posted the results (because that's the kind of thing cooking people do). Another member, total stranger, who lived near this man was inspired to pick up her own piece of brisket to smoke. As she was getting it ready to cook, she became ill and couldn't do the job, so she contacted the original guy, asking him if he would consider smoking it and finding some deserving families who could use it. He picked it up, smoked it, and made seven nice dinners with sides for seven senior couples who have been struggling through isolation.

Nice story, right?

Well, turns out that's not all. It seems friends of those recipients posted pictures with thanks, our brisket-smoking guy has received donations to buy more briskets and look after other families. And this has become a thing. He says, "The smoker is going to be busy." Doesn't take much to turn one person's misfortune into good luck for someone else if you just think beyond yourself and your own needs. Anyone see a loser in this?

Didn't think so.

Going to guess that, even if you're not much of a cook, there's something that needs doing in the neighborhood. Figure it out.

Hang in there and stay healthy. I'll talk with you later.

SD Dept. of Tourism COVID-19 Weekly Research Update

Here is the COVID-19 Weekly Update. We are seeing some positive trends emerging in both travel spending and consumer sentiment towards future travel.

A few things worth noting this week:

The greatest improvements in the percentage of travel spending from last week across the U.S. occurred in Wyoming, South Dakota, South Carolina, and Arkansas.

South Dakota's largest YOY decline in hotel occupancy for the month of April was in the southeast region at (-63.8%) followed by the northeast region (-55.7%).

The Arrivalist Travel Index, which monitors road trips to and within South Dakota, reported a big jump this past week increasing (22.5%) from the prior week.

The percentage of Americans who plan to travel in the next six months jumped significantly (71%) from the previous week (67%).

Thank you to our research partners for providing this information: Tourism Economics, Destination Analysts, STR, U.S. Travel Association, Arrivalist, Miles Partnership, MMGY Travel Intelligence, ADARA, and Longwoods International.

As shared last week, our marketing strategy is now one that tells potential visitors that South Dakota is open, ready, and waiting, when the time is right for them to travel. Phase two brings more high-inspirational channels like TV, Out-of-Home (OOH) and direct mail back into the mix. These efforts join the high-intent channel efforts like search, targeted digital, our Travelsmart emails and social that we kept active for those still planning during the pandemic.

While the high-intent efforts continue to target a national audience, new initiatives in phase two will target a regional drive market 500 miles or less from South Dakota. Primary markets will no longer include Dallas or Chicago and instead will focus on cities like Minneapolis, Omaha, and Denver. Our efforts will see a little less focus on families in the shortened peak travel season and more on our Wanderers and Searchers audiences that crave bucket-list experiences and exploring the outdoors.

To break down our phases, our shifts in message, tactics and markets — plus the criteria we base our decisions upon from one phase to the next — please see our "Great Places are Waiting" one-sheeter.

And finally, just a reminder that we have compiled health, safety, hygiene and reopening resources that will help you put best practices and protocols into place to keep your employees and visitors safe. You can access those resources here.

Stay well and have a great weekend! Let us know if we can be of any help. I can always be reached at James.Hagen@TravelSouthDakota.com.

Associated General Contractors of South Dakota Highway-Heavy-Utilities Chapter Awards 2020 Scholarships to Area Students

SIoux FALLS, SD – The AGC is pleased to announce that it has selected its 2020 Scholarship recipients. Applicants must be enrolled in a 2-year post-secondary school or college/university, majoring in a career field directly related to the construction industry. In addition, applicants must achieve an above average academic achievement and be committed to working in South Dakota following graduation. More than \$27,000 is awarded annually.

2020 AGC of SD HHU Chapter Scholarship Awards

- Tate Barnhart (Sioux Falls) \$1,000
- Isaac Buchholtz (Pierre) \$500
- Nicholas Degen (Rapid City) \$750
- Jasmine Green (Ipswich) \$5,500
- Megan Gusso (Sioux Falls) \$500
- Mitchell Gusso (Brandon) \$500
- **Kaycie Hawkins (Groton) \$1250**
- Ty Hiller (Wentworth) \$1,400
- Aaron Hoelscher (Pierre) \$750
- Brandon Hilt (Rapid City) \$500
- Hunter Jorgensen (Fairmont, MN) \$625
- Mason Karpen (Sioux Falls) \$500
- Jackson Knight (Webster) \$1,900
- Tyler Kleinsasser (Huron) \$1,250
- Garrett Larson (Forestburg) \$625
- Paul Lauck (Salem) \$1,000
- Riley Olsen (Rapid City) \$500
- Walker Schiltz (Huron) \$500
- Marisa Schulz (Dakota Dunes) \$500
- Elizabeth Searles (Sioux Falls) \$750
- Cade Shoemaker (Webster) \$900
- Faith Shoemaker (Webster) \$3,000
- Bryce Steffen (Huron) \$500
- Dillon Weig (Ipswich) \$1,000
- Dylan Wetsit (Sturgis) \$650

The following students were selected for the following Industry-Sponsored and/or Memorial Scholarships:

- Build Dakota/Stretch the Million at Lake Area Tech: Jasmine Green
- BX "Excellence" Women in Construction Scholarship: **Kaycie Hawkins**, Elizabeth Searles, Faith Shoemaker
- Floyd Knight Memorial Scholarship: Jackson Knight
- John Shoemaker Memorial Scholarship: **Kaycie Hawkins**, Jackson Knight, Cade Shoemaker, Faith Shoemaker
- LICA Scholarship: Ty Hiller, Brandon Hilt, Jackson Knight, Cade Shoemaker, Walker Schiltz, Dylan Weig
- Sioux Falls Contractors Association Scholarship: Tate Barnhart, Ty Hiller, Paul Lauck, Tyler Kleinsasser, Faith Shoemaker

According to Margaret Pennock, Director of Workforce Development for the AGC of SD, "The AGC SD HHU Chapter provides financial recognition for extraordinary candidates who are pursuing degrees that lead to rewarding construction careers. The AGC of SD is deeply committed to fostering a new generation of construction professionals and this is one way that we can assist with that."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 8 of 77

4th Quarter 2019-20 Groton Area School Year Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, KaSandra Pappas, Kayla Jensen, Indigo Rogers, Payton Colestock, Kaylin Kucker, Tadyn Glover, Madeline Schuelke, Caitlynn Barse, Tashayla Featherman, Kya Jandel

3.99-3.50: Hunter Schaller, Austin Jones, Grady O'Neill, Eliza Wanner, Cade Guthmiller, Noah Poor, Jamesen Stange, Ashley Fliehs

3.49-3.00: Cyruss DeHoet, Cole Johnson, Benjamin Higgins, Riley Thurston

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Tanae Lipp, Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen, Alexa Herr, Trey Gengerke, Sage Mortenson, Alexis Hanten, Grace Wambach, Regan Leicht, Tessa Erdmann, Samantha Pappas, Alex Morris

3.99-3.50: Brooklyn Gilbert, Kale Pharis, Hailey Monson, Tiara DeHoet, Chandler Larson, Kannon Coats, Paxton Bonn, Dragr Monson, Chloe Daly, Piet Solling, Steven Paulson, Alyssa Fordham, Julia Moreno, Grace Wiedrick, Braden Freeman, Jasmine Gengerke, Eh Tha You Say

3.49-3.00: Kaden Carda, Kenzie McInerney, Dylan Krueger, Austin Anderson, Lee Iverson, Tristan Traphagen

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Madeline Fliehs, Travis Townsend

3.99-3.50: Trista Keith, Allyssa Locke, Torrence Wiseman, Stella Meier, Ryder Daly, Seth Johnson, Julianna Kosel, Kansas Kroll, Alyssa Thaler, Pierce Kettering, Cassaundra Schultz, Madisen Bjerke, Hannah Gustafson, Jordan Bjerke, Brooklyn Imrie, Kennedy Anderson, Megan Fliehs, Jace Kroll, Riley Leicht

3.49-3.00: Lane Krueger, Kelsie Frost, Trinity Smith, Kaden Kurtz

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Cole Simon, Elliana Weismantel

3.99-3.50: Ethan Clark, Andrew Marzahn, Caleb Hanten, Cole Bisbee, Aspen Johnson, Porter Johnson, Gracie Traphagen, Cadance Tullis, Kamryn Fliehs, KayLynn Overacker, Shallyn Foertsch, Brooke Gengerke, Jacelynne Gleason, Tate Larson, Kaleb Antonsen

3.49-3.00: Brenna Carda, Sierra Ehresmann, James Brooks, Jackson Bahr, Hollie Frost, Michael Aalseth,

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Claire Heinrich, Holden Sippel, Kyleigh Englund, Camryn Kurtz, Lexi Osterman, Ashlyn Sperry, Emily Clark, Hannah Monson, Anna Bisbee, Jaycie Lier, Lydia Meier, Ava Wienk, Cadence Feist, Sydney Leicht, Lane Tietz

3.49-3.00: Dillon Abeln, Anna Fjeldheim, Sara Menzia, Abigail Jensen, Colby Dunker, Jackson Garstecki, Bradin Althoff, Shea Jandel, Karsyn Jangula, Jacob Zak, Bryson Wambach, Faith Fliehs, Tyton Stange, Carly Guthmiller, Logan Ringgenberg

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington

3.99-3.50: Payton Mitchell, Ashlyn Feser, Emma Kutter, Faith Traphagen, Elizabeth Fliehs, Emma Bahr, Blake Pauli, Kayla Lehr, Turner Thompson

3.49-3.00: Kaden Kampa, Laila Roberts, Ashley Johnson, Korbin Kucker, Carter Simon, Brevin Fliehs, Emily Overacker, Jeslyn Kosel, Aiden Heathcote, Easter Ekern

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: Nathan Unzen

3.99-3.50: Carly Gilbert, Jaedyn Penning, Natalia Warrington, Talli Wright, Benjamin Hoeft, Jerica Locke, Mia Crank, Paisley Mitchell, Jarrett Erdmann

3.49-3.00: Logan Warrington, Cali Tollifson, Hannah Sandness, De Eh Tha Say, Gage Sippel, Garrett Schultz, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Rylee Dunker, Raelee Lilly, Lincoln Krause, Karsten Fliehs, Bradyn Wienk, Ryder Johnson

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 9 of 77

Area COVID-19 Cases

	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
	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30			
Minnesota	21,960	22,464	22,947	23,531			
Nebraska	12,619	12,976	13,261	13,654			
Montana	479	481	485	493			
Colorado	24,565	24,767	25,121	25,613			
Wyoming	648	653	667	682			
North Dakota	2422	2439	2481	2520			
South Dakota	4653	4710	4793	4866			
United States	1,681,418	1,699,933	1,721,926	1,747,087			
US Deaths	98,929	100,442	101,621	102,836			
Minnesota	+652	+504	+483	+548			
Nebraska	+264	+357	+285	+393			
Montana	0	+2	+4	+8			
Colorado	+296	+202	+354	+492			
Wyoming	+4	+5	+14	+15			
North Dakota	-----	+17	+42	+39			
South Dakota	+67	+57	+83	+73			
United States	+18,650	+18,515	+21,993	+25,161			
US Deaths	+706	+1,513	+1,179	+1,215			

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 10 of 77

May 29th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

A hodgepodge of things to report today.

Charles Mix and Davison counties have been elevated to substantial spread.

Minnehaha County had 4 new deaths and 1 was recorded in Beadle County. North Dakota reports 2 more have died from COVID-19.

Our county list with no positive cases dropped by 2 today, losing Edmunds and Kingsbury counties with 1 new positive case each.

Lawrence and Spink counties fell from the fully recovered list with Lawrence gaining 2 positive tests and Spink gaining 1.

Lincoln, Lyman and Roberts counties report a negative positive number as cases are reassigned.

Those with double digit increases were Beadle County with 32, Pennington County with 15 and Minnehaha County with 13.

Brown County had 3 positive and 6 recovered cases resulting in an increase of 2 percentage points of those recovered to 73%. Day County had 10 of 13 recovered and Marshall County has 2 of 4 recovered.

Brown County:

DemKota: 125 of 154 recovered

Active Cases: -3 (72)

Recovered: +6 (196)

Total Positive: +3 (269)

Ever Hospitalized: +0 (13)

Deaths: 1

Negative Tests: +30 (1438)

Percent Recovered: 73% (+2 percentage Points)

South Dakota:

Positive: +156 (4710 total) (73 more than yesterday)

Negative: +3431 (35816 total)

Hospitalized: +12 (418 total) - 95 currently hospitalized (10 less than yesterday)

Deaths: +5 (59 total)

Recovered: +46 (3744 total)

Active Cases: 1063 (22 more than yesterday)

Percent Recovered: 77% (no change)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Edmunds, Kingsbury): Bennett 23, Brule +62 (226), Butte +3 (182), Campbell 23, Custer 143, Dewey +7 (338), Gregory +4 (72), Haakon +1 (35), Hanson +2 (60), Harding 29, Jones 11, Mellette +3 (67), Perkins 21, Potter 64, unassigned +661 (1760).

Aurora: +1 recovered (10 of 23 recovered)

Beadle: +32 positive, +5 recovered (58 of 222 recovered)

Bon Homme: +2 recovered (6 of 8 recovered)

Brookings: +1 positive (14 of 16 recovered)

Brown: +3 positive, +6 recovered (196 of 269 recovered)

Buffalo: +2 positive (1 of 12 recovered)

Davison: +1 positive (9 of 14 recovered)

Edmunds: First Positive Case

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 11 of 77

Grant: +2 positive, +2 recovered (9 of 13 recovered)
 Hughes: +1 recovered (15 of 19 recovered)
 Jerauld: +1 positive (14 of 34 recovered)
 Kingsburg: First Positive Case
 Lake: +1 positive (5 of 8 recovered)
 Lawrence: +2 positive (9 of 11 recovered)
 Lincoln: -1 positive (197 of 236 recovered)
 Lyman: -1 positive, +1 recovered (6 of 13 recovered)
 Marshall: +1 recovered (2 of 4 recovered)
 Meade: +3 positive, +1 recovered (6 of 13 recovered)
 Minnehaha: +13 positive, +18 recovered (2864 of 3330 recovered)
 Pennington: +15 positive, +5 recovered (45 of 201 recovered)
 Roberts: -4 positive (17 of 35 recovered)
 Spink: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)
 Todd: +1 recovered (15 of 23 recovered)
 Union: +1 recovered (60 of 88 recovered)
 Yankton: +1 recovered (40 of 51 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Lawrence, Spink): Clark 4-4, Deuel 1-1, Faulk 1-1, Hyde 1-1, McPherson 1-1, Miner 1-1, Sully 1-1, Tripp 6-6, Walworth 5-5, Ziebach 1-1.

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 2,894 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 40 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,520. NDDoH reports two new deaths.

State & private labs have reported 89,599 total completed tests.

1,882 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	569	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	904	19%
Hispanic	855	18%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	461	9%
Other	579	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1498	31%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	3
Brown	1
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	49
Pennington	3
Todd	1

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 12 of 77

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	23	10	108
Beadle	222	58	394
Bennett	0	0	23
Bon Homme	8	6	305
Brookings	16	14	647
Brown	269	196	1438
Brule	0	0	226
Buffalo	12	1	163
Butte	0	0	182
Campbell	0	0	23
Charles Mix	16	8	204
Clark	4	4	115
Clay	15	13	420
Codington	35	18	1028
Corson	4	3	59
Custer	0	0	143
Davison	14	9	589
Day	13	10	142
Deuel	1	1	129
Dewey	0	0	338
Douglas	3	1	117
Edmunds	1	0	66
Fall River	4	3	157
Faulk	1	1	47
Grant	13	9	130
Gregory	0	0	72
Haakon	0	0	35
Hamlin	4	3	142
Hand	2	1	70
Hanson	0	0	60
Harding	0	0	29
Hughes	19	15	621
Hutchinson	4	3	182

Hyde	1	1	33
Jackson	3	0	31
Jerauld	34	14	74
Jones	0	0	11
Kingsbury	1	0	136
Lake	8	5	251
Lawrence	11	9	496
Lincoln	236	197	2564
Lyman	13	6	193
Marshall	4	2	99
McCook	5	4	257
McPherson	1	1	41
Meade	13	6	608
Mellette	0	0	67
Miner	1	1	102
Minnehaha	3330	2864	13283
Moody	19	15	217
Oglala Lakota	21	4	157
Pennington	201	45	2941
Perkins	0	0	21
Potter	0	0	64
Roberts	35	17	498
Sanborn	12	6	65
Spink	5	4	255
Stanley	10	8	90
Sully	1	1	32
Todd	23	15	478
Tripp	6	6	140
Turner	24	20	333
Union	88	60	586
Walworth	5	5	125
Yankton	51	40	1350
Ziebach	1	1	54
Unassigned****	0	0	1760

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

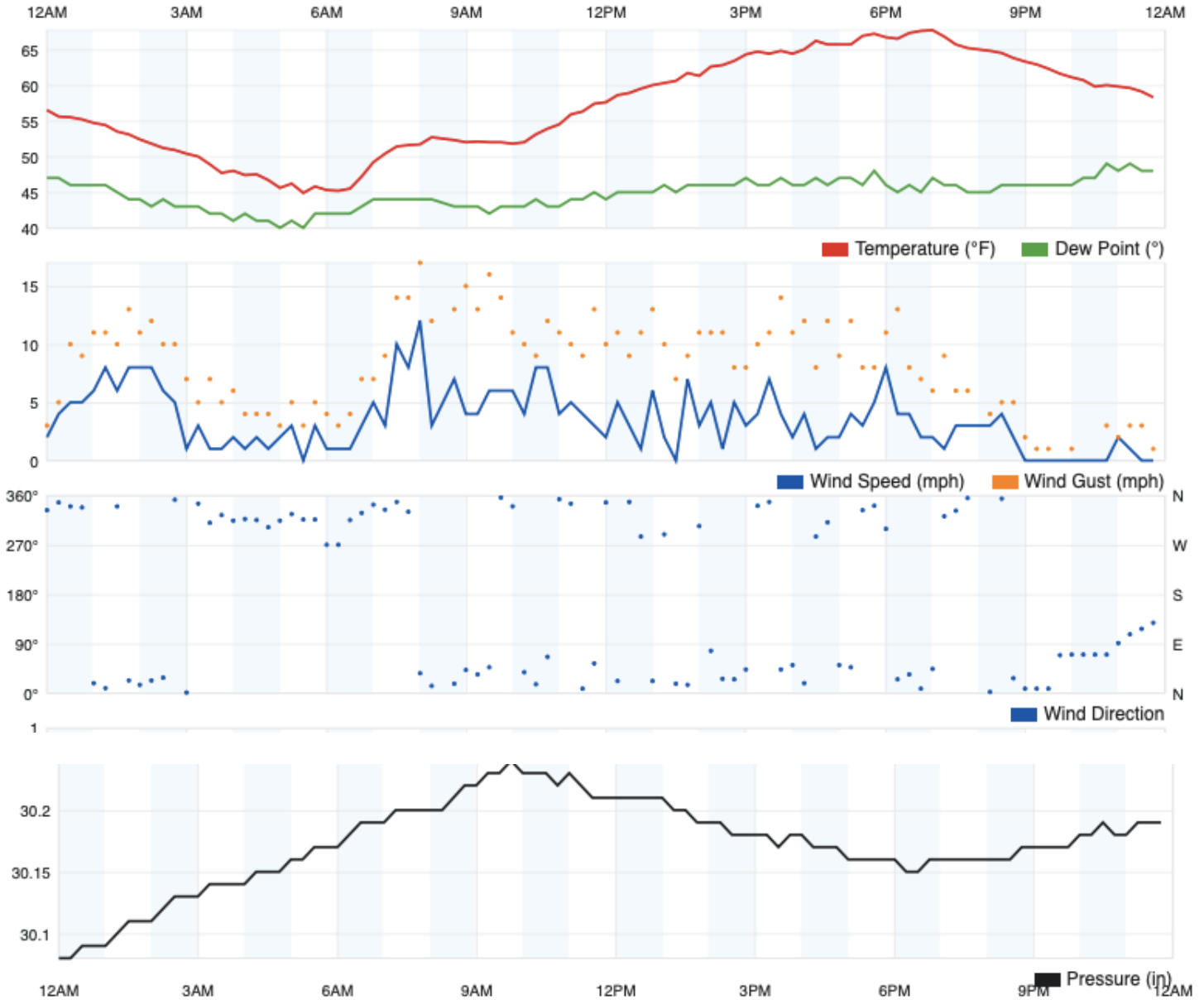
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2284	32
Male	2582	27

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	464	0
20-29 years	937	0
30-39 years	1091	3
40-49 years	848	3
50-59 years	808	8
60-69 years	451	9
70-79 years	131	6
80+ years	136	30

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 13 of 77

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 14 of 77

Today



Mostly Sunny
and Breezy
then Sunny

High: 69 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 49 °F

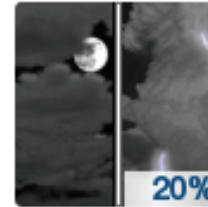
Sunday



Partly Sunny

High: 73 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms


Low: 64 °F

Monday



Hot

High: 90 °F

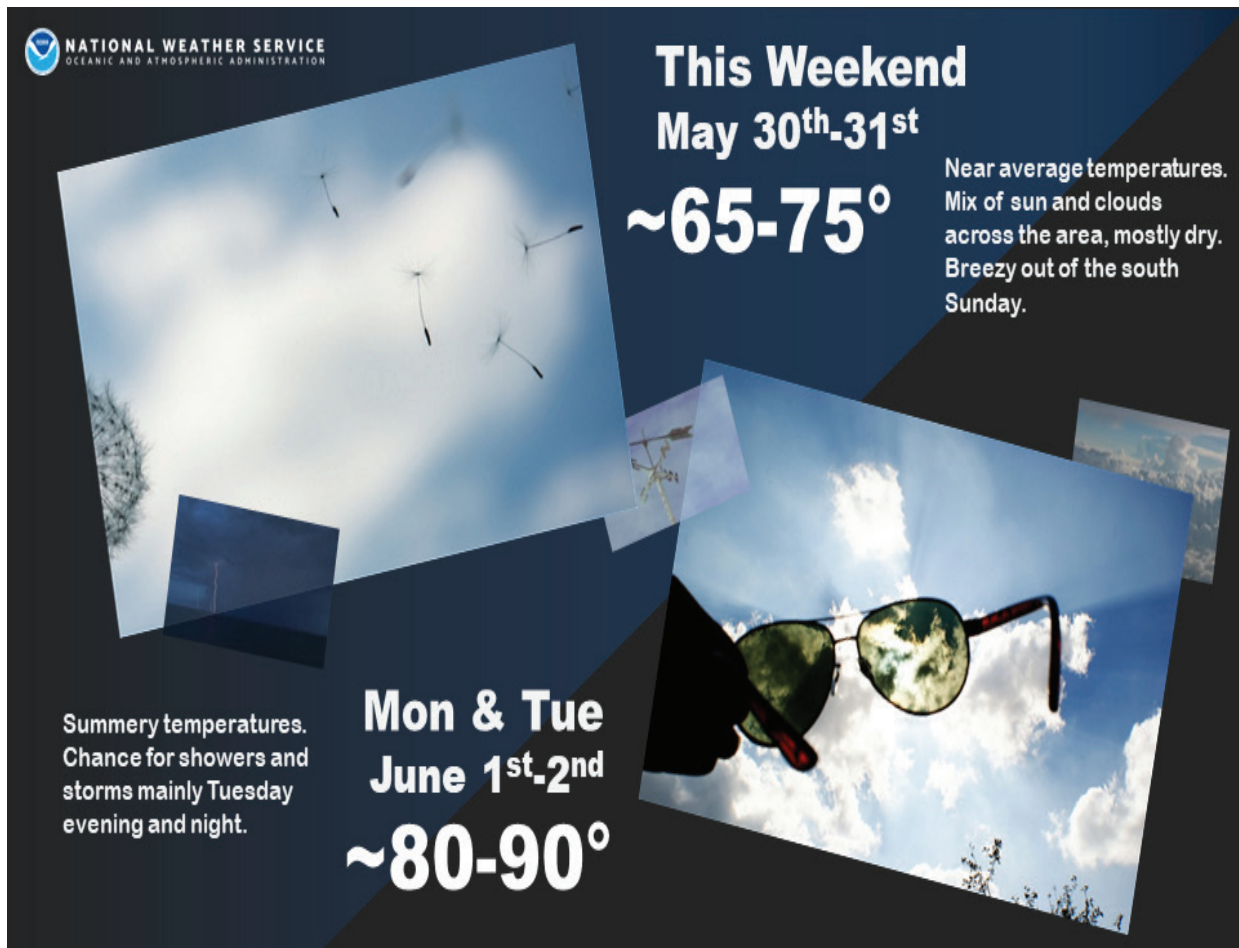
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

This Weekend
May 30th-31st
~65-75°

Near average temperatures.
Mix of sun and clouds
across the area, mostly dry.
Breezy out of the south
Sunday.

Summery temperatures.
Chance for showers and
storms mainly Tuesday
evening and night.

Mon & Tue
June 1st-2nd
~80-90°



Predominantly dry conditions prevail this weekend thanks to high pressure. The next best chance showers/storms will be Tuesday evening. After several days of seasonable temperatures, expect a big jump next week (right on cue with the start of meteorological summer!).

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 15 of 77

Today in Weather History

May 30, 1998: An F4 tornado moved through southeast South Dakota, killing six people and injuring another 150. The tornado crossed into McCook County at approximately 7:38 pm, CST and moved through downtown Spencer at about 7:39 pm, CST. The total cost of damage was more than \$18 million with an additional half million in crop damage.

1879: A significant outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide and exhibited multiple vortices.

1927: The Kentucky River peaks during a massive flood that killed 89 people and left thousands homeless. Torrential rains caused this unprecedented flood.

1988: Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, Montana was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, Montana soared to 94 degrees.

