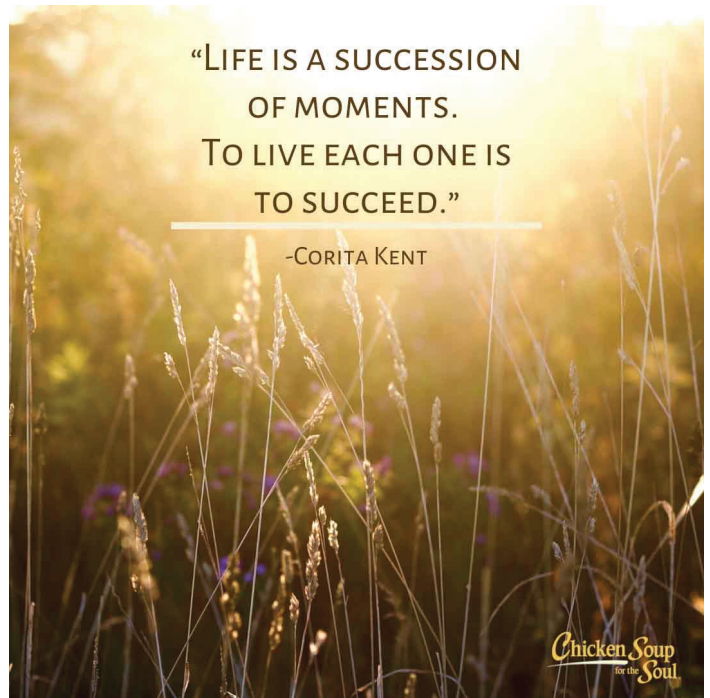


Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 1 of 82

- [1- Church Services Today](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [17- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [18- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [19- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [21- SD News Watch: Grain bin accidents and deaths rising due to poor crop conditions](#)
- [27- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [30- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [31- May 31st COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [34- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [35- Weather Pages](#)
- [38- Daily Devotional](#)
- [39- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [40- News from the Associated Press](#)



“LIFE IS A SUCCESSION
OF MOMENTS.
TO LIVE EACH ONE IS
TO SUCCEED.”

-CORITA KENT

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



This sunrise photo was taken yesterday by Jeslyn Kosel.

Church Services on-line

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

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

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

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

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

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 2 of 82

Sunday Extras

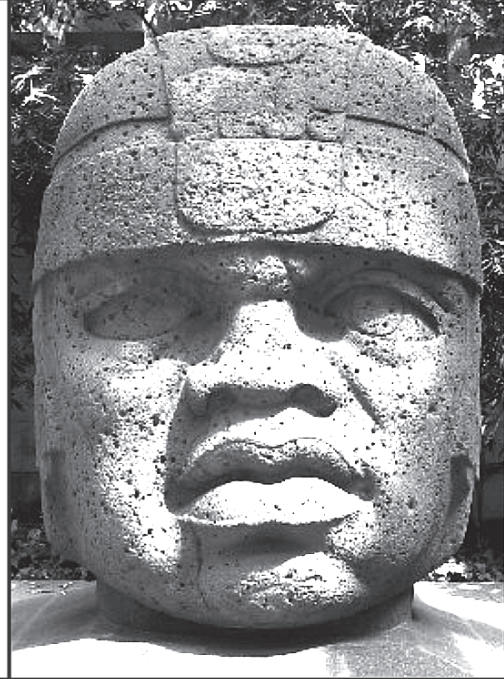


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*The eyes of the arrogant
will be humbled
and human pride brought low;
the Lord alone
will be exalted in that day.*

ISAIAH 2:11

Olmec stone head, Veracruz, Mexico



© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



The New Normal...

BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Chronicles in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. How many pieces of silver did Joseph's brothers get when they sold him into slavery? *0, 2, 19, 20*

3. Where does it command brides to shave their heads and manicure their nails? *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*

4. From Exodus 28, what fruit was used as a design on priestly garments? *Grapes, Pomegranates, Pears, Fiwgs*

5. In which Psalms does it talk about grease? *1, 23, 119, 150*

6. From 1 Kings, which prophet was fed by birds? *Paul, David, Elisha, Elijah*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 20; 3) Deuteronomy 21:12; 4) Pomegranates; 5) 119:70; 6) Elijah.

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Hamburger Salad Sandwiches

Don't turn your nose up at this unusual sandwich before giving it a try. Sometimes the best flavors come from unexpected combinations.

- 1 pound extra lean ground sirloin or turkey breast*
- 1/2 cup chopped onion*
- 1/4 teaspoon dried minced garlic*
- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise*
- 1/4 cup dill pickle relish*
- 2 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard*
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper*
- 1 cup peeled and chopped fresh red tomatoes*
- 6 lettuce leaves*
- 6 small hamburger buns*

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, brown meat and onion. Stir in garlic. Place skillet on a wire rack and allow to cool completely.

2. Stir in mayonnaise, pickle relish, mustard and black pepper. Add tomatoes. Mix gently to combine.

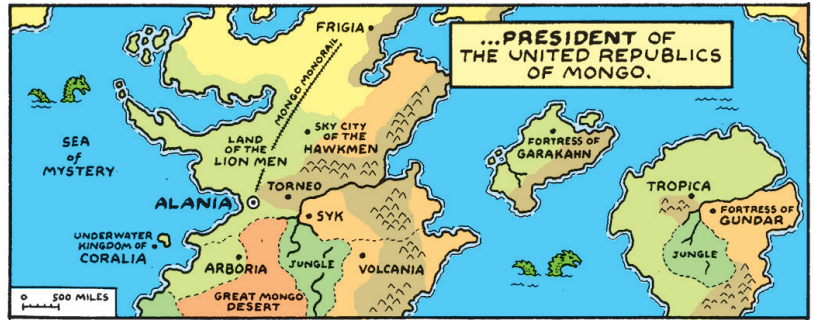
3. For each sandwich, place a lettuce leaf on bottom of a bun, spoon about 1/2 cup meat mixture over lettuce, and arrange bun top over meat mixture. Serves 6.

• Each serving equals: 225 calories, 7g fat, 16g protein, 24g carb., 545mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Vegetable, 1 Starch.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 4 of 82



FLASH GORDON

5-24 BY JIM KEEFE

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. IF MING HAS THE MEANS TO WIPE US ALL OUT, WHY HASN'T HE USED IT YET?

KING BARIN...

WITH MING IN POSSESSION OF A DEADLY NEW CHEMICAL AGENT, THE CAPITAL OF ALANIA IS PLACED UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

...THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD HAS REQUESTED THE NEW RECRUITS BE PUT INTO OUR SECURITY ROSTER.

I DON'T KNOW, BARIN. I UNDERSTAND A FEW OF THE CANDIDATES ARE LIZARD-MEN.

WITH HEIGHTENED SECURITY, I'M AFRAID IT'S A NECESSITY.

PERMISSION GRANTED.

ANY WORD FROM ZARKOV?

HE'S IN THE LAB WORKING ON A COUNTERAGENT EVEN AS WE SPEAK...

...WE HOPE TO BE HEARING FROM HIM SHORTLY.

HAVE TO GET THESE RESULTS BACK TO THE LAB TECHNICIANS...

ZASK!

WHAT THE...?!

THE ALARMS... IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

FLASH, BARIN, COME AT ONCE. AN UNKNOWN ENTITY HAS COME THROUGH THE SPACE PORTAL!

I REPEAT. AN UNKNO...

TO BE CONT'D

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

ALL GOOD PLAYERS SHUFFLE THEIR FEET FIRMLY INTO THE SAND WHEN PLAYING ALL TYPES OF BUNKER SHOTS. THE CHIEF REASON IS TO ENSURE A FIRM STANCE IN UNSTABLE MATERIAL.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON IS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEXTURE AND CONSISTENCY OF THE SAND NEEDED TO PROPERLY PLAN THE SHOT, AND OBTAINABLE UNDER THE RULES ONLY VIA THE FEET.

JM

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



Does a CPAP Machine Need Special Cleaning?

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with severe sleep apnea in the early 1990s and have been using a CPAP machine ever since. I've just recently begun seeing advertisements on television for a product that cleans the inside of your CPAP machine. It is common knowledge that we must clean the facial mask, hoses and other external parts of the machine on a regular basis, as well as changing the filters, but I have no recollection of ever having been informed by any of my sleep specialist doctors that the inside of the CPAP machine requires regular cleaning. I also do not recall ever seeing any instructions regarding this in any CPAP manual. I notice that this new CPAP cleaning machine costs approximately \$250-\$300, and I have already read a few reviews posted by people who have had lots of problems with it functioning properly.

Is it really necessary to clean the inside of your CPAP machine? I've never been informed of this in all the years I've had sleep apnea, and I have gone through several machines. — *C.P.*

ANSWER: A CPAP machine is a pressurized device used mostly for people with obstructive sleep apnea. I also have seen these advertisements, but a review of the literature suggests that there's a very low risk of infection or allergic reaction due to a dirty machine, mask or hose. Although the cleaning devices do work, I could find no evidence that they are necessary or

offer any benefit beyond regular cleaning with soap and water. This should be done regularly. Filters should be changed every two to four weeks.

DEAR DR. ROACH: If you have had hepatitis B, are you able to donate anything (e.g., blood or organs)? I was never diagnosed with the disease, but I tested positive for the antibodies during a blood donation over 30 years ago. Someone recently told me that I can still donate plasma. Is this true? I signed up on my driver's license to be an organ donor. Should I uncheck that box? I don't want to endanger anybody unknowingly. — *J.S.*

ANSWER: Antibodies to hepatitis B may be developed during natural infection or through vaccination. A doctor can tell which kind from a blood test, by determining whether the hepatitis B core antibody is positive. People who have had natural infection (a positive core antibody) may not donate blood or plasma. People who have been vaccinated (the surface antibody is positive, but the core antibody is negative) may safely donate blood and plasma.

As far as transplants go, before considering using a person's organs for transplant, the transplant team checks for the presence of active virus with sophisticated DNA testing. The likelihood of your endangering someone is low.

There is such an organ shortage that organs often are accepted from people with a history of viral hepatitis. For example, the medical team taking care of a person who is likely to die imminently without a heart transplant may accept the heart of a person with a history of hepatitis B infection. The person receiving the transplant likely would need antiviral treatment after surgery.

Don't uncheck the box. Your organs may help extend the life and sight of many people.

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

© 2020 North America Synd., Inc.
All Rights Reserved



1. Name the group that had a hit with "Play That Funky Music."
2. Kenny Loggins' "For the First Time" was used in the soundtrack of what film?
3. Which artist released "Speedy Gonzales"?
4. Name the group that released "Israelites."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "When I think about those nights in Montreal, I get the sweet thoughts of you and me."

Answers

1. Wild Cherry, in 1976. Unfortunately, it was the only hit the group ever had, possibly because they went through over a dozen members in their short run.
2. "One Fine Day," starring Michelle Pfeiffer and George Clooney, in 1996. The song received a Grammy nom for Best Original Song. Songwriter James Newton Howard has written for over 100 films.
3. Pat Boone, in 1961. Amazingly enough, the song shot to No. 6 on the U.S. charts, and did even better internationally, hitting No. 1 in Belgium, Italy, Norway and others.
4. Desmond Dekker & The Aces, in 1968.
5. "I Just Wanna Stop," by Gino Vannelli, in 1978. Vannelli got his first big record deal by racing after Herb Alpert in a studio parking lot, hotly pursued by security guards, to give Alpert a demo tape. Alpert signed him.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 6 of 82

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



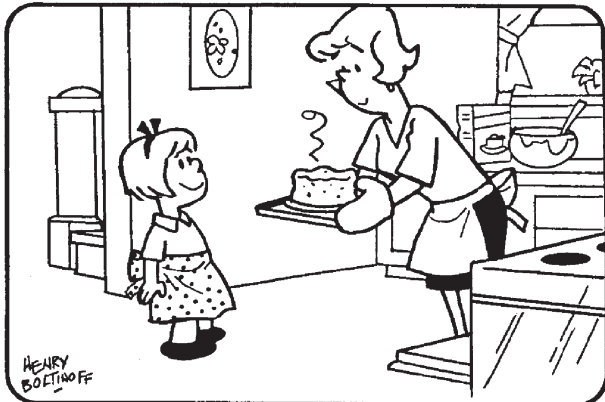
GRIN and BEAR IT



"Organic is definitely healthier, judging from the size of the bugs."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant is missing. 2. Apron is different. 3. Oven mitt is different 4. Headband is missing. 5. Picture is different. 6. Girl's shoes are different.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- If you love a good BOGO deal, you're not alone. Oftentimes, for items like condiments or staples, this means you need a place to put it until it's time to use. For items that are safe to store at room temperature, find a place that is out of direct light, and is cool and dark. But avoid lower cabinets that are close to the stove or dishwasher, as these can get quite warm.

- Tackle the nitty gritty around knobs and crevices of your kitchen appliances with a toothbrush! Just dampen it, add a bit of baking soda for a gritty scrub that won't scratch, and then dip it in dish soap to cut through grease and grime.

- "Want your readers to last longer? Keep them in a fabric pouch when not in use. You can attach a keychain ring to a fabric pouch and hang that from a lanyard worn around your neck if you want to keep them on you. Reading glasses bump into many things and

can get scratched easily, so protect them." — *F.J. in Florida*

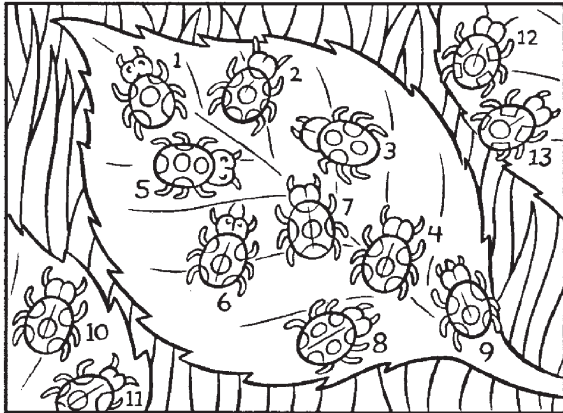
- Maybe you're not putting miles on your vehicle like you used to, but don't neglect your car! Take some time to get your car's interior looking great so she'll be ready when you get back on the road. Give the upholstery a good cleaning. Bust out the detail brushes on your vacuum or shop vac, and give leather and plastic surfaces a wipe down with a protectant.

- Never scrub a cast iron skillet. It needs the patina in order to heat food evenly. Here's how to keep your's operational: Clean with a stiff brush and regular dish soap. Rinse clean, and dry immediately, preferably by placing it on a warm to hot burner for a few minutes. When dry, rub with a light coating of oil.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 8 of 82



Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

LADY
LADS
LAGS
BAGS
BUGS



"LADDER" BUGS!

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. In each move you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, at left, we changed LADY to BUGS in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

DON'T LET THIS ONE BUG YOU! You have one minute to find two ladybugs that are exactly alike.

Answers: Bugs 4 and 10

Illustrated by David Coulson

THE BLACKJACK MAGIC SQUARE!