1879 - A major outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos, and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide, and exhibited multiple vortices. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1948 - A railroad bed acting as a dam gave way during a flood along the Columbia River destroying the town of Vanport, OR. The nearly 19,000 residents escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Twenty carloads of glass were needed in Denver, CO, to replace that destroyed by a severe hail-storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the eastern U.S. Eighteen cities, from Virginia to Ohio and Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, and 98 degrees at Newark, NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, MT, was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, MT, soared to 94 degrees. A "supercell" thunderstorm in west Texas produced baseball size hail in Bailey and Lamb counties, and up to five inches of rain in less than an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day. A powerful (F-4) tornado injured three persons and caused a million dollars damage at New Providence, IA. Baseball size hail was reported at Blue Earth, MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front spawned fourteen tornadoes in northeastern Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail near Marshall, wind gusts to 77 mph at Commerce, and up to five inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southwestern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

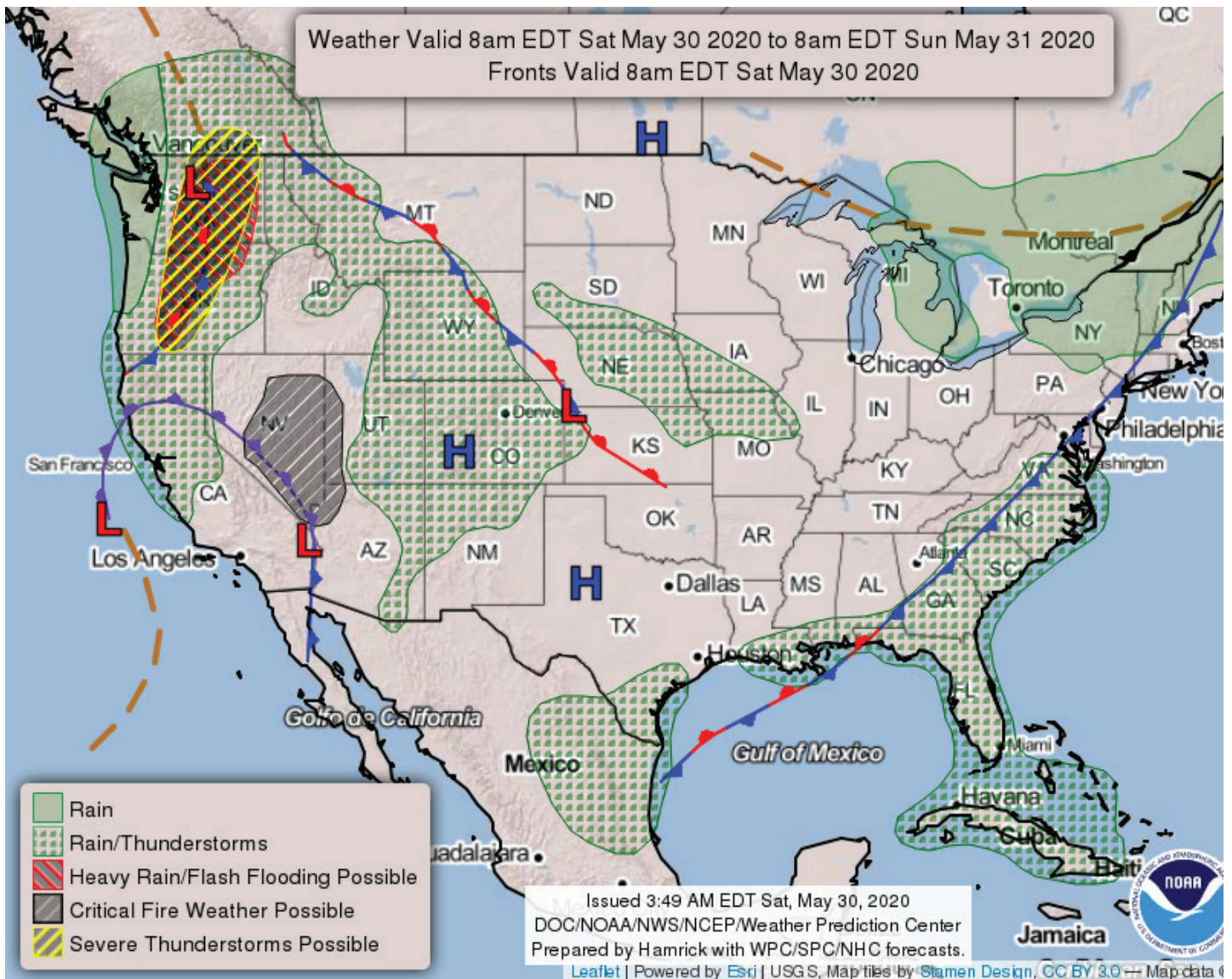
Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 16 of 77

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 68 °F at 6:40 PM
Low Temp: 45 °F at 5:29 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 8:27 AM
Precip: 0.00

Record High: 110° in 1934
Record Low: 27° in 1947
Average High: 72°F
Average Low: 49°F
Average Precip in May.: 2.91
Precip to date in May.: 2.73
Average Precip to date: 6.94
Precip Year to Date: 4.63
Sunset Tonight: 9:14 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 17 of 77



BECOMING CHRIST-LIKE

A sculptor was beginning a new project, and a reporter came to interview him about his work. He had never talked to a sculptor before so he asked, "What are you going to create?"

"A horse standing on its hind legs," he answered.

"How will you do such a thing?" he wondered.

"By knocking off everything that doesn't look like a horse," he replied.

Paul in writing to the Corinthians said, "Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." God, we are reminded by Paul, is in deed and in fact, shaping us into the likeness of Christ.

As Christians, we need to know and accept the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We may at times, think that we are at the end of our rope, but as followers of Christ, we are never at the end of our hope!

As the sculptor with his block of marble, our loving Lord is "knocking off" everything in our lives that is not Christ-like. We sing our songs and say our prayers and tell others that "we want to be like Him." And someday we will be.

But until that day arrives we must be patient and willing to submit to His will, allow Him to work in us and on us so that He may work through us.

Prayer: We know, Heavenly Father, that You have a plan for each of us to become like Your Son. Give us the desire to work with You while You complete your plan for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 2 Corinthians 4:1-10 Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 18 of 77

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 19 of 77

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

10-13-32-41-51, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 2

(ten, thirteen, thirty-two, forty-one, fifty-one; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$336 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$125 million

South Dakota reports 5 COVID-19 deaths, 77 cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has reported five new deaths from COVID-19 on Friday, along with 77 new cases, according to the Department of Health.

So far, 59 people have died from COVID-19 statewide during the pandemic. All but one of the deaths reported Friday were in Minnehaha County, which is the state's most populated area and has seen the bulk of infections. The other death came from Beadle County, where a spike in infections occurred recently. The deaths came from people in their 40s, 70s and over 80.

The state has tallied 4,866 total cases of the virus, but health officials have warned that the number of infections is likely higher because many people may not display symptoms or have not sought testing for mild symptoms.

State Epidemiologist Josh Clayton said they were waiting for results from mass antibody tests to estimate how many people have been infected but not displayed symptoms.

Almost 80% of South Dakotans who have confirmed cases have recovered. 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.

Thousands ignore Minneapolis curfew as U.S. protests spread

By AARON MORRISON and TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Thousands of protesters ignored a curfew and vows of a forceful police response to take to the Minneapolis streets for a fourth straight night, as the anger stoked by the police killing of George Floyd spread to more cities across the U.S.

The Pentagon on Saturday ordered the Army to put military police units on alert to head to the city on short notice at President Donald Trump's request, according to three people with direct knowledge of the orders who did not want their names used because they were not authorized to discuss the preparations. The rare step came as the violence spread to other cities: a man shot dead in Detroit, police cars battered in Atlanta and skirmishes with police in New York City.

Criminal charges filed Friday morning against the white officer who held his knee for nearly nine minutes on the neck of Floyd, a black man, did nothing to stem the anger. Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Minneapolis police said shots had been fired at law enforcement officers during the protests but no one was injured.

As the night dragged on, fires erupted across the city's south side, including at a Japanese restaurant, a Wells Fargo bank and an Office Depot. Many burned for hours, with firefighters again delayed in reaching them because areas weren't secure.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 20 of 77

Shortly before midnight, scores of officers on foot and in vehicles moved in to curb the violence, one day after city and state leaders faced blowback for their handling of the crisis. On Thursday, protesters had torched a police station soon after it was abandoned by police and went on to burn or vandalize dozens of businesses.

The new round of unrest came despite Gov. Tim Walz vowing early in the day to show a more forceful response by the state than the one Thursday run by Minneapolis city leaders. But by early Saturday morning, Walz was acknowledging he didn't have enough manpower, even with some 500 Guard soldiers.

"We do not have the numbers," Walz said. "We cannot arrest people when we are trying to hold ground."

Walz said he was moving quickly to mobilize more than 1,000 more Guard members, for a total of 1,700, and was considering the potential offer of federal military police. But he warned that even that might not be enough, saying he expected another difficult night Saturday.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association urged Walz to accept any help.

"You need more resources," the group said in a tweet. "Law enforcement needs leadership."

Not all the protests were violent. Downtown, thousands of demonstrators encircled a barricaded police station after the 8 p.m. Friday curfew. "Prosecute the police!" some chanted, and "Say his name: George Floyd!" Some protesters sprayed graffiti on buildings.

Anger filled the streets of Minneapolis.

Ben Hubert, a 26-year-old local resident, said he wasn't surprised people were breaking curfew and setting fires.

"I'm outraged," he said of the Floyd case. "But I'm also sad. The injustice has been going on for so long. It's been swelling for years."

Chauvin was also accused of ignoring another officer who expressed concerns about Floyd as he lay handcuffed on the ground, pleading that he could not breathe while Chauvin pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes. Floyd had been arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit bill at a store.

Chauvin, who was fired along with three other officers who were at the scene, faces more than 12 years in prison if convicted of murder.

An attorney for Floyd's family welcomed the arrest but said he expected a more serious murder charge and wants the other officers arrested, too.

Prosecutor Mike Freeman said more charges were possible, but authorities "felt it appropriate to focus on the most dangerous perpetrator."

Protests nationwide have been fueled by outrage over Floyd's death and years of police violence against African Americans. Protesters smashed windows at CNN headquarters in Atlanta, set a police car on fire and struck officers with bottles. Large demonstrations in New York, Houston, Washington, D.C., and dozens of other cities ranged from people peacefully blocking roads to repeated clashes with police.

"You are disgracing our city," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms told protesters. "You are disgracing the life of George Floyd and every other person who has been killed in this country."

Police were trying to put Floyd in a squad car Monday when he stiffened and fell to the ground, saying he was claustrophobic, a criminal complaint said. Chauvin and Officer Tou Thoa arrived and tried several times to get the struggling Floyd into the car.

Chauvin eventually pulled Floyd out of the car, and the handcuffed Floyd went to the ground face down. Officer J.K. Kueng held Floyd's back and Officer Thomas Lane held his legs while Chauvin put his knee on Floyd's head and neck area, the complaint said.

When Lane asked if Floyd should be rolled onto his side, Chauvin said, "No, staying put is where we got him." Lane said he was "worried about excited delirium or whatever."

An autopsy said the combined effects of being restrained, potential intoxicants in Floyd's system and his underlying health issues, including heart disease, likely contributed to his death. It revealed nothing to support strangulation as the cause of death.

There were no other details about intoxicants, and toxicology results can take weeks. In the 911 call that drew police, the caller describes the man suspected of paying with counterfeit money as "awfully drunk and he's not in control of himself."

After Floyd apparently stopped breathing, Lane again said he wanted to roll Floyd onto his side. Kueng checked for a pulse and said he could not find one, according to the complaint.

Chauvin's attorney had no comment when reached by The Associated Press.

The prosecutor highlighted the "extraordinary speed" in charging the case four days after Floyd's death and defended himself against questions about why it did not happen sooner. Freeman said his office needed time to gather evidence, including what he called the "horrible" video recorded by a bystander.

Trump said Friday that he'd spoken to Floyd's family and "expressed my sorrow."

He called video of the arrest "just a horrible thing to witness and to watch. It certainly looked like there was no excuse for it."

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who is representing Floyd's family, asked to take custody of Floyd's body for an independent autopsy.

The doctor who will do the autopsy is Michael Baden, former chief medical examiner of New York City. He was hired to do an autopsy for Eric Garner, a black man who died in 2014 after New York police placed him in a chokehold and he pleaded that he could not breathe.

State and federal authorities also are investigating Floyd's death.

Trump WHO funding cut prompts criticism as virus spreads

By **DAVID RISING** and **MARTIN CRUTSINGER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's announcement he was cutting U.S. funding for the World Health Organization prompted criticism Saturday, as spiking infection rates in India and elsewhere served as a reminder the global pandemic is far from contained.

Trump on Friday charged that the WHO didn't respond adequately to the pandemic, accusing the U.N. agency of being under China's "total control."

The WHO wouldn't comment on the announcement but South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize called it an "unfortunate" turn of events.

"Certainly, when faced with a serious pandemic, you want all nations in the world to be particularly focused ... on one common enemy," he told reporters.

The U.S. is the largest source of financial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization. Trump said the U.S. would be "redirecting" the money to "other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs," without providing specifics.

In China, where the virus outbreak began, only four new confirmed cases were reported Saturday, all brought from outside the country, and no new deaths. Just 63 people remained in treatment.

After judging the situation there now safe, a chartered flight carrying 200 German managers back to their jobs landed in Tianjin, a port city just east of Beijing. A flight carrying another 200 was due in Shanghai on Thursday.

"I'm really happy that business is starting again," said Karin Wasowski, a Volkswagen employee, before boarding the flight in Frankfurt. "I've been working from a home office but that is, of course, something completely different to being there."

More than 5,200 German companies operate in China, employing more than 1 million people.

"This is an important step to reconnect China's and Germany's economies," said Jens Hildebrandt, executive director of the German Chamber of Commerce in North China, which helped organize the flights. "It is our common interest to contribute in helping the economy return to normalcy and pre-virus levels."

Close to 6 million coronavirus infections have been reported worldwide, with more than 365,000 deaths and almost 2.5 million recoveries, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The true dimensions are widely believed to be significantly greater, with experts saying many victims died without ever being tested.

As some countries have effectively lowered the rate of infections, they have been moving ahead with relaxing restrictions but are keeping a very close eye on developments.

In South Korea, credited with one of the most successful programs to fight the pandemic, there were

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 22 of 77

39 new cases reported Saturday, most of them in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area where officials have linked the infections to warehouse workers. Authorities have so far maintained the phased reopening of schools in the hope that the recent transmissions could be contained quickly.

India registered another record single day jump of 7,964 cases and 265 deaths, a day before it was to end its 2-month-old lockdown.

That put the country's total cases at 173,763 with 4,971 deaths and 82,369 recoveries, according to the Health Ministry.

Still, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said in an open letter that India was on the path to "victory" in its battle against the virus and would "an example in economic revival," while asking his countrymen to show "firm resolve."

Russia recorded nearly 9,000 new cases overnight, around the daily level it has been at over the past two weeks as the virus continues to spread.

The national coronavirus task force said Saturday that 4,555 Russians have died of COVID-19, and 396,575 infections have been recorded. The relatively low mortality rate compared with other countries has prompted skepticism domestically and abroad.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced two peacekeepers serving in Mali had died from the virus. There have been 137 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among peacekeepers, the majority in Mali, but these were the first deaths.

The U.S. has been worst hit by the outbreak, with more than 1.7 million cases and almost 103,000 deaths.

Cities and states are under increasing pressure to reopen, however, especially for service industries that had seen customer numbers evaporate. The latest job-loss figures from the U.S. Labor Department brought to 41 million the running total of Americans who have filed for unemployment since shutdowns took hold in mid-March.

But there have been worrying signs that as restrictions are eased, people have not been adhering to social distancing guidelines meant to help prevent the spread of the virus.

On Friday, health officials in Missouri said that they were seeking to "inform mass numbers of unknown people" after a person who attended crowded pool parties over Memorial Day weekend at the state's popular Lake of the Ozarks tested positive for COVID-19.

Trump WHO funding cut prompts criticism as virus spreads

By DAVID RISING and MARTIN CRUTSINGER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's announcement he was cutting U.S. funding for the World Health Organization prompted criticism Saturday, as spiking infection rates in India and elsewhere served as a reminder the global pandemic is far from contained.

Trump on Friday charged that the WHO didn't respond adequately to the pandemic, accusing the U.N. agency of being under China's "total control."

The WHO wouldn't comment on the announcement but South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize called it an "unfortunate" turn of events.

"Certainly, when faced with a serious pandemic, you want all nations in the world to be particularly focused ... on one common enemy," he told reporters.

The U.S. is the largest source of financial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization. Trump said the U.S. would be "redirecting" the money to "other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs," without providing specifics.

In China, where the virus outbreak began, only four new confirmed cases were reported Saturday, all brought from outside the country, and no new deaths. Just 63 people remained in treatment.

After judging the situation there now safe, a chartered flight carrying 200 German managers back to their jobs landed in Tianjin, a port city just east of Beijing. A flight carrying another 200 was due in Shanghai on Thursday.

"I'm really happy that business is starting again," said Karin Wasowski, a Volkswagen employee, before

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 23 of 77

boarding the flight in Frankfurt. "I've been working from a home office but that is, of course, something completely different to being there."

More than 5,200 German companies operate in China, employing more than 1 million people.

"This is an important step to reconnect China's and Germany's economies," said Jens Hildebrandt, executive director of the German Chamber of Commerce in North China, which helped organize the flights. "It is our common interest to contribute in helping the economy return to normalcy and pre-virus levels."

Close to 6 million coronavirus infections have been reported worldwide, with more than 365,000 deaths and almost 2.5 million recoveries, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. The true dimensions are widely believed to be significantly greater, with experts saying many victims died without ever being tested.

As some countries have effectively lowered the rate of infections, they have been moving ahead with relaxing restrictions but are keeping a very close eye on developments.

In South Korea, credited with one of the most successful programs to fight the pandemic, there were 39 new cases reported Saturday, most of them in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area where officials have linked the infections to warehouse workers. Authorities have so far maintained the phased reopening of schools in the hope that the recent transmissions could be contained quickly.

India registered another record single day jump of 7,964 cases and 265 deaths, a day before it was to end its 2-month-old lockdown.

That put the country's total cases at 173,763 with 4,971 deaths and 82,369 recoveries, according to the Health Ministry.

Still, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said in an open letter that India was on the path to "victory" in its battle against the virus and would "an example in economic revival," while asking his countrymen to show "firm resolve."

Russia recorded nearly 9,000 new cases overnight, around the daily level it has been at over the past two weeks as the virus continues to spread.

The national coronavirus task force said Saturday that 4,555 Russians have died of COVID-19, and 396,575 infections have been recorded. The relatively low mortality rate compared with other countries has prompted skepticism domestically and abroad.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced two peacekeepers serving in Mali had died from the virus. There have been 137 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among peacekeepers, the majority in Mali, but these were the first deaths.

The U.S. has been worst hit by the outbreak, with more than 1.7 million cases and almost 103,000 deaths.

Cities and states are under increasing pressure to reopen, however, especially for service industries that had seen customer numbers evaporate. The latest job-loss figures from the U.S. Labor Department brought to 41 million the running total of Americans who have filed for unemployment since shutdowns took hold in mid-March.

But there have been worrying signs that as restrictions are eased, people have not been adhering to social distancing guidelines meant to help prevent the spread of the virus.

On Friday, health officials in Missouri said that they were seeking to "inform mass numbers of unknown people" after a person who attended crowded pool parties over Memorial Day weekend at the state's popular Lake of the Ozarks tested positive for COVID-19.

National Guard summoned to aid cities amid police clashes

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia's governor declared a state of emergency early Saturday to activate the state National Guard as violence flared in Atlanta and cities nationwide following the death in Minnesota of George Floyd after a white officer pressed a knee into his neck while taking him into custody.

Another 500 Guard soldiers were mobilized in and around Minneapolis, where Floyd died and an officer faced charges Friday in his death. But after another night of watching fires burn and businesses ransacked,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 24 of 77

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said early Saturday that he was moving to activate more than 1,000 more and was considering federal help.

The Guard was also on standby in the District of Columbia, where a crowd grew outside the White House and chanted curses at President Donald Trump. Some protesters tried to push through barriers set up by the U.S. Secret Service along Pennsylvania Avenue, and threw bottles and other objects at officers wearing riot gear, who responded with pepper spray.

A person was killed in downtown Detroit just before midnight after someone in an SUV fired shots into a crowd of protesters near the Greektown entertainment district, police said. In Portland, Oregon, protesters broke into police headquarters and authorities said they lit a fire inside. In Virginia's capital, a police cruiser was set on fire outside Richmond police headquarters, and a city transit spokeswoman said a bus set ablaze was "a total loss," news outlets reported.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp tweeted that up to 500 members of the Guard would deploy immediately "to protect people & property in Atlanta." He said he acted at the request of Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who earlier appealed in vain for calm.

In scenes both peaceful and violent across the nation, thousands of protesters chanted "No justice, no peace" and "Say his name. George Floyd." They hoisted signs reading: "He said I can't breathe. Justice for George."

Some demonstrators smashed police cars and spray-painted the iconic logo sign at CNN headquarters in downtown Atlanta. At least three officers were hurt and there were multiple arrests, Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos said, as protesters shot at officers with BB guns and threw bricks, bottles and knives.

Atlanta officials said crews were unable to reach a fire at Del Frisco's restaurant in the Buckhead neighborhood several miles north because of protesters there.

"This is not in the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Bottoms said. "You are disgracing the life of George Floyd and every other person who has been killed in this country."

Bottoms was flanked by King's daughter, Bernice King, and rappers T.I. and Killer Mike.

"We have to be better than burning down our own homes. Because if we lose Atlanta what have we got?" said Killer Mike, crying as he spoke.

Video posted to social media showed New York City officers using batons and shoving protesters down as they took people into custody and cleared streets. One video showed an officer slam a woman to the ground as he walked past her in the street.

Demonstrators rocked a police van, set it ablaze, scrawled graffiti across its charred body and set it aflame again as officers retreated. Blocks away, protesters used a club to batter another police vehicle.

"There will be a full review of what happened tonight," Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted, referring to the Brooklyn protest. "We don't ever want to see another night like this."

The police department said numerous officers were injured, including one whose tooth was knocked out.

The names of black people killed by police, including Floyd and Eric Garner, who died on Staten Island in 2014, were on signs and in chants.

"Our country has a sickness. We have to be out here," said Brianna Petrisko, among those at lower Manhattan's Foley Square, where most were wearing masks amid the coronavirus pandemic. "This is the only way we're going to be heard."

Protesters in Houston, where Floyd grew up, included 19-year-old Jimmy Ohaz from the nearby city of Richmond, Texas: "My question is how many more, how many more? I just want to live in a future where we all live in harmony and we're not oppressed."

Demonstrators on the West Coast blocked highways in Los Angeles and Oakland, California.

About 1,000 protesters in Oakland smashed windows, sprayed buildings with "Kill Cops" graffiti and were met with chemical spray from police, who said several officers were injured by projectiles.

One Los Angeles officer received medical treatment, police said. An LAPD vehicle had its windows smashed, and at least one city bus was vandalized. Police declared an unlawful assembly throughout downtown, where aerial footage from KTLA-TV showed scores of people corralled by police.

An LAPD spokesman told The Associated Press they were still tallying arrests.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 25 of 77

"I believe in our city. L.A. is strong enough to stand for justice and walk in love," Mayor Eric Garcetti tweeted, cautioning "violence and vandalism hurts all."

San Jose, California, police said that Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies shot at a fleeing SUV that was shown on video striking protesters, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

Protesters repeatedly clashed with police in San Jose, said Mayor Sam Liccardo, and police responded with flash-bang grenades and rubber bullets. One officer was hospitalized with a non-life-threatening injury, officials said.

Liccardo said his city's officers shared the community's outrage over Floyd's death.

"It was a horrible injustice," he told the AP.

Portland, Oregon, police said at least one shooting was tied to the protest, although details weren't immediately released. Two people were arrested during overnight riots in which protesters set fires throughout downtown and smashed storefront windows, police said, but arrest details were immediately available.

Police, who declared the protest a riot, said they deployed gas after people threw projectiles at them.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler tweeted a plea to protesters to remain peaceful and said that, while he had left Portland to attend to his dying mother, he was heading back.

"Portland, this is not us," he wrote. "When you destroy our city, you are destroying our community. When you act in violence against each other, you are hurting all of us. How does this honor the legacy of George Floyd?"

Louisville PD apologizes for targeting news crew at protest

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A police officer was seen on camera firing what appeared to be pepper balls at a news crew during a live television broadcast of the second night of Louisville protests, prompting an apology from the Louisville Metro Police Department.

A crew from WAVE-TV was downtown in the Kentucky city Friday night, covering demonstrations over the death of Breonna Taylor, a black woman killed by police in her own home in March. Police presence intensified around 9:45 p.m., as officers in riot gear stood shoulder-to-shoulder moving people down a key street near City Hall, the Courier Journal reported.

As WAVE-TV was on air, reporter Kaitlin Rust is heard yelling off-camera: "I've been shot! I've been shot!" Video shows a police officer aiming directly at the camera crew, as Rust describes the projectiles as "pepper bullets."

"I want to apologize," Louisville police spokeswoman Jessie Halladay told the Courier Journal. "It's not something that should have occurred if she was singled out as a reporter."

Halladay said she couldn't tell who the officer was at this time, but that police would review the video again and "if we need to do any investigation for discipline, we will do that."

The video shows Rust and the camera crew moving away as indignant in-studio anchors ask if they're OK and what's going on. Rust tells them they're OK, and that the crew was behind the line, but police wanted them to move further away.

"Well I'm sure if they would have just said, 'Move,' you would have done so," an anchor is heard telling Rust.

A clip of the WAVE-TV broadcast posted to Twitter amassed more than 8 million views in less than six hours, and was retweeted more than 50,000 times, including by other journalists and rapper Ice-T.

Louisville's protests followed the release of a 911 call Taylor's boyfriend made March 13, moments after the 26-year-old EMT was shot eight times by narcotics detectives who knocked down her front door. No drugs were found in her home. Taylor's death has captured national headlines alongside the killings of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia in February and George Floyd, the black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes as he pleaded for air.

Protesters carried signs calling for justice for Taylor and Floyd, whose death has touched off protests across the country this week, including in Minneapolis itself. The use of non-lethal force on the WAVE-TV crew happened the same day CNN employees were arrested live on air while covering protests in Minnesota.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 26 of 77

Two people were arrested at Friday night's protest in Louisville, and no significant injuries were reported, Halladay said. That's in contrast to Thursday night's protests, where seven people were shot. Louisville police have said officers didn't fire their service weapons.

Mayor Greg Fischer criticized the destruction of property seen Friday night.

"This violence and destruction is absolutely unacceptable. It besmirches any claim to honor Breonna Taylor's memory," Fischer said in a statement. "Just this morning, Breonna's family called for peaceful and safe protest."

Fischer said most of the grievances associated with Taylor's death have been addressed in a live-streamed press conference after 1 a.m. Fischer had announced Friday that the use of no-knock warrants by police were being suspended, the latest in a series of policy changes and other actions in response to Taylor's death.

Fischer and Halladay said police believed a "significant percentage" of protesters came from outside Louisville.

"I don't know anyone from our great city that wants to destroy it," he said.

Italy's seas speak: No tourists or boats mean cleaner water

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA Associated Press

FIUMICINO, Italy (AP) — Pollution from human and agriculture waste spilling into the seas off Rome has decreased 30% during Italy's coronavirus lockdown, preliminary results from a nationwide survey of seawater quality indicate.

Authorities stressed it was too soon to give the lockdown sole credit for the change, saying that shifting sea currents and limited rainfall in April and May also could have been responsible for reduced runoff of livestock and fertilizer waste.

But Marco Lupo, director general of the Lazio region's environmental agency, hypothesized that the evaporation of tourism starting in March could have reduced the amount of sewage produced by the 30 million tourists who normally visit Rome each year.

In addition, the lockdown meant Italians couldn't flock to their seaside vacation homes as they normally would in spring, a phenomenon that typically overwhelms local water treatment plants and results in increased pollutants spewing into the seas, Lupo said.

"This year, coastal towns have been much less populated, decreasing the (human-caused pollution) burden" on the water, he told The Associated Press.

There's no indication seas will stay cleaner, since the lockdown is ending and any pollution reduction may be temporary.

But scientists around the world have documented some remarkable ecological changes as a result of travel ceasing, industrial production in many countries grinding to a halt and people staying home. Air pollution is down in some of the world's smoggiest cities, while wildlife such as coyotes and boars have been seen in urban areas.

Off Italy's coasts, which are popular and occasionally polluted, there are visible effects of the lockdown. With the usually busy Gulf of Naples cleared of pleasure boats, cargo and cruise ships, dolphins usually only seen far out in the Mediterranean flock close to shore. Jellyfish have been spotted in the empty canals of Venice.

During the lockdown, fishermen are pulling in bigger hauls than usual off Rome's main industrial port at Civitavecchia. In April, for example, fishermen pulled in 60,000 kilograms (132,277 pounds) of fish compared with 52,000 kilograms (114,640 pounds) during the same month last year.

Roberto Arciprete, a marine biologist with Civitavecchia's local fishing cooperative, hypothesized that the sharp reduction in maritime traffic had resulted in more fish swimming closer to shore.

Environment Minister Sergio Costa noted that the coronavirus emergency, while tragic given the loss of life, offered an unprecedented opportunity to create a "photograph" of Italy's seas. Costa on April 15 tasked the Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies to work with regional environmental authori-

ties to take water samples and monitor and assess changes in the seas off Italy's 8,000 kilometers (4,971 miles) of coastline.

The results will provide data and a baseline from which the country can reboot industrial production sustainably and create "a new normal that we know is absolutely necessary," he said.

"This can give us a point of departure, actually a point of re-departure," he said in a statement. "This photograph will become the point of reference for the future controls of the seas, lakes and rivers, so that nature and our country can be better cared for."

Coast Guard Adm. Vincenzo Leone, who is responsible for the Lazio region, said it was appropriate to seize the moment to determine if an elimination of tourism and boating had a measurable effect on water quality. He described the sampling underway as a "blood test of the sea."

"There is only one sea and we must protect it," he said. "So when the sea talks to us, we have to listen to it."

Analysis: Trump fuels new tensions in moment of crisis

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over 48 hours in America, the official death toll from the coronavirus pandemic topped 100,000, the number of people who filed for unemployment during the crisis soared past 40 million, and the streets of a major city erupted in flames after a handcuffed black man was killed by a white police officer.

It's the kind of frenetic, fractured moment when national leaders are looked to for solutions and solace. President Donald Trump instead threw a rhetorical match into the tinderbox. "When the looting starts, the shooting starts," he declared ominously in a late-night tweet.

Trump's words were so jarring that Twitter attached a warning to his post — as well as to an identical message from an official White House account — saying that the president of the United States was "glorifying violence." It's the first time the social media giant has taken such a step with any world leader, prompting new claims of bias from Trump and some of his conservative allies.

The episode encapsulated Trump's approach to the presidency and to this time of national crisis, which has upended nearly every aspect of American life and put his November reelection prospects at risk. He's latched on to personal grievances and cast himself as a victim, while making only occasional references to the staggering loss of life across the country. He's willingly stoked partisan divisions over public health, and now racial divisions in the face of a death, rather than seeking opportunities to pull the nation together.

To Trump's detractors, none of that should come as a surprise at this late stage in his term, which has been defined by such responses at volatile moments.

"I had hoped that at least for this one time, some of the president's advisers would get to him and try to convince him to be consoler-in-chief," said Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a Democrat from Missouri. "President Trump was not built for times like this."

Many Republicans were silent about the president's remarks. Several contacted by The Associated Press either did not respond to questions about whether Trump was appropriately meeting this moment of cascading national crises or would not speak about the matter on the record. Trump's campaign issued a statement accusing Democrats and the media of twisting Trump's words and trying to "make money"— an assertion the campaign did not explain.

The death of George Floyd, a black Minnesota man who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes, added a new element of anxiety to an already nervous nation. Millions of Americans have been largely confined to their homes for weeks as the COVID-19 virus swept through the country and 100,000 people have died, according to official estimates which are believed to be lower than the real toll. The economy has cratered as a result and is unlikely to recover quickly even as some of the most restrictive stay-at-home orders start to ease.

Trump has frequently sided with law enforcement during officer-involved deaths. But he struck a differ-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 28 of 77

ent tone in his initial reaction to Floyd's death, calling the video a "very shocking sight." The Department of Justice called the investigation into his death a top priority.

As protests in Minneapolis escalated, Trump shifted toward his more typical posture, describing those taking to the streets as "THUGS" in the tweet that was flagged by the company. His warning in the same message about shooting echoed a phrase used by a Miami police chief in the 1960s during aggressive crackdowns on unrest in black neighborhoods.

Trump "crashed with this statement in showing who he really is," said Rev. Al Sharpton, founder of the National Action Network. "This is dangerous, this is ugly, this is provocative."

The president tried to explain away the comments on Friday, saying in a new tweet that he was stating "a fact" that people can be shot when looting happens. During a later appearance at the White House, he said he understood the hurt and pain but the situation in Minneapolis should not "descend further into lawless anarchy and chaos."

He was silent on Twitter as hundreds of protesters gathered outside the White House into early Saturday morning.

At a moment when many Americans are looking to their leaders, Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic challenger in the November election, tried to step into the breach. In remarks from his Delaware home, where he has remained throughout the pandemic, Biden offered condolences to Floyd's family and said it was no time to encourage violence in America.

"We need real leadership right now, leadership that will bring everyone to the table so we can take measures to root out systemic racism," Biden said.

One week ago, Biden was the one facing criticism for comments he made about race after he said in a radio interview that African Americans who don't support him over Trump "ain't black." Biden, who surged to the Democratic nomination on overwhelming support of black voters, quickly walked back that remark.

Trump's campaign, which has been making targeted appeals to black voters, seized on Biden's remarks. But the attention, as it so often does, shifted quickly back to the president.

Democrats are eager to keep it there, urging Americans to envision four more years of Trump's responses to racially charged episodes, as well as the health and economic crises roiling the country.

"The nation is on fire, and the president of the United States is standing there with gasoline," said Rep. Val Demings of Florida, a contender to become Biden's running mate.

Pentagon puts military police on alert to go to Minneapolis

JAMES LAPORTA Associated Press

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. (AP) — As unrest spread across dozens of American cities on Friday, the Pentagon took the rare step of ordering the Army to put several active-duty U.S. military police units on the ready to deploy to Minneapolis, where the police killing of George Floyd sparked the widespread protests.

Soldiers from Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Drum in New York have been ordered to be ready to deploy within four hours if called, according to three people with direct knowledge of the orders. Soldiers in Fort Carson, in Colorado, and Fort Riley in Kansas have been told to be ready within 24 hours. The people did not want their names used because they were not authorized to discuss the preparations.

The get-ready orders were sent verbally on Friday, after President Donald Trump asked Defense Secretary Mark Esper for military options to help quell the unrest in Minneapolis after protests descended into looting and arson in some parts of the city.

Trump made the request on a phone call from the Oval Office on Thursday night that included Esper, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and several others. The president asked Esper for rapid deployment options if the Minneapolis protests continued to spiral out of control, according to one of the people, a senior Pentagon official who was on the call.

"When the White House asks for options, someone opens the drawer and pulls them out so to speak," the official said.

The person said the military units would be deployed under the Insurrection Act of 1807, which was last

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 29 of 77

used in 1992 during the riots in Los Angeles that followed the Rodney King trial.

"If this is where the president is headed response-wise, it would represent a significant escalation and a determination that the various state and local authorities are not up to the task of responding to the growing unrest," said Brad Moss, a Washington D.C.-based attorney, who specializes in national security.

Members of the police units were on a 30-minute recall alert early Saturday, meaning they would have to return to their bases inside that time limit in preparation for deployment to Minneapolis inside of four hours. Units at Fort Drum are slated to head to Minneapolis first, according to the three people, including two Defense Department officials. Roughly 800 U.S. soldiers would deploy to the city if called.

Protests erupted in Minneapolis this week after video emerged showing a police officer kneeling on Floyd's neck. Floyd later died of his injuries and the officer, Derek Chauvin, was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter on Friday.

The protests turned violent and on Thursday rioters torched the Minneapolis Third Police Precinct near where Floyd was arrested. Mayor Jacob Frey ordered a citywide curfew at 8 p.m. local time, beginning on Friday. In that city, peaceful protests picked up steam as darkness fell, with thousands of people ignoring the curfew to walk streets in the southern part of the city. Some cars were set on fire in scattered neighborhoods, business break-ins began and eventually there were larger fires.

The unrest has since spread across the country, with protests, some violent, erupting in cities including Washington DC, Atlanta, Phoenix, Denver and Los Angeles.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz ordered 500 of his National Guard troops into Minneapolis, St. Paul, and surrounding communities.

But a Pentagon spokesman said Walz did not ask for the Army to be deployed to his state.

"The Department has been in touch with the Governor and there is no request for Title 10 forces to support the Minnesota National Guard or state law enforcement," the spokesman said, Title 10 is the U.S. law that governs the armed forces, and would authorize active duty military to operate within the U.S.

Alyssa Farah, the White House director of strategic communications, said the deployment of active-duty military police is untrue.

"False: off the record - title 10 not under discussion," said Farah in an email response. No off-record agreement was negotiated with The Associated Press.

The 16th Military Police Brigade forwarded the AP's questions to the Defense Department.

The three officials with direct knowledge of the potential deployment say the orders are on a classified system, known as the Secret Internet Protocol Router or SIPR for short.

Active-duty forces are normally prohibited from acting as a domestic law enforcement agency. But the Insurrection Act offers an exception.

The Act would allow the military to take up a policing authority it otherwise would not be allowed to do, enforcing state and federal laws, said Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas School of Law professor who specializes in constitutional and national security law.

The statute "is deliberately vague" when it comes to the instances in which the Insurrection Act could be used, he said. The state's governor could ask President Donald Trump to take action or Trump could act on his own authority if he's determined that the local authorities are so overwhelmed that they can't adequately enforce the law, Vladeck said.

"It is a very, very broad grant of authority for the president," he added.

Trump strikes China over virus, Hong Kong and student visas

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has announced that he would withdraw funding from the World Health Organization, end Hong Kong's special trade status and suspend visas of Chinese graduate students suspected of conducting research on behalf of their government, escalating tensions with China that have surged during the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump has been expressing anger at the World Health Organization for weeks over what he has por-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 30 of 77

trayed as an inadequate response to the initial outbreak of the coronavirus in China's Wuhan province late last year.

The president said in a White House announcement Friday that Chinese officials "ignored" their reporting obligations to the WHO and pressured the organization to mislead the public about an outbreak that has now killed more than 100,000 Americans.

"We have detailed the reforms that it must make and engaged with them directly, but they have refused to act," the president said. "Because they have failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms, we will be today terminating the relationship."

The U.S. is the largest source of financial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization. Trump said the U.S. would be "redirecting" the money to "other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs," without providing specifics.

He noted that the U.S. contributes about \$450 million to the world body while China provides about \$40 million.

Congressional Democrats said in April, when the president first proposed withholding money from the WHO, that it would be illegal without approval from Congress and that they would challenge it. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday called the move "an act of extraordinary senselessness."

Other critics of the administration's decision to cut funding called it misguided, saying it would undermine an important institution that is leading vaccine development efforts and drug trials to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Severing ties with the World Health Organization serves no logical purpose and makes finding a way out of this public health crisis dramatically more challenging," said Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association.

The WHO declined to comment on the announcement. Officials of the U.N. agency have not directly addressed a letter that Trump sent to the general director on May 18 warning that he would make permanent a temporary freeze on U.S. funding and reconsider U.S. membership unless it committed to "major substantive improvements within the next 30 days."

Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate health committee, also warned that the president's decision could interfere with vaccine trials and international cooperation during future outbreaks.

"Certainly there needs to be a good, hard look at mistakes the World Health Organization might have made in connection with coronavirus, but the time to do that is after the crisis has been dealt with, not in the middle of it," said Alexander, echoing a point made by others, including the head of the United Nations.

At an event later Friday, Trump was asked about relations with China, and he repeated his earlier suspicions about how the country managed to apparently contain the virus in Wuhan while it spread to Europe and the United States.

"Well, we're certainly not happy with what happened with respect to China," he told reporters.

Tensions over Hong Kong have increased over the past year as China has cracked down on protesters and sought to exert more control over the former British territory.

Trump said the administration would begin eliminating the "full range" of agreements that had given Hong Kong a relationship with the U.S. that mainland China lacked, including exemptions from controls on certain exports. He said the State Department would begin warning U.S. citizens of the threat of surveillance and arrest when visiting the city.

"China has replaced its promised formula of one country, two systems, with one country, one system," he said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified Congress on Wednesday that Hong Kong is no longer deserving of the preferential trade and commercial status it has enjoyed from the U.S. since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

It's not yet clear what impact the decision will have on U.S. companies that operate in Hong Kong or on the city's position as Asia's major financial hub, or how China will react to the decision.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 31 of 77

"The downward spiral in the bilateral relationship has now reached lows not seen since the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen massacre, and there is little reason to expect things to get better soon," said Dexter Tiff Roberts, an Asia expert at the Atlantic Council, which publishes nonpartisan policy analysis.

Rep. Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican who is a commissioner of the Congressional Executive Commission on China, praised the decision on Hong Kong as an overdue response to the government of President Xi Jinping for human rights abuses, including against religious minorities in the Xinjiang region.

"After years of human rights admonishment and cheap rhetoric devoid of any meaningful penalties, Xi has concluded that the West is all talk, no action," Smith said. "President Trump, however, is today beginning to change that and is doing what previous presidents have failed to do."

The president also said the U.S. would be suspending entry of Chinese graduate students who are suspected of taking part in an extensive government campaign to acquire trade knowledge and academic research for the country's military and industrial development.

Allowing their continued entry to the country would be "detrimental to the interests of the United States," Trump said in an order released after the White House announcement.

Revocation of the visas has faced opposition from U.S. universities and scientific organizations that depend on tuition fees paid by Chinese students to offset other costs and fear possible reciprocal action from Beijing that could limit their access to China.

The president's order includes an exemptions for students whose work was not expected to benefit the Chinese military.

China seemed to signal in recent days that it was hoping to ease tensions. Premier Li Keqiang told reporters on Thursday that both countries stood to gain from cooperation and to lose from confrontation because their economies have become so interconnected.

"We must use our wisdom to expand common interests and manage differences and disagreements," Li said.

Still, the country has insisted that its control of Hong Kong is an internal matter, and it has disputed that it mishandled the response to the virus.

China says US action on Hong Kong 'doomed to fail'

BEIJING (AP) — The mouthpiece of China's ruling Communist Party said U.S. moves to end some trading privileges for Hong Kong "grossly interfere" in China's internal affairs and are "doomed to fail."

Saturday's editorial in the newspaper People's Daily was responding to an announcement from President Donald Trump, after China's ceremonial parliament bypassed Hong Kong's local legislature to advance legislation that could severely curtail free speech and opposition political activities in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

It was the "firm determination of all Chinese people" to oppose interference in Hong Kong affairs by any external forces, the paper said.

"This hegemonic act of attempting to interfere in Hong Kong affairs and grossly interfere in China's internal affairs will not frighten the Chinese people and is doomed to fail," it said. Attempts at "forcing China to make concessions on core interests including sovereignty and security through blackmailing or coercion ... can only be wishful thinking and day-dreaming!"

China has threatened to retaliate over the U.S. move to cancel trading advantages granted to Hong Kong after its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Tensions over Hong Kong have increased over the past year as China has cracked down on protesters and strengthened its control over the Asian financial hub.

Critics say the vote Thursday at the National People's Congress to impose security legislation on Hong Kong effectively negates Beijing's pledge to maintain the territory's separate civil, legal and economic institutions under the "one country, two systems" framework.

Trump said the administration would begin eliminating the "full range" of agreements that had given Hong Kong a relationship with the U.S. that mainland China lacked, including exemptions from controls on

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 32 of 77

certain exports. "China has replaced its promised formula of one country, two systems, with one country, one system," he said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified Congress on Wednesday that Hong Kong is no longer deserving of the preferential trade and commercial status it has enjoyed from the U.S.

It's not yet clear what impact the decision will have on U.S. companies that operate in Hong Kong, or on the city's position as Asia's major financial hub. Beijing has yet to give details on what specific measures it will take in response, although the People's Daily editorial said China was prepared to make a "resolute counterattack and what awaits you can only be a shameful failure."

In Hong Kong on Saturday, Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng said it was "completely false and wrong" to say the territory was losing its autonomy.

China's central authorities have the absolute right to take action on national security regarding Hong Kong, Cheng told reporters.

She also criticized the U.S., saying "any other state that tries to use coercion or whatever means with a view to interfering with the sovereign right of a state to pass its own national security law is arguably infringing on the principle of non-intervention under public international law, and that is not acceptable."

China passed the Hong Kong national security law after stiff public opposition scuppered a previous attempt by the territory's legislature to pass such legislation in 2003.

Beijing's resolve appeared to have been hardened by months of anti-government protests in Hong Kong that frequently led to violent confrontations between police and the largely youthful demonstrators. China repeatedly accused foreign governments and international organizations of fueling the demonstrations, while showing no direct evidence.

Speculation over Washington's response has included the possibility that those connected with the crack-down, including members of the Hong Kong police force, could face U.S. travel bans or other sanctions.

"It is now clear that Hong Kong is caught in the middle of major China-U.S. tensions," said Tara Joseph, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Businesses face multiple unanswered questions about the unraveling of the special trading relationship and it "won't be like flipping a switch," Joseph said.

Officer charged with George Floyd's death as protests flare

By **AMY FORLITI** and **TIM SULLIVAN** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The white Minneapolis police officer who pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck as he begged for air was arrested Friday and charged with murder, and crowds broke overnight curfews imposed to try to stem violent protests over police killings of African Americans that have spread to cities across the U.S.

On Minneapolis' south side, officers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to drive back crowds of protesters who then set cars and businesses on fire and broke into stores, including some near a police station.

Shortly before midnight, scores of officers on foot and in vehicles moved in to curb the violence a day after city and state leaders faced blowback for their handling of the crisis. Protesters on Thursday torched a police station soon after it was abandoned by police and vandalized dozens of businesses.

The Pentagon took the rare step Friday of ordering the Army to put several active-duty U.S. military police units on the ready to deploy to Minneapolis, according to three people with direct knowledge of the orders who did not want their names used because they were not authorized to discuss the preparations.

Ben Hubert, 26, of Minneapolis, said he wasn't surprised people were breaking curfew and setting fires. "I'm outraged," he said of the Floyd case. "But I'm also sad. The injustice has been going on for so long. It's been swelling for years."

Downtown, thousands of protesters encircled a police station after the 8 p.m. curfew. "Prosecute the police!" some chanted, and "Say his name: George Floyd!" There was no violence, though some protesters sprayed graffiti on buildings.

The renewed protests came after Officer Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with third-degree murder and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 33 of 77

second-degree manslaughter. He also was accused of ignoring another officer who expressed concerns about Floyd as he lay handcuffed on the ground, pleading that he could not breathe while Chauvin pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes. Floyd, who was black, had been arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit bill at a store.

Chauvin, who was fired along with three other officers who were at the scene, faces more than 12 years in prison if convicted of murder.

An attorney for Floyd's family welcomed the arrest but said he expected a more serious murder charge and wants the other officers arrested, too.

Prosecutor Mike Freeman said more charges were possible, but authorities "felt it appropriate to focus on the most dangerous perpetrator."

As the night dragged on, more fires erupted on the south side: A Japanese restaurant, a Wells Fargo bank, another restaurant, an Office Depot. Many burned for hours. Mayor Jacob Frey tweeted that fire-fighters could not respond until areas were secure. He said the city was working with the National Guard and the state to "provide support in the south."

Protests nationwide have been fueled by outrage over Floyd's death and years of police violence against African Americans. Protesters smashed windows at CNN headquarters in Atlanta, set a police car on fire and struck officers with bottles. Large demonstrations in New York, Houston, Washington, D.C., and dozens of other cities ranged from people peacefully blocking roads to repeated clashes with police.

"You are disgracing our city," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms told protesters. "You are disgracing the life of George Floyd and every other person who has been killed in this country."

Police were trying to put Floyd in a squad car Monday when he stiffened and fell to the ground, saying he was claustrophobic, a criminal complaint said. Chauvin and Officer Tou Thoa arrived and tried several times to get the struggling Floyd into the car.

Chauvin eventually pulled Floyd out of the car, and the handcuffed Floyd went to the ground face down. Officer J.K. Kueng held Floyd's back and Officer Thomas Lane held his legs while Chauvin put his knee on Floyd's head and neck area, the complaint said.

When Lane asked if Floyd should be rolled onto his side, Chauvin said, "No, staying put is where we got him." Lane said he was "worried about excited delirium or whatever."

An autopsy said the combined effects of being restrained, potential intoxicants in Floyd's system and his underlying health issues, including heart disease, likely contributed to his death. It revealed nothing to support strangulation as the cause of death.

There were no other details about intoxicants, and toxicology results can take weeks. In the 911 call that drew police, the caller describes the man suspected of paying with counterfeit money as "awfully drunk and he's not in control of himself."

After Floyd apparently stopped breathing, Lane again said he wanted to roll Floyd onto his side. Kueng checked for a pulse and said he could not find one, according to the complaint.

Chauvin had his knee on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes, 46 seconds, including nearly three minutes after Floyd stopped moving and talking, the complaint said.

Chauvin's attorney had no comment when reached by The Associated Press.

The prosecutor highlighted the "extraordinary speed" in charging the case four days after Floyd's death and defended himself against questions about why it did not happen sooner. Freeman said his office needed time to gather evidence, including what he called the "horrible" video recorded by a bystander.

News of the arrest came moments after Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz acknowledged the "abject failure" in responding to this week's protests and called for swift justice for the officers. Walz said the state took the lead after the police station burned.

"Minneapolis and St. Paul are on fire. The fire is still smoldering in our streets. The ashes are symbolic of decades and generations of pain, of anguish unheard," Walz said.

President Donald Trump said Friday that he'd spoken to Floyd's family and "expressed my sorrow."

He called video of the arrest "just a horrible thing to witness and to watch. It certainly looked like there

was no excuse for it.”

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who is representing Floyd’s family, asked to take custody of Floyd’s body for an independent autopsy.

The doctor who will do the autopsy is Michael Baden, former chief medical examiner of New York City, who was hired to do an autopsy for Eric Garner, a black man who died in 2014 after New York police placed him in a chokehold and he pleaded that he could not breathe.

State and federal authorities also are investigating Floyd’s death.

Supreme Court rejects challenge to limits on church services

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A divided Supreme Court on Friday rejected an emergency appeal by a California church that challenged state limits on attendance at worship services that have been imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Over the dissent of the four more conservative justices, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court’s four liberals in turning away a request from the South Bay United Pentecostal Church in Chula Vista, California, in the San Diego area.

The church argued that limits on how many people can attend their services violate constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and had been seeking an order in time for services on Sunday. The church said it has crowds of 200 to 300 people for its services.

Roberts wrote in brief opinion that the restriction allowing churches to reopen at 25% of their capacity, with no more than 100 worshipers at a time, “appear consistent” with the First Amendment. Roberts said similar or more severe limits apply to concerts, movies and sporting events “where large groups of people gather in close proximity for extended periods of time.”

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in dissent that the restriction “discriminates against places of worship and in favor of comparable secular businesses. Such discrimination violates the First Amendment.” Kavanaugh pointed to supermarkets, restaurants, hair salons, cannabis dispensaries and other businesses that are not subject to the same restrictions.

Lower courts in California had previously turned down the churches’ requests.

The court also rejected an appeal from two churches in the Chicago area that objected to Gov. Jay Pritzker’s limit of 10 worshipers at religious services. Before the court acted, Pritzker modified the restrictions to allow for up to 100 people at a time. There were no recorded dissents.

Protests, some violent, spread in wake of George Floyd death

By SUDHIN THANAWALA The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Demonstrators marched, stopped traffic and in some cases lashed out violently at police as protests erupted Friday in dozens of U.S. cities following the killing of George Floyd after a white officer pressed a knee into his neck while taking him into custody in Minnesota.

Georgia’s governor declared a state of emergency in one county to activate up to 500 members of the state National Guard “to protect people & property in Atlanta.”