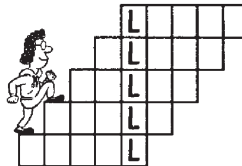
Rearrange the numbers so that the sum of any row, column, or the two diagonals shall total 21.

3	4	5
6	7	8
9	10	11

Answer: Top row: 10, 3, 8. Middle row: 5, 7, 9. Bottom row: 6, 11, 4.

1. CORN to MEAL
2. BANK to NOTE
3. TOLL to GATE
4. SIDE to WALK
5. HALF to TIME

A STAIRWAY TO WORD POWER! Each of the five words, needed to fill in our "word stair," contain the same five letters. We give you one of these letters and plenty of hints below.



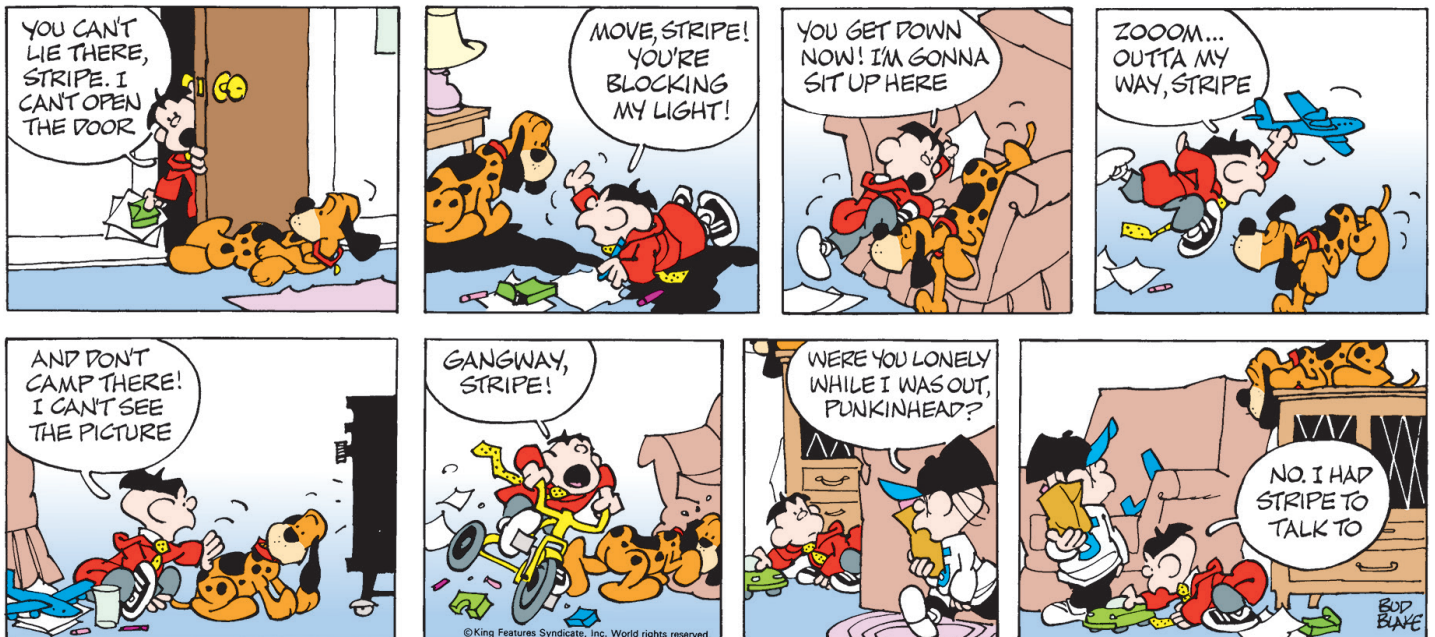
1. Slightest or tiniest.
2. Roofing material.
3. Petty complaints.
4. Having lost effervescence.
5. Slang for a bargain.

Answers: 1. Least. 2. Slate. 3. Tales. 4. Stale. 5. Steal.

- Answers:
1. CORN, MORN, MOAN, MEAN, MEAL
 2. BANK, BANE, BONE, NONE, NOTE
 3. TOLL, TALL, TALE, GATE
 4. SIDE, WIDE, WILE, WALE, WALK
 5. HALF, HALE, TALE, TAME, TIME

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



©King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 9 of 82

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Small plateaus
- 6 Bamboo eaters
- 12 Big commotion
- 13 Old Roman tax
- 14 Strengthen by heating and cooling
- 15 Move a painting, maybe
- 16 Medicinal amount
- 17 Computer brand
- 19 Chaps
- 20 Nickelodeon's explorer
- 22 Marley or Dylan
- 24 Underwear with underwire
- 27 Madams' mates
- 29 Moth variety
- 32 "The House That Ruth Built"
- 35 Advantage
- 36 Out of play
- 37 List-ending abbr.
- 38 Consume
- 40 Williams or Warhol
- 42 — -de-sac
- 44 On pension: Abbr.

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

- 46 Killer whale
- 50 "I, Robot" author
- 52 Passionate states
- 54 Cookbook entry
- 55 Lab monkey
- 56 Merchant
- 57 Apportioned
- 5 Not freelance
- 6 Skin opening
- 7 Bitter
- 8 To the — degree
- 9 Scotch-based liqueur
- 10 Top-rated
- 11 Autograph
- 12 Possessed
- 18 Parents' traveling accessory
- 21 Sugar suffix
- 23 Antiquated
- 24 "See ya"
- 25 "Awesome!"
- 26 Sweet fortified wine
- 28 Norm
- 30 Eccentric
- 31 HBO alternative
- 33 Mauna —
- 34 Toss in
- 39 Figure of speech
- 41 Mountain air?
- 42 Shopper's aid
- 43 Addict
- 45 Always
- 47 "Golden Girls" role
- 48 Gunk
- 49 Donkey
- 51 Central
- 53 Pi follower

DOWN

- 1 Stereo forerunner
- 2 Billions of years
- 3 Haste
- 4 Miss. neighbor

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 10 of 82

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

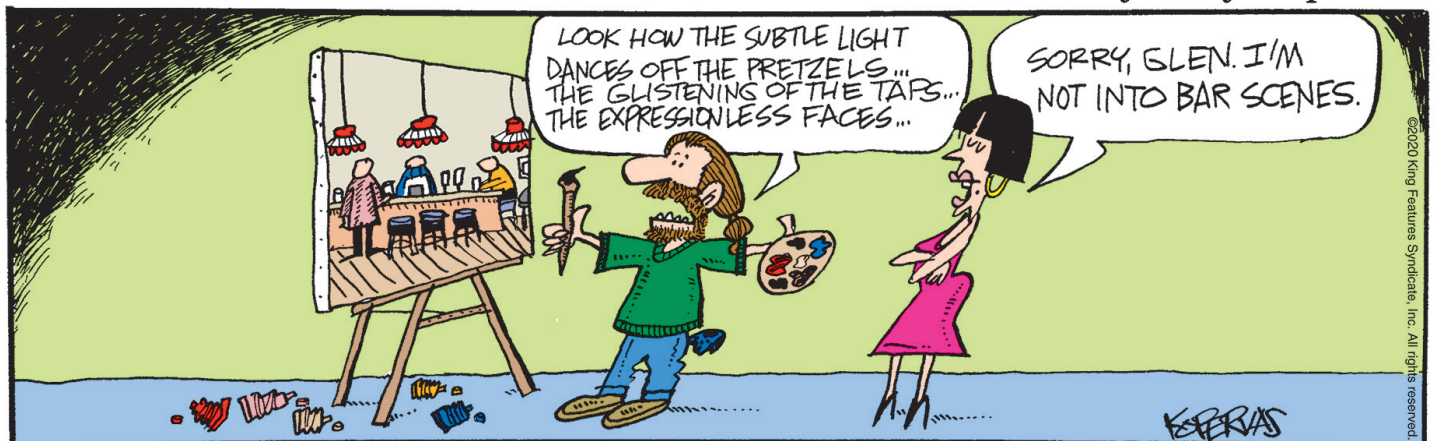
LAFF - A - DAY



"He'll never get my blood pressure down at \$100 a visit."

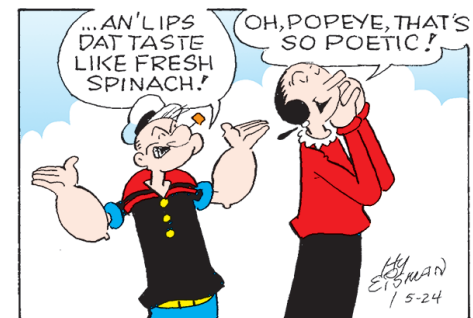
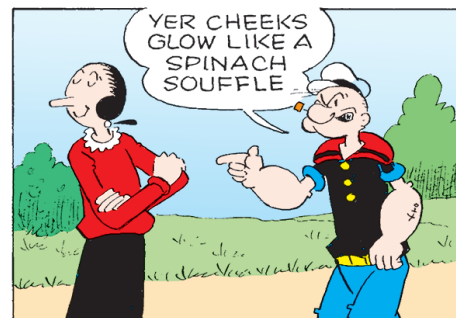
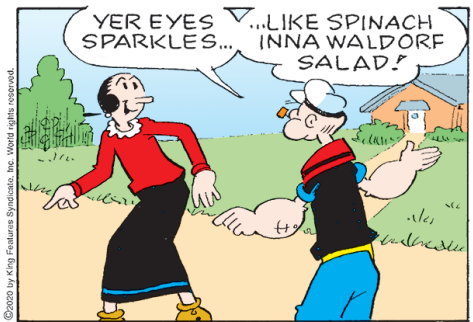
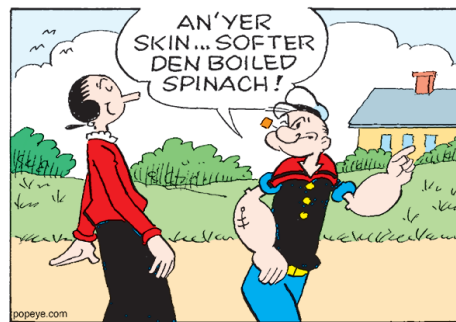
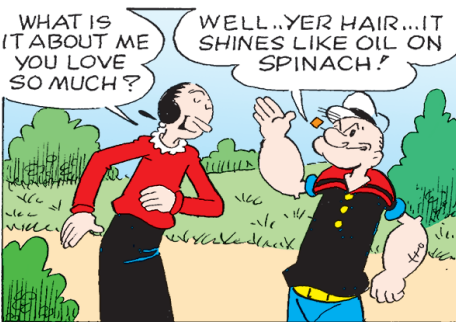
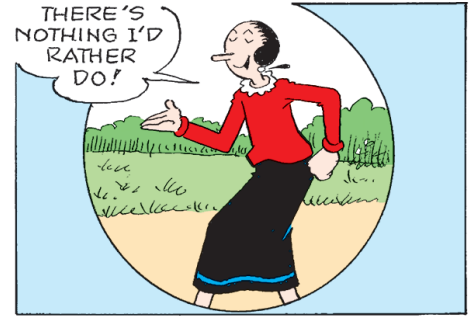
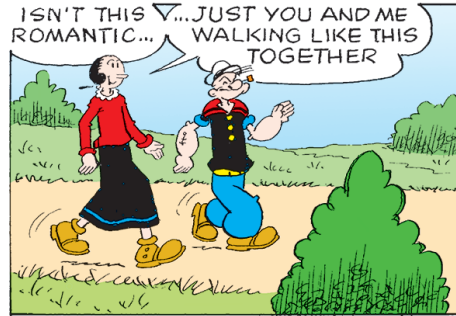
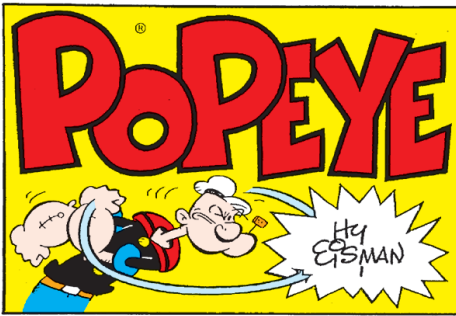
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



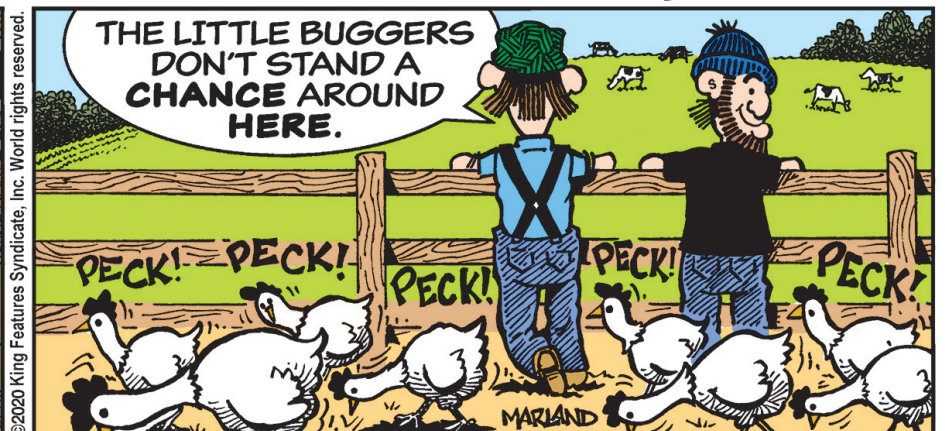
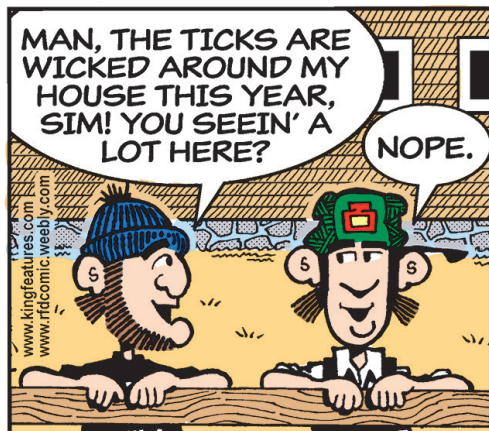
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 11 of 82



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

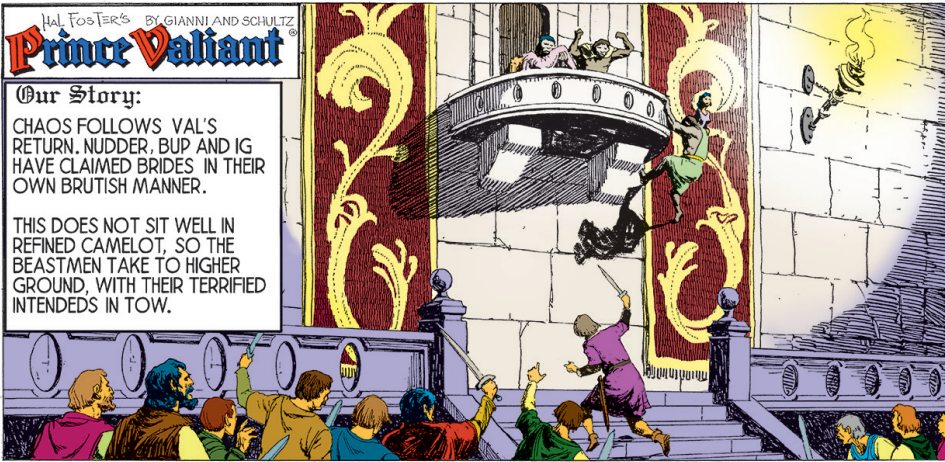
Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 12 of 82

Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant

Our Story:

CHAOS FOLLOWS VAL'S RETURN. NUDDER, BUP AND IG HAVE CLAIMED BRIDES IN THEIR OWN BRITISH MANNER.