Gov. Brian Kemp said in a pair of tweets early Saturday that the move came at the request of Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and in consultation with emergency officials. The Georgia National Guard will deploy “immediately” to assist law enforcement, he said.

In Minneapolis, where a police precinct was burned the night before, peaceful protests picked up steam as darkness fell, with thousands of people ignoring an 8 p.m. curfew to walk streets in the southern part of the city. Some cars were set on fire in scattered neighborhoods, business break-ins began and eventually there were larger fires. As a pair of restaurants and a Wells Fargo branch were set ablaze, a heavy contingent of National Guard, state troopers and police moved in, some on foot and some in vehicles.

In Phoenix, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and beyond, thousands of protesters carried signs that said:

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 35 of 77

"He said I can't breathe. Justice for George." They chanted "'No justice, no peace" and "Say his name. George Floyd."

After hours of peaceful protest in downtown Atlanta, some demonstrators suddenly turned violent, smashing police cars, setting one on fire, spray-painting the iconic logo sign at CNN headquarters, and breaking into a restaurant. The crowd pelted officers with bottles, chanting "Quit your jobs."

At least three officers were hurt and there were multiple arrests, Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos said. Campos said protesters shot BB guns at officers and threw bricks, bottles and knives at them. People watched the scene from rooftops, some laughing as skirmishes broke out.

Bottoms passionately addressed the protesters at a news conference: "This is not a protest. This is not in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr."

"You are disgracing our city," she told protesters. "You are disgracing the life of George Floyd and every other person who has been killed in this country. We are better than this. We are better than this as a city. We are better than this as a country. Go home, go home."

Bottoms was flanked by rappers T.I. and Killer Mike, as well as King's daughter, Bernice King.

Killer Mike cried as he spoke.

"We have to be better than this moment. We have to be better than burning down our own homes. Because if we lose Atlanta what have we got?" he said.

After Mayor Bottoms appealed for calm, the violence continued. More cars were set on fire, a Starbucks was smashed up, the windows of the College Football Hall of Fame were broken, and the iconic Omni Hotel was vandalized.

Protesters gathered outside the White House, with President Donald Trump inside, and some tried to push through barriers set up by the U.S. Secret Service along Pennsylvania Avenue.

An initially peaceful demonstration in New York City spiraled into chaos as night fell, as protesters skirmished with officers, destroyed police vehicles and set fires.

In Brooklyn, activists who had marched from Manhattan chanted insults at officers lined up outside the Barclays Center and pelted them with water bottles. Police sprayed an eye-irritating chemical into the largely diverse crowd multiple times, then cleared the plaza.

Video posted to social media showed officers using batons and shoving protesters down as they took people into custody and cleared streets.

Demonstrators rocked a police van, set it ablaze, then scrawled graffiti across its charred hulk and set it on fire a second time as officers retreated from the area. Blocks away, protesters used a club to batter another police vehicle.

Numerous people were arrested and police brought in buses to carry off those they arrested.

"We have a long night ahead of us in Brooklyn," Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted. "Our sole focus is deescalating this situation and getting people home safe. There will be a full review of what happened tonight. We don't ever want to see another night like this."

The police department said numerous officers were injured, including one who had a tooth knocked out.

The names of black people killed by police, including Floyd and Eric Garner, who died on Staten Island in 2014, were on signs carried by those in the crowd, and in their chants.

"It's my duty to be out here," said Brianna Petrisko, among those at Foley Square in lower Manhattan, where most were wearing masks amid the coronavirus pandemic. "Our country has a sickness. We have to be out here. This is the only way we're going to be heard."

In Houston, where George Floyd grew up, several thousand people rallied in front of City Hall. Among them was 19-year-old Jimmy Ohaz, who came from the nearby city of Richmond, Texas.

"My question is how many more, how many more? I just want to live in a future where we all live in harmony and we're not oppressed."

Tensions rose in several West Coast cities as night fell and protesters blocked highways in Los Angeles and Oakland.

About 1,000 protesters gathered in Oakland. They smashed windows, sprayed buildings with "Kill Cops" graffiti and were met with chemical spray from police. Oakland Police were notifying a crowd that the

demonstration was an unlawful assembly. Authorities said officers were injured when projectiles were thrown and that they were asking people to leave the area.

Demonstrators in Los Angeles scuffled at times with police, with a few protesters detained and one officer receiving medical treatment, police said. An LAPD vehicle had its windows smashed, and CNN reported that someone wrote "killer" on a patrol car.

Protesters repeatedly clashed with police in the Silicon Valley city of San Jose, said Mayor Sam Liccardo, and police responded with flash-bang grenades and rubber bullets. One officer was being treated at a hospital for an injury that was not life-threatening, he and police officials said.

Liccardo said his own officers shared the community's outrage over Floyd's in-custody death.

"It was a horrible injustice. I'd venture to guess that every police officer out there feels much of the same anger about what happened in Minneapolis," he told The Associated Press.

Thirty miles to the west, Santa Cruz police chief Andrew G. Mills said in a statement that the actions by Minneapolis officers in Floyd's death "are the antithesis of what we view as good policing."

Mother of Louisville police shooting victim calls for peace

By **BRUCE SCHREINER** and **DYLAN LOVAN** Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Looking to defuse anger after gunfire wounded at least seven people at a protest in Louisville, the mother of a black woman killed by police urged protesters Friday to continue demanding justice but do so "without hurting each other."

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear read the statement from Breonna Taylor's mother hours after gunshots erupted during protests late Thursday outside City Hall. One person was in critical condition, Louisville Metro Police said Friday.

Mayor Greg Fischer said police officers fired no shots. Instead, they provided aid to the wounded, he said. TV video showed terrified protesters fleeing as gunfire erupted.

With more rallies planned, Taylor's mother joined the chorus of calls for protests to remain peaceful. In her statement, Tamika Palmer said her daughter — an emergency medical technician — devoted her life to others and the "last thing she'd want right now is any more violence."

"Please keep saying her name," her statement said. "Please keep demanding justice and accountability, but let's do it the right way without hurting each other. We can and we will make some real change here. Now is the time. Let's make it happen, but safely."

On Friday evening, what appeared to be several hundred people gathered downtown for the second night of protests. The crowd briefly blocked traffic near City Hall and chanted, "No justice, no peace."

Protesters carried signs calling for justice for Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, the black man who died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

Police presence intensified around 9:45 p.m. Friday, as officers in riot gear stood shoulder-to-shoulder moving people down a key street near City Hall, the Courier Journal reported.

A police officer was seen on camera during a WAVE-TV broadcast firing what appeared to be pepper bullets directly at the camera crew.

"I'm getting shot! I'm getting shot!" WAVE-TV reporter Kaitlin Rust is heard yelling off-camera. She told the indignant anchors in the studio that the crew was behind the line, but police wanted them to move further away.

Police spokeswoman Jessie Halladay said no shots had been fired at Friday's protest as of 10:40 p.m. and no significant injuries had been reported. Two people were arrested.

Bracing for more protests, police said they wouldn't tolerate violence or property destruction.

"We value the right to free speech and understand this community has a lot to say right now," Louisville police Lt. Col. LaVita Chavous said. "We hear you."

But she added that police were prepared to "take whatever action we must to try to ensure no one else is injured during this time of unrest. We ask the community to please voice your opinions in a peaceful way."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 37 of 77

Meanwhile, Louisville's mayor said the use of no-knock warrants by police was being suspended, the latest in a series of policy changes and others actions in response to Taylor's death.

"To the people who gathered downtown last night to protest, and to many more throughout our city and throughout our country who feel angry, hurt, afraid, frustrated, tired and sick of story after story of black lives ending at the hands of law enforcement, I hear you," Fischer said.

Two people wounded in the gunfire underwent surgery, while five were in good condition, he said.

Beshear, speaking on CNN, said Thursday's protest started peacefully but some people later "turned it into something that it should not have been."

Local Councilwoman Keisha Dorsey termed the protest as "a revolt against a system in which people have felt oppressed," the Courier Journal reported. "What I'm seeing is people who are trying their best to do something with their hurt, their pain and their frustration."

The Louisville protests followed the release of a 911 call Taylor's boyfriend made on March 13, moments after the 26-year-old EMT was shot eight times by narcotics detectives who knocked down her front door. No drugs were found in the home.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched through downtown Louisville, ending in the early hours of Friday as rain poured down. Windows were broken and several vehicles were damaged during the unrest, police said. Shots were fired into government buildings, including police headquarters, they said. Bricks were thrown into buildings and graffiti was splashed in several places, including a firefighter memorial, they said. The police description of the damage made no reference to any looting.

Jordan Basham, a 24-year-old white bartender, said she was a few feet from where the people were shot. As people fled in terror, a man she didn't know pushed her to the ground, told her not to move and used his own body to shield her, she said Friday.

"I'll never be able to get that picture out of my mind," she said. "But I am still very glad that I was there. As long as they're out there protesting, I'll be back."

Many protesters wore masks as Kentuckians are strongly urged to follow health guidelines to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

Attention on Taylor's death has intensified since her family sued the police department this month. The case has attracted national headlines alongside the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia in February and the recent death of Floyd.

Transcripts released of Flynn's calls with Russian diplomat

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Transcripts of phone calls that played a pivotal role in the Russia investigation were declassified and released Friday, showing that Michael Flynn, as an adviser to then-President-elect Donald Trump, urged Russia's ambassador to be "even-keeled" in response to punitive Obama administration measures, and assured him "we can have a better conversation" about relations between the two countries after Trump became president.

Democrats said the transcripts showed that Flynn lied to the FBI when he denied details of the conversation, and that he was undercutting a sitting president while communicating about sanctions with a country that had just interfered in the 2016 election. But allies of the president who maintain the FBI had no reason to investigate Flynn in the first place insisted that the transcripts showed he had done nothing wrong.

The transcripts were released by Senate Republicans on Friday after being provided by Trump's new national intelligence director, John Ratcliffe, who waded into one of the most contentious political topics in his first week on the job. Ratcliffe's extraordinary decision to disclose transcripts of intercepted conversations with a foreign ambassador is part of ongoing efforts by Trump allies to release previously secret information from the Russia investigation in hopes of painting Obama-era officials in a bad light.

The transcripts are unlikely to significantly reshape public understanding of the contact between Flynn and then-Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak, a central moment in the Russia investigation. They do show that the men did in fact discuss sanctions, matching the general description of the call provided in the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 38 of 77

2017 guilty plea that Flynn reached with special counsel Robert Mueller's team.

But the documents will unquestionably add to the partisan divisions of the case, which have intensified in the last month with the Justice Department's motion to dismiss the prosecution.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the House intelligence committee, said in a statement that the transcripts show Flynn lied not only to the FBI but also to Vice President Mike Pence, who erroneously stated publicly that Flynn and Kislyak had not discussed sanctions. Trump later forced Flynn out for misleading the administration.

"These calls took place shortly after the Russian government interfered in the 2016 election in an effort to help Trump win, and Flynn was engaged in trying to mute the Russian reaction to sanctions imposed by the Obama Administration over that very interference," Schiff said.

But Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, one of the GOP senators who released the transcript, said Flynn had done nothing wrong. Attorney General William Barr has similarly called the conversation laudable.

"Our justice system doesn't work when one side holds all the cards. But this isn't just about safeguarding access to justice; it's also about exposing shenanigans and abuses of power by those entrusted to uphold and defend the law," Grassley said.

Flynn attorney Sidney Powell tweeted that Flynn "should be applauded for asking for 'cooler heads to prevail' and trying to keep things on 'an even keel' — encouraging the mutual interest of Russia and the United States in stability in the Middle East and fighting radical Islam."

The documents show that Flynn and Kislyak spoke multiple times between the time Trump was elected and took office. The call that Flynn pleaded guilty to lying about took place Dec. 29, 2016, the day after President Barack Obama signed an executive order hitting Russia with sanctions for election interference.

During the call, Flynn urged Kislyak that any action Russia took in response to the sanctions be "reciprocal."

"Don't — don't make it — don't go any further than you have to. Because I don't want us to get into something that has to escalate, on a, you know, on a tit for tat. You follow me, Ambassador?" Flynn said, according to the transcripts.

Kislyak replied that he understood, but that there were angry sentiments "raging" in Moscow. Flynn said that even so, "cool heads" needed to prevail since the U.S. and Russia had common interests in fighting terrorism in the Middle East.

"I know, I — believe me, I do appreciate it, I very much appreciate it. But I really don't want us to get into a situation where we're going, you know — where we do this and then you do something bigger, and then you know, everybody's got to go back and forth and everybody's got to be the tough guy here, you know?" Flynn said.

The FBI interviewed Flynn about the call in January 2017. In that interview, according to a guilty plea reached with Mueller's team, Flynn denied having asked Kislyak to refrain from escalating the situation over sanctions.

He also said he did not recall a conversation two days later with Kislyak in which the ambassador intimated that Moscow had decided against an aggressive response to the sanctions.

"Your proposal that we need to act with cold heads, uh, is exactly what is uh, invested in the decision," Kislyak said.

The release follows the recent declassification by Richard Grenell, Ratcliffe's predecessor as intelligence director, of names of intelligence and Obama administration officials who in late 2016 and early 2017 asked the National Security Agency to reveal to them the name of an American whose identity was concealed in classified intelligence reports. That American was revealed to be Flynn.

Names of U.S. citizens are routinely redacted in intelligence reports that document routine surveillance of foreign targets, but U.S. officials can ask to receive the identity if they believe it is vital to understanding the intelligence.

The nature of those intelligence reports remains unclear, and they were not among the documents released Friday. The use by U.S. officials of a routine process known as "unmasking" to learn Flynn's identity from those reports has become a major issue for Trump supporters.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 39 of 77

There is nothing unusual about unmasking requests, which have been more prevalent at the beginning of the Trump administration than they were at the end of the Obama administration. But supporters of Trump have suggested that the requests were made for political reasons.

Quarantine bottlenecks add to woes of returning Filipinos

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — When his cruise ship sailed into Manila Bay after weeks of voyaging like a castaway amid port closures set off by the global pandemic, Erick Arenas felt he was finally home.

But the 34-year-old dance performer of the Ovation of the Seas saw an ominous sign even before he can set foot on homeland. An array of the world's best-known cruise ships was waiting at anchor off the Philippine capital to drop off thousands of Filipino crew members like him who were displaced across the world by the contagion.

"I thought I was on my final mile to home," said Arenas, whose homecoming was made tragic by the death of his father from pneumonia a few weeks before his ship reached Manila.

Nearly a month after disembarking, however, Arenas was still stuck in complete isolation in a hotel used for quarantine in metropolitan Manila, about an hour's drive from his home in Cavite province.

"It's not only COVID-19 that we're fighting against. It's our mental health, it's our, you know, frustration," Arenas told The Associated Press in an online video interview from his hotel room overlooking a business district devoid of the usual crowds under a lockdown.

Tens of thousands of workers have returned by plane and ships as the pandemic, lockdowns and economic downturns decimated jobs worldwide in a major blow to the Philippines, a leading source of global labor.

The sudden influx combined with the government's limited quarantine and virus-testing capability and bureaucratic snags to set off chaotic delays and congestion in Manila hospitals, hotels and makeshift isolation structures. With public transport and flights restricted in the capital, the populous epicenter of the viral outbreak, the hordes of workers were effectively trapped from moving on to their provincial destinations.

"It was a mix of chaos, impatience and longing for my family," housemaid Lorna Alba said of her 38 days of isolation in a quarantine hotel in suburban Quezon City.

The 28-year-old mother of three worked in Dubai in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates but was sent home when she caught fever and was suspected by her Arab employer of being a coronavirus carrier. She said a test showed she was not.

Upon arrival at Manila airport in April, Alba said she and other workers from an Emirates flight were whisked off to the hotel, where she waited for half a month without being told what was happening before taking another test for the virus that showed she was well. "My stress was starting to worsen into a depression," she told The AP.

Faced with complaints, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered government agencies to help more than 24,000 workers, including Alba, to get home. He gave a one-week deadline ending on Sunday, sparking a flurry of movements.

"I hope this will not happen again," Duterte said in a televised meeting with key Cabinet officials Thursday, lamenting the difficulties encountered by the workers.

At least 300,000 more displaced Filipinos were expected to journey home, "but this time, we should know what to do," the blunt-speaking leader said.

Hans Cacdac, who heads the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, told a congressional hearing Friday that public transport restrictions under the Manila lockdown prevented the workers from being moved out of the capital en masse, but said most have been brought back to their provinces this week after the president intervened. Only 4,000 remain stranded in the capital, including about 1,500 on board cruise ships in Manila Bay, he said.

Lawmakers hit the lack of coordination and foresight that led to the congestion.

Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III said that a 14-day quarantine had been relaxed to allow the workers to immediately leave for home once test results clear them of infection. The move will help

prevent quarantine congestion and will cut short the extra two-week wait in isolation that prolongs the homecoming of healthy workers, officials said.

Christopher Bagay, a kitchen crew of the Aida Sol cruise ship in Europe, said it took him about two months to go through repetitive quarantines in Spain, Germany and Manila. Arriving home in Laguna province, south of Manila, on Thursday night, he sneaked into a room and hid from his 3-year-old son after deciding to go into 14 more days of home quarantine to protect his family.

Arenas said he used the long quarantine that delayed his return home to record songs, mostly in duets with fellow entertainers, that were a tribute to his late father. He posted the poignant tunes on Facebook, including one with a message where he thanked friends around the world for reaching out to him.

"It is challenging mentally to be isolated in your room," Arenas said. "But it is even harder when you lose a family member back home while in isolation."

Twitter and Trump: A feud years in the making finally erupts

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **MATT O'BRIEN** AP Technology Writers

On one side of this fraught moment: the president of the United States, facing multiple crises less than six months before the election. On the other: Twitter, the social media giant, which has grappled for years with how to handle its most prominent — and divisive — user. Caught in the middle: reality itself, and whose version gets heard over all the noise.

Twitter's decision this week to stand up to President Donald Trump by attaching warnings to some of his many tweets has been years in the making, a culmination of American divisions playing out and being amplified across social media. It is fueled by some of the very elements that make modern American discourse so polarized, so fast-moving and — at the oddest of historical moments — so fragmented.

Twitter's assumption of a stronger referee role in its approach to Trump's tweets reflects a "pretty radical change," said Josh Pasek, an associate professor at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. "We really haven't been at a place where social media companies were willing to take on this role."

But it also heightens the dangers of polarization. "When you can't agree on the state of the world, you open up opportunities for people to question the motives of others," Pasek said. He says that makes existing conflicts worse and de-legitimizes people with diverging views. "You make it easier to see those people who differ from you as less American."

For years, since long before he was president, Trump has used Twitter as a personal megaphone to build his personal brand, appeal to his supporters and attack his rivals of the moment. In the process, regardless of the facts at hand, he often creates his own version of reality — from birtherism to climate-change denial to exaggerations about voter fraud.

On Wednesday, Twitter pushed back in the mildest possible way. For the first time, it added fact-check links to two Trump tweets about the supposed risks of voting by mail.

Almost immediately, Trump turned the might of the U.S. government's executive branch on the company that feeds and amplifies him.

On Thursday, he issued an executive order intended to chip away at the legal protections companies like Twitter enjoy. Undeterred, Twitter responded early Friday by flagging another Trump tweet — one that suggested he would have the National Guard fire on protesters in Minneapolis — with a warning for "glorification of violence," which is against its rules. Users can still see the tweet by clicking through the warning.

Trump responded by having the White House Twitter account — a public account that represents the executive branch of the government — post the same tweet. Twitter soon added a warning to that as well. Hours later, Trump sought to walk back the meaning of the original tweet, writing that he had merely "spoken as a fact" that looting can be followed by civilian shootings.

The feud with Twitter serves as a convenient distraction for Trump from major challenges he currently faces, such as controlling the coronavirus pandemic and managing an economy hard-hit by COVID-19 restrictions. Unlike in those arenas, where researched hard numbers can mute the president's points, in

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 41 of 77

the me-vs.-them battle of Trump and Twitter, his ability to make his point can be based largely on volume and bluster.

"He can make hay about it," said Melissa Ryan, CEO of the consultancy group Card Strategies, which researches online disinformation and right-wing extremism. "The administration is desperate to get the focus on anything that's not 100,000 people dead."

But it also places social platforms in a tough spot: to police or not to police content. Either choice is extremely risky.

The social media companies and their critics are arguing over when and how they should regulate the content on their platforms as coronavirus misinformation swirls and the 2020 U.S. presidential election looms. It has reached the point where it's virtually impossible for social platforms to remain neutral — and where even fact-checking can mean taking a political stance.

Facebook did not touch the same posts that Twitter labeled, a position backed directly by its CEO.

"I just believe strongly that Facebook shouldn't be the arbiter of truth of everything that people say online," Mark Zuckerberg told Fox News on Thursday, a statement he frequently repeats at moments like these. Facebook has long used fact checks on its site, done by third-party news organizations such as The Associated Press.

Not long afterward, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted that Twitter will "continue to point out incorrect or disputed information about elections globally." But he added: "This does not make us an 'arbiter of truth.'"

"Facebook's approach is a strategic one from a business perspective," said Dipayan Ghosh, co-director of the digital platforms and democracy project at Harvard's Kennedy School. "Twitter is thinking about democratic interests and its impact on the world."

The tensions will likely only escalate as November nears and increasing numbers of potential voters argue it out — and choose their facts — on the major social platforms.

Twitter's actions add to ongoing outrage about the alleged suppression of conservative voices on social media, said Cayce Myers, an associate professor of communications at Virginia Tech. He said that risks further dividing social media platforms into echo chambers as the companies, not just the content they host, become politicized in the public mind.

"The problem in it for Facebook is (that) staying out of it is also a political position," Myers said. "You're on a side. There's no way to not be on a side of this. Regardless of what they're going to do, they're going to be placed on a side."

Minnesota governor apologizes for arrest of CNN crew

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Following the arrest of a CNN crew on live television by police on Friday, an apologetic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz promised that journalists would not be interfered with in reporting on violent protests following the death of George Floyd.

CNN correspondent Omar Jimenez and two colleagues were released within an hour after network chief executive Jeff Zucker called Walz to demand answers about why they were led away and held in a police van.

"We have got to ensure that there is a safe spot for journalism to tell this story," Walz said.

Jimenez and colleagues Bill Kirkos and Leonel Mendez were doing a live shot for CNN's "New Day" shortly after 5 a.m. Central Time, describing a night of fire and anger in the wake of Floyd's death after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck. Fired officer Derek Chauvin was charged with murder in that case later Friday.

When first approached by officers, Jimenez, who is black, told them, "put us back where you want us. We are getting out of your way."

After being told he was being arrested and his hands were tied behind his back, Jimenez asked why he was being arrested. He did not get an answer.

The Minnesota State Patrol said on Twitter that the journalists were among four people arrested as

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 42 of 77

troopers were "clearing the streets and restoring order" following the protests. The patrol said the CNN journalists "were released once they were confirmed to be members of the media."

It's not clear why they were confused: Jimenez was holding what appeared to be a laminated ID card before his hands were secured, and his fellow crew members told police that they were from CNN and showing the scene live on the air.

"I've never seen anything like this," CNN "New Day" co-anchor John Berman said.

After being released, Jimenez said that he was glad that his arrest was shown on the air.

"You don't have to doubt my story," he said. "It's not filtered in any way. You saw it for your own eyes. That gave me a little bit of comfort. But it was definitely nerve-wracking."

At a later news conference, Walz said that "I take full responsibility. There is absolutely no reason something like that should happen ... This is a very public apology to that team."

The arrest drew widespread condemnation across the news industry. CNN competitors MSNBC, CBS News and Fox News all issued statements in support of Jimenez, along with the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists.

CNN accepted Walz's apology, saying the network appreciated the sincerity of his words.

Walz's words in support of journalists have impact at a time when the news media is often under attack, said Jane E. Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law and director of the Silha Center at the University of Minnesota.

"It's really important for the governor to make that kind of statement to emphasize to everyone, especially law enforcement, that the press has an important job to do ... and they need to be respected," said Kirtley, who lives blocks away from the protests and could still smell smoke from the fires on Friday.

Later Friday, the network was again thrust into the story when hundreds of protesters confronted police outside CNN's downtown Atlanta headquarters. Activists spray-painted a large CNN logo outside the building, breaking a window and tagging doors. One protester climbed on top of the CNN sign and waved a "Black Lives Matter" flag to cheers from the crowd.

As anchor Chris Cuomo opened his prime-time show, he told viewers the network's headquarters had been "swarmed and defaced." Footage of the damage outside was mixed with scenes from other protests around the country.

Correspondent Nick Valencia reported from inside the building as protesters hurled objects at the building and police.

"This is our home, Chris, you know, this is where we come to work every day, journalists who are trying to tell the truth, trying to deliver information. ... And these demonstrators have decided to come here today to take out their frustration and anger it seems not just on police but on our CNN center as well," Valencia said.

Meanwhile, there were signs Friday that cable news networks, who were spending much of their time covering the story, have become sensitive to the impact of showing witness video of Floyd's treatment by police.

News anchors on all three networks usually warned viewers of its graphic nature before showing the video. "I must warn you that this is difficult to watch," said CNN's Brianna Keilar, "but it is important to remember."

Kylie Jenner, Forbes spar over story on billionaire status

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Forbes magazine, which once declared Kylie Jenner a billionaire on its cover, says she no longer deserves the title, but Jenner is pushing back.

Forbes said in a story posted Friday that an examination of financial filings after the reality star and beauty mogul sold a majority share in her cosmetics company revealed that Jenner's worth was inflated. Jenner sold 51% of her Kylie Cosmetics company to Coty in a deal valued at \$1.2 billion early this year.

"Kylie's business is significantly smaller, and less profitable, than the family has spent years leading the cosmetics industry and media outlets, including Forbes, to believe," the magazine said in the story. "Forbes

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 43 of 77

now thinks that Kylie Jenner, even after pocketing an estimated \$340 million after taxes from the sale, is not a billionaire."

Jenner responded in a series of tweets, saying "what am i even waking up to. i thought this was a reputable site.. all i see are a number of inaccurate statements and unproven assumptions lol. i've never asked for any title or tried to lie my way there EVER. period."

She later tweeted, "but okay, i am blessed beyond my years, i have a beautiful daughter, and a successful business and i'm doing perfectly fine. i can name a list of 100 things more important right now than fixating on how much money i have."

Jenner's business and social media prominence have made her stand out even in the exceedingly famous family behind "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." She is the younger daughter of Kris and Caitlyn Jenner, sister to Kendall Jenner and half-sister to Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian.

In March 2019, Forbes featured Jenner along with the headline, "At 21, Kylie Jenner Becomes The Youngest Self-Made Billionaire Ever."

On Friday, Forbes offered a starkly different headline: "Inside Kylie Jenner's Web of Lies — And Why She's No Longer a Billionaire."

The story acknowledges that the coronavirus crisis and its effect on the cosmetics industry has hurt her net worth.

But it says it is "likely" that the "business was never that big to begin with, and the Jenners have lied about it every year since 2016 — including having their accountant draft tax returns with false numbers — to help juice Forbes' estimates of Kylie's earnings and net worth."

The magazine said it cannot prove the documents were forged.

Jenner's attorney says the story is "filled with outright lies."

"Forbes' accusation that Kylie and her accountants 'forged tax returns' is unequivocally false and we are demanding that Forbes immediately and publicly retract that and other statements," attorney Michael Kump said in an emailed statement. "We would not expect that from a supermarket tabloid, much less from Forbes."

Forbes spokesman Matthew Hutchison said in a statement the magazine's "extensively-reported investigation was triggered by newly-filed documents that revealed glaring discrepancies between information privately supplied to journalists and information publicly supplied to shareholders. Our reporters spotted the inaccuracies and spent months uncovering the facts. We encourage her attorney to re-read the article."

The spat between Jenner and Forbes spilled over to Wall Street, where shares of New York-based Coty Inc. fell more than 13% on Friday.

Trump strikes China over virus, Hong Kong and student visas

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced Friday that he would withdraw funding from the World Health Organization, end Hong Kong's special trade status and suspend visas of Chinese graduate students suspected of conducting research on behalf of their government, escalating tensions with China that have surged during the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump has been expressing anger at the World Health Organization for weeks over what he has portrayed as an inadequate response to the initial outbreak of the coronavirus in China's Wuhan province late last year.

The president said in a White House announcement that Chinese officials "ignored" their reporting obligations to the WHO and pressured the organization to mislead the public about an outbreak that has now killed more than 100,000 Americans.

"We have detailed the reforms that it must make and engaged with them directly, but they have refused to act," the president said. "Because they have failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms, we will be today terminating the relationship."

The U.S. is the largest source of financial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 44 of 77

weaken the organization. Trump said the U.S. would be "redirecting" the money to "other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs," without providing specifics.

He noted that the U.S. contributes about \$450 million to the world body while China provides about \$40 million.

Congressional Democrats said in April, when the president first proposed withholding money from the WHO, that it would be illegal without approval from Congress and that they would challenge it. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday called the move "an act of extraordinary senselessness."

Other critics of the administration's decision to cut funding called it misguided, saying it would undermine an important institution that is leading vaccine development efforts and drug trials to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Severing ties with the World Health Organization serves no logical purpose and makes finding a way out of this public health crisis dramatically more challenging," said Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association.

The WHO declined to comment on the announcement. Officials of the U.N. agency have not directly addressed a letter that Trump sent to the general director on May 18 warning that he would make permanent a temporary freeze on U.S. funding and reconsider U.S. membership unless it committed to "major substantive improvements within the next 30 days."

Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate health committee, also warned that the president's decision could interfere with vaccine trials and international cooperation during future outbreaks.

"Certainly there needs to be a good, hard look at mistakes the World Health Organization might have made in connection with coronavirus, but the time to do that is after the crisis has been dealt with, not in the middle of it," said Alexander, echoing a point made by others, including the head of the United Nations.

At an event later Friday, Trump was asked about relations with China, and he repeated his earlier suspicions about how the country managed to apparently contain the virus in Wuhan while it spread to Europe and the United States.

"Well, we're certainly not happy with what happened with respect to China," he told reporters.

Tensions over Hong Kong have increased over the past year as China has cracked down on protesters and sought to exert more control over the former British territory.

Trump said the administration would begin eliminating the "full range" of agreements that had given Hong Kong a relationship with the U.S. that mainland China lacked, including exemptions from controls on certain exports. He said the State Department would begin warning U.S. citizens of the threat of surveillance and arrest when visiting the city.

"China has replaced its promised formula of one country, two systems, with one country, one system," he said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified Congress on Wednesday that Hong Kong is no longer deserving of the preferential trade and commercial status it has enjoyed from the U.S. since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

It's not yet clear what impact the decision will have on U.S. companies that operate in Hong Kong or on the city's position as Asia's major financial hub, or how China will react to the decision.

"The downward spiral in the bilateral relationship has now reached lows not seen since the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen massacre, and there is little reason to expect things to get better soon," said Dexter Tiff Roberts, an Asia expert at the Atlantic Council, which publishes nonpartisan policy analysis.

Rep. Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican who is a commissioner of the Congressional Executive Commission on China, praised the decision on Hong Kong as an overdue response to the government of President Xi Jinping for human rights abuses, including against religious minorities in the Xinjiang region.

"After years of human rights admonishment and cheap rhetoric devoid of any meaningful penalties, Xi has concluded that the West is all talk, no action," Smith said. "President Trump, however, is today beginning to change that and is doing what previous presidents have failed to do."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 45 of 77

The president also said the U.S. would be suspending entry of Chinese graduate students who are suspected of taking part in an extensive government campaign to acquire trade knowledge and academic research for the country's military and industrial development.

Allowing their continued entry to the country would be "detrimental to the interests of the United States," Trump said in an order released after the White House announcement.

Revocation of the visas has faced opposition from U.S. universities and scientific organizations that depend on tuition fees paid by Chinese students to offset other costs and fear possible reciprocal action from Beijing that could limit their access to China.

The president's order includes an exemptions for students whose work was not expected to benefit the Chinese military.

China seemed to signal in recent days that it was hoping to ease tensions. Premier Li Keqiang told reporters on Thursday that both countries stood to gain from cooperation and to lose from confrontation because their economies have become so interconnected.

"We must use our wisdom to expand common interests and manage differences and disagreements," Li said.

Still, the country has insisted that its control of Hong Kong is an internal matter, and it has disputed that it mishandled the response to the virus.

Trump takes aim at WHO as US economic outlook worsens

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER** and **DAN SEWELL** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With new U.S. economic numbers highlighting the rough road ahead for a hoped-for rebound, President Donald Trump on Friday took aim at the World Health Organization and China, blaming both for their roles in the pandemic's devastation.

Trump announced that the United States will end its support for WHO, charging it didn't respond adequately to the health crisis because of China's "total control" over the global organization. Trump said Chinese officials "ignored" their reporting obligations to the WHO and pressured the agency to mislead the world when the virus was first discovered.

Earlier Friday, U.S. Commerce Department statistics showed a record-shattering 13.6% drop in spending in April, a day after a federal jobs report showed another 2 million-plus Americans went out of work last week. The depth of the spending drop is particularly damaging because consumer spending is the primary driver of the economy.

The bad economic news was echoed in Europe, where an extensive social welfare net was showing signs of fraying, as protests erupted for a second day in Spain against layoffs by French carmaker Renault and Italy's chief central banker warned that "uncertainty is rife."

Some U.S. states were going ahead with steps to reopen businesses and leisure activities needed to spur spending and restore jobs, but there were also reminders of the risks of moving too quickly.

In Missouri, officials said they were trying to notify "mass numbers of unknown people" after someone who attended crowded pool parties Memorial Day weekend at the Lake of the Ozarks tested positive for COVID-19. Video of the parties circulated widely online, with many people criticizing revelers for flouting social distancing guidelines.

Arkansas over the past week has seen a steady rise in active coronavirus cases, following moves by Gov. Asa Hutchinson to reopen businesses shuttered during the pandemic.

Health officials on Thursday announced the number of active cases, excluding people who have recovered or died, hit a new high of 1,830 in the state, which has had a total of 6,538 cases. Arkansas also hit a record for a one-day increase in infections in the community, meaning ones that don't include the incarcerated.

"We're not going to go back, but we want people to follow those guidelines, make sure they do everything they can to avoid the spread and we can get through this," Hutchinson said.

However, a rural Northern California county decided to temporarily rescind its order allowing reopening of restaurants, shopping and other services after its first coronavirus cases developed.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 46 of 77

Lassen County had no reported coronavirus cases until May 22, when state data showed it was one of only two California counties with zero cases. But as of Wednesday, the county of 30,000 people had reported five known cases. Lassen County had started reopening businesses under state rules on May 11.

New York City, meanwhile, was on track to begin reopening June 8 as the state gradually loosens restrictions, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday.

The nation's worst pandemic hot spot was meeting goals set for hospital rates and testing, will "stockpile" personal protective equipment like masks and will focus on infection rates in outbreak areas by ZIP code, he said. He made the remarks as a large swath of upstate New York got the go-ahead Friday to reopen hair salons, retail shops and offices under strict guidelines. New York City remains the only region of the state that hasn't started reopening.

A federal public health study released Friday shed more light on the contagion's beginnings in the United States. The most comprehensive federal study to date concluded that the spark that started the U.S. coronavirus epidemic arrived during a three-week window from mid-January to early February, before the nation halted travel from China.

Some people have claimed Americans were getting sick from the coronavirus as early as November and that infections were spreading in the U.S. before any case was identified, said Dr. Robert Redfield, the head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Redfield said the study "puts data into the discussion."

The U.S. Commerce Department figures showed that consumers are unable or reluctant to spend, even as incomes soared 10.5% in April, reflecting billions of dollars in government payments in the form of unemployment aid and stimulus checks.

However, wages and salaries — normally the key component of overall income — sank by an annualized \$740 billion in April. By contrast, income in the form of government support jumped by an annualized \$3 trillion. That form of income will likely fade in coming months as government aid programs expire.

Until Friday's spending report for April, a revised 6.9% decline in March had been the record for the steepest one-month fall in records dating to 1959.

Debate in Congress over whether to extend the \$600 a week in federally provided benefits to the unemployed looked sure to intensify, with the number of people receiving the aid now topping 30 million — one in five workers. The money, included in a government relief package enacted in March, is set to expire July 31.

The latest job-loss figures from the U.S. Labor Department brought to 41 million the running total of Americans who have filed for unemployment since shutdowns took hold in mid-March.

Adam DuPaul, owner of City Barber Shop in Keene, New Hampshire, said he applied for unemployment as soon as the state expanded eligibility to include self-employed workers in mid-March, but still hasn't "gotten a dime."

Though hair salons and barbershops were allowed to reopen earlier this month, he wanted to wait due to safety concerns, but he's feeling he has no choice now.

"I truly feel like I'm forced to open this coming Monday," DuPaul said. "I really want to get back to what I love, but I don't want to feel unsafe doing it."

Elsewhere, New Zealand said it has all but eradicated the coronavirus with just one person in the nation of 5 million known to be infected. But developments were grim in other nations, with India reporting a record increase in cases, and Pakistan and Russia record numbers of deaths.

In the first major increase since France started gradually reopening on May 11, authorities there reported more than 3,000 new daily infections. It was not immediately clear if the spike was due to a greater availability of testing.

Worldwide, the virus has infected about 5.9 million people and killed about 360,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The true dimensions of the disaster are widely believed to be significantly greater, with experts saying many victims died without ever being tested.

'I can't breathe' a rally cry anew for police protests in US

By COLLEEN LONG and DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "I can't breathe."

Eric Garner uttered those words six years ago, locked in a police chokehold. It became a rallying cry after his death for demonstrators across the country who protested the killings of African Americans by police.

Then came the 2016 presidential election of Donald Trump. As the political divide widened, so much competed for the nation's attention — Russian interference in the election, debates over immigration, and impeachment — and with a new Justice Department shifting civil rights priorities, the moment slowly faded from the national stage.

Until this week. George Floyd uttered the exact same words, while handcuffed and pinned at the neck under the knee of a white police officer, galvanizing the movement anew and prompting mass protests around the country.

"There is something happening at this moment," said activist Carmen Perez. "It's not that the police killings stopped, it's just that we were refocusing our direction toward Donald Trump because we also felt this need to come together to call him out."

It's possible, though, with the nation just emerging from weeks of stay-at-home orders imposed to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, people have fewer distractions and can refocus on the issue, she said.

The swift firing of the officers involved, the empathetic response from the Minneapolis mayor who also called for criminal charges, and the unusual public criticism of the officer's actions from law enforcement nationwide have done nothing to quell the anger or calls for justice.

That's in part because killings continue to happen. Floyd's death came after Ahmaud Arbery was shot to death in Georgia by a former district attorney investigator and his son, who were not arrested until after video emerged months later. An EMT in Kentucky, Breonna Taylor, was killed in March when three officers entered her apartment by force to serve a search warrant in a narcotics investigation.

"This has been going on for way too many years, and it is time for a change," said Erika Atson, protesting in Minneapolis Thursday. "Because we are tired."

The protests that began with chanting and marching in Minneapolis the day after the disturbing video emerged that showed Floyd pinned for eight minutes have grown to mass demonstrations, some violent, in Minnesota and around the country.

Lawmakers nationwide are again talking about how to prevent such deaths. The Senate Judiciary committee announced Friday it would hold a hearing on police use of force. Outrage over the images of Floyd's last moments even came from those who have a history of defending police, like Trump. Though the president later called the protesters "thugs" in a tweet, saying "when the looting starts, the shooting starts."

Civil rights attorneys in the three recent cases said what inspires the anger is, in part, that authorities initially propagated narratives that Arbery, Taylor, Floyd were responsible for their own deaths before video and 911 calls showed otherwise.

"There is a false narrative ... put out there," said civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump.

In the years before the 2016 election, though, it felt like policing was shifting.

The mothers of some of the men killed by police attended the Democratic National Convention. The Justice Department frequently criticized violent police confrontations and opened a series of civil rights investigations into local law enforcement practices.

But after Trump was elected, it shifted.

Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered a review of consent decrees, legal agreements meant to effect change, that the Obama-era Justice Department had used to fight police misconduct, in part over a belief that the Democratic administration had vilified the police. The decrees included those with the police in Ferguson, Missouri, after the killing of Michael Brown and in Baltimore following the police custody death of Freddie Gray.

Hours before he resigned as attorney general in November 2018, Sessions signed a memo that scaled

back the practice, making consent decrees more difficult to enact.

Attorney General William Barr has similarly been a staunch advocate of police officers and has condemned what he's called a "disturbing pattern of cynicism and disrespect shown toward law enforcement."

The department, however, has continued to pursue civil rights investigations involving police shootings and other alleged misconduct, including into Floyd's death. Barr has said the video was "harrowing to watch and deeply disturbing."

Barr's office closed the Garner case in September because there was insufficient evidence to prove a federal crime.

Gwen Carr, Garner's mother, said that even if police abuses hadn't been talked about in recent years as they were following her son's 2014 death, that didn't mean abuses weren't happening.

"Police officers are still coming into our communities and brutalizing, terrorizing and killing us," she said. "Between my son's murder and Floyd's murder, that's not the only murders that has taken place."

Garner had been arrested on charges of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes, a non-violent crime, and cried out "I can't breathe" 11 times on a Staten Island sidewalk. The officers involved were not charged; the one who performed the chokehold was fired five years later.

Floyd lay on the street, as Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into the man's neck. He'd been arrested on a forgery charge, accused of passing a bad bill at a grocery store after he got laid off.

"Please I can't breathe," Floyd cried. "My stomach hurts. My neck hurts. Everything hurts. They're going to kill me."

At one point, he cried out for his mother as a crowd of shocked bystanders begged for police to move. Chauvin was arrested Thursday on a murder charge.

Meanwhile, protesters are seizing the moment in the hopes that change will come.

On Friday in Minneapolis, Maurice Davis stood close to the burned police station near a line of National Guardsmen.

Davis has gone to some protests, but came this morning with his two adolescent children to show them what was happening.

"This has been happening for years," he said. "We're tired of being killed and no one doing anything about it."

He's not surprised the protests are spreading.

"Because it's not just our city where this is happening. It's everywhere."

Trump walks back his incendiary Minneapolis 'thugs' post

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump spent Friday walking back his post-midnight "thugs" tweet about Minneapolis protesters that added to outrage over the police killing of a black man.

Trump's later repeated condemnation of the killing and outreach to the man's family was a marked change in tone from his earlier comments that also invoked a civil-rights-era phrase fraught with racist overtones.

"When the looting starts, the shooting starts," Trump had written in a tweet that was quickly flagged by Twitter as violating rules against "glorifying violence." Trump later said his comments had been misconstrued. "Frankly it means when there's looting, people get shot and they die," he said.

Trump's whiplash comments came after protesters torched a Minneapolis police station on Thursday night, capping three days of searing demonstrations over the death of George Floyd, who was captured on video pleading for air as a white police officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes.

And they underscored Trump's complicated relationship with race as he tries to maintain a law-and-order mantle while looking to appeal to black voters during an election year. They also highlighted his refusal to avoid controversy or cede the spotlight even as the battered nation tries to make sense of another killing and reels over the mounting COVID-19 death toll.

Trump, in his tweets, borrowed a phrase once used by former Miami Police Chief Walter Headley in a 1967 speech outlining his department's efforts to "combat young hoodlums who have taken advantage

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 49 of 77

of the civil rights campaign." In the speech, Headley said his department had been successful "because I've let the word filter down that when the looting starts, the shooting starts."

"We don't mind being accused of police brutality," he said in the same speech, according to news reports from the time.

Trump, after hours of backlash, said Friday evening that he was unaware of the origins of the phrase. "But I've heard it for a long time, as most people have. And frankly it means when there's looting, people get shot and they die," he said.

Trump also revealed that he had been in touch with Floyd's family as he continued to denounce the circumstances of the man's killing, which he called "a terrible insult to police and to policemen."

"I just expressed my sorrow," Trump told reporters. "He was in tremendous pain, obviously, and couldn't breathe. And it was very obvious to anybody that watched it."

Still, Trump called on protesters to keep their demonstrations peaceful.

"The family of George is entitled to justice, and the people of Minnesota are entitled to live in safety," he said. "Law and order will prevail."

Criticism of the Trump's tweet had been swift, with his presumptive Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden saying it was "no time for incendiary tweets, no time to incite violence."

"It's not helpful," said Minnesota's Democratic Gov. Tim Walz. "Anything we do to add fuel to that fire is really, really challenging."

Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., said that, as the country passed the grim milestone of more than 100,000 COVID-19 deaths, Trump had missed a chance to help the public cope with "two viruses: One is the coronavirus and the other is the virus of racial animus."

Trump has been accused of stoking racial tensions and exploiting divisions for personal gain since long before he ran for president, beginning with the full-page ads he ran in 1989 calling for the death penalty for the Central Park Five, five young men of color who were wrongly convicted of assaulting a white jogger.

Trump — who rarely holds his tongue — has been silent in the face of a long list of high-profile killings by police of black men, including Eric Garner, who was placed in a chokehold and whose dying words, "I can't breathe," became a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement. (Trump has instead invoked those words on several occasions to mock political rivals, even bringing his hands to his neck for dramatic effect.)

He spent years railing against NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and other players for kneeling during the National Anthem to protest racial injustice and police brutality. And in one speech he appeared to advocate rougher treatment of people in custody, speaking dismissively of the police practice of shielding the heads of handcuffed suspects as they are being placed in patrol cars.

At the same time, Trump and his campaign have tried to make inroads with black Americans, particularly after Biden suggested last week that black voters who support Trump "ain't black." A bedrock of the Democratic base, black Americans are unlikely to embrace Trump en masse, but his campaign believes even a marginal shift could make a difference — and send a message to white voters uneasy about the president's charged rhetoric.

Meanwhile, the unrest complicates the Trump campaign's plans for Minnesota, one of the key swing states he hopes to win in November.

Twitter's decision to flag Trump's tweet — the second time it has acted this week — came a day after he signed an executive order challenging the social media giant's protections against lawsuits as he accuses it of stifling conservative voices. The warning label prevented the tweet from being shared or liked, though it could still be viewed by users. The White House, trying to skirt the blockage, reposted the message on its own official Twitter account Friday morning. Twitter quickly flagged that tweet, too, accusing the White House of promoting violence.

Supporters of the president balked at the move.

Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale accused the media, Biden and other Democrats of "purposefully misrepresenting what the President had said, and showing once again that they are incapable of resisting

their base impulse of dividing Americans, solely for the purpose of political gain, ratings, and cable news profit."

Minneapolis protest misinformation stokes racial tensions

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The false social media posts started just hours after protesters first began chanting and carrying banners around the Minneapolis neighborhood where George Floyd, an African American man, died handcuffed in police custody.

"The cop who killed George Floyd," Facebook and Twitter users claimed, wrongly identifying a man pictured laughing alongside President Donald Trump at a rally as former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin.

More fake videos and photos followed as the demonstrations turned violent the next day. Some speculated, without evidence, that Floyd's death was staged or that protesters had been paid to stir up trouble, in tweets collectively shared thousands of times. Others said a video showed a protester driving a car through a shopping complex in Minneapolis, when in fact the footage was taken during an incident at an Illinois mall last year.

Since a video of an officer kneeling on Floyd's neck first surfaced, internet troublemakers and even celebrities have posted misleading or unsubstantiated claims around his death and the ensuing protests. The social media inaccuracies have created confusion around the unfolding news, tearing at the already loosely woven seams of America's racial tapestry.

"A good deal of this, if not all of this, is intentionally trying to stoke the racial flame that has been ablaze in the United States almost since slavery started 400-plus years ago," said Lanier Holt, a communications professor at Ohio State University who studied in Minneapolis.

While the falsehoods may have been unwittingly amplified by some, they have likely been planted by those preying on existing racial tensions, Holt said.

"They put out that false information to get that narrative in the minds of people who already have these ... pre-existing biases," he said.

The online misinformation so far appears to have fallen along those racial divides.

The day after Floyd died, Twitter and Facebook users shared a photo of a man wearing a "Make America White Again" red cap, claiming it was Chauvin, who was charged Friday with third-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death.

A version of the image was actually first posted online by a pro-Trump internet trickster who has previously duped media outlets into writing fictitious stories. Jonathan Riches confirmed to The Associated Press through messages that he was the man in the photo.

Twitter later labeled rapper and actor Ice Cube's tweet with the photo as "manipulated media."

After protests on Thursday night, the St. Paul Police Department denied rumors trending online that one of its police officers was responsible for breaking windows of an AutoZone store in neighboring Minneapolis.

"We know with precision where that officer has been and who that officer has been with," St. Paul Police spokesman Steve Linders said. "He was at work, and not at the location."

Meanwhile, others have posted old or out-of-context photos online and falsely suggested it showed the damage caused by Minnesota protesters.

Hundreds of thousands viewed a short video clip circulating online that purported to show a car driving through the Mall of America, the massive shopping complex that sits in a Minneapolis suburb.

"RIP to Mall of America," one Twitter user wrote.

Fact checkers debunked the video, but as of Friday afternoon, people on Facebook and Twitter continued to say that the mall had been looted by protesters.

Facebook declined to comment Friday on misinformation on their platform around Floyd's death or the protests.

Divisive misinformation around Floyd's death and the resulting protests thrives online because social media users choose who they do — or don't — follow and are less likely to be exposed to differing viewpoints

outside of their circle of pages, family and friends.

"We thought social media was going to be this great equalizer," Holt said. "People find networks of people who are just like them. If they don't actually have literal black friends, this reinforces all the stereotypes that were fed to them."

Take 2 for SpaceX's 1st astronaut launch with more storms

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX pressed ahead with its second attempt to launch astronauts for NASA — a historic first for a private company — but more stormy weather threatened more delays.

Elon Musk's company came within 17 minutes Wednesday of launching a pair of NASA astronauts for the first time in nearly a decade from the U.S., before the threat of lightning forced a delay.

With more storms ahead, managers debated Friday whether to bump the next launch attempt from Saturday to Sunday to take advantage of slightly improved forecast at Kennedy Space Center.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine tweeted that no decision was made, and they would reassess the situation Saturday morning.

At an earlier outdoor news conference, Bridenstine stressed the need for safety for astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken — no matter how many times it takes to launch them in a SpaceX Dragon capsule atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket to the International Space Station.

"We cannot forget this is a test flight. This — is — a — test — flight," he repeated. "We will go when everything is as safe as we can possibly make it."

Forecasters put the odds of acceptable weather conditions Saturday at 50-50, with the outlook improving to 60% favorable on Sunday. Rain and clouds were the main concerns for both days.

Bridenstine said back-to-back tries would be tough on the launch team — and the astronauts — given that this is a test flight.

Hurley and Behnken, veterans of two space shuttle flights, have both faced launch delays before. In a tweet Friday, Hurley said his first shuttle flight was scrubbed five times for weather and technical issues.

"We're ready for the next launch opportunity!" Behnken tweeted.

While NASA had urged spectators to stay home Wednesday because of the pandemic, prime viewing spots at area parks and beaches were packed. A weekend launch could draw even bigger crowds. The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex reopened Thursday, after a 2 1/2-month shutdown, and within a few hours, all 4,000 tickets were snapped up for Saturday's launch attempt.

President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence were planning to return Saturday to watch from inside Kennedy. The number of employees, journalists and guests allowed at the space center remained extremely limited because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Whether an attempt is made Saturday or Sunday, "There will be no pressure. We will launch when we're ready," Bridenstine said.

Liftoff on Saturday would be 3:22 p.m. EDT.

The last time astronauts launched to orbit from the U.S. was in 2011 when Atlantis closed out the 30-year space shuttle program. Hurley was on that mission as well.

NASA hired SpaceX and Boeing in 2014 to get the ball rolling again — kicking off a commercial revolution for getting people to low-Earth orbit. In the meantime, NASA has spent billions of dollars to buy seats on Russian Soyuz capsules for U.S. astronauts, in order to keep the space station staffed.

Boeing's first astronaut flight, on the company's Starliner capsule, is not expected until next year.

Bridenstine offered high praise for Musk on Friday and all his personal touches: spiffy spacesuits, Tesla rides to the launch pad, a color-coordinated rocket and capsule — and more.