THIS DOES NOT SIT WELL IN REFINED CAMELOT, SO THE BEASTMEN TAKE TO HIGHER GROUND, WITH THEIR TERRIFIED INTENDED IN TOW.



THE WEED MEN ARE ENRAGED: "THESE PEOPLE ARE MAD! WE DO THEIR UNMATED FEMALES GREAT HONOR, AND YET ALL WOULD HAVE OUR SKINS!"



THE COURT GENTLEFOLK ARE NO LESS UPSET. ARN IS IMPATIENT WITH HIS SIRE: "YOU BRING UNTRAINED ANIMALS TO ARTHUR'S COURT?"



ALETA PLEADS TO HER ERSTWHILE DEVOTEES, BUT THEY REMAIN AGGRIEVED.

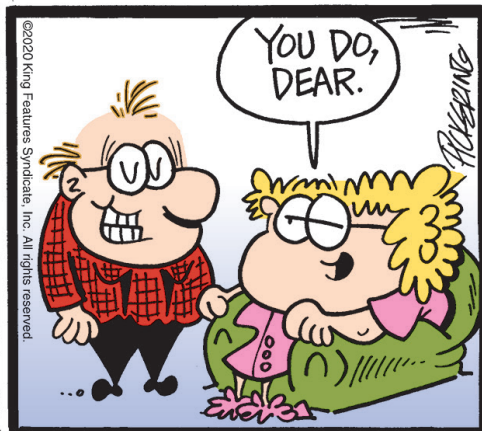


BLOODSHED APPEARS UNAVOIDABLE, WHEN BUKOTA STEPS FORWARD. "WAIT, I AM OF NEITHER CLAN. ALLOW ME TO MEDIATE A SOLUTION."

NEXT:

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Rising Food Costs

Have your food expenses gone up recently? Even if your local grocery isn't spiking the prices, it's now costing more to get what we need.

Grocery delivery: Delivery prices are running to \$10 and more in most places. Usually those involve a personal shopper who selects your items from your list and delivers them to your door. Sometimes they'll call while shopping to inquire about alternative items. Typically the store will have a minimum purchase amount.

Pickup: Even if you go to the store to pick up your groceries, there's a fee, typically between \$5 and \$10. Granted, a store employee has gone around the store picking up the items you chose online, but it does add to the cost. Again, there's a minimum purchase amount.

There is another option: Meals on Wheels. If you're having trouble accessing food, Meals on Wheels has

received new temporary guidance from the government, and the qualifications have changed. At this point if you're over age 60 and staying home to avoid the virus, or if you're under age 60, have a disability and live with someone who receives Meals on Wheels, you may qualify for help.

One of the requirements is being at nutritional risk. If you can't get what you need from a store or can't afford the additional costs, you may qualify.

If you're staying home to avoid the virus and can't afford food delivery, you may qualify.

It's worth asking about, surely. At this point Meals on Wheels groups across the country are receiving cash donations, grants and federal funding, and volunteers are flooding in. So if you ask for help, you won't be taking away from others who might also need it.

To find the Meals on Wheels in your area, call the senior center, Agency on Aging or look online for Meals on Wheels in your state.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 14 of 82

1. Name the Boston Celtics' "Big 3" players who helped the team beat the Los Angeles Lakers in the 2008 NBA Finals.

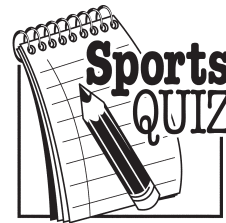
2. "Crash" Davis, "Nuke" Laloosh and "Skip" Riggins are all characters from what 1988 baseball comedy film?

3. What Heisman Trophy winner from the University of Michigan scored a 99-yard kickoff return touchdown for the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXI and was named the game's MVP?

4. What hockey player defected from the Soviet Union and debuted with the NHL's Buffalo Sabres in 1989?

5. In 2001, a fastball from Arizona Diamondbacks hurler Randy Johnson struck and killed a bird in flight. According to ornithologists, what kind of bird was it?

6. The official football used by the NFL is named "The Duke" in honor of what pioneering New York Giants owner/executive?



by Ryan A. Berenz

7. A baseball player who has completed the "Olympics Rings" (aka "platinum sombrero") has done what?

Answers

1. Paul Pierce, Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett.

2. "Bull Durham."

3. Desmond Howard.

4. Alexander Mogilny.

5. A mourning dove.

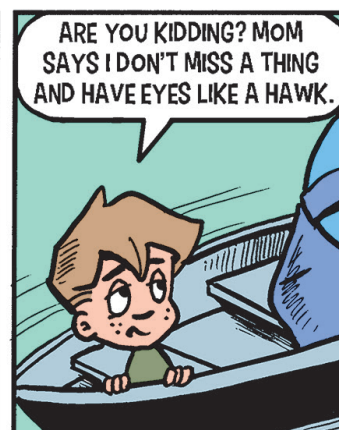
6. Wellington Mara.

7. Struck out five times in one game.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 15 of 82



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



IRS, Get It Together

Last I heard, 20 million Americans had not received their stimulus checks.

In the three months since the CARES Act passed Congress, I've been patient. South Dakotans have been patient – all while waiting for the help some of them desperately need.

My patience has run low. My office has heard from hundreds of South Dakotans who are not only waiting on stimulus checks but are also waiting months for their tax returns. This is unacceptable.

Ben from Marshall County filed his return in February. My office has contacted the IRS on his behalf and Ben has continuously called. This month he will be \$400 short on rent. He's counting on his tax refund – it's his money – but the IRS won't return his phone calls and they won't return the phone calls and emails from congressional offices like mine.

In April, I sent a letter to IRS Commissioner Rettig requesting the IRS expeditiously increase the work-force capacity to support taxpayers during the pandemic. With more than 50,000 unemployment claims in South Dakota, people are depending on their tax returns like never before.

Workers in hospitals, in packing plants, in factories, in banks are working overtime to meet the needs of this nation. I do not see that same dedication from the leadership of the IRS, and it is time for them to get it together.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 16 of 82



Coming Back Stronger

For the past few months, South Dakotans have done a good job of distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Compared to other states, we have a very low number of cases and some of our counties have no cases at all. More and more businesses are opening their doors, and in most cases they are following safety guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Folks are ready to get back to work. Maintaining health and safety guidelines will allow more people to return to work faster, which will help get our economy back on track.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our economy was soaring. Jobs were being created, unemployment was at record lows and wages were rising. When businesses were forced to shut down because of the virus, our economy took a downturn. We believe that as soon as we can begin to fully reopen, our economy will come back stronger than ever. Even a top economic advisor to President Obama, Jason Furman, agrees. He recently said that he expects we'll see the best economic data in the history of our country in the coming months. Larry Kudlow, the head of the White House National Economic Council, agreed with Furman and said that the third quarter of the fiscal year may be the single best GDP quarter since regular data. He also predicts that we'll be seeing 4 percent growth into 2021. These optimistic predictions are due in part to the many pro-growth economic policies that we passed with President Trump's support over the past few years. The measures we've already taken have paved the way for our economy to rebound quickly and strongly, even after facing significant declines. The deregulatory actions we've taken will allow businesses and states to get up and running at their full capacity as quickly as possible, since there is less bureaucratic red tape for them to cut through. This is great news for all Americans.

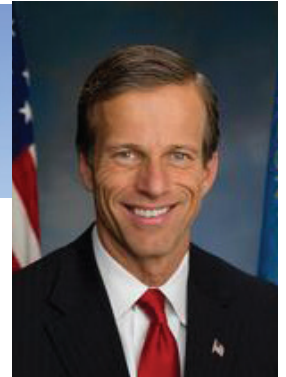
In order to fully reopen our country and get back to normal, we need to make sure people remain healthy and safe. This includes additional testing for the coronavirus, antibody testing so we know who has already had it, and continued development of a vaccine and therapeutic treatments to minimize the symptoms of the virus. I'm on President Trump's task force to come up with innovative ideas for how to best reopen the country, and during a recent conference call, we discussed the administration's new strategy for testing more people. They have pledged to purchase 100 million testing swabs by the end of this year, and will distribute them to states so that each state can be in charge of testing its own residents. A state-based approach, rather than a one-size-fits-all federal approach, is a much better, more targeted way to make sure tests go to individuals and communities that really need them.

It is important to keep in mind that, not only is testing important in real time, but also to test whether individuals have recovered from COVID-19. Antibody tests can not only confirm suspected cases after the fact, they can also reveal who was infected and didn't know it. Some estimates show that up to a quarter of people with SARS-CoV-2 infection may unwittingly spread the virus because they have mild or no symptoms. The best evidence we have right now says that individuals can't be infected again once they've had COVID-19. Antibody testing is a winning strategy to being able to open up our economy again.

Meanwhile, scientists continue working on vaccines and new therapeutic treatments to combat the coronavirus. A clinical trial of a vaccine developed by U.S.-based Moderna is showing promising signs of being effective against the virus. AstraZeneca in the United Kingdom is also making strides toward a vaccine. A number of different therapeutic treatments are being studied as well that can help mitigate symptoms of the virus. SAb Biotherapeutics, based in Sioux Falls, is developing a treatment that produces antibodies capable of neutralizing the virus. The federal government has called for the approval process of vaccines to be fast-tracked, so that as soon as one shows signs of working, it can be distributed quickly across the country.

Our economy took a hit because of the coronavirus, but it will come back stronger than ever as we continue to reopen. South Dakotans want to go back to work, kids want to go back to school and all of us want to be able to live our lives freely without fear of a virus. I'll continue working to make sure we can get back to normal as quickly and safely as possible.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Look Up to Her

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which formally granted women the right to vote, was officially adopted on August 26, 1920, a common-sense change that was long overdue. For its centennial celebration, I can think of no better location to honor the women who helped build America than Mount Rushmore, a symbol of our democracy and a shrine to all Americans, past and present, who contribute to our nation's success.

I've partnered with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and the Mount Rushmore Society to begin laying the groundwork for a first-of-its-kind event at Mount Rushmore later this summer to honor women trailblazers. From elected leaders to inventors to astronauts and everything in between, America is a stronger and better place thanks to the generations of women who have made some of the most significant contributions to our country and our future.

Our plan is similar to the popular 50th anniversary Apollo 11 display, which Smithsonian Magazine described as the Washington Monument being "transformed into a launching pad for the 363-foot rocket that first brought man to the moon." The audio and visual display included animation that projected images of the rocket onto the monument itself. Like the Apollo 11 display, our "Look Up to Her" event, which is the brainchild of South Dakota native Christina Korp, will feature images of iconic American women that will be projected onto the sides of Mount Rushmore, to the left and right of the faces themselves.

Susan Combs, who chairs the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, said her organization is "committed to telling the stories of the suffrage movement in ways that make women's history visible and accessible to all Americans" and that she expects this event to be a "breathtaking tribute to the legacy of the suffragists."

"The centennial passage of the 19th Amendment to guarantee and protect women's constitutional right to vote deserves to have attention and recognition by the entire nation," said Diana Nielsen Saathoff, CEO of the Mount Rushmore Society. She added, "We vote yes [for this project]!"

Since Mount Rushmore is a national park, the first step in this process is getting approval from the U.S. Department of the Interior. I recently introduced a joint resolution in the Senate to formally make this request with Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. We're hopeful he will favorably consider our plan, which would allow us to move forward with scheduling the event.

I'm lucky to be surrounded by strong and accomplished women – at home, at work, and throughout the state of South Dakota. And while the coronavirus pandemic has obviously changed just about everything in our day-to-day lives, when it comes to recognizing something as important as ensuring America's daughters and granddaughters have the right to vote, it deserves to be celebrated.

Since people will be able to see this display from afar, including from the safety of their vehicle, if they'd prefer, the plan we're working on will allow us to celebrate this important milestone, while also keeping people safe – a true win-win.

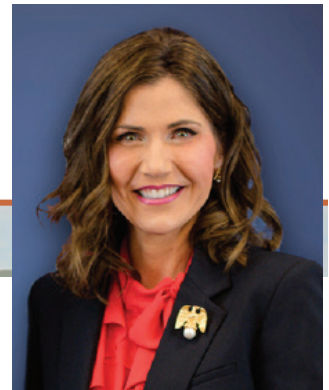
One hundred years might sound like a long time, but in a historical context, women have only been allowed to vote in national elections for less than half of America's existence. Women were not allowed to vote for George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, or Theodore Roosevelt – the four men carved into Mount Rushmore. That's what will make seeing the faces of so many distinguished American women projected onto the monument all the more meaningful and symbolic.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 18 of 82



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



South Dakota: Beautiful and Free

I may be biased, but I think South Dakota is one of the most beautiful places in the world. This week Falls Park in Sioux Falls was rated the 2nd best city park in the country. It should've been ranked #1! But this achievement is just the latest acknowledgement of South Dakota's beauty.

For the first time in a long time, I was able to spend some quiet time with my family this Memorial Day weekend. We were out in the Black Hills – one of the most picture-perfect places on the planet. And we weren't alone. I've never seen so many visitors to the Hills in all my life – license plates from every corner of this country.

Everywhere I went, I was met with words of encouragement and reassurance that the path we took to address Covid-19 was the right one. The people of this state are truly fantastic, and I appreciated getting to spend some time with them.

In addition to some downtime, my family also took some time to commemorate Memorial Day. I spent part of the day visiting with veterans and reflecting on the memories of some of the men and women who gave their life for this country. These individuals and the courageous, self-less sacrifice they made for our nation must never be forgotten.

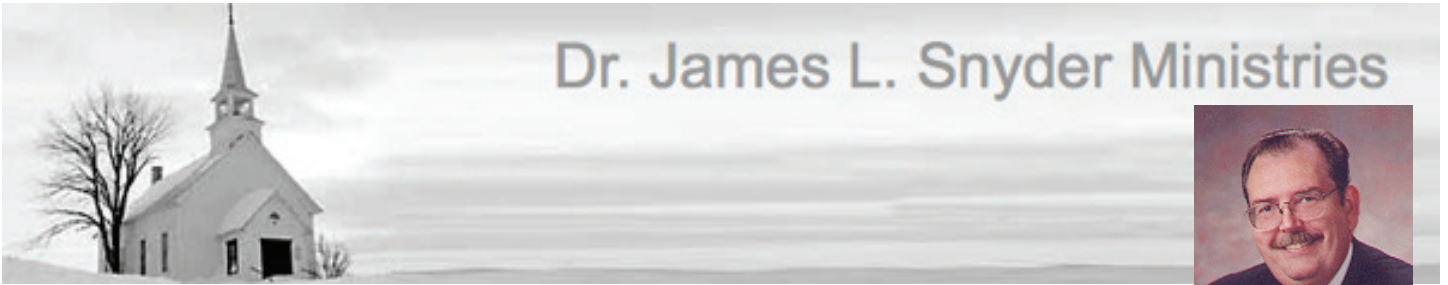
One young man whose story of bravery has touched so many is Lt. Michael Murphy, a Navy Seal who was killed in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005. While out on a mission, he and his team were pinned down by the Taliban. In order to call for help, Lt. Murphy stepped into a clearing with his satellite phone. He was shot in the process of making the call, but refused to give up. Unphased by the unimaginable pain he must have been in, he persevered. Eventually, the call went through, and he continued fighting until he died from his wounds. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Every Memorial Day, thousands of people honor Lt. Murphy by doing what's called "The Murph Challenge." To some this might look like just a workout, but to those who partake in it, the tradition is a humbling experience that enables its participants to embrace a little bit of pain and a lot of sweat to honor the memory of this young man who gave his life for our freedom. Monday morning, my family all got up and worked through "The Murph Challenge." If this isn't something you've ever done, I invite you to set a reminder for yourself for next year to help you and your family commemorate Memorial Day.

I want everyone to continue to think about the freedoms and liberties that our heroes like Lt. Murphy died defending. Let's not only think about them on holidays like Memorial Day – let's continue to reflect on them. These are the principles our country was founded on and things that make America such a special place. If we continue to hold onto them and continue working together, we'll emerge from this trying time stronger than ever before.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 19 of 82



My Thoughts Are Worth More Than a Penny

I must admit that I do gravel a lot in thinking about my thoughts. It has been a habit of mine down through the years. Thinking is what really makes life worth living, or so I believe.

My father had a saying whenever he saw me staring off into the distance, "A penny for your thoughts, son." Then he would smile, and I knew he really was not interested in what I was thinking he was just trying to set some kind of trap for me. Fortunately, I never fell into that trap, whatever it was. Of course, at the time I could've used an extra penny.

One of my favorite writers, when I was young, was a man by the name of James Thurber. He was blind, but he was one of the great writers of his day. He would think his thoughts about the story he was working on all day long, then sit down with his secretary, tell her the story from memory, and write it down.

On one occasion, Thurber and his wife were having dinner with some friends. Mrs. Thurber looked at her husband and saw that stare that was so familiar to her and she said, "James, stop writing and join us here on earth."

I am afraid I can relate to Mr. Thurber along these lines. When working on a project, it is tough for me not to think about that project all the time. What is most disturbing to me is that I get a brilliant thought for the project I am working on when I am with a company of people, maybe having lunch or something. A thought I cannot afford to lose. On several occasions, I excused myself and went to the men's room to jot down those thoughts.

Some thoughts are worth the effort.

In thinking about this, I remember a story that Frank W. Boreham (an Australian pastor and author) once told. He was referring to one of the elderly women in his church and described her as, "Someone who never had an unexpressed thought in her life." Meaning, of course, she talked all the time.

I have discovered two kinds of people in this world; one who talks all the time and one who listens. Of course, there is that third category of people who don't do either.

I have tried to balance this throughout my life. I have tried to talk when necessary and listen when necessary. However, my biggest flaw is that I listen when I should be talking, and I talk when I should be listening. If this isn't frustrating, I do not know what is.

Since I have an MR degree in marriage, I have tried to work on this.

The big challenge is to know when to listen and when to talk. As I get older, I find myself talking more

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 20 of 82

than I'm listening. This, in and of itself, gets me into more trouble than I can handle.

The other day, my wife and I were watching a little television, and she was telling me about an incident that day. She paused and then said, "Are you listening to me?"

No matter how long you've had that MR degree try never to not listen when your wife is talking. She may have a quiz later on.

"Are you listening to me?" She said somewhat sarcastically.

Stuttering a little bit, I said, "Why, yes, I'm listening to you."

"Okay," she said, "what was I talking about?"

At that point, I knew I was in trouble because I may have been listening to her, but I did not really hear what she had to say.

We have in our society today something called "Social Distancing," but in my house, I am infected with "Hearing Distancing." This has gotten me into more trouble than anything else has.

It is not that I do not want to listen to my wife; I sometimes forget to pay attention. After all, when you are as broke as I am, paying attention is very difficult. I do try to save pennies on rainy days so that I can occasionally afford to pay attention.

The other day I got caught in a trap. I should know better, but sometimes I let my guard down, and there it is, I am stuck.

We again were watching a little television, and I, for some reason, was staring off into outer space. My wife noticed that, and then she said, "A penny for your thoughts."

Without thinking, and I do this quite a bit, I replied, "You don't have enough pennies for what I'm thinking." I don't know why I said it. Maybe I was trying to make a joke. Regardless of the reason, I was in deep trouble.

She stared at me for a few moments, and then both of us broke down in laughter. I will not reveal what she said next, but it was appropriate.

In my quiet time this morning, I thought about that incident. I thought about how important thoughts are. Then I thought about what David said, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:17).

However important my thoughts may be, the most important thoughts are the thoughts God has concerning me. Searching the Scriptures, I begin to see what God thinks about me.

Grain bin accidents and deaths rising due to poor crop conditions

Bart Pfankuch ~ South Dakota News Watch

Wet and cold weather in 2019 have created a dangerous situation this year for South Dakota farmers who store grain in bins, heightening a risk of entrapment or death that has existed on farms for generations.

The number of reported grain entrapments across the country rose by 27% from 2018 to 2019, and deaths rose by 53% that year.

South Dakota in 2020 has already seen the death of a 27-year-old father of three in Brookings County in February and the entrapment of a farmer who was rescued from a grain bin in Hughes County in March.

Heavy rainfall and brisk harvest conditions throughout 2019 across the 10-state "corn belt" that includes South Dakota led many farmers to harvest grain crops later than usual and produce grain that was immature or damper than normal.

Those factors from the 2019 harvest, in addition to the use of old, leaky bins on some farms, have combined to reduce the quality of grain being stored and result in a product known as "out-of-condition" grain.

The lack of consistency and low quality of the grain make it more likely to clump, stick to the sides of a bin or form a crust over the top. Those conditions make the grain flow less freely from the bins and make it more likely farmers will have to enter the bins to keep the grain moving, said Jeff Adkisson, a farmer who is vice president of the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois and also serves on the board of the national Grain Handling Safety Council.

"Grain quality is directly linked to safety," Adkisson said. "This particular crop is not storing well. It came in wet, it didn't dry down very well and there's a lot of broken material in the bins. As a result, we have seen an uptick in situations where people have become engulfed and trapped or have died in grain bins."

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has taken note of the dangerous conditions in handling grain harvested in 2019.

In late February, the Chicago regional office of OSHA sent a letter to commercial grain-storage operators with an urgent warning to increase safety measures to reduce accidents.

In bold lettering, the warning began with the statement, "Grain bin deaths spike as farmers rush late harvest!" The letter provided safety recommendations and links to OSHA guidelines, and noted that due to recent heavy rains, fatalities began rising starting in August 2019.

The letter warned that "similar weather conditions in 2009 resulted in the industry's highest number of injuries and fatalities."



Rescue workers push a stretcher into a hole cut in a Hughes County grain bin where a man became entrapped in March. After six hours, the man was safely removed from the bin.

Photo: Hughes County Sheriff's Office

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 22 of 82

THREE WAYS BINS ENTRAP SOMEONE

Flowing grain or out-of-condition grain can entrap someone in three common ways. Click on the arrows or the dots below the image to see all three. Images courtesy Purdue University.

Grain bins — and risk of entrapment — common on farms

Farmers typically store grains such as corn and soybeans in elevated bins from the time of harvest in the fall or early winter to use as feed or to sell in the spring or summer. The gray metal structures, often cylindrical in shape and holding from 1,000 bushels to up to 2 million bushels, are ubiquitous on farms in South Dakota and across the country.

In a typical year, the grain is air-dried during storage and, when needed, an auger stirs the dry grains so they flow steadily from the bottom of the bins onto a conveyor.

Farmers sometimes must enter the bins to break up clumps or clogs in order to get the grain to flow out freely — a practice that is inherently dangerous owing to the risk of entrapment or suffocation within the grain, which can move or settle almost like quicksand.

Even when stationary, grain can settle beneath someone who is inside the bin, entrapping or engulfing the person. The risk becomes extreme when machinery such as an auger is running and the grain is flowing, making it more likely that someone in the bin will be pulled down into the moving grain and suffocate.

Once entrapped, it is nearly impossible for a person to pull him- or herself out to safety, and very difficult for someone else to lift the person from the grain, experts say.

One foot of grain in a bin can create about 300 pounds of pressure, so even with just two feet of grain surrounding a body, it takes an enormous amount of pull strength to lift someone out.

Entrapment and full engulfment can occur very quickly when an auger is running or grain is flowing for any other reason. According to OSHA, a person in a bin has only two seconds to react once grain starts flowing beneath him. Entrapment can occur in four to five seconds, and full engulfment can result in only 22 seconds.

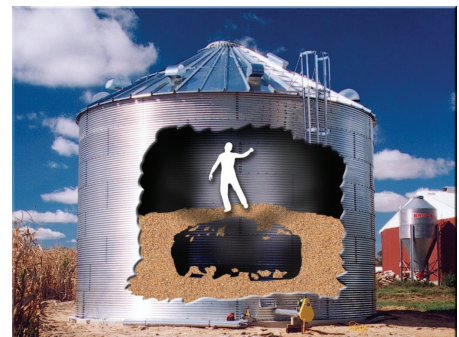
The United States averaged about 35 reported grain-handling incidents per year from 2005 to 2015, about 60% to 70% of which were fatal, according to Purdue University. The actual number of entrapments is likely a third higher because many non-fatal incidents are never reported.

After wet weather in 2009 led to a dangerous year in 2010 (59 grain entrapments; 29 fatalities), the number of reported grain entrapments fell during the mid-2010s, according to data compiled by Purdue professor Bill Field, who has tracked confined-space accidents and deaths on farms for the past 40 years.

Grain entrapments are one type of the “confined-space” incidents tracked by Field, who also collects data on falls, entanglements, manure pit incidents and asphyxiations outside grain bins. The number of total confined-space incidents has risen steadily over the past few years. In 2017, 54 confined-space incidents led to 23 fatalities; in 2018, 61 inci-



Flowing grain can act like quicksand beneath someone in a bin and can fully engulf them within 22 seconds.



Crusty or out-of-condition grain can form a hard surface or “bridge” above an open area in the grain and cause a person in the bin to crash through the surface and become injured, entrapped or engulfed.



Sticky or clumpy grain can lead to what are known as “cliffs” in which grain hardens in a vertical fashion. These walls of grain can crash down and injure or engulf someone who goes inside to break them up.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 23 of 82

dents resulted in 26 deaths; and in 2019, 67 confined-space incidents led to 39 deaths.

In recent years, grain entrapments and fatalities have risen. In 2017, 23 grain entrapments and 12 deaths were recorded; in 2018, 30 grain entrapments and 15 deaths were recorded; and in 2019, 38 grain entrapments led to 23 deaths. Total grain entrapments rose by 65% over that 3-year period.

Field said early data collection for 2020 shows that the year is off to a dangerous start, particularly in regard to grain bin entrapments.

"The grain is wet or has gotten moldy or is harvested in an immature state and they have to go in there and fight to get it out," Field said. "That's when they are at risk."

No safety rules for small farms

The long-range decrease in entrapments is due to larger bins that make clogs less likely, increased awareness of the risks of entering grain bins, and adoption of strict rules for grain handling by OSHA, Field said. Federal safety rule 1910.272 has several subsections and says that before anyone enters a grain bin, an observer must be present, a body harness with a lifeline is required, all moving equipment must be turned off, two means of emergency escape must be maintained and an emergency plan and safety training must be in place.

OSHA has made grain-handling safety a priority and has levied severe fines on companies where deaths have taken place. A Colorado firm was fined \$1.6 million in 2009 after the death of a 17-year-old who was cleaning a grain bin; a Kansas company was fined \$500,000 after two workers were fatally engulfed in 2018; and a Nebraska company was fined \$230,000 in March 2020 after a worker died in a grain bin in September 2019.

However, the OSHA rules do not apply to farms with 10 employees or fewer, meaning that small family farms that make up the majority of farms in South Dakota and elsewhere are not subject to any safety rules. Field's research shows that 70% of entrapments happen on farms that are exempt from OSHA rules.

"It's kind of interesting that you have a farmer with a million bushels in storage and he has no safety rules to comply with," Field said. "You cross the street and you have a facility owned by Cargill and they have a million bushels in storage and they have a whole pile of rules to comply with."

Agriculture is perennially among the most dangerous jobs in America (loggers have the highest death rate, followed by fishery workers), and grain-suffocation deaths lag far behind the number of deaths due to transportation accidents on the farm, including tractor rollovers.

Yet grain-bin deaths carry a level of horror that make them particularly devastating for farmers, Field said. The fear of suffocation is deeply entrenched in humans, and often a person who has become engulfed in a grain bin is discovered missing or sometimes found dead by a family member, neighbor or colleague. Many people known to the victim are often present when emergency workers cut open the bin to discover a body inside.

Still, it is common for farmers to take risks that can lead to entrapment, Adkisson said.

Before a bin accident occurs, it is likely that a farmer has climbed inside a bin dozens of times without

GRAIN BIN AND CONFINED-SPACE INCIDENTS AND DEATHS ON RISE IN U.S.

Researchers at Purdue University in Indiana have tracked confined-space incidents on American farms, including grain bin entrapments and deaths, for 40 years. Here is a look at overall confined-space incidents and deaths and grain bin incidents and deaths over the past three years. Incident totals are likely a third higher because many non-fatal incidents are never reported.

Total confined-space incidents/fatalities

2017 — 54 incidents, 23 deaths

2018 — 61 incidents, 27 deaths

2019 — 67 incidents, 39 deaths

Grain bin entrapments/fatalities

2017 — 23 entrapments, 12 deaths

2018 — 30 entrapments, 15 deaths

2019 — 38 entrapments, 23 deaths

Source: Bill Field,
Purdue University

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 24 of 82

incident, leading to a false sense of safety.

"They think, 'I'm young enough, fast enough, strong enough, or I've done this a thousand times before, so nothing will happen to me,'" Adkisson said. "They know there is danger afoot, but they're still telling themselves nothing will happen."

Furthermore, many farmers do not like to ask for help when handling grain, and some enter a bin without letting anyone know or without having a spotter on hand.

"We know that farmers are fiercely independent, and we understand a farmer may be embarrassed that their grain has gone out of condition," Adkisson said. "But we'd rather have a farmer call for help from a neighbor or a grain operator than have to go to their funeral."

Efforts are underway to improve grain-bin safety, including educational programs that urge farmers never to go into a bin when machinery is running, to have someone else present before entering a bin and to wear protective gear such as a safety harness or lifeline.

Adkisson's group provides safety materials online and hosts safety-training sessions. Field has hosted hundreds of training sessions for emergency responders over the years to teach them rescue techniques, including in South Dakota. OSHA scheduled an effort called "Grain Safety Stand-Up" from April 13 to 17 to call attention to safety guidelines and implementation.