Musk has brought "vision and inspiration" to the American space program, Bridenstine said. While there's occasionally a little tension between NASA and SpaceX, "he gives me a commitment and he delivers on that commitment. That has happened every single time."

The California-based SpaceX is also developing a rocket and spaceship designed to go to the moon and

Mars.

On Friday, a prototype of its Starship exploded while undergoing a routine engine test at the company's Texas site. The ship vented large amount of gases and was engulfed in a tremendous fireball.

SpaceX did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

NASA, which has a contract with SpaceX to develop Starship for its lunar landing program, has no problems going ahead with this weekend's unrelated launch of astronauts from Cape Canaveral, agency spokesman Bob Jacobs.

"That's a test program. That's why they test," Jacobs said.

Veteran AP journalist Alvin Orton Jr. dies in Ohio at age 84

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Al Orton, a veteran Associated Press journalist who spent much of his career on the overnight shift, mentoring dozens of reporters along the way, has died in Ohio. He was 84.

Orton, who used his full name of "Alvin Orton Jr." in his byline, died Wednesday in Columbus of a heart attack after experiencing several health problems, said his son, Andrew Orton.

Orton worked for the AP from 1963 until he retired in 2006. His father, Alvin Orton Sr., also was an AP editor, joining the news cooperative in Chicago in 1936 and serving as a bureau chief in Indianapolis and Minneapolis before returning to Chicago and retiring in 1971.

"When I asked him what he thought about my going to work for the AP, he said, 'Fine, but you won't work for me,'" Orton recalled in a remembrance of his father in 1987, the year he died. "And I told him, 'That's OK, because I wouldn't work for you, anyway.' That's the way we both wanted it."

One of Al Orton Jr.'s first assignments was covering the 1963 execution by electric chair of a man who'd killed a grocery store clerk. Orton was one of only two reporters at the former Ohio Penitentiary, and unbeknownst to him then, he witnessed the last use of the chair in the state.

"As antiseptic as prison officials tried to make it, the execution process was rather primitive," Orton recalled in a 1999 first-person column as Ohio prepared to execute its first inmate in 36 years, by lethal injection. "There was no viewing room separated by glass or any other accommodations for witnesses."

That same year, Orton was working the day after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated when word came of a fire in a nursing home between Toledo and Cleveland that killed 63 residents. Orton rankled New York editors by interrupting the wire service's Kennedy coverage with updates to that story.

Orton preferred the overnight shift because it allowed him more time with his family, son Andrew Orton said. He usually saw his wife off to work in the morning and ran errands and relaxed until about noon when he slept for five hours and prepared for another shift.

Orton spent his retirement enjoying time with his wife, Loretta, who survives him, along with two sons and four daughters, 16 grandchildren and several-great children. A fifth daughter died several years ago of cancer.

Analysis: Trump fuels new tensions in moment of crisis

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over 48 hours in America, the official death toll from the coronavirus pandemic topped 100,000, the number of people who filed for unemployment during the crisis soared past 40 million, and the streets of a major city erupted in flames after a handcuffed black man was killed by a white police officer.

It's the kind of frenetic, fractured moment when national leaders are looked to for solutions and solace. President Donald Trump instead threw a rhetorical match into the tinderbox. "When the looting starts, the shooting starts," he declared ominously in a late-night tweet.

Trump's words were so jarring that Twitter attached a warning to his post — as well as to an identical message from an official White House account — saying that the president of the United States was

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 53 of 77

"glorifying violence." It's the first time the social media giant has taken such a step with any world leader, prompting new claims of bias from Trump and some of his conservative allies.

The episode encapsulated Trump's approach to the presidency and to this time of national crisis, which has upended nearly every aspect of American life and put his November reelection prospects at risk. He's latched on to personal grievances and cast himself as a victim, while making only occasional references to the staggering loss of life across the country. He's willingly stoked partisan divisions over public health, and now racial divisions in the face of a death, rather than seeking opportunities to pull the nation together.

To Trump's detractors, none of that should come as a surprise at this late stage in his term, which has been defined by such responses at volatile moments.

"I had hoped that at least for this one time, some of the president's advisers would get to him and try to convince him to be consoler-in-chief," said Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a Democrat from Missouri. "President Trump was not built for times like this."

Many Republicans were silent about the president's remarks. Several contacted by The Associated Press either did not respond to questions about whether Trump was appropriately meeting this moment of cascading national crises or would not speak about the matter on the record. Trump's campaign issued a statement accusing Democrats and the media of twisting Trump's words and trying to "make money"—an assertion the campaign did not explain.

The death of George Floyd, a black Minnesota man who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes, added a new element of anxiety to an already nervous nation. Millions of Americans have been largely confined to their homes for weeks as the COVID-19 virus swept through the country and 100,000 people have died, according to official estimates which are believed to be lower than the real toll. The economy has cratered as a result and is unlikely to recover quickly even as some of the most restrictive stay-at-home orders start to ease.

Trump has frequently sided with law enforcement during officer-involved deaths. But he struck a different tone in his initial reaction to Floyd's death, calling the video a "very shocking sight." The Department of Justice called the investigation into his death a top priority.

As protests in Minneapolis escalated, Trump shifted toward his more typical posture, describing those taking to the streets as "THUGS" in the tweet that was flagged by the company. His warning in the same message about shooting echoed a phrase used by a Miami police chief in the 1960s during aggressive crackdowns on unrest in black neighborhoods.

Trump "crashed with this statement in showing who he really is," said Rev. Al Sharpton, founder of the National Action Network. "This is dangerous, this is ugly, this is provocative."

The president tried to explain away the comments on Friday, saying in a new tweet that he was stating "a fact" that people can be shot when looting happens. During a later appearance at the White House, he said he understood the hurt and pain but the situation in Minneapolis should not "descend further into lawless anarchy and chaos."

At a moment when many Americans are looking to their leaders, Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic challenger in the November election, tried to step into the breach. In remarks from his Delaware home, where he has remained throughout the pandemic, Biden offered condolences to Floyd's family and said it was no time to encourage violence in America.

"We need real leadership right now, leadership that will bring everyone to the table so we can take measures to root out systemic racism," Biden said.

One week ago, Biden was the one facing criticism for comments he made about race after he said in a radio interview that African Americans who don't support him over Trump "ain't black." Biden, who surged to the Democratic nomination on overwhelming support of black voters, quickly walked back that remark.

Trump's campaign, which has been making targeted appeals to black voters, seized on Biden's remarks. But the attention, as it so often does, shifted quickly back to the president.

Democrats are eager to keep it there, urging Americans to envision four more years of Trump's responses to racially charged episodes, as well as the health and economic crises roiling the country.

"The nation is on fire, and the president of the United States is standing there with gasoline," said Rep. Val Demings of Florida, a contender to become Biden's running mate.

Ruling means Missouri's last abortion clinic stays open

By **JIM SALTER** and **SUMMER BALLENTINE** Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — Missouri's only abortion clinic will be able to keep operating after a state government administrator decided Friday that the health department was wrong not to renew the license of the Planned Parenthood facility in St. Louis.

Missouri Administrative Hearing Commissioner Sreenivasa Rao Dandamudi's decision means Missouri will not become the first state without a functioning abortion clinic since 1974, the year after the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision.

"In over 4,000 abortions provided since 2018, the Department has only identified two causes to deny its license," Dandamudi wrote, adding that Planned Parenthood has "substantially complied" with state law.

"Therefore, Planned Parenthood is entitled to renewal of its abortion facility license," Dandamudi wrote.

A Planned Parenthood spokeswoman said the decision will mean the St. Louis clinic's license is renewed through May 2021.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the state would ask a court to overturn the decision. A spokesman for the attorney general's office, which is defending the health department's decision in court, said the office was "reviewing the ruling and deciding on next steps."

An email message seeking comment from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services was not immediately returned.

Yamelsie Rodriguez, president and CEO of Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, said in a statement that the ruling "is vindication for Planned Parenthood and our patients who rely on us." But she said Missouri's abortion laws continue to make it difficult for women seeking abortions.

"An abortion license, while critical to our ability to provide care, still cannot undo the harm that medically unnecessary policies in our state inflict on patients," Rodriguez said.

National anti-abortion group Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser slammed the decision.

"Unborn children and their mothers face dire health risks — especially during a pandemic — so long as the St. Louis Planned Parenthood is permitted to remain open," she said in a statement.

The state refused to renew the license for Planned Parenthood's St. Louis clinic in June 2019, after an investigation turned up four instances of what the state called "failed abortions." Planned Parenthood officials contend the state "cherry-picked" a handful of difficult cases out of thousands of otherwise successful abortions. They have accused the state of using the licensing process as a tool to end abortions in Missouri, a conservative state with a decidedly anti-abortion governor in Republican Mike Parson.

Planned Parenthood's challenge led to an administrative hearing in October.

The wrangling over the license began after an investigator in March 2019 found that a woman had undergone an abortion that took five attempts to complete. William Koebel, director of the section of the health department responsible for abortion clinic licensing, testified that the clinic failed to provide a "complication report."

That led the health department to launch an investigation of other instances where women underwent multiple procedures to complete an abortion, Koebel said.

As part of that investigation, the state obtained the medical records of women who had abortions at the clinic. They found four who required multiple procedures, including one in which the physician apparently missed that a woman was pregnant with twins. The woman underwent two procedures five weeks apart.

The Administrative Hearing Commission agreed with the health department that Planned Parenthood should have filed a complication report for one of the patients and should have documented what it did to address the physician who missed that a woman was pregnant with twins.

But Dandamudi wrote that those two cases were atypical: one woman's uterus was unusually shaped, and the woman pregnant with twins was "morbidly obese," which can make diagnosis difficult. He said

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 55 of 77

those two violations "did not constitute a substantial failure."

Planned Parenthood has demonstrated that it provides safe and legal abortion care," Dandamudi wrote. Missouri is among several states to pass new restrictions on abortions in the hope that the increasingly conservative U.S. Supreme Court will eventually overturn Roe v. Wade. Parson signed legislation last year banning abortions at or beyond eight weeks of pregnancy, with exceptions for medical emergencies but not for rape or incest. The law is on hold amid a legal challenge.

While closing the clinic would have huge symbolic meaning, the practical impact on Missouri women seeking abortions would be minimized because Planned Parenthood last year built a new abortion clinic just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis in Fairview Heights, Illinois.

Other clinics are in Granite City, Illinois, another St. Louis suburb, and in Overland Park, Kansas, a Kansas City suburb just 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the state line.

Officers in violent arrest to face NYPD disciplinary charges

By MICHAEL R. SISK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police officer will face disciplinary charges for a violent arrest during a social distancing enforcement action that ended with him kneeling on a man's back or neck, a technique similar to the one that led to George Floyd's death in Minneapolis.

Several other officers involved will also face discipline, the department said Friday, after an internal affairs investigation into the caught-on-video confrontation May 2 in Manhattan's East Village. Police did not specify what violations the officers are alleged to have committed.

Bystander video showed plainclothes officer Francisco Garcia pulling a stun gun on 33-year-old Donni Wright and leveling him in a crosswalk, slapping him in the face and punching him in the shoulder before dragging him to a sidewalk and kneeling on his backside to handcuff him.

Garcia was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty after the incident, which Mayor Bill de Blasio called "very troubling" and "absolutely unacceptable." He could still face criminal charges.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said Friday that it is "conducting an independent review of this incident."

A message seeking comment was left with Garcia's union.

The police disciplinary process sometimes involves an administrative trial, where a department employee acting as a judge hears testimony before deciding what, if any, punishment is warranted, such as a loss of vacation days all the way up to firing. The final decision is left to the police commissioner.

Wright was treated at a hospital after his arrest and has filed a notice of claim with the city, the first step before a filing a lawsuit. Prosecutors deferred charges resulting from his arrest pending further investigation.

Wright's lawyer, Sanford Rubinstein, called the disciplinary charges a "step in the right direction" and said Garcia should be fired.

The Rev. Kevin McCall, an adviser to Wright's family, said: "We want to send a clear message that Donni Wright could have been dead today. Before we were calling George Floyd's name, we could've been calling Donni Wright's name. Thank God he wasn't also killed by the actions of the police."

The video of Wright's arrest was one of several that spurred outrage over the city's use of police to enforce social distancing, along with data showing people of color were subject to the vast majority of distancing-related arrests and summonses in the city.

One video showed a police officer running at a black man and throwing him to the ground for mouthing off. Another showed an officer punching a man in the head as he lay pinned to a sidewalk, unable to fight back.

The city later altered its approach, telling officers to stop citing people for not wearing face coverings.

Minutes before the confrontation with Wright, video from a security camera showed officers using force to arrest a couple for allegedly failing to comply when asked to disperse. Police said officers saw that one of them had a "bag of alleged marijuana in plain view."

Bystander video of Wright's arrest showed Garcia helping take one of those people to the ground before turning to Wright, who was walking toward the area of that arrest from about 10 to 15 feet away.

Garcia turned toward Wright and cursed at him to “(get) back right now,” according to the video. At the same time, the officer pulled up his Taser and pointed it at Wright, possibly triggering the device.

Garcia continued toward Wright and eventually holstered his Taser.

It wasn't clear what Wright was doing because he wasn't in the frame the entire time, though just before Garcia tackled him, he stopped and stood in front of the officer with what appeared to be a clenched fist at his side.

“What you flexing for? Don't flex,” Garcia said, before grabbing Wright and wrestling him to the ground. Another officer then stepped in and helped handcuff Wright.

A police spokeswoman said shortly after the arrest that Wright “took a fighting stance against the officer” when he was ordered to disperse.

Over the years, Garcia been named as a defendant in six lawsuits that the city settled for a total of \$182,500, according to court records and a Legal Aid Society database.

In a case similar to the May 2 incident, Garcia and other officers allegedly threw a man to the ground and then punched and kicked him.

In another, Garcia was accused of throwing a woman against a metal grate and onto a sidewalk and using a homophobic slur after she asked for his badge number.

Probe: Top US official misused office to get son-in-law job

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A senior Trump administration official misused his office for private gain by capitalizing on his government connections to help get his son-in-law hired at the Environmental Protection Agency, investigators said in a report obtained by The Associated Press.

The Interior Department's Inspector General found that Assistant Interior Secretary Douglas Domenech reached out to a senior EPA official in person and later by email in 2017 to advocate for the son-in-law when he was seeking a job at the agency.

Investigators said Domenech also appeared to misuse his position to promote a second family member's wedding-related business to the same EPA official, who was engaged at the time.

The AP obtained the report detailing the investigation in advance of its public release.

It's the second finding of ethical violations in six months against Domenech, the agency's assistant secretary for insular and international affairs. Investigators in December found that he broke federal ethics rules by twice meeting with his former employer, a conservative Texas-based policy group, to discuss legal disputes between the group and the agency in early 2017.

The contacts between Domenech and the EPA official began at a concert at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Virginia in the fall of 2017.

Domenech, three family members including the son-in-law and the senior EPA official had received free tickets through the office of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the report said.

The son-in-law was not named or otherwise identified in the report, but two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose details publicly identified his relation to Domenech. One of those who spoke anonymously identified the son-in-law as Eric Frandy.

Frandy married Domenech's daughter, Emily, a Republican staffer on Capitol Hill, in 2012, according to the couple's online wedding registry. The report referred to him as “family member 1.”

While at the Wolf Trap concert, Domenech was seated with the EPA official and “used his position to gain access to the EPA senior official when he believed family member 1 could not,” the report said.

Domenech followed up with multiple emails to the EPA official, including one in which he provided Frandy's name and his experience and repeated that his son-in-law was seeking a job at the agency, the report said.

“Let me know if we can ever be of service,” Domenech said in closing the message, according to the report.

He later told investigators that the email was a “courtesy” intended to move the process along.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 57 of 77

"When asked if moving the process along was a way to influence the EPA hiring process, Domenech said, 'Well, when I think of influencing ... I guess you're right. I was trying to influence the process to move along. That's different than influencing the process to hire,'" the report said.

Inspector General Mark Lee Greenblatt's office concluded Domenech's actions were specifically aimed at benefiting his son-in-law.

"The evidence indicates Domenech intended to use his position and title to induce the EPA to act," Greenblatt's office said in the report.

No criminal violations were found, according to Greenblatt's office. Breaking the law at issue becomes a criminal matter it benefits the violator directly or the person's wife, child or business — but not if it involves an in-law, according to the federal code.

Domenech was required to undergo additional ethics training as a result of the investigations into his conduct, Interior spokesman Nicholas Goodwin said. No further disciplinary action was taken and the matter is considered resolved, he said.

"The underlying events regarding Mr. Domenech occurred in 2017 before the Department initiated an unprecedented effort to invest in building a culture of ethical compliance and dramatically expanding the Department of the Interior's Ethics Office Program," Goodwin said.

Domenech did not respond to an emailed request for comment. Frandy did not respond to a telephone message seeking comment.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat, called on Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to fire Domenech.

"Firing Mr. Domenech is the only serious course of action at this point — another round of ethics training is clearly just a waste of time, since it hasn't sunk in by now," Grijalva said in a statement.

Bernhardt, a former lobbyist for the oil and gas industry and other private interests, took over as secretary after Zinke resigned in December 2018 amid multiple ethics allegations and has publicly sought to tamp down on misbehavior at the agency, in part by hiring more ethics officials.

But Democratic lawmakers and some advocacy groups have remained critical of what they depict as rampant unethical behavior within the agency's top ranks.

Domenech previously worked as a political appointee in the Interior Department under former President George W. Bush. He later went to work for the Texas Public Policy Foundation and was supposed to recuse himself for two years from dealings with the group.

He went through two rounds of ethics training when he first joined the Trump administration as a senior advisor to Zinke in 2017, according to the investigation. That training included specific admonitions against using his office "to endorse friends, relatives or persons with whom you are affiliated in a non-governmental capacity," the report said.

The identity of the senior EPA official involved in the case was not disclosed in the report. Investigators reached out to the official six times to request an interview but the person did not respond and has since left the EPA, the report said.

The EPA employee who selected the son-in-law for hiring told investigators that the senior official "was interested in bringing (him) on the team" but that he was ultimately hired because he was qualified, the report said.

EPA spokeswoman Andrea Woods declined comment when asked about the job Frandy was hired for at the agency, saying it does not discuss personnel matters.

Slaughterhouses reopen but farmers still euthanizing pigs

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Meatpacking plants that had to briefly close due to coronavirus outbreaks have been back up and running for weeks, but production backlogs are forcing farmers to euthanize thousands of hogs that can't be processed, drawing complaints from animal welfare advocates.

In Iowa, where nearly one-third of the nation's hogs are raised, the temporary closure of slaughterhouses

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 58 of 77

led to a backup of about 600,000 pigs, state Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig said. Those plants now are operating at about 80% capacity, but that's not enough to clear the backlog, and efforts to sell directly to consumers or process hogs at small slaughterhouses for donation to food banks aren't enough to avoid euthanizing some animals.

Adding to the problem was the temporary closure Thursday of another hog processing plant in Storm Lake, Iowa, because of a coronavirus outbreak.

"That backlog is larger than those solutions can address, so producers are already having to and will continue to have to look at the very difficult and emotional decision to euthanize their animals to prevent animal welfare issues," Naig said.

Farmers say they're left with no choice but to euthanize hogs because they haven't been able to ship out some animals for more than a month, and as they become larger and young pigs grow, there isn't enough space in the buildings that house them. Slaughterhouses also aren't designed to efficiently process hogs once they get too large, so farmers have few options.

The preferred methods of euthanizing hogs include gunshots, bolt guns or electrocution, but when thousands of animals must be destroyed en masse, one option is to shut off ventilation causing heat to build up and kill them, said Chris Rademacher, a veterinarian and associate director of Iowa State University's Iowa Pork Industry Center.

Farmers must consider the physical and emotional toll it would take on employees to have to shoot or electrocute thousands of hogs individually, Rademacher said.

"There's a mental strain to have to individually repeat this potentially thousands of times," he said. "We're sailing in uncharted waters in the truest sense here."

Last week, the animal welfare group Direct Action Everywhere placed cameras in a hog operation in Grundy County, Iowa, and recorded the killing of hogs using heat. In the video, pigs can be heard squealing and workers are later shown walking among carcasses and using bolt guns to kill animals that remain alive.

The organization filed a criminal livestock neglect complaint with the Grundy County Sheriff's Office and on Friday released excerpts of the video.

"An element of good that has emerged from the ravages of COVID-19, and of this investigation, is that the longstanding systemic abuses of animal agriculture have been openly exposed for the world to see," Matt Johnson, the group's leader, said.

Ingrid Newkirk, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, also blasted the practice of using heat to kill hogs.

"Steaming pigs alive and roasting them to death show that cruelty to animals is a part of pig farmers' way of life, and the only way to stop this — given that pig farmers have made themselves above the law — is for people to run from buying pork, screaming as loudly as the pigs scream in the barns," Newkirk said in a statement.

The sheriff's office declined to charge the operation, owned by Iowa Select Farms, and on Friday Sheriff Rick Penning confirmed he charged Johnson and a woman from Indiana with trespass, a simple misdemeanor. Court dates were set for August.

Iowa Select Farms owner Jeff Hansen said his company worked with animal welfare experts, veterinarians and technicians to oversee the process after making "the painful decision to euthanize some of our herd."

"It is no surprise that, at this most difficult moment, an animal activist group is attempting to use this to promote their own agenda," he said. "We are in tremendous pain knowing that this awful decision had to be made. Recording and releasing video of the euthanasia process only reinforces the hurt our team feels."

Iowa Select Farms markets more than 4 million hogs a year on 800 farms in 50 counties in Iowa.

Naig also criticized the video.

"I think that our producers are experiencing an unprecedented disruption in their business and their way of life and we've got folks with a clear agenda and they're kicking our farmers when they're down," Naig said.

An estimated 2.5 million hogs nationwide have not been sent to slaughterhouses because of the pandemic, and about 100,000 per week are added to the backlog, Neil Dierks, CEO of the National Pork Producers

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 59 of 77

Council, said during a news conference Thursday.

"We haven't gotten to the point of stasis on this where the current market-ready hogs can get processed," he said.

Chad Leman, a hog farmer in Eureka, Illinois, said he had 4,000 pigs backed up on his farm and that the packers he sells to are operating at 75% capacity.

"Unless they can somehow figure out to miraculously harvest about 130% of their usual capacity we will continue to back up pigs albeit at a slightly slower pace," he said. "What's important to understand is you can't just shut the spigot off and turn it back on with pork production."

Hong Kong on borrowed time as China pushes for more control

By ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Hong Kong has been living on borrowed time ever since the British made it a colony nearly 180 years ago, and all the more so after Beijing took control in 1997 and granted it autonomous status.

China's passage of a national security law for the city is the latest sign that the 50-year "one country, two systems" arrangement that allowed Hong Kong to keep its own legal, financial and trade regimes is perishable.

China's communist leaders have been preparing for decades to take full control of the glittering capitalist oasis, while building up their own trade and financial centers to take Hong Kong's place.

For them, national security and patriotism trump the civil liberties that brought millions of Hong Kong residents into the streets last year, hoping to protect their own vision for their future — protests that would not be tolerated across the border.

In the early 1980s, as China's own economy began to open up to trade and investment after decades of Cold War isolation and political upheaval, the contrast between the mainland and Hong Kong was evident on crossing the border into the bucolic rice paddies and fish ponds of Shenzhen.

Several generations later, Shenzhen is a metropolis of skyscrapers, high-tech campuses and huge, modern ports that dwarf Hong Kong's own, at least in trading volume.

Railways, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have transformed the Pearl River Delta region that surrounds it into a whole ecosystem of built-up cities that is China's answer to Silicon Valley and then some. It also is home to increasingly influential tech companies like Huawei Technologies and Tencent.

"Hong Kong is a Chinese city," said Kenneth Curtis, an expert on Asian economies and chairman of Starfort Investment Holdings. Instead of Hong Kong transforming its neighbors in Guangdong province, he said, "it's more likely that Hong Kong will be more and more absorbed into Guangdong."

The rise of industrial and financial centers like Shenzhen and Shanghai has sidelined Hong Kong in other respects. The city accounts for less than 3% of China's economic activity, down from a peak of 27% in 1993, the height of its role as go-between in China's ascent as an export powerhouse.

China's promise to leave Hong Kong's own legal and economic systems intact for 50 years, until 2047, has helped the city of 7 million retain its attraction as a regional financial hub and bastion of Western-style civil liberties.

The national security law endorsed in Beijing followed recent arrests of Hong Kong pro-democracy advocates. Critics say it will undermine civil liberties and might be used to suppress political activity, and many in Hong Kong reacted with dismay.

Many of the millions of Hong Kong citizens who turned out in protests that began a year ago either escaped from the mainland or have parents that left decades ago. Having fled communist rule, they are clinging to liberties forbidden in mainland China, where public dissent is treated as subversive and punishable by long prison terms.

"The most frightening thing is that you will never be able to know exactly what would cross the bottom line for the Chinese Communist Party, or even where that bottom line is. No one knows," said Philip Chan, who was walking in downtown Hong Kong's Central district under the watchful eyes of masses of police

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 60 of 77

in riot gear, a common sight nowadays.

Hong Kong's government has insisted that the new security law will only affect a small minority of people, saying that life will continue as normal for most.

The city's tycoons planted the seeds both for its success and its eventual undoing when they invested billions in Guangdong, across the border, taking advantage of special incentives and cheap labor, and eventually helping turn China into the world's factory floor.

For the most part, those ultra-wealthy elites have sought to keep the peace with Beijing in return for wielding enormous influence both in local politics and business.

Billionaire Li Ka-shing, whose fortune has taken a hit over the past year as Hong Kong's economy stumbled, told local media that he viewed Beijing's moves as its "sovereign right." He and his peers have voiced support for the security legislation, saying they hope it will help ensure public order.

Beijing's insistence on enacting the national security law, among other measures including now-tabled extradition legislation that sparked months of anti-government protests last year, prompted Washington to announce it no longer will treat Hong Kong as being autonomous from Beijing.

It's unclear whether the Trump administration will push ahead with the threat to no longer treat Hong Kong as an autonomous free port or how big the impact of such a move would be.