And with one in six grain-bin fatalities resulting in the death of a child under age 16, an increased focus has been placed on improving safety among young people.

Jerry Mork, a South Dakota corn, soybean and wheat farmer who is president of the Day County Farm Bureau, hosted a grain-bin safety night for youths in Webster this spring. The event, held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, included a screening of the movie "Silo" that tells the story of a teenager who gets trapped and then rescued from a grain bin after a community-wide effort.

Mork said farmers sometimes take chances in grain handling due to stress to get things done quickly when market conditions are right. He said it is important to educate young people about grain-bin risks early so they carry safety forward throughout their lives.

"I think it's stress and I think it's time and the pressure to get the grain out in a hurry rather than stopping and thinking, 'You know what, it's not worth it,'" Mork said. "We want to start getting our youth to understand the risks involved, to get it implanted in their minds."

Recent incidents highlight risks

On March 7, a farmer on a Hughes County property about 30 miles southeast of Pierre became trapped in a grain bin to mid-torso depth for about six hours before being rescued by rescue workers from three fire departments and a grain company. The man entered the bin and became trapped in the corn, at which time another person on the scene was able to secure a rope around the man's chest to prevent further slippage into the grain.

Attempts to build a temporary "tube" around the man to lift him out from above failed, so responders had to use saws to slowly cut holes in the bin to drain the corn and reach the man with a stretcher. The man suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

But several other farmers in the Great Plains have suffered a worse fate this year and in late 2019, according to news reports.

In September, a 32-year-old worker suffocated after becoming trapped in a 10,000-bushel grain elevator at a commercial plant in Fremont, Neb. In late January, a 35-year-old farmer in Albany, Minn., died



Safety training that focused on use of harnesses and other equipment is held each year by experts at Purdue University who show farmers how to be safe in and around grain bins. Photo: Courtesy Purdue

University

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 25 of 82

after entering a bin to break up frozen corn and becoming engulfed in grain.

A 66-year-old farmer from Urbana, Ind., died after being sucked into a bin full of soybeans while trying to break up clumped beans. A frantic attempt to get to him by numerous neighbors and emergency workers was unsuccessful. And an 80-year-old farmer was discovered dead after falling into a grain bin in Webster, N.D., on Feb. 27.

In South Dakota, the February death of farmer Christopher Bauman has resonated with the entire state agricultural community.

Though Christopher's death was not believed to be related to out-of-condition grain, the tragedy has served as a reminder of the risks associated with storing and handling grain.

Christopher, 27, was one of two sons of Don and Sherry Bauman, and both boys grew up on the family farm near Elkton in eastern Brookings County. Both Christopher and his brother, Justin, 29, graduated from Lake Area Technical Institute before returning to work on the farm with their father.

From a young age, Christopher was entranced by farm life and work, his father said.

"That's all he wanted to do, from the time he could play with toy machinery to when he was running the real machines," Don Bauman, 59, told News Watch. "He couldn't wait to get home and be involved in the farm."

Christopher married his wife, Cecily, in 2013 and they had three children, now ages 5, 3 and 18 months.

Christopher, Justin and their father ran a 110-head dairy operation and produced corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.

Christopher had a reputation for being involved in his community and supporting his neighbors.

"He would stop and help any neighbor whether they needed help or not," Bauman said. "He would just stop by, and he would stay there and help them until everything was done."

On Feb. 17, the three men were out on the farm together, and Don and Christopher were removing corn from a bin for Christopher to take into town to satisfy a prior contract sale. Justin was grinding corn from another bin nearby.

The corn was in good shape and was being held in a 12,000-bushel bin that stands about 25 feet tall and 30 feet across, Bauman said. As the auger inside ran, the corn flowed out onto a conveyer that would carry it to a truck for transport.

A couple of minutes after the corn started flowing, Bauman noticed that Christopher was no longer with him.

"He walked around one side of the building, and I thought he was going to come around the other side to talk to me," Bauman said. "When I realized he didn't come around, we shut everything off."

Bauman called Justin over and after a quick check around the outside, Bauman climbed a ladder to the top of the bin and looked inside, feeling around for any sign of Christopher.

He saw a slight downward cone in the middle of the bin but no sign of his son. After 911 was called, the pair opened a door at the bottom of the bin to begin letting out the grain.

A short time later, emergency workers arrived and cut holes in the bin to remove the corn, and eventually Christopher's body was found inside.

"It was just horrifying," Bauman said.



Grain bins like these are ubiquitous on farms in South Dakota and across the country, and experts say they carry a risk of entrapment or death that is higher in 2020 than in past years due to out-of-condition grain. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota

News Watch

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 26 of 82

Looking back, Bauman has no idea why Christopher would have entered the bin from the top. He and his sons talked often about safety on the farm and had never had an accident. They specifically discussed grain-bin safety and that in no circumstance should they ever climb in when alone or if the auger was running.

"We had talked about that hundreds of times ... so I don't know why he did and I can't speculate about that," Bauman said.

Christopher's death has devastated Bauman and their extended family, especially Christopher's wife and children.

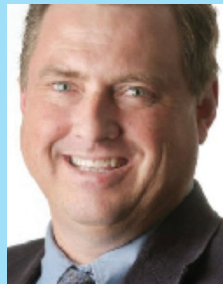
"They do as best they can," Bauman said. "We told the kids that daddy's not coming home, but they keep asking about it."

Bauman said he knows the accident has shined a light on the need to be safe while working grain, and he's heard that some farmers in the area are being extra cautious as a result.

But there is no solace for the family at this point. Bauman's sorrow and sense of loss are palpable, even in a phone interview long after the incident.

"I just don't know how we're going on day to day without him," he said.

ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 27 of 82

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are steady to slightly down tonight.

We're at 1,777,600 cases in the US. New case numbers were steady today for a second day, still over 20,000. NY leads with 374,471 cases, holding steady for a second day. NJ has 159,608 cases, a small decline in new cases. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 119,286, CA – 110,040, MA – 96,301, PA – 75,789, TX – 63,177, MI – 56,848, FL – 55,416, and MD – 52,662. These ten states account for 65% of US cases, a slight decline. 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 states with substantial numbers of cases which are not showing much change include TX, IN, FL, OH, MD, CO, GA, and MN. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, AL, VA, MS, NC, MO, WI, 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 103,769 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths declined to fewer than 1000. NY has 29,612, NJ has 11,634, MA has 6768, PA has 5537, MI has 5463, IL has 5368, CA has 4213, and CT has 3912. All but one of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; NJ is not far over at 103. 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.

We're going to talk testing. Again. Sigh. This time, it's a new bottleneck in the system. For a while, it was kits, then it was swabs. More recently, it was the actual chemicals needed to run the tests. Now it is the machines on which the tests run. Always something.

The companies which make the machines to run proprietary tests are unable to keep up with demand. And once again we have something holding us back from ramping up diagnostic testing to the level we need in order to wrap our hands around this pandemic. So there are places that can run all the tests you want, but people aren't coming in to be tested because they're hearing about shortages and because for months now they've been told only a few can be tested and we should reserve the tests for those most in need. Other places there's a serious shortage and few can be tested, no matter how many want or need to be.

Current estimates are that we need to be running around 7 million tests per week in the US, but we're still not there. Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute says more needs to be done. "This is a classic market failure. This is not something that the market is going to sort out on itself." It won't, and so humans need to intervene. Market-driven medical decisions tend to worse decisions.

Lots of experts are modeling the trajectory of this pandemic as this initial wave of cases moves through. Pretty much none of them think this is the only wave we're going to see. Dr. Margaret Harris, a member of the WHO's coronavirus response team said, "A lot of people have put what I'd call a 'flu lens' on their expectations. They keep on thinking it's seasonal. But if you look around the globe, we've got countries in the middle of their summer and autumn having large, large outbreaks. So we're not seeing a seasonal pattern. What we are seeing is indeed when people ease too quickly, that they do then see a rise in infections. So we certainly don't say you have to be in lockdown, but we are saying ease carefully."

She suggested in an interview with NPR's "Morning Edition" that easing must be paced according to real-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 28 of 82

time events. She says there must be testing and tracking and that there must be “clear eyes on what’s happening with the transmission in your community” so that measures can be adapted. In the world, she tells us, every day of last week “we recorded the largest number of new cases that we had seen.” Because we cannot close all the borders indefinitely, as long as there is virus on the upswing anywhere in the world, there is a threat everywhere in the world. Fact.

I read a piece yesterday contrasting two views of the current R_e of this pandemic in the US. We’ve talked about R_e many times; you will recall this is the virus’s reproduction number at some given point in time, its effective reproduction number; this represents the average number of new people to whom the virus will transmit from one case. R_e above 1.0 means the epidemic will continue to increase; R_e below 1.0 means it will eventually die out for lack of transmission to new hosts. Of course, this number is the result of modeling since we can’t take our handy-dandy rulers out and measure it. At the moment, we’re seeing two schools of thought on the current R_e , one somewhat rosier than the other.

The University of Utah model is projecting decreases in R_e to below 1.00 as easing commenced in Florida, Texas, and Georgia, all states with big populations which lifted lockdowns on April 30; but it also projected increases in late May in Texas and Georgia to 1.32 and 1.01, respectively. This model uses “a collated time series of daily state-wise positive cases counts” and uses a couple of methods to calculate R_e from there.

A model produced by an independent data scientist, Youyang Gu, has the R_e rising in all three states from easing through this week. He starts with a classic infectious disease model called SEIR, which starts by categorizing the population into four categories: susceptible, exposed, infectious, and recovered, and layers machine learning techniques on top of that.

I’m going to admit up front the math in both is somewhat beyond my humble abilities (which is, frankly, not that tall a wall to climb, although they do use computers for this stuff); but neither one looks great. Gu’s model has been far more accurate in predicting deaths than Utah’s or the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME – you may have read about this one). Since R_e figures into those projections, it seems likely his is more accurate on cases too. This is not wonderful news because Gu is projecting 200,000 deaths in the US by August 28.

Gu puts the R_e nationally at 2.26 on February 5, at a low of 0.91 on April 11, and at 1.02 today. And this is before we factor in easing, which approximately no one thinks will drive R_e down further. We probably want to proceed carefully.

In 1983, there was one of those heartwarming human interest stories in the New York Daily News about a New York firefighter rushing into a burning building to save a little girl. It ended happily except that the little girl always wondered about the brave man who rescued her. She moved away not long after the fire and grew up to be an emergency room nurse who learned you rarely hear back from those you’ve helped—and she still wondered. She Googled his name after 9-11, but it didn’t appear in the articles about the tragedy. In March, she decided to move to New York for eight weeks to help out in an emergency room there—and to search for Eugene Pugliese, her savior. She just wanted to say thank you.

After two completely overwhelmed weeks in the city, she tried to go to the firehouse where Pugliese worked, only to find a sign on the door discouraging visitors. Then last week, a group of firefighters brought pizza to the medical staff as a thank-you for their work, and she had the opportunity to ask them for ideas how to find this man, probably by now retired. They gave her the fire chief’s number, and she called. He told her, “Oh, Gene? He stops by the firehouse all the time.”

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 29 of 82

The chief called Pugliese, and Pugliese called the nurse. And she finally had her opportunity to say what she'd been wanting to say: "Thank you." After the call, the fireman, now 75, said, "I cried for the rest of the day." I suppose the rescuers wonder too.

This is a time when a lot of rescuers are needed. Can you see a way to be one? Even if no one ever tracks you down to say thanks, you'll always know, as Pugliese did, that you've made a difference in the world. That should be enough.

Be well and hang around. I'll be back.

3 Weeks Ago

2 Weeks Ago

Last Week

This Week

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

Total Confirmed
4,656,639
Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
1,467,884 US
281,752 Russia
241,461 United Kingdom
233,511 Brazil
230,698 Spain

Total Confirmed
5,327,085
Confirmed Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty
1,622,670 US
347,398 Brazil
344,481 Russia
258,509 United Kingdom
235,290 Spain

Total Confirmed
6,082,549
1,770,384 US
498,440 Brazil
405,843 Russia
274,219 United Kingdom
239,228 Spain
232,664 Italy
188,752 France
183,302 Germany
182,990 India
163,103 Turkey

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 30 of 82

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	2,095	2,229	2,317	2,365	2,418	2,457
South Dakota	4,085	4,177	4,250	4,356	4,468	4,563	4,586
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	May 31		
Minnesota	21,960	22,464	22,947	23,531	24,190		
Nebraska	12,619	12,976	13,261	13,654	13,905		
Montana	479	481	485	493	505		
Colorado	24,565	24,767	25,121	25,613	26,098		
Wyoming	648	653	667	682	688		
North Dakota	2422	2439	2481	2520	2554		
South Dakota	4653	4710	4793	4866	4960		
United States	1,681,418	1,699,933	1,721,926	1,747,087	1,770,384		
US Deaths	98,929	100,442	101,621	102,836	103,781		
Minnesota	+652	+504	+483	+548	+659		
Nebraska	+264	+357	+285	+393	+251		
Montana	0	+2	+4	+8	+12		
Colorado	+296	+202	+354	+492	+485		
Wyoming	+4	+5	+14	+15	+6		
North Dakota	-----	+17	+42	+39	+34		
South Dakota	+67	+57	+83	+73	+94		
United States	+18,650	+18,515	+21,993	+25,161	+23,297		
US Deaths	+706	+1,513	+1,179	+1,215	+945		

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 31 of 82

May 30th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota recorded three more deaths. Two in Beadle County and one in Pennington County. The 20-29 year age group recorded its first death. The 40-49 year age group recorded its fourth death and the 60-69 year age group recorded its 10th death. A total of 59 have died from COVID-19 in South Dakota.

North Dakota reported one new death, bringing its total to 60.

Otherwise, it is the same three counties reporting double digit increases with Beadle leading the way with 30 followed by Pennington with 17 and Minnehaha with 15. Twenty counties in South Dakota had at least 1 positive COVID-19 test.

Brown County has 66 active cases while Day County has three, Marshall County two and Spink County one..

Brown County:

Active Cases: -6 (66)

Recovered: +8 (204)

Total Positive: +2 (271)

Ever Hospitalized: -1 (12)

Deaths: 1

Negative Tests: +31 (1469)

Percent Recovered: 75% (+2 percentage Points)

South Dakota:

Positive: +94 (4960 total)

Negative: +2162 (37978 total)

Hospitalized: +9 (427 total) - 93 currently hospitalized (2 less than yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (62 total)

Recovered: +61 (3805 total)

Active Cases: 1093 (30 more than yesterday)

Percent Recovered: 76.7%

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +1 (24), Brule +6 (232), Butte +4 (186), Campbell 23, Custer +1 (144), Dewey +8 (346), Gregory +1 (73), Haakon +1 (36), Hanson +5 (65), Harding 29, Jones +1 (12), Mellette -1 (66), Perkins 21, Potter +39 (103), unassigned +888 (2648).

Aurora: +2 positive, +3 recovered (13 of 25 recovered)

Beadle: +30 positive, +10 recovered (68 of 252 recovered)

Brookings: +1 recovered (15 of 16 recovered)

Brown: +2 positive, +8 recovered (204 of 271 recovered)

Buffalo: +5 positive (1 of 17 recovered)

Charles Mix: +1 positive, +1 recovered (9 of 17 recovered)

Codington: +1 positive (18 of 36 recovered)

Davison: +1 positive (9 of 15 recovered)

Hutchinson: +1 positive (3 of 5 recovered)

Jackson: +1 positive (0 of 4 recovered)

Jerauld: +2 recovered (16 of 34 recovered)

Lincoln: +1 positive, +4 recovered (201 of 237 recovered)

Lyman: +1 positive, +2 recovered (8 of 14 recovered)

McCook: +1 positive (4 of 6 recovered)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 32 of 82

Meade: +5 positive (6 of 18 recovered)
Minnehaha: +15 positive, +15 recovered (2879 of 3345 recovered)
Oglala Lakota: +4 positive, +2 recovered (6 of 25 recovered)
Pennington: +17 positive, +9 recovered (54 of 218 recovered)
Roberts: +1 positive (17 of 36 recovered)
Sanborn: +1 positive (6 of 13 recovered)
Todd: +3 positive, +1 recovered (16 of 26 recovered)
Union: +1 positive, +2 recovered (62 of 89 recovered)
Yankton: +1 recovered (41 of 51 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases: 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 3,041 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 34 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,554. NDDoH reports one new death.

State & private labs have reported 92,640 total completed tests.
1,943 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	573	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	905	18%
Hispanic	873	18%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	481	10%
Other	603	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1525	31%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	5
Brown	1
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	49
Pennington	4
Todd	1

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 33 of 82

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	25	13	117
Beadle	252	68	432
Bennett	0	0	24
Bon Homme	8	6	346
Brookings	16	15	655
Brown	271	204	1469
Brule	0	0	232
Buffalo	17	1	167
Butte	0	0	186
Campbell	0	0	23
Charles Mix	17	9	213
Clark	4	4	121
Clay	15	13	469
Codington	36	18	1060
Corson	4	3	58
Custer	0	0	144
Davison	15	9	742
Day	13	10	149
Deuel	1	1	205
Dewey	0	0	346
Douglas	3	1	145
Edmunds	1	0	67
Fall River	4	3	165
Faulk	1	1	49
Grant	13	9	133
Gregory	0	0	73
Haakon	0	0	36
Hamlin	4	3	147
Hand	2	1	98
Hanson	0	0	65
Harding	0	0	29
Hughes	19	15	639
Hutchinson	5	3	257

Hyde	1	1	33
Jackson	4	0	31
Jerauld	34	16	80
Jones	0	0	12
Kingsbury	1	0	193
Lake	8	5	256
Lawrence	11	9	503
Lincoln	237	201	2603
Lyman	14	8	199
Marshall	4	2	103
McCook	6	4	265
McPherson	1	1	42
Meade	18	6	612
Mellette	0	0	66
Miner	1	1	110
Minnehaha	3345	2879	13400
Moody	19	15	221
Oglala Lakota	25	6	178
Pennington	218	54	3012
Perkins	0	0	21
Potter	0	0	103
Roberts	36	17	574
Sanborn	13	6	90
Spink	5	4	291
Stanley	10	8	91
Sully	1	1	33
Todd	26	16	487
Tripp	6	6	171
Turner	24	20	339
Union	89	62	605
Walworth	5	5	125
Yankton	51	41	1366
Ziebach	1	1	54
Unassigned****	0	0	2648

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

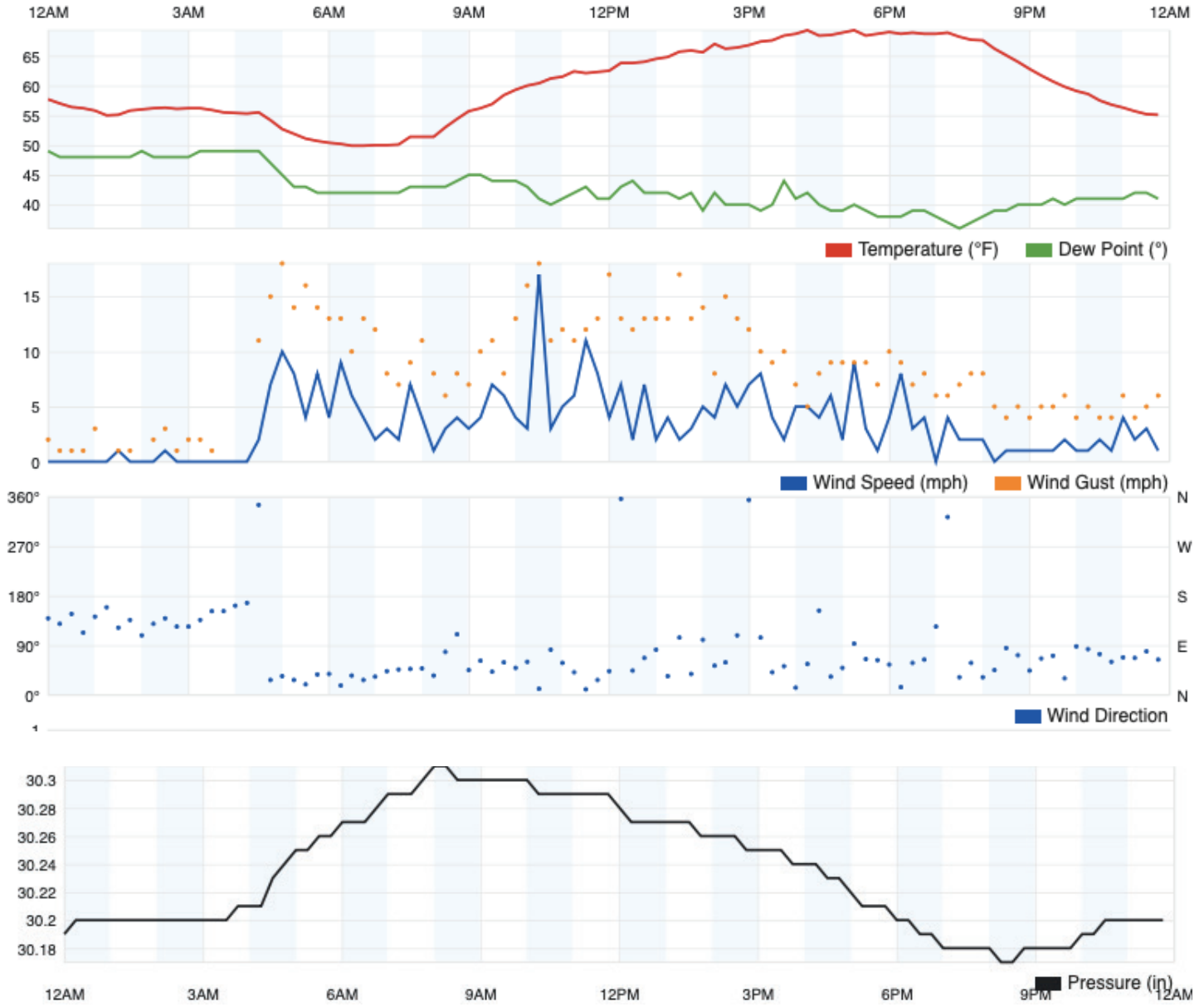
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2329	35
Male	2631	27

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	472	0
20-29 years	957	1
30-39 years	1112	3
40-49 years	862	4
50-59 years	823	8
60-69 years	460	10
70-79 years	135	6
80+ years	139	30

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 34 of 82

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 35 of 82

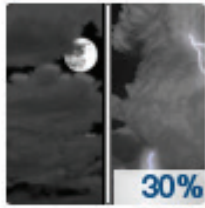
Today



Partly Sunny

High: 75 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

Monday



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Sunny

High: 89 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 60 °F

Tuesday



Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Showers/T-storms Possible Sunday Night
& Monday Morning

Sunday

- Mild & Breezy
- Highs in the 70s

Monday

- Partly Cloudy & Very Warm
- Highs 83-93°F

Tuesday

- Warm Slight Chc T-storms
- Highs 80-91°F

Warmer temperatures are on the way. In fact Monday will be borderline hot. We'll also mix in a few showers and thunderstorms, especially Sunday night into Monday morning.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 36 of 82

Today in Weather History

May 31, 1960: A late evening thunderstorm cut a path of destruction, principally from high winds from Beadle County, northeast to Roberts and Grant Counties. Twelve head of cattle electrocuted for a downed high tensions wire occurred at Wolsey. Winds with gusts of 65 to 75 mph were observed at Huron and Watertown. A grain elevator tipped over, and a windmill was destroyed near Willow Lake. A Steel corn crib was blown over at Hayti and damaged occurred to other farm buildings and implements.

1830: Shelbyville, Tennessee was turned into "a heap of ruins" as a tornado moved east through the center of the town. This tornado destroyed 15 homes and 38 businesses along with churches and other public buildings. Losses were estimated to be as high as \$100,000. A book was said to be carried seven miles away.

1889: The Johnstown, Pennsylvania disaster occurred, the worst flood tragedy in U.S. history. Heavy rains collapsed the South Fork Dam sending a thirty-foot wall of water rushing down the already flooded Conemaugh Valley. The wall of water, traveling as fast as twenty-two feet per second, swept away all structures, objects, and people. The flood killed around 2100 people.

1941 - Thunderstorms deluged Burlington KS with 12.59 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Severe thunderstorms spawned forty-one tornadoes across the Lower Great Lakes Region and southeastern Ontario which killed 74 persons. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in New England produced wind gusts up to 90 mph at Worcester, MA, and Northboro, MA, and hail an inch and a half in diameter at Williston, VT. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. The afternoon high of 94 degrees at Portland, ME, was a record for the month of May. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hot and humid weather prevailed in the eastern U.S. Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Cape Hatteras, NC, reported their first ninety degree day in May in 115 years of records. "Dust buster" thunderstorms in northwest Texas drenched Amarillo with more than three inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather and torrential rains in northern Indiana, northern Ohio and southern Lower Michigan. Saint John IND was drenched with four inches of rain in two hours, and Woodland MI was deluged with two inches in twenty minutes. Pittsburgh PA reported a record 6.55 inches of rain for the month of May, with measurable rain reported on twenty-five days during the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to southeastern Louisiana. The thunderstorms spawned sixteen tornadoes, including thirteen in northwest Texas. One tornado hit the town of Spearman, TX, causing more than a million dollars damage, and seven other tornadoes were reported within twenty-five miles of Spearman. Thunderstorms over northwest Texas also produced baseball size hail at Monahans, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Paducah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2013: The 2nd of the top 10 weather events for 2013 was EL Reno, Oklahoma tornado of May 31, 2013. Part of the multi-day storm outbreak caused \$2 billion in damage. The EF3 that traveled through the western suburbs of Oklahoma City was the largest tornado ever observed with a width of 2.6 miles. It took eight lives including four tornado chasers.

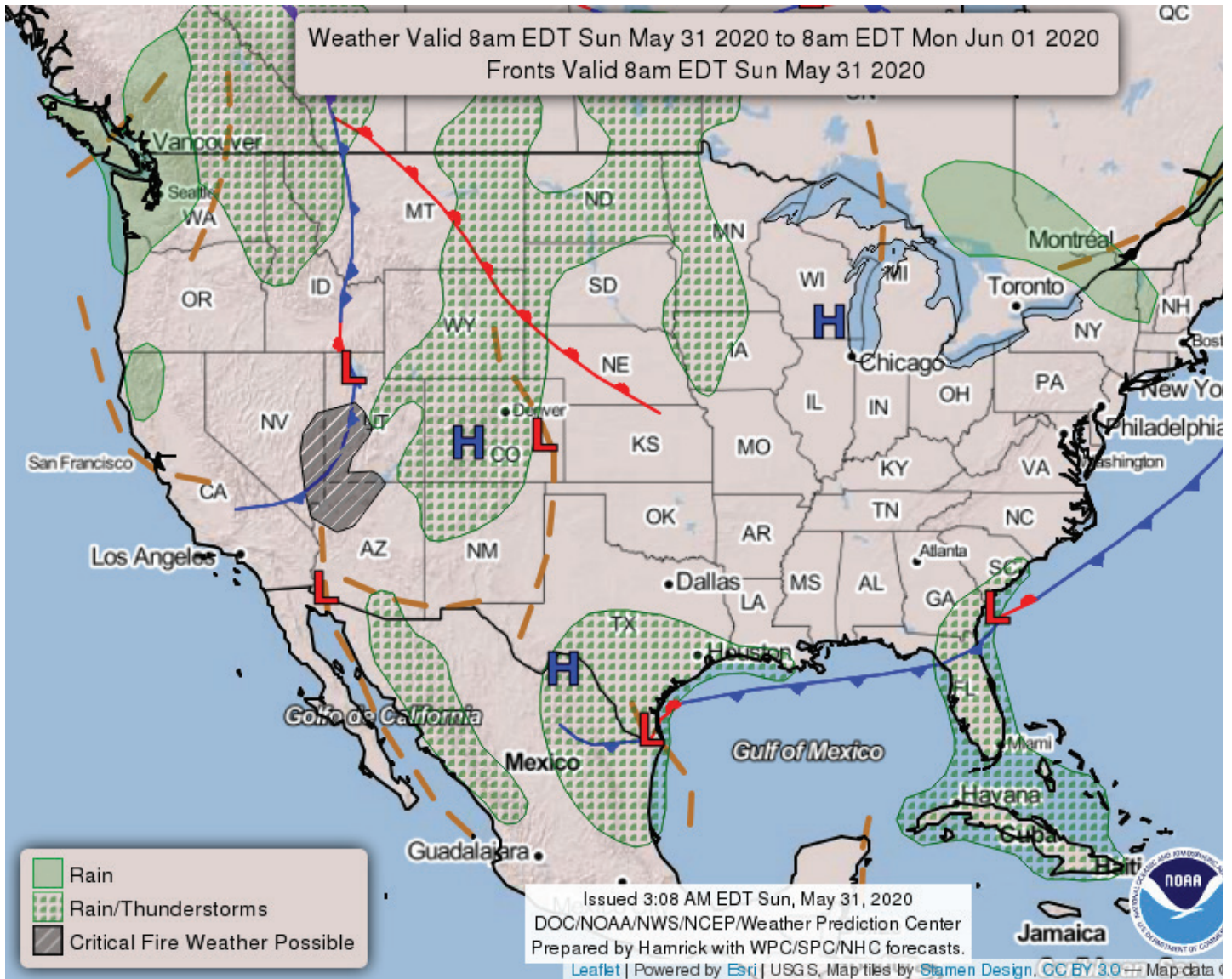
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 37 of 82

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 69 °F at 4:15 PM
Low Temp: 50 °F at 7:26 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 4:59 AM
Precip: .00

Record High: 100° in 1934
Record Low: 23° in 1897
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 49°F
Average Precip in May.: 3.01
Precip to date in May.: 2.73
Average Precip to date: 7.04
Precip Year to Date: 4.63
Sunset Tonight: 9:15 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 38 of 82



CAN YOU SEE HIM NOW?