Hong Kong accounted for about 8% of China's exports to the U.S. and about 6% of its imports from the U.S. in 2018, but its overall role in trade has been eclipsed by big ports to the north.

The city was the world's second-biggest port after Singapore in 2005 and now is the eighth-largest: Shanghai is by far the biggest and its throughput has doubled during that time while Hong Kong's has fallen.

The city is utterly dependent on the mainland for much of its water, most of its food, and to a large extent, tourism and investment.

Before the protests and later the coronavirus pandemic virtually wiped out tourism, the city was a thriving cosmopolitan destination. It's a shopping and dining mecca with a vibrant cultural scene, strong traditions of philanthropy and historic preservation, and mass media and educational institutions largely unfettered by Communist Party dogma and censorship.

At the same time, tensions have been building as the gap between rich and poor has widened. Political sentiment has become polarized as Beijing gradually extended its influence by ensuring its supporters would hold the deciding votes over such decisions as who would be the city's top leader.

"These issues are very much central to the demonstrations," Courtis said. "Beijing would be very smart to address some of these issues. Repression isn't the answer."

While many in Hong Kong grew frustrated with disruptions from the anti-government protests that turned violent at times, still more have shown with the votes they are able to cast that they favor more, not less democracy.

Some gathered in pop-up demonstrations Friday, including dozens who chanted in protest in the busy IFC shopping mall downtown.

Jerome Lau, 70, said he feared the government would crack down on public gatherings and free speech. "Until I take my last breath, I will come out and fight for freedom," he said.

New report alleges killings, mass detentions in Ethiopia

By ELIAS MESERET Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — A new report by the rights group Amnesty International accuses Ethiopia's security forces of extrajudicial killings and mass detentions even as the country's reformist prime minister was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The report issued Friday says security forces killed at least 25 people in 2019 in the East Guji and West Guji zones of the restive Oromia region amid suspicions of supporting a rebel group, the Oromo Liberation Army, and a once-exiled opposition group. And at least 10,000 people under suspicion were detained between January and September, with most "subjected to brutal beatings."

The government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who was awarded the peace prize in December for

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 61 of 77

sweeping political reforms and restoring ties with neighboring Eritrea after two decades of hostilities, acknowledged that "the reform process has at times experienced bumps" but called the report "a one-sided snapshot security analysis that fails to appropriately capture the broader political trajectory and security developments."

The government statement rejected "malicious claims" of extrajudicial killings and the mass detentions but said if rights violations occurred, an investigation will be conducted "at the appropriate time."

Tensions among some of Ethiopia's more than 80 ethnic groups have risen, along with some calls for more autonomy, and the new report also documents some of the intercommunal violence in the Oromia and Amhara regions, the country's most populous.

Such violence is a concern as the country faces a crucial national election, now delayed because of the coronavirus, that will be a measure of support for the country's changes since Abiy took office in early 2018.

With no election date set and mandates for the executive and regional and federal legislatures ending in October, political parties are disagreeing on strategies for how to avoid a potential constitutional crisis.

Amnesty acknowledged that Ethiopian authorities have made notable progress in changing the country's bleak human rights record. But "with elections on the horizon, these violations and abuses could escalate out of control unless the government takes urgent measures to ensure security forces act within the law," said Deprose Muchena, the group's director for East and Southern Africa, adding that "authorities must also recognize that holding diverse political views and opinions is legal."

The new report blames a range of actors for the violence during 2019 including regional police special forces, local administration officials and armed youth and vigilante groups. The rights group noted that in the new, wider political space some politicians have been "stirring up ethnic and religious animosities," sparking violence in five of the country's nine regional states.

"The research finds a horrendously botched security operation at work in Amhara and Oromia regions characterized by impunity that is difficult to imagine in present-day Ethiopia," Amnesty said. Former detainees told the rights group about multiple cases of arbitrary arrest and detention of family members, including children, when security officials couldn't find the person they sought to arrest.

In the Oromia region, the government in January 2019 launched a law enforcement offensive against the Oromo Liberation Army, which had staged armed attacks in the region. The armed group broke away from the political wing of the once-exiled Oromo Liberation Front, which under Ethiopia's reforms returned to the country to pursue a peaceful political agenda.

In the Amhara region, "at least 150 people were killed in inter-communal conflict in which the security forces were complicit," the report said, noting that at least 58 ethnic Qimant, who seek more autonomy, were killed within 24 hours in January 2019. "The attacks and counter-attacks led to internal displacement of thousands of ethnic Amhara and Qimant people."

The deputy head of the Amhara Regional Peace and Security Bureau told the rights group that more deaths could have occurred if the security forces had not been deployed and rejected the claim that security forces were complicit in some of the attacks.

Two opposition groups reacted to the new report with further allegations.

"The report covers the period up to the end of 2019. However, the situation in the Oromia region specifically has gotten progressively worse in 2020 with a substantial rise in mass incarcerations, extrajudicial killings and destruction of property in provinces that were not previously affected," said a joint statement issued by the Oromo Liberation Front and Oromo Federalist Congress.

"The report is further proof that the new administration has not parted ways with the practice of forcefully stifling dissent."

US cuts World Health Organization ties over virus response

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that the U.S. will be terminating its relationship with the World Health Organization, saying it had failed to adequately respond to the coronavirus because China has "total control" over the global organization.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 62 of 77

He said Chinese officials "ignored" their reporting obligations to the WHO and pressured the WHO to mislead the world when the virus was first discovered.

He noted that the U.S. contributes about \$450 million to the world body while China provides about \$40 million.

The U.S. is the largest source of financial support to the WHO and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization. Trump said the U.S. would be "redirecting" the money to "other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs," without providing specifics.

"THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below."

The Trump administration may soon expel thousands of Chinese graduate students enrolled at U.S. universities and impose other sanctions against Chinese officials in the latest signs of tensions between Washington and Beijing that are raging over trade, the coronavirus pandemic, human rights and the status of Hong Kong.

President Donald Trump said he would make an announcement about China on Friday, and administration officials said he is considering a months-old proposal to revoke the visas of students affiliated with educational institutions in China linked to the People's Liberation Army or Chinese intelligence.

Trump is also weighing targeted travel and financial sanctions against Chinese officials for actions in Hong Kong, according to the officials, who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We'll be announcing what we're doing tomorrow with respect to China and we are not happy with China," Trump told reporters at an unrelated event Thursday, referring mainly to COVID-19. "We are not happy with what's happened. All over the world people are suffering, 186 countries. All over the world they're suffering. We're not happy."

Although the student expulsions aren't directly related to Hong Kong and China's move to assert full control over the former British territory, potential sanctions against officials involved in that effort would be a result of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's determination that Hong Kong can no longer be considered autonomous from mainland China.

Pompeo notified Congress on Wednesday that Hong Kong is no longer deserving of the preferential trade and commercial status it has enjoyed from the U.S. since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997. Under a joint Sino-British agreement on the handover, Hong Kong was to be governed differently than the mainland for 50 years under a "one country, two systems" policy.

Pompeo's determination opened the door to possible sanctions and the loss of special perks Hong Kong has received from the United States. But neither Pompeo nor other officials were able Wednesday to describe what action the administration might take, an uncertainty related to the impact that such sanctions would have on U.S. companies that operate in Hong Kong and the city's position as Asia's major financial hub. Trump's comments sparked a drop in U.S. financial markets.

Serious consideration of the visa revocation proposal, first reported by The New York Times, has faced opposition from U.S. universities and scientific organizations who depend on tuition fees paid by Chinese students to offset other costs. In addition, those institutions fear possible reciprocal action from Beijing that could limit their students' and educators' access to China.

In a nod to those concerns, the officials said any restrictions would be narrowly tailored to affect only students who present a significant risk of engaging in espionage or intellectual property theft. The officials could not say how many people could ultimately be expelled, although they said it would be only a fraction of the Chinese students in the country.

Still, the possibility that the proposal may be implemented has drawn concerns from educators.

"We're very worried about how broadly this will be applied, and we're concerned it could send a message that we no longer welcome talented students and scholars from around the globe," said Sarah Spreitzer, director of government relations at the American Council on Education.

"We don't have a lot of details about how they are going to define ties to Chinese universities, what type of universities are they going to target, what would constitute a university having ties to the Chinese military," she said. If the situation were reversed and another nation imposed limits on students from U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 63 of 77

universities that receive Defense Department funding, she noted it would affect a wide range of schools.

The U.S. hosted 133,396 graduate students from China in the 2018-19 academic year, and they made up 36.1% of all international graduate students, according to the Institute of International Education. Overall, there were 369,548 students from China, accounting for 33.7% of international students who contributed nearly \$15 billion to the U.S. economy in 2018.

The proposal to revoke the visas is not directly related to the dispute over Hong Kong, nor is it tied to U.S. criticism of China for its handling of the coronavirus outbreak. Rather, it is connected to various elements of trade and human rights issues that have seen U.S. officials complain about Chinese industrial espionage and spying and harassment of dissidents and religious and ethnic minorities.

But the timing of a potential announcement could come at a time of increasingly heated rhetoric about the imposition of national security laws on Hong Kong in violation of the Sino-British accord.

The proposal first began to be discussed last year when the administration moved to require Chinese diplomats based in the United States to report their domestic U.S. travel and meetings with American scientists and academics. At the time, U.S. officials said it was a reciprocal measure to match restrictions that American diplomats face in China.

Those limits were followed by a requirement that Chinese state-run media in the U.S. register as "foreign diplomatic missions" and report their property holdings and employee rosters to the government. That was, in turn, followed by the limiting of the number of visas for Chinese journalists allowed to work in the United States.

China retaliated for the visa limitations by expelling several reporters from U.S. media outlets, including The Washington Post and The New York Times.

FDA finds contamination in several brands of diabetes drug

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health regulators are telling five drugmakers to recall their versions of a widely used diabetes medication after laboratory tests found elevated levels of a contaminant linked to cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration said late Thursday that several batches of the drug metformin tested positive for unsafe levels of N-Nitrosodimethylamine, a possible cancer-causing chemical that can form as a manufacturing byproduct. The agency has stepped up testing after the chemical was found in dozens of shipments of blood pressure and heartburn drugs last year, triggering recalls of Zantac and other popular over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Metformin tablets are a staple of diabetes care, reducing excess sugar in the blood. People with Type 2 diabetes use metformin alone or with other drugs to help control their blood sugar levels. More than 34 million people in the U.S. have this disease.

Patients should continue taking metformin drugs until their doctor can prescribe a replacement, the FDA said in a statement, noting the risks of discontinuing. Regulators are still assessing whether the recalls will lead to shortages of metformin, but noted that a number of other companies make generic versions of the drugs that don't appear to be affected by the issue.

Drugmaker Apotex Corp. recalled its extended-release metformin distributed in the U.S. earlier this week after the FDA found contamination in one lot. Apotex said in a statement it voluntarily recalled all supplies of the drug "out of an abundance of caution." The company said it stopped selling the drug in the U.S. in February 2019 and that little remains on the market.

The FDA announcement did not name the four other drugmakers who have been requested to recall their products.

The agency noted that no contamination problems have been found in immediate-release metformin.

The FDA is responsible for ensuring that medicines for the U.S. market are made in safe, sanitary conditions that meet federal quality standards. But government inspectors have repeatedly criticized the agency for falling short in reviewing overseas manufacturing plants as the pharmaceutical supply chain has increasingly spread to Asia.

In March, the FDA suspended nearly all U.S. and foreign inspections due to safety concerns and travel restrictions caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

Twitter obscures, warns on Trump tweet 'glorifying violence'

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writers

Twitter escalated tensions with President Donald Trump on Friday, adding a warning to one of his tweets for the first time and saying he violated the platform's rules by glorifying violence when he suggested protesters in Minneapolis could be shot.

Trump has been railing against the company since earlier this week, when it for the first time applied fact checks to two of his tweets. Those were about mail-in ballots.

The flap comes at a fraught moment for Twitter and social media more generally. Debate is heating up about when and how much these companies should police the content on their platforms as coronavirus misinformation swirls and the 2020 U.S. presidential election looms.

For Trump, the feud with Twitter serves as a convenient distraction from major challenges he faces heading into November, such as controlling a pandemic and dealing with soaring unemployment.

The Trump tweet that was flagged Friday came amid days of violent protests over the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer knelt on his neck.

"These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen," Trump tweeted about the protesters. "Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!"

The comment evoked the civil-rights era by borrowing a phrase used in 1967 by Miami's police chief to warn of an aggressive police response to unrest in black neighborhoods.

Twitter did not remove the tweet, saying it had determined it might be in the public interest to have it remain accessible. But the tweet was hidden so that a user looking at Trump's timeline would have to click on the warning to see the original tweet. Hiding it also effectively demotes the tweet by limiting how users can retweet it and ensuring that Twitter algorithms don't recommend it.

Twitter said Friday it posted the warning label on Trump's tweet "based on the historical context of the last line, its connection to violence, and the risk it could inspire similar actions today," but left it up "given its relevance to ongoing matters of public importance."

A tweet using the same language as Trump's was later posted on the official White House Twitter account, and Twitter eventually put a warning on that too. It was also posted on Facebook, which hasn't taken any visible action on it.

Twitter taking a harder line than Facebook on Trump's posts likely has something to do with Twitter's decision last year to stop taking political ads, said Melissa Ryan, CEO of consultancy group Card Strategies, which researches online disinformation and right-wing extremism.

She said the coronavirus pandemic has also led Twitter to inch toward stronger enforcement of its policies at the same time that Trump's tweets have "amped up in terms of crazy and intensity and disinformation."

"Twitter and Trump have been playing a game of chicken," Ryan said. "It feels like they've both been moving toward this for a while."

Trump took to Twitter to complain, calling multiple times for the revocation of Section 230, part of a 1996 law overhauling telecommunications. That section generally protects social media platforms from liability for material users post on their platforms. Trump on Thursday signed an executive order challenging those protections.

The order directs executive branch agencies to ask independent rule-making agencies including the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to study whether they can place new regulations on the companies, though experts express doubts much can be done without an act of Congress.

The president and fellow conservatives have claimed for years that Silicon Valley tech companies are biased against them. But there is no evidence for this, and while the executives and many employees of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 65 of 77

Twitter, Facebook and Google may lean liberal, the companies have stressed they have no business interest in favoring one political party over the other.

Twitter first outlined in early 2018 that it wouldn't block world leaders from the platform or remove their controversial tweets. But it announced nearly a year ago that it could apply warning labels and obscure the tweets of world leaders if they used their accounts to threaten or abuse others. That followed complaints from Trump critics that the president has gotten a free pass from Twitter to post hateful messages and attack his enemies in ways they say could lead to violence.

Twitter further clarified its rules in October, saying it will enforce its policies against any user who makes clear and direct threats of violence against a person, but carving out an exception for government officials' "foreign policy saber-rattling on economic or military issues."

The earlier tweets that Twitter flagged were not hidden but did come with an option to "get the facts about mail-in ballots," a link that led to fact checks and news stories by media organizations. Those tweets called mail-in ballots "fraudulent" and predicted that "mail boxes will be robbed," among other things.

Twitter's decision to flag Trump's tweets came as the president continued to use the platform to push a debunked conspiracy theory accusing MSNBC host and former congressman Joe Scarborough of killing a staffer in his Florida congressional office in 2001. Medical officials determined the staffer had an undiagnosed heart condition, passed out and hit her head as she fell.

Scarborough, who was in Washington, not Florida, at the time, has urged the president to stop his baseless attacks. The staffer's husband also recently demanded that Twitter remove the tweets. The company issued a statement expressing its regret to the husband but so far has taken no other action.

Twitter's decision also likely will be seized upon outside the U.S. to scrutinize the social media behavior of other world leaders. Israel has been waging its own pressure campaign on the company over it allowing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to have an account.

In a letter dated Sunday, an Israeli official wrote to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey complaining about Khamenei tweets that repeated comments he made in a recent speech in support of Palestinians that called Israel a "cancerous growth" that will be "uprooted and destroyed."

On the other hand, the company has removed tweets related to the coronavirus from the leaders of Brazil and Venezuela, and says it will remove content that has a call to action that poses a threat to people's health or well being.

It has also previously used the warning label for an elected official, Brazilian politician Osmar Terra, who tweeted that quarantine increases the spread of the virus.

Virus ignited in US no earlier than mid-January, study says

By MIKE STOBBE and CARLA K. JOHNSON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The spark that started the U.S. coronavirus epidemic arrived during a three-week window from mid-January to early February, before the nation halted travel from China, according to the most comprehensive federal study to date of when the virus began spreading.

That means anyone in the U.S. who thought they had the virus in December or early January probably had the flu, public health researchers said.

Some people have claimed Americans were getting sick from the coronavirus as early as November and that infections were spreading in the U.S. before any case was identified, said Dr. Robert Redfield, the head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(This) puts data into the discussion. Prior to this we had discussion without a lot of data," he said.

In the study released Friday, CDC researchers collaborated with health officials in six states as well as genetics researchers and disease modelers in the Seattle area.

They drew on four kinds of data. One was reported illnesses by hospital emergency departments across the country. Another was a look back at about 11,000 respiratory specimens collected in January and February. A third was a genetic analysis of viruses taken from patients in California, Washington and the Northeast. Finally, autopsy findings from California also fit the theory.

The new coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China, late last year. The first U.S. infection to be identified

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 66 of 77

was a traveler — a Washington state man who returned from Wuhan on Jan. 15 and sought help at a clinic on Jan. 19.

The White House announced a ban on travelers from China on Jan. 31, with implementation beginning on Feb. 3. Before that, some travelers were screened for symptoms at some airports. Only later did health officials realize the virus could spread before symptoms show up, rendering symptom-based screening imperfect.

White House officials in February declared the virus was contained and not a current risk to the American public. Until late February, coronavirus infections were too rarely diagnosed by emergency departments to be identified as a growing epidemic, the study found.

But limited spread in some communities was occurring in late January and early February, the study found. Early instances of infection were found in the 11,000 airway samples collected from six states. The earliest was in a sample collected Feb. 21 in the Seattle area.

Genetic analysis from early cases suggest a single lineage of virus from China began spreading in the United States between Jan. 18 and Feb. 9.

One of the report's authors, Trevor Bedford of Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, has been tracking the pandemic using the virus's genetic code. He said in an email Friday that there could have been a few undetected cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. in December or January, but flu season was at its height.

"Based on just symptoms in January, it's almost certainly flu or another respiratory infection," Bedford said.

The earliest infections in Washington and California were from viruses originating in China, a genetic analysis found. Several introductions of the virus from Europe followed in February and March.

A separate study, released Friday by the journal Science, focused on the virus's beginning in New York City, which was hit hard by the virus.

It looked at the genetic information of coronaviruses gathered from 84 patients treated at the Mount Sinai Health System between Feb. 29 and March 18. The information provides clear evidence for multiple introductions of infections — largely from Europe — into New York during the first weeks of March, the authors concluded.

The Trump administration announced a travel ban for most of Europe on March 11, and it went into effect March 13. The United Kingdom and Ireland were initially not included.

Ana Gonzalez-Reiche and her fellow authors wrote that the travel restrictions did little to prevent spread because community-driven transmission was already occurring.

The No. 2 official at the CDC previously acknowledged U.S. officials were slow to understand how much the virus was spreading from Europe.

So, did the White House travel bans come too late to stop outbreaks from beginning?

The CDC study was not designed to assess that, said the agency's Dr. Jay Butler.

"It's important to recognize the travel bans were intended to slow introduction of the virus," he said. "We knew it would be fairly unlikely that it would be completely kept out of the United States."

As of Friday, there have been more than 1.7 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. and more than 101,000 deaths.

Powell: Fed to soon begin 'challenging' Main Street lending

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell acknowledged Friday that the Fed faces a major challenge with the launch in the coming days of a program that will lend to companies other than banks for the first time since the Great Depression.

The Fed's Main Street Lending is geared toward medium-sized companies that are too large for the government's small business lending program and too small to sell bonds or stock to the public. The individual loans, which could reach \$600 billion, will technically be made by banks. But the Fed will buy 85% to 95% of each loan, thereby reducing the risk to banks and freeing them to do more lending.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 67 of 77

Powell said that Main Street will make its first loans in a "few days." He has previously set June 1 as the target, or soon after.

He noted that the complexity of the program goes far beyond the Fed's usual lending efforts, which typically involve buying bonds. The Main Street program will consist of unique loans to individual businesses.

"It is far and away the biggest challenge of the 11 facilities we have set up," Powell said.

Speaking in an online question-and-answer session with Alan Blinder, a Princeton economist and former vice chairman of the Fed, Powell also said he worries that a second wave of the coronavirus, perhaps in the fall, would damage consumer confidence and weaken any economic recovery.

For the economy to fully recover, Powell said, Americans must be confident that they can shop, eat at restaurants or visit public places without risking infection. For that reason, he said, tracking the spread of the virus is, if anything, more important than economic data in gauging any recovery.

"A second wave would really undermine public confidence and might make for a significantly longer and weaker recovery," the chairman said.

Addressing the Main Street Lending program, Powell said its primary goal is to help preserve jobs or make it easier for workers to find new ones. Companies with up to 15,000 employees or \$5 billion in revenue are eligible.

"That's the point of this exercise," he said.

Yet unlike with the government's small business lending program, borrowers from Main Street won't be required to keep their employees. Instead, they will be required to make "commercially reasonable" efforts to hold onto their staffs. That has brought criticism from Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., that Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who has backed the Main Street effort, haven't done enough to ensure that the program will in fact protect jobs.

Powell said Friday that the Main Street loans are intended for companies that were healthy before the pandemic hit and that will likely remain viable. But many Fed watchers have argued that the program won't be very effective unless it is willing to make risky loans that might fail. The Treasury Department has provided \$75 billion to offset losses.

Mnuchin had initially indicated that the Treasury wanted all that money to be repaid, which could have forced the Fed to be too cautious. But earlier this month Mnuchin reversed himself and said the Treasury was willing to take losses on the Main Street loans.

The Fed has reacted to the sharp downturn in the economy by slashing short-term interest rates to near zero and buying \$2 trillion in Treasury securities and mortgage-backed bonds to keep credit markets functioning. It has also announced 11 separate lending programs that are intended to support borrowing by businesses, banks and households.

Roughly 30 million Americans — about one in five workers — are receiving unemployment aid, a result of widespread business shutdowns and record drops in consumer spending. All states have begun phased re-openings of their economies, which has produced some modest bounce-back in consumer spending. Still, Powell has previously said the unemployment rate is likely to peak at between 20% and 25% in May or June.

In his most recent public comments, Powell has underscored that the United States is gripped by an economic shock "without modern precedent" and that Congress must consider providing further financial aid soon to support states, localities, businesses and individuals to prevent an even deeper recession.

Review: Pop star Gaga is back, but where's the art or spark?

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

Lady Gaga, "Chromatica" (Interscope)

In the 12 years since Lady Gaga dropped her first album, the singer has exceptionally shown that she knows how to create a killer album.

"The Fame" was danceable and clever. "The Fame Monster" was an epic adventure into her darker mind. "Born This Way" brilliantly wove in elements of rock and house with her signature pop. Though she might

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 68 of 77

have tripped over her disco ball on "ARTPOP," the album still had direction and character. And "Joanne" was a deep, emotional set of songs that paved the way for the sound of "A Star is Born," a flawless album that captures all the great sides of Gaga.

Enter "Chromatica," her sixth studio effort, and her return to the electro dance-pop sound that made her a multiplatinum pop star.

It's an album made for the clubs, though during this current pandemic, that's equivalent to dancing alone in front of your floor mirror.

But instead of bopping along to the album, you'll want to social distance from it.

"Chromatica" is a letdown from one of pop's best voices. The production, which is basic, is the album's biggest problem — and the flat sound doesn't help bring the heavy themes of the album to life like Gaga has been able to do in the past.

BloodPop works as lead producer, co-crafting most songs on the project. But other helpers are also part of the process, including Max Martin, Skrillex, Ryan Tedder, Axwell, Sebastian Ingrosso, Justin Tranter, BURNS, Rami Yacoub and Tchami. Too many cooks in the kitchen could be the reason the album lacks real flavor. Where is the salt, or spark?

"Alice," one of the better songs on the 16-track set, opens the album as Gaga sings, "My name isn't Alice/But I'll keep looking, I'll keep looking for Wonderland."

Her search isn't over if "Chromatica" is any indication — this feels like a watered-down version of the creative Gaga we all love.

In an interview to promote the album, she explained that "Free Woman" was about her sexual assault and "Rain on Me" was partly about her overdrinking. The topics are real and at times, extremely heavy, and Gaga gets points for sharing her real-life feelings and experiences in her music. But the album's production doesn't serve as the best vessel for those deep emotions to breathe. And her vocal performance, surprisingly plain and unmemorable, doesn't help either. Sometimes it feels like Gaga isn't even present.

Some of the lyrics feel lazy, too. On "Plastic Doll" she sings, "I've lived in a pink box so long/I am top shelf, they built me strong." Enter side-eye emoji here.

Gaga fares better on tracks like "Replay," or even "911" and "Babylon," though both songs sound like leftover tracks from "Born This Way."

But most of "Chromatica" is problematic: First single "Stupid Love" is forgettable; "Enigma" is predictable; and the inclusion of the chart-topping Ariana Grande on the bouncy but super-mediocre "Rain on Me" screams, "I JUST WANT A NO. 1 HIT RIGHT NOW."

Having little depth, the best way to describe "Chromatica" might be shallow.

What you need to know today about the virus outbreak

By The Associated Press undefined

U.S. consumer spending plunged by a record-shattering 13.6% in April as the pandemic shuttered businesses, forced millions of layoffs and sent the economy into deep recession.

Europe's extensive social welfare net is showing signs of fraying under economic strain from the coronavirus. The Spanish government will provide more money for the country's most impoverished families so they can reach a minimum monthly income.

India reported another record increase in cases and Pakistan a record number of deaths.

As cases steadily rise across Africa officials say they are losing the global race for equipment and drugs.

Here are some of AP's top stories Friday on the world's coronavirus pandemic. Follow APNews.com/VirusOutbreak for updates through the day and APNews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak for stories explaining some of its complexities.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY:

— Nations are easing restrictions and opening up air travel, even as the coronavirus spreads in many areas of the world.