It was the very first Christmas that Jo Ann's church had a Nativity scene on the front lawn. Working anxiously, she kept arranging, then rearranging, the figures to make certain they could all be seen.

Finally, she sent her friend, Alice, to the edge of the lawn and asked, "How do they look?"

"Fine, they are all O.K.," came the answer.

Suddenly Jo Ann began to rearrange them once again. "What are you doing? I said they were fine," said Alice grumpily.

"Yes, I heard what you said," responded Jo Ann. "But I just want to make sure that Jesus is visible so all of the people can see Him!"

Often Santa gets more attention than our Savior does during these Holy Days. Children anxiously stand in line waiting their turn to ask for gifts and have their picture taken with him. Rarely, however, do children pose at the manger to have a picture taken with the Baby Jesus. Could it be that He is not visible to most people at Christmas? Do we make any effort at all to make Him visible? Is He lost in the pile of gifts? Is He hidden behind the tree?

Matthew wrote about a group of shepherds who said, "Let's go to Bethlehem...and see this wonderful thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about."

This "wonderful thing," Jesus, is what the world needs to see. Let's be certain He is always visible – especially in our lives!

Prayer: Lord, may we not allow Your Son to be hidden or to be placed behind the "false idols" that so many worship at Christmas. May we make Him visible! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Luke 2:15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 39 of 82

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

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 40 of 82

News from the **AP** Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

02-03-11-16-35

(two, three, eleven, sixteen, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$92,000

Lotto America

03-17-31-41-45, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 2

(three, seventeen, thirty-one, forty-one, forty-five; Star Ball: five; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.8 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$356 million

Powerball

13-32-41-58-60, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 2

(thirteen, thirty-two, forty-one, fifty-eight, sixty; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$125 million

COVID-19 cases in South Dakota approaching 5,000 mark

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The number of COVID-19 cases in South Dakota is likely to top 5,000 in the next day or two, according to figures provided Saturday by the state Health Department.

Officials reported 94 new positive tests, increasing the total to 4,960. The number of active cases stands at 1,093.

Three new deaths were confirmed, including two women in Beadle County and a woman in Pennington County. It included one person in her 20s and one in her 40s. There have 62 deaths since the start of the pandemic in South Dakota.

Officials said 93 people are currently hospitalized, a drop of two from Friday's report.

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.

The Latest: Confederate group HQ targeted during protest

The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck:

RICHMOND, Va. — Photos on social media show several fires throughout downtown Richmond overnight as protests in the Virginia capital continued.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports that the headquarters of the nearby United Daughters of the Confederacy burned early Sunday and was marked with graffiti. Several Confederate statues along the city's Monument Avenue were defaced with graffiti.

The newspaper reports that an apartment building on a downtown street also caught fire, but protesters initially wouldn't let fire crews through until police cleared the area with tear gas.

Police headquarters was the target of protesters for the second night in a row as officers formed a barricade around the building late Saturday night.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 41 of 82

A dumpster was set afire near the police headquarters, which had its front windows broken out Friday night. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the police fired tear gas to move crowds away from the building.

Several blocks away near Virginia Commonwealth University hundreds of protesters blocked streets chanting "George Floyd," referring to the black man who died Monday after an arresting officer in Minneapolis pushed his knee into Floyd's neck while he was on the ground handcuffed.

Media reports showed video of protesters hurling what appeared to be water bottles at a police car, which moved through the crowd and sped away. A police cruiser was burned in the violence on Friday night, along with a city bus.

PHOENIX -- Protesters marched the streets of downtown Phoenix and Tucson Saturday after the cities' leaders implored them to refrain from violence.

The marches appeared to be largely peaceful, according to local media reports.

On Saturday night, however, Phoenix police had to defend the department's headquarters. Shortly after 10 p.m., Phoenix police said a large group of protesters downtown had become an unlawful assembly, the Arizona Republic reported.

The police said they needed to disperse immediately. The protesters were seen kneeling with their hands up in the streets outside Phoenix police and municipal buildings, the Republic reported.

They chanted, "Hands up, don't shoot" and "Black lives matter."

SAN FRANCISCO Mayor London Breed has declared a citywide curfew for Sunday night as violent protests rage throughout the city in the aftermath of George Floyd's death.

Breed says the curfew will last from 8 p.m. on Sunday to 5 a.m. on Monday.

The mayor says she has asked Gov. Gavin Newsom to put the California National Guard on standby.

Authorities say there have been increased levels of violence, crime, vandalism and assaults on police officers Saturday night as the protests took a dark turn.

Los Angeles is already under a citywide curfew overnight and the National Guard is en route to help police quell the violence.

DALLAS — Protesters badly beat a man Saturday night after he confronted them carrying a machete to "allegedly protect his neighborhood," according to police Sgt. Warren Mitchell.

Brief videos of the confrontation posted on social media appear to show protesters throwing things at a man carrying a long object. He then raises it and chases one of them as someone is heard screaming.

Moments later, a group of people can be seen punching and kicking the man, before clearing away to leave him immobile and bleeding in the street.

Mitchell said the man is at a hospital in stable condition and the incident is under investigation.

INDIANAPOLIS - Authorities are investigating "multiple shootings," including one that left a person dead, in downtown Indianapolis on Saturday amid protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Randal Taylor confirmed the shootings during a late night news conference, but didn't offer any more details. Police later tweeted that no officers were involved.

Protests became dangerous for a second straight night in Indianapolis as buildings were damaged, officers deployed tear gas and at least one business was briefly on fire.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden condemned the violence in a statement, as he continued to express common cause with those demonstrating after George Floyd's death.

"The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest," Biden said in a statement Saturday night. "It should not drive people away from the just cause that protest is meant to advance."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 42 of 82

MINNEAPOLIS — Officials in Minneapolis say they've succeeded for now in stopping the violent protests that ravaged parts of the city for several days after the death of George Floyd.

Police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in to break up protests after an 8 p.m. curfew took effect, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to clear streets outside a police precinct and elsewhere. The show of force came after three days where police mostly declined to engage with protesters.

It also came after the state poured in more than 4,000 National Guard members and said the number would soon rise to nearly 11,000.

As Minneapolis streets appeared largely quiet, Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell said the heavy response would remain as long as it takes to "quell this situation."

LOS ANGELES -- The mayor of Los Angeles says the National Guard will be deployed overnight to help local law enforcement quell violence in the nation's second-largest city.

Mayor Eric Garcetti says he asked California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday to send 500 to 700 members of the Guard. Crowds of demonstrators have torched police cars, vandalized and burglarized stores and clashed with lines of officers. Hundreds of people have been arrested since Friday night.

SALT LAKE CITY — Protests are continuing in Salt Lake City despite a curfew issued by the mayor and National Guard troops deployed by Utah's governor.

Police officials say they are prepared to give people time to leave, but they plan to arrest people who refused to comply.

What started as a peaceful demonstration Saturday against the death of George Floyd turned destructive. A group of people flipped over a police car and lit it on fire. A second car was later set on fire.

Police officials say six people have been arrested and that a police officer was injured after being struck in the head with a baseball bat.

RENO, Nevada -- City officials in Reno instituted an immediate mandatory curfew Saturday night after protesters broke windows at City Hall and set fires.

Police fired tear gas into the building, the Rene Gazette Journal reported, and a SWAT team arrived to help disperse the crowd.

The fires were extinguished. In announcing the curfew in a statement, city officials asked residents to avoid the downtown area, where a "heavy police presence" would be in force overnight.

RALEIGH, N.C. — More than 1,000 people marched in downtown Raleigh on Saturday night, breaking windows as police in riot gear released tear gas and pepper spray to disburse the crowds.

WRAL-TV showed video of throngs of people in front of the Wake County Courthouse, some walking with signs, others on bikes and skateboards to protest the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a police officer on Monday.

Protesters gathered in late afternoon marching peacefully north from the courthouse chanting "No Justice, No Peace." But tension grew after nightfall as some people threw rocks at windows and spray painted anti-police slogans on walls.

Fayetteville Street was the focus of most of the vandalism with multiple buildings along the street having windows broken out.

MIAMI — A student at Florida International University said the protest was largely peaceful with the crowd of about 500 "singing, we were doing poetry" and urging each other not to "break windows" or hurt businesses.

But when they arrived at the police station, another group of protesters also converged there and things escalated within minutes.

"There was a sniper on the roof with the police chief standing next to him and they started throwing

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 43 of 82

smoke bombs to the crowd," 27-year-old Liseth Hatta said. "Most of them were kids. They couldn't have been older than 21. Everyone ran away screaming;"

They tried to flee and rushed to the train station to head home, but police closed down the entrance. "A lot of people tried to get back on the train to leave and they weren't letting us," Hatta said. "They basically trapped us in."

ATLANTA — An Atlanta police officer was struck by someone riding an ATV in downtown Atlanta during protests that continued despite a curfew, and police said they were still trying to determine whether the crash was deliberate.

Police spokesman Carlos Campos said it happened about 10:30 p.m.; the mayor had set a 9 p.m. curfew. The officer suffered significant injuries and was in stable condition, Campos said.

The ATV drive suffered minor injuries and was taken into custody, Campos said.

LOS ANGELES — Police have arrested nearly 1,400 people in 17 U.S. cities as protests continue over the death of George Floyd.

Floyd, a black man, died Monday in Minnesota after a white police officer put his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes. The officer was arrested Friday and charged with third-degree murder.

But the arrest has done little to quell protests across the country. Most have been peaceful. But a few have erupted in violence.

An Associated Press tally of arrests found at least 1,383 people have been arrested since Thursday. The actual number is likely higher as protests continue Saturday night.

WASHINGTON — The National Guard has been called out in Washington, D.C., as pockets of violence erupted during a second straight night of protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and President Donald Trump's reaction to it.

Hundreds of protesters converged on the White House during the day Saturday and marched on the National Mall, chanting "Black Lives Matter," "I can't breathe" and "No justice, no peace."

Police used pepper spray to try to disperse the crowd but the standoff continued. Protesters dragged away barricades and some broke up concrete to use as projectiles. At one point, a trash bin was set on fire.

National Guard troops took up position around the White House on Saturday night.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump appears to be cheering on the tougher tactics being used by law enforcement around the country to confront sometimes violent demonstrators joining in protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

On Saturday, the president commended National Guard troops deployed in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!"

He also said police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!" In a tweet, Trump said: "Let New York's Finest be New York's Finest."

He was commenting on Twitter from the White House while crowds of protesters gathered outside.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — The mayor of Nashville, Tennessee, has declared a state of civil emergency after protesters set a fire inside the Metro Courthouse in the state's capital city.

Thousands had rallied near the Capitol building Saturday afternoon to peacefully protest police brutality and racism. But things turned violent after darkness fell, with protesters breaking windows in government buildings and causing other property damage.

The Tennessean newspaper says demonstrators also pulled down a statue outside the Capitol of Edward Carmack, a controversial former lawmaker and newspaper publisher who espoused racist views.

Police deployed tear gas and began warning demonstrators that the protest was unlawful.

Gov. Bill Lee issued an order Saturday night for the National Guard to mobilize "in response to protests

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 44 of 82

that have now taken a violent, unlawful turn in Nashville.”

MINNEAPOLIS — Police in Minneapolis are confronting protesters out after curfew on the fifth day of protests over the death of George Floyd.

A group of marchers was moving north toward downtown on a city street when officers fired tear gas Saturday night. The group immediately retreated.

Soon after, officers fired tear gas and moved in to push away throngs of protesters who were milling around the city police’s 5th Precinct.

The tougher tactics came after city and state leaders were criticized for not more strongly confronting violent and damaging protests.

Minneapolis has been the epicenter of protests since the death Monday of Floyd after a police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes. The protests have spread to cities across the United States.

CHICAGO — Chicago’s mayor has announced an overnight curfew in the city running from 9 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. Sunday, and she says police will crack down on any violence.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot says that peaceful protesting over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has “devolved into criminal conduct.”

She says police will be aggressive with arrests for anyone caught damaging property.

In the mayor’s words: “We can have zero tolerance for people who came prepared for a fight and tried to initiate and provoke our police department.”

MIAMI — An initially peaceful protest in Miami over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has turned violent, with some demonstrators setting fire to police cars.

Witnesses to the clash Saturday say officers responded with tear gas and fireworks to disperse the crowd. The mayor has declared a 10 p.m. curfew.

At one point, Interstate 95 was shut down as protesters stood on the busy highway. Police also used bicycles to push back an increasingly rowdy crowd throwing rocks.

Elsewhere in Florida, protesters in Tampa smashed store windows and set a gas station ablaze Saturday night after a peaceful demonstration during the day. Some broke into AT&T and Gold N Diamond stores.

Curfews are in effect or imminent in more than a dozen U.S. cities facing rising unrest following the death of George Floyd.

The start times Saturday evening range from 6 p.m. in parts of South Carolina to 10 p.m. around Ohio. People are being told to get off the streets beginning at 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. in Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles and Seattle.

A curfew is in effect for a second night in and around Minneapolis, where Floyd died earlier this week after a police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes during an arrest. Thousands ignored the Friday night curfew and peaceful protests gave way to violence late into the night.

PHILADELPHIA — Authorities in Philadelphia say a peaceful demonstration protesting the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis later turned violence, and at least 13 police officers have been injured amid incidents of arson and store break-ins in the city’s downtown.

Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw says at least four police vehicles were set ablaze and other fires were set throughout downtown Saturday afternoon. Protesters smashed windows and stole merchandise from stores as police tried to work to corral the crowd, which Outlaw estimates numbered about 3,000.

Protesters also sprayed graffiti on a statue of former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, tried to topple it and set a fire at its base. Rizzo was Philadelphia’s mayor from 1972 to 1980 and was praised by supporters as tough on crime but accused by critics of discriminating against minorities.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 45 of 82

Authorities in Philadelphia have ordered a citywide curfew has been implemented from 8 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday.

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has activated the Utah National Guard after protesters angry over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis turned violent during a demonstration at which some participants carried rifles in Salt Lake City.

Herbert says in a tweet that the Guard will help control “the escalating situation” in the downtown area following the unrest Saturday afternoon.

The protest started out peacefully, but degenerated into violence. A group of people flipped over a police car and lit it on fire. Some demonstrators smashed eggs and wrote graffiti on the walls of the Salt Lake City police station. Others marched through downtown to the state Capitol.

Some people in the protest openly carried rifles, which is legal in Utah.

SEATTLE — The Washington State Patrol has closed Interstate 5 in both directions through downtown Seattle after a protest over the death of George Floyd spilled onto the freeway.

Thousands of people gathered in the downtown area Saturday for a largely peaceful demonstration, but some protesters turned rowdier as the afternoon worn on. Police used pepper spray on the demonstrators and deployed flash bang devices.

Police said arrests were made but an exact figure wasn’t available.

State patrol Chief John Batiste said in a statement that “the freeway is not a safe or appropriate place for demonstration.”

ATLANTA — A crowd has gathered in Atlanta to protest the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and some people have started throwing objects at officers guarding the Georgia governor’s mansion.