— In Latin America, the virus initially affecting wealthy citizens is now increasingly concentrated in

poorer neighborhoods.

— Protecting people from extreme heat in America's Southwest desert cities is more complicated this year because of COVID-19.

— South Africa says it has a backlog of nearly 100,000 unprocessed tests for the coronavirus, an example of the painful shortage of testing kits across Africa as cases steadily rise.

— Worshippers in Turkey have held their first communal Friday prayers in 74 days after the government reopened some mosques as part of its plans to relax measures in place to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

— In Brazil, couples have begun turning to drive-thru marriage to avoid the coronavirus. At a notary on the western outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, 15 couples were married on Thursday alone.

— The virus is affecting training for Marine Corps recruits at Parris Island and across the military. Defense leaders say some adjustments are beneficial and could become permanent.

— The Spanish government will provide more money for the country's most impoverished 850,000 families so they can reach a minimum monthly income in the nation's first attempt to guarantee a basic salary.

— For Orthodox Christians, the use of a shared spoon by a priest to distribute Holy Communion is a tradition that dates back thousands of years and the Greek Orthodox Church insists is impossible for any disease to be transmitted through Holy Communion.

— Alabama's sparsely populated Lowndes County has the sad distinction of having both the state's highest rate of COVID-19 cases and its worst unemployment rate.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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

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

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

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

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

Fed lockup where Epstein died gets harsh coronavirus review

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Prisoners with COVID-19 symptoms were neglected and ignored as the outbreak rippled through the federal detention center in Manhattan where financier Jeffrey Epstein died last summer, according to a doctor who performed a court-authorized inspection of the facility this month.

Social distancing was almost nonexistent in the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where some inmates sleep on bunks within arm's reach of each other, according to a report by Dr. Homer S. Venters, a former chief medical officer for New York City's jails who toured the facility May 13.

The jail only let several prisoners get tested for the virus, Venters wrote. Five infected inmates were sent to a high-security housing unit that he said was "grossly inappropriate for the treatment of any ill inmates, and particularly those suffering from COVID-19."

The doctor also said the place was infested with mice, rats and roaches, reflecting a "basic disregard for sanitation and infection control," and that some jail practices "actually promote a more rapid spread of COVID-19 inside the facility," boosting the likelihood of serious illness or death.

One panicked female inmate forced to share a cell with a woman with COVID-19 symptoms hung a sheet and feigned a suicide attempt to get transferred, Venters wrote.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 70 of 77

Lawyers seeking to represent nearly 800 inmates hired the doctor to tour the detention center, with the approval of a federal judge, for a lawsuit seeking court oversight to free some prisoners and improve conditions. A hearing is scheduled for next week.

In court filings, the lawyers described a dirty jail where toilets shared by multiple inmates leak water, urine and feces while inmates struggle to find a bar of soap, clean clothing and a mask that fits.

The jail is where Epstein killed himself last summer while awaiting a sex trafficking trial. U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman, who would have presided over Epstein's trial, recently called it an "outrage" that the Bureau of Prisons hadn't fixed problems at the MCC that have only been amplified by the coronavirus.

Attorneys for the warden said in court filings that the judge should toss out the lawsuit.

A Bureau of Prisons spokesman declined comment, citing the litigation.

In a deposition, the jail's warden, Marti Licon-Vitale, agreed conditions in the special housing unit were worse than a cell but said isolating ill inmates took priority.

There would be fewer rodents, she said, if inmates disposed of their uneaten food properly.

Licon-Vitale said the MCC was slowed in its response to Attorney General William Barr's directive to consider home confinement for inmates vulnerable to the coronavirus "because while COVID was an emergency, we also had the emergency of our staffing levels because staff were going out on sick leave." At least 45 guards and others on a staff of about 200 fell ill, though 33 have recovered.

On its website, the Bureau of Prisons reports that all five MCC prisoners who tested positive for the coronavirus have recovered. Lawyers for inmates, however, said they believed 75 to 150 had been infected and the true number "will never be known because of the MCC's failure to administer tests."

Dr. Robert Beaudouin, the MCC's medical director, said in a deposition that the discrepancy between so many staff members and so few could be blamed on the scarcity of testing.

"If you test more inmates, you are likely going to have more inmates positive," he said. He added that a newly acquired fast-testing COVID-19 machine wasn't used yet while the jail seeks a printer so the results appear "more professional and more official."

Venters in his report said the MCC ignored the high prevalence of COVID-19 symptoms among inmates and relied almost exclusively on temperature checks, rather than tests, to screen for the virus.

Several sick inmates were sent to high-security Special Housing Unit cells, where "they shivered through their fevers on concrete beds, while their pleas for blankets and clean drinking water were ignored," the lawyers wrote.

One prisoner with a high fever, Vinicius Andrade, was left on the concrete, shaking with no sheets, blanket or pillow as he coughed continuously for five days without anyone checking his chest or lungs, the lawyers said.

Antonio Smith lost 36 pounds (16 kilos) as he recovered in the same unit with no sense of taste or appetite, suffering from swollen and tearing eyes, a cough that produced a "clear sticky substance," and constant sweating, the lawyers said.

Tiffany Days, 39, said in a court declaration that she asked Special Housing Unit guards for water but "they didn't give me any. They told me to just drink from the sink in the cell." She said the sink was "full of spit — it is very dirty."

"We have to beg for gloves, cleaning supplies, and to see medical," she said.

Fourteen inmates who filed sworn statements with the court describing severe fevers, body aches, coughs, chills and other symptoms said they waited days or weeks for care. Some didn't report symptoms for fear they'd be sent to the Special Housing Unit.

"It is a small miracle no one died," the lawyers for inmates said.

"Even the exceedingly simple task of getting the inmates soap seems to be beyond the institution's wherewithal," the lawyers wrote.

Well-preserved Roman mosaic unearthed in Italian vineyard

SOAVE, Italy (AP) — Archaeologists have briefly revealed a well-preserved mosaic floor of an ancient Roman villa first discovered almost a century ago near the northern Italian city of Verona.

The mosaic in bright shades of red, pink, orange, purple and yellow appeared to be “in a good state of conservation,” from what archaeologists observed after gingerly digging a trench between vineyards in the hills of Valpolicella, Gianni de Zuccato, the official in charge of archaeology in Verona province, said Friday.

Mosaics revealing the site of an ancient villa were first discovered in 1922. Archaeologists have been doing partial digs to determine the scale of the original villa and in preparation to transform the area into a museum. The recent discovery of two nearby mosaic floors confirmed the villa extended north and south of the original site.

The dig from May 18-22 was the fourth since July and went ahead only after restrictions imposed as part of Italy’s coronavirus lockdown were lifted. The unearthed mosaic from the villa’s servants’ quarters dates from the 3rd century and has since been covered back up.

“After numerous failed attempts, finally a part of the flooring and foundation of the Roman villa discovered a century ago has been brought to light,” the city administration of Negrar, the town where the site is located, said in a Facebook post.

The city said archaeological officials would decide with landowners and Negrar officials the best way to make the site accessible to the public.

The original excavation in 1922 revealed the remains of a villa of some 270 square meters that had intricate mosaics covering set into the floors of multiple rooms. The ongoing project aims to continue study of the site to fully reveal its story while protecting the dig and eventually putting a protective covering over it “with the goal of creating a museum that can be visited by the public,” officials said.

Locust invasion wreaks havoc on Pakistan’s crops, orchards

By ASIM TANVEER and MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) — An invasion of locusts has spread across Pakistan, officials said Friday, causing damage to crops and orchards and posing a threat to food security in an impoverished Islamic nation already struggling to tackle a virus pandemic that has caused more than 1,300 deaths.

Massive swarms of the desert locust, which experts say originates in Africa and is the most destructive of the locust species, began damaging crops in Pakistan last month.

But the situation worsened this week and authorities began dispatching aircraft and spraying machines filled with pesticides mounted on vehicles to eliminate the insects, which are roughly the length of a finger and fly together by the millions.

Farmers could be seen wading through clouds of the insects as some tried to kill them with sticks.

Chaudhry Asghar, an agriculture officer in the Punjab provincial capital of Multan, said millions of desert locusts had already damaged orchards, crops and vegetables.

“We have intensified efforts to save our crops from any further invasion of locusts,” Syed Fahar Imam, national food security minister, said Friday. He said the government will buy five more aircraft for spraying crops.

The insects have wreaked havoc on swathes of farmland in eastern Punjab, southern Sindh and south-western Baluchistan province. They also attacked crops in the northwest bordering Afghanistan.

The locusts have also brought agricultural destruction to neighboring India, where critics pointed the finger at Pakistan as a new breeding ground for the desert locusts. Pakistani officials said no country should blame another for the situation, but all affected countries need to make collective efforts to prevent a possible food crisis in the region.

Farmers say while crops of rabi, a type of grain, were sown in winter and harvested in the spring, locusts are damaging cotton and vegetable crops sown in April.

“I have already lost my cotton crop and vegetables because of these locusts,” said Abdul Rehman, a farmer in Baluchistan province. He wondered what they would eat if the locusts continued unchecked.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 72 of 77

The National Disaster Management Authority said resources were being mobilized and operations were underway to curb the locust invasion.

In a statement, it said 1,150 teams of experts have expanded operations by spraying swarms of desert locusts in 61 districts across the country. Arrangements were also being made to combat another possible attack of desert locusts expected in July and August.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has struggled to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, with more than 64,000 cases confirmed and more than 1,300 fatalities. The country on Friday reported 57 virus-related deaths in the past 24 hours, its most in a single day since the outbreak began in February. Infections increased recently across Pakistan, including in the capital of Islamabad, after the government eased lockdown restrictions, ignoring warnings from medical professionals.

Despite increasing numbers of cases and virus-related fatalities, Pakistan announced Friday that it would resume international air travel, starting on Saturday, after flights were suspended in March to contain the spread of virus. It said all required measures will be taken for the safety of passengers by deploying medical teams at airports to screen passengers and cabin crews.

Parents settle lawsuit over disabled son's forced baptism

PAINESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — The parents of a disabled Ohio teen have settled a lawsuit against a church and others over what they said was the boy's forced baptism at a picnic in 2016, the parents' attorneys said.

The confidential settlement on behalf of April and Gregg DeFibaugh and their son, identified as "V," was agreed to earlier this year in Lake County outside Cleveland. It was announced Thursday by a spokesman for the group American Atheists.

The lawsuit claimed a man from a northeast Ohio Big Brothers Big Sisters group took the boy, then 11, to a Morning Star Friends Church picnic in August 2016 and told him he would stop taking him to minor league baseball games if he did not agree to be baptized.

The full immersion baptism traumatized the boy, causing anxiety and recurring nightmares about drowning, the lawsuit said.

"Although no settlement or verdict could undo the anguish their son suffered, the DeFibaughs are pleased with the outcome," said American Atheist attorney Geoffrey Blackwell in a statement.

An attorney for Big Brothers Big Sisters said Friday that the lawsuit found no fault with the group. Attorneys for the boy's big brother, the church and a minister declined to comment, citing the confidential settlement terms.

US consumer spending sinks by record 13.6% in face of virus

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending plunged by a record-shattering 13.6% in April as the viral pandemic shuttered businesses, forced millions of layoffs and sent the economy into a deep recession.

Last month's spending decline was far worse than the revised 6.9% drop in March, which itself had set a record for the steepest one-month fall in records dating to 1959. Friday's Commerce Department figures reinforced evidence that the economy is gripped by the worst downturn in decades, with consumers unable or too anxious to spend much.

Even with employers cutting millions of jobs, though, incomes soared 10.5% in April, reflecting billions of dollars in government payments in the form of unemployment aid and stimulus checks. Wages and salaries, normally the key component of overall income, sank by an annualized \$740 billion in April. By contrast, income in the form of government support jumped by an annualized \$3 trillion. That form of income, though, will likely fade in coming months as certain government aid programs expire.

Friday's report showed sharp declines in consumer spending across the board — from durable goods like cars to non-durable items such as clothing to services ranging from doctor visits to haircuts. Spending tumbled 17.3% for durable goods, 16.2% for non-durables and 12.2% for services.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 73 of 77

"The economics of fear and sudden stops were apparent in April as fearful and locked-down households cut back on spending," Gregory Daco, chief economist at Oxford Economics, said in a research note.

The depth of the spending drop is particularly damaging because consumer spending is the primary driver of the economy, accounting for about 70% of economic activity. Last month's figure signaled that the April-June quarter will be especially grim, with the economy thought to be shrinking at an annual rate near 40%. That would be, by far, the worst quarterly contraction on record.

With spending plunging and incomes surging on the strength of government support payments, Americans' personal savings rate hit a record high of 33% of after-tax income in April. Economists said this underscored how anxiety and uncertainty about the economy are making consumers reluctant to spend.

Daco suggested that "more frugal consumer behavior ... will dampen the recovery."

"This is particularly true as the social benefits will gradually erode over time, leaving households more financially constrained," he said.

Friday's report showed that an inflation gauge preferred by the Federal Reserve fell 0.5% after a 0.2% drop in March. Fed officials have cited the absence of inflation pressures as one reason they can be aggressive in supporting the economy by cutting their benchmark interest rate to near zero and pumping billions of dollars into credit markets to keep them flowing smoothly.

In April, the nation's jobless rate was 14.7%, the highest since the Great Depression, and many economists think it will top 20% for May. States are gradually restarting their economies by letting some businesses reopen with certain restrictions, and some laid-off employees are being recalled to work. Still, the job market remains severely depressed, and the outlook for the rest of the year is still bleak.

Some financial support for the tens of millions of consumers who have been laid off over the past two months is coming from the weekly unemployment benefits. Besides whatever unemployment aid states are providing to laid-off workers, the federal government is providing \$600 a week in additional benefits.

A debate in Congress over whether to extend the \$600 a week in federal unemployment aid looks sure to intensify, with the number of people receiving that aid now topping 30 million — one in five workers. The money is set to expire July 31. Yet with the unemployment rate widely expected to still be in the mid-teens by then, lawmakers will face pressure to compromise on some form of renewed benefits.

The Trump administration asserts that the economy will begin to regain its health in the second half of the year, with businesses increasingly reopening and restoring jobs and consumers increasing spending. Most economists say, though, that the lingering effects of the job losses and likely business bankruptcies will take longer to overcome, especially if a second wave of the coronavirus erupts. Analysts generally believe the economy won't manage to sustain a solid recovery until a vaccine is widely available.

And until Americans resume spending at something close to their previous levels, jobs won't likely return in a significant way. Data from Chase Bank credit and debit cards shows that consumers have slowly increased their spending since the government distributed \$1,200 stimulus checks in mid-April.

But most of that increase has occurred in online shopping. Spending in regular brick and mortar stores, which makes up the vast majority of consumer spending, is still down 35% from a year ago, according to Chase, after having plummeted 50% at its lowest point.

Police across US speak out against Minneapolis custody death

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Murder. Brutality. Reprehensible. Indefensible. Police nationwide, in unequivocal and unprecedented language, have condemned the actions of Minneapolis police in the custody death of a handcuffed black man who cried for help as an officer knelt on his neck, pinning him to the pavement for at least eight minutes.

But some civil rights advocates say their denunciations are empty words without meaningful reform behind them.

Authorities say George Floyd was detained Monday because he matched the description of someone who tried to pay with a counterfeit bill at a convenience store, and the 46-year-old resisted arrest. A bystander's

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 74 of 77

disturbing video shows Officer Derek Chauvin, who is white, kneeling on Floyd's neck, even as Floyd begs for air and slowly stops talking and moving.

"There is no need to see more video," Chattanooga, Tennessee, Police Chief David Roddy tweeted Wednesday. "There no need to wait to see how 'it plays out'. There is no need to put a knee on someone's neck for NINE minutes. There IS a need to DO something. If you wear a badge and you don't have an issue with this ... turn it in."

The reaction from some law enforcement stands in stark contrast to their muted response or support for police after other in-custody fatalities. Sheriffs and police chiefs have strongly criticized the Minneapolis officer on social media and praised the city's police chief for his quick dismissal of four officers at the scene. Some even called for them to be criminally charged.

"I am deeply disturbed by the video of Mr. Floyd being murdered in the street with other officers there letting it go on," Polk County, Georgia, Sheriff Johnny Moats wrote on Facebook. "I can assure everyone, me or any of my deputies will never treat anyone like that as long as I'm Sheriff. This kind of brutality is terrible and it needs to stop. All Officers involved need to be arrested and charged immediately. Praying for the family."

Typically, police call for patience and calm in the wake of a use of force. They are reluctant to weigh in on episodes involving another agency, often citing ongoing investigations or due process.

"Not going hide behind 'not being there,'" tweeted San Jose Police, California, Chief Eddie Garcia. "I'd be one of the first to condemn anyone had I seen similar happen to one of my brother/ sister officers. What I saw happen to George Floyd disturbed me and is not consistent with the goal of our mission. The act of one, impacts us all."

But Gloria Browne-Marshall, a civil rights attorney and professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said she wouldn't be a "cheerleader" for a "handful" of chiefs who harshly decried the officers' behavior.

"Any minute progress is seen as miraculous because so little has been done for so long," she said. "It's nothing close to progress or what outrage would be taking place if it was a white man as the victim of this assault."

Melina Abdullah, co-founder of Black Lives Matter in Los Angeles, said she wasn't "particularly moved" by the relatively few police who voiced outrage.

Abdullah said the three other officers who witnessed Chauvin's actions and did not intervene contributed to a long-standing system of police racism and oppression against people of color.

"We've got to remember that it was not just Officer Chauvin who was sitting on George Floyd's neck," she said.

Abdullah and hundreds of others protested what she called Floyd's lynching on Wednesday night. Some blocked lanes of a freeway and shattered windows of California Highway Patrol cruisers.

Minneapolis is bracing for more violence after days of civil unrest, with burned buildings, looted stores and angry graffiti demanding justice. The governor on Thursday called in the National Guard. On Thursday night, protesters torched a Minneapolis police station that the department was forced to abandon.

The heads of the Los Angeles and Chicago departments — both of which have been rocked before by police brutality scandals — addressed Floyd's death and its potential effect on race relations between law enforcement and communities of color.

Even the New York Police Department weighed in. Eric Garner died in the city in 2014 after he was placed in a chokehold by police and uttered the same words Floyd did: "I can't breathe."

It took city officials five years to fire the officer, and no criminal or federal charges were brought.

"What we saw in Minnesota was deeply disturbing. It was wrong," NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea wrote Thursday. "We must take a stand and address it. We must come together, condemn these actions and reinforce who we are as members of the NYPD. This is not acceptable ANYWHERE."

Before he was commissioner, Shea spearheaded the NYPD's shift to community policing that moved away from a more confrontational style favored by other commissioners after Garner's death.

Harris County, Texas, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, who also spoke out online, told The Associated Press that

law enforcement agencies keep promising reforms in the wake of fatalities, but they are “not delivering it on a consistent basis.”

“When bad things happen in our profession, we need to be able to call it like it is,” he said. “We keep thinking that the last one will be the last one, and then another one surfaces.”

New drugs make headway against lung, prostate, colon cancers

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

Doctors are reporting success with newer drugs that control certain types of cancer better, reduce the risk it will come back and make treatment simpler and easier to bear.

Gentler drugs would be a relief to patients like Jenn Carroll, a 57-year-old human resources director from New Hartford, Connecticut, who had traditional IV chemotherapy after lung cancer surgery in 2018.

“It was very strong. I call it the ‘blammo’ method,” she said.

Carroll jumped at the chance to help test a newer drug taken as a daily pill, AstraZeneca’s Tagrisso. Rather than chemo’s imprecise cell-killing approach, Tagrisso targets a specific gene mutation. Its side effects are manageable enough that it can be used for several years to help prevent recurrence, doctors said.

A big drawback: It and other newer drugs are extremely expensive — \$150,000 or more a year. How much patients end up paying depends on insurance, income and other factors.

Here are highlights of that study and others from an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference being held online this weekend because of the coronavirus pandemic.

LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer kills more than 1.7 million people globally each year. Dr. Roy Herbst of the Yale Cancer Center led a study of Tagrisso in 682 patients with the most common form of the disease. All had operable tumors with a mutation in a gene called EGFR that’s found in 10% to 35% of cases, especially among Asians and non-smokers.

About half had standard chemo after surgery and then took Tagrisso or placebo pills. Independent monitors stopped the study last month when the drug’s benefit seemed clear.

After two years on average, 89% of patients on the drug were alive without a cancer recurrence versus 53% on placebo. Severe side effects were a little more common on Tagrisso — mostly diarrhea, fatigue and inflamed skin around nails or in the mouth.

Tagrisso is approved for treating advanced lung cancer, and “the excitement now is moving this earlier” before the disease has widely spread, said Herbst, who has consulted for the drug’s maker.

The drug costs about \$15,000 a month.

PROSTATE CANCER

Men with advanced prostate cancer often are treated with medicines to suppress male hormones that can help the cancer grow. The drugs are given as shots every few months but take days or weeks to start working and can cause an initial flare of bone pain and urinary or other problems.

Researchers tested Myovant Sciences’s relugolix — a different type of hormone blocker and the first that’s a daily pill — versus leuprolide shots every three months in 930 men treated for nearly a year.

About 97% on the experimental drug kept hormones suppressed throughout that time versus 89% on leuprolide. Four days after the start of treatment, 56% of men on relugolix and none on leuprolide had hormones suppressed.

A heart attack, stroke or other serious heart problem occurred in 3% of men on relugolix and in 6% of men on leuprolide. The difference was even greater among men with prior heart problems.

That could be important because heart disease is a frequent cause of death in men with prostate cancer, according to Dr. Celestia Higano of the University of Washington in Seattle. She had no role in the study and wrote in a commentary published with the results in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Myovant is seeking Food and Drug Administration approval for the drug; no cost estimate has been disclosed.

COLON CANCER

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 76 of 77

Merck & Co.'s blockbuster Keytruda, which helps the immune system find and fight cancer, proved better than standard chemo combinations as initial treatment for people with advanced colon cancer and tumors with gene defects that result in a high number of mutations, making them tough to treat.

The study involved 307 patients in France. Those given Keytruda went more than 16 months on average before their cancer worsened compared with 8 months for those on chemo. After a year, 55% on Keytruda were alive without worsening cancer versus 37% on chemo. After two years, it was 48% versus nearly 19%.

About 22% of people getting Keytruda had severe side effects versus 66% on chemo.

About 5% of colon cancers are like those in this study, said Dr. Howard Burris, president of the oncology society and head of the Sarah Cannon Research Institute in Nashville.

"If you're one of that one in 20, instead of taking that combination chemotherapy you can take a simpler immunotherapy once every two weeks" with better results and fewer side effects, he said.

Keytruda costs about \$12,500 a month.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, May 30, the 151st day of 2020. There are 215 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 30, 1989, student protesters in Beijing erected a "Goddess of Democracy" statue in Tiananmen Square (the statue was destroyed in the Chinese government's crackdown).

On this date:

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1883, 12 people were trampled to death in a stampede sparked by a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing.

In 1911, the first Indy 500 took place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner was Ray Harroun, who drove a Marmon Wasp for more than 6 1/2 hours at an average speed of 74.6 mph and collected a prize of \$10,000.

In 1912, aviation pioneer Wilbur Wright, 45, died in Dayton, Ohio, of typhoid fever more than eight years after he and his brother, Orville, launched their first airplane.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1935, Babe Ruth played in his last major league baseball game for the Boston Braves, leaving after the first inning of the first game of a double-header against the Philadelphia Phillies, who won both games (Ruth announced his retirement three days later).

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1943, during World War II, American troops secured the Aleutian island of Attu from Japanese forces.

In 1972, three members of the Japanese Red Army opened fire at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing 26 people. Two attackers died; the third was captured.

In 1994, Mormon Church president Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City at age 94.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson were granted an uncontested decree ending their 10-year marriage.

In 2002, a solemn, wordless ceremony marked the end of the agonizing cleanup at ground zero in New York, 8 1/2 months after 9/11.

Ten years ago: Joran van der Sloot, the prime suspect in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba, was seen leaving a hotel room in Lima, Peru, where the body of 21-year-old Stephany Flores was found three days later. (Van der Sloot later confessed to murdering Flores, and is serving a 28-year prison sentence.) Dario Franchitti drove 199 nearly flawless laps, then got a huge break from a spectacular crash on the last lap to climb back on top of the open-wheel world with a win at the Indianapolis 500.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 30, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 322 ~ 77 of 77

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden's son, former Delaware attorney general Beau Biden, died at age 46 of brain cancer. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley entered the Democratic presidential race.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he was slapping a 5% tariff on all Mexican imports to pressure the country to do more to crack down on Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border. Louisiana's Democratic governor, John Bel Edwards, signed a ban on abortion as early as six weeks of pregnancy, making Louisiana the fifth state to enact a law prohibiting abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected. (The laws have been blocked by court challenges.) Former Republican Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi died at the age of 81, just over a year after retiring. Israel's parliament voted to dissolve itself, sending the country to an unprecedented second snap election of the year, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition. (Netanyahu and chief rival Benny Gantz announced a deal to form a coalition government in April, 2020, averting what would have been a fourth election in just over a year.) The Scripps National Spelling Bee ended in an eight-way tie. The Toronto Raptors beat the Golden State Warriors 118-109 in Game 1 of the NBA Finals in Toronto, the first NBA championship series game to be played outside the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ruta Lee is 85. Actor Keir Dullea is 84. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers is 77. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 76. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 69. Actor Colm Meaney is 67. Actor Ted McGinley is 62. Actor Ralph Carter is 59. Actress Tonya Pinkins is 58. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 56. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 56. Actor Mark Sheppard is 56. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 55. Actor John Ross Bowie is 49. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 49. Actress Idina Menzel is 49. Actor Trey Parker is 48. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 45. Rapper Remy Ma is 40. Actor Blake Bashoff is 39. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 38. Actress Javicia Leslie is 33. Actor Jake Short is 23. Actor Sean Giambrone is 21. Actor Jared Gilmore is 20.

Thought for Today: "There are two statements about human beings that are true: that all human beings are alike, and that all are different. On those two facts all human wisdom is founded." — Mark Van Doren, American poet (1894-1972).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.