Hundreds of people stood on a residential sidewalk Saturday evening across the street from the mansion in the city’s affluent Buckhead neighborhood. Cars and motorcyclists continued to sporadically drive by in front of the demonstrators.

Authorities responded by taking at least one person into custody.

Gov. Brian Kemp was not inside the home Saturday evening.

Earlier in the day, Atlanta’s mayor announced a curfew will be in effect in the city from 9 p.m. Saturday to sunrise Sunday. That order followed a night of violence that erupted in the city during demonstrations over Floyd’s death.

MINNEAPOLIS — Several Minneapolis City Council members are asking Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to appoint the state’s attorney general as a special prosecutor in the death of George Floyd.

Six of the council’s 13 members say they support a call from Floyd’s family for Attorney General Keith Ellison to handle the prosecution of the police officer who held his knee on Floyd’s neck Monday. The council members say they don’t think Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman has the public trust necessary for the job.

Freeman on Friday charged now-fired officer Derek Chauvin with third-degree murder in Floyd’s death. Chauvin is white; Floyd was black.

The council members say Freeman waited too long in bringing charge. They say Ellison, who is black, is best qualified to handle the case. They also cite a working group he helped lead on deaths involving police.

‘We’re sick of it’: Anger over police killings shatters US

By TIM SULLIVAN and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Another night of unrest in every corner of the country left charred and shattered landscapes in dozens of American cities Sunday as years of festering frustrations over the mistreatment of African Americans at the hands of police boiled over in expressions of rage met with tear gas and rub-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 46 of 82

ber bullets.

Cars and businesses were torched, the words "I can't breathe" were spray-painted all over buildings, a fire in a trash bin burned near the gates of the White House, and thousands marched peacefully through city streets to protest the death of George Floyd, a black man who died Monday after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on his neck until he stopped breathing.

His death is one of a litany of racial tragedies that have thrown the country into chaos amid the coronavirus pandemic that has left millions out of work and killed more than 100,000 people in the U.S., including disproportionate numbers of black people.

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington D.C. "They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys."

People set fire to police cars, threw bottles at police officers and busted windows of storefronts, carrying away TVs and other items even as some protesters urged them to stop. In Indianapolis, police were investigating multiple shootings, including one that left a person dead amid the protests — adding to deaths in Detroit and Minneapolis in recent days.

In Minneapolis, the city where the protests began, police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in soon after an 8 p.m. curfew took effect to break up protests, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to clear streets outside a police precinct and elsewhere.

At least 13 police officers were injured in Philadelphia when peaceful protests turned violent and at least four police vehicles were set on fire. In New York City, dangerous confrontations flared repeatedly as officers made arrests and cleared streets. A video showed two NYPD cruisers lurching into a crowd of demonstrators who were pushing a barricade against one of them and pelting it with objects. Several people were knocked to the ground, and it was unclear if anyone was hurt.

"The mistakes that are happening are not mistakes. They're repeated violent terrorist offenses and people need to stop killing black people," Brooklyn protester Meryl Makielski said.

Few corners of America were untouched, from protesters setting fires inside Reno's city hall, to police launching tear gas at rock-throwing demonstrators in Fargo, North Dakota. In Salt Lake City, demonstrators flipped a police car and lit it on fire. Police said six people were arrested and a police officer was injured after being struck in the head with a baseball bat.

Police have arrested at least 1,669 people in 22 cities since Thursday, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Nearly a third of those arrests came in Los Angeles, where the governor declared a state of emergency and ordered the National Guard to back up the city's 10,000 police officers as dozens of fires burned across the city.

The damage in U.S. cities came as many Americans plan to return to in-person church services on Sunday for the first time in several weeks since the pandemic forced a ban on large gatherings. Pastors in pulpits across the country will likely be urging peace amid the rubble of riots.

Trump appeared to cheer on the tougher tactics Saturday night, commending the National Guard deployment in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!" and saying police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!"

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden condemned the violence as he continued to express common cause with those demonstrating after Floyd's death.

"The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest," Biden said in a statement Saturday night.

Overnight curfews were imposed in more than a dozen major cities nationwide, including Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Seattle.

This week's unrest recalled the riots in Los Angeles nearly 30 years ago after the acquittal of the white police officers who beat Rodney King, a black motorist who had led them on a high-speed chase. The protests of Floyd's killing have gripped many more cities, but the losses in Minneapolis have yet to approach the staggering totals Los Angeles saw during five days of rioting in 1992, when more than 60 people died, 2,000-plus were injured and thousands arrested, with property damage topping \$1 billion.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 47 of 82

But not all protests were marred by violence. In Juneau, Alaska, local police joined protesters at a rally in front of a giant whale sculpture on the city's waterfront.

"We don't tolerate excessive use of force," Juneau Police Chief Ed Mercer told a gathering where most people wore masks and some sang Alaska Native songs.

The show of force in Minneapolis came after three days when police largely avoided engaging protesters, and after the state poured in more than 4,000 National Guard troops to Minneapolis and said the number would soon rise to nearly 11,000.

"The situation in Minneapolis is no longer in any way about the murder of George Floyd," said Gov. Tim Walz, who also said local forces had been overmatched the previous day. "It is about attacking civil society, instilling fear and disrupting our great cities."

Some residents were glad to see the upheaval dissipating.

"I live here. I haven't been able to sleep," said Iman Muhammad, whose neighborhood saw multiple fires set Friday night. Muhammad said she sympathized with peaceful protests over Floyd's death but disagreed with the violence: "Wrong doesn't answer wrong."

Mosques reopen in Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem amid virus woes

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tens of thousands of mosques across Saudi Arabia reopened Sunday for the first time in more than two months, with worshipers ordered to follow strict guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus as Islam's holiest site in Mecca remained closed to the public.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's holiest site outside of Saudi Arabia, also reopened for prayers for the first time since it was closed in mid-March.

With little regards for social distancing, throngs waited outside the holy site's gates before it opened early Sunday, with many wearing surgical masks. As they were allowed to enter, the faithful stopped to have their temperature measured.

The mosque was one of Jerusalem's many holy sites, including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Western Wall, that were restricted to worshipers at the height of Israel's coronavirus outbreak. Throughout that period, worshipers continued to pray in the alleyways outside the mosque.

Jews also resumed their pilgrimages Sunday to the hilltop compound they revere as the Temple Mount, site of the two Jewish biblical temples.

In Saudi Arabia, the government prepared for the reopening of around 90,000 mosques after sanitizing prayer rugs, washrooms and shelves holding copies of the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs said millions of text messages were sent to people in multiple languages to inform them about the new rules for public prayer, which include keeping a two-meter (six-foot) distance between people during prayer, wearing face masks at all times and abstaining from greeting one another with handshakes or hugs.

Children under 15 years-old were not being allowed inside mosques. The elderly and those with chronic conditions were being told to pray at home. People are also being advised to perform the mandatory ab-lution at home since washrooms at mosques will be closed, to use hand sanitizers and to bring their own prayer rugs and copies of the Quran.

The restrictions call for mosques to open just 15 minutes before each of the five daily prayers and to close 10 minutes after they conclude. Friday sermons and prayers are to last no longer than 15 minutes.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia also lifted a ban on domestic air travel and permitted some public sector workers to resume office work again, though full attendance will not be allowed until mid-June.

The new measures come as Saudi Arabia and other countries around the world begin to loosen restrictions and stay-at-home orders following weeks of curfews and lock downs.

However, the Grand Mosque in Mecca, which houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims around the world pray toward, will remain closed to the public. The city has been under a strict lock down for several weeks. The mosque in Medina where the Prophet Muhammad is buried will be partially opened to the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 48 of 82

public to pray outside.

The continued closure of Mecca points to the increasing likelihood that the kingdom may suspend this year's annual Muslim hajj pilgrimage, which falls in late July. Already, a senior Saudi official has told prospective pilgrims not to plan for the hajj this year amid the global pandemic.

Despite taking early and unprecedented measures to curb the spread of the virus, Saudi Arabia has recorded more than 83,000 people contracting the virus, including 480 deaths.

Israel has weathered the coronavirus better than other harder-hit countries. It has recorded fewer than 300 deaths and has managed to mostly keep its daily infection count to the low dozens since the beginning of May. But it also imposed severe restrictions that battered its economy and sent its unemployment rate skyrocketing. Many of those restrictions, including on places of worship, began to be eased earlier this month.

The Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism, but for the most part Jews are forbidden to pray there and instead do so at the adjacent Western Wall. In recent years Jewish activists have been agitating for greater Jewish access to the site, including what they say is the right to pray there. That has angered Palestinians who see the attempt as part of Israeli encroachment on land they seek for their future state. The fate of the shrine is an emotional issue at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In Pakistan meanwhile, the country's daily death toll from COVID-19 kept climbing, hitting a new high of 88 overnight.

Amid reports of an acute bed shortage and near daily warnings from health professionals to tighten lock down measures, the government has kept mosques open, urging safe distancing but not enforcing it.

In the latest easing of restrictions, the government has withdrawn the limits on congregations in mosques and churches.

Pakistan's coronavirus death toll of 1,483 is third only to Iran and Turkey in the Middle East. The country has counted 69,496 positive cases of COVID-19.

Massive protests raise fears of new virus outbreaks

By **BRIAN MELLEY** and **JOHN SEEWER** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The mayor of Atlanta, one of dozens of U.S. cities hit by massive protests in recent days, has a message for demonstrators: "If you were out protesting last night, you probably need to go get a COVID test this week."

As emergency orders are lifted and beaches and businesses reopen, add protests to the list of concerns about a possible second wave of coronavirus outbreaks. It's also an issue from Paris to Hong Kong, where anti-government protesters accuse police of using social distancing rules to break up their rallies.

Health experts fear that silent carriers of the virus who have no symptoms could unwittingly infect others at gatherings with people packed cheek to jowl and cheering and jeering, many without masks.

"Whether they're fired up or not that doesn't prevent them from getting the virus," said Bradley Pollock, chairman of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

One Atlanta protester said she has no choice following the death last Monday of George Floyd, a black man, after a white police officer in Minneapolis pressed a knee into his neck.

"It's not OK that in the middle of a pandemic we have to be out here risking our lives," Spence Ingram, a black woman, said after marching with other protesters to the state Capitol in Atlanta on Friday. "But I have to protest for my life and fight for my life all the time."

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, in her warning Saturday evening, said "there is still a pandemic in America that's killing black and brown people at higher numbers."

After another night of unrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said that many protesters wearing masks were simply trying to hide their identities and "cause confusion and take advantage of this situation."

The state's health commissioner has warned that the protests are almost certain to fuel new cases of the virus. Minnesota reported 35 deaths on Thursday, a single-day high in the outbreak, and 29 more on

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 49 of 82

Friday.

"We have two crises that are sandwiched on top of one other," Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said.

The protests come at a time when many U.S. cities are beginning to relax stay-at-home orders. When Los Angeles officials announced the reopening of stores last week, they said political protests could resume but with a cap of 100 people.

That didn't stop several hundred people from showing up for a protest that shut down a freeway. Most wore masks, but many did not observe a buffer zone.

Even for the many protesters who have been wearing masks, those don't guarantee protection from the coronavirus. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cloth masks because they can make it more difficult for infected people to spread the virus — but they are not designed to protect the person wearing the mask from getting it.

In Europe, unions in Paris flouted a ban on large gatherings Saturday at a march to protest conditions for workers in the country illegally. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowds and said they had banned the march due to the "health risks that such an event is likely to generate."

Hong Kong police have used tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets to break up protests in recent weeks. A ban on gatherings of more than eight people has been extended to June 4, the day of an annual candlelight vigil to mark the Chinese military's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

More than 6 million coronavirus infections have been reported worldwide, with over 369,000 deaths and more than 2.5 million recoveries, according to the Johns Hopkins tally. The true death toll is widely believed to be significantly higher, with experts saying many victims died of the virus without ever being tested for it.

The situation worsened in India, where new daily cases topped 8,000 for the first time and 193 people died in the last 24 hours. The last week has been the deadliest for the country since the outbreak began.

In Saudi Arabia, tens of thousands of mosques reopened Sunday for the first time in more than two months, but Islam's holiest site in Mecca remained closed.

Elsewhere, throngs of worshippers waited outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem before it reopened for the first time since mid-March. Many wore surgical masks and, as they entered, the faithful stopped for temperature checks.

In South America, the city of Bogota, Colombia, will lock down an area of nearly 1.5 million people where cases are continuing to raise.

Mayor Claudia Lopez said Saturday that no one in the working-class Kennedy area — inaugurated by late U.S. President John F. Kennedy in 1961 — will be allowed out, except to seek food or medical care or in case of an emergency. Factories that had been allowed to operate will be ordered closed.

The area has reported more than 2,500 cases and hospitals are reaching maximum capacity.

Elite sporting events will be allowed to resume in England starting Monday, but without spectators, paving the way for the planned June 17 return of the Premier League, the world's richest soccer competition.

England's deputy chief medical officer Jonathan Van-Tam warned that the situation overall remained precarious. "I believe this is also a very dangerous moment," he said. "We have to get this right."

Protests over police killings rage in dozens of US cities

By **TIM SULLIVAN** and **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tense protests over the death of George Floyd and other police killings of black people grew Saturday from New York to Tulsa to Los Angeles, with police cars set ablaze and reports of injuries mounting on all sides as the country convulsed through another night of unrest after months of coronavirus lockdowns.

The protests, which began in Minneapolis following Floyd's death Monday after a police officer pressed a knee on his neck until he stopped breathing, have left parts of the city a grid of broken windows, burned-out buildings and ransacked stores. The unrest has since become a national phenomenon as protesters decry years of deaths at police hands.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 50 of 82

Tens of thousands of people were in the streets across the country, many of them not wearing masks or observing social distancing, raising concerns among health experts about the potential for spreading the coronavirus pandemic at a time when much of the country is in the process of reopening society and the economy.

After a tumultuous Friday, racially diverse crowds held mostly peaceful demonstrations in dozens of cities, though many later descended into violence as had happened the previous night.

Few corners of America were untouched, from protesters setting fires inside Reno's city hall, to police launching tear gas at rock-throwing demonstrators in Fargo, North Dakota, to shattered windows at police headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

— In Indianapolis, police were investigating "multiple shootings" downtown, including one that left a person dead, amid the protests. Police gave few details but said no officers were involved.

— In Washington, the National Guard was deployed outside the White House, where chanting crowds taunted law enforcement officers. Dressed in camouflage and holding shields, the troops stood in a tight line a few yards from the crowd, preventing them from pushing forward. President Donald Trump, who spent much of Saturday in Florida for the SpaceX rocket launch, landed on the lawn in the presidential helicopter at dusk and went inside without speaking to journalists.

— In Philadelphia, at least 13 officers were injured when peaceful protests turned violent and at least four police vehicles were set on fire. Other fires were set throughout downtown.

— In Salt Lake City, protesters defied a curfew and National Guard troops were deployed by Utah's governor. Demonstrators flipped a police car and lit it on fire, and another vehicle was later set ablaze. Police said six people were arrested and a police officer was injured after being struck in the head with a baseball bat.

— In Los Angeles, protesters chanted "Black Lives Matter," some within inches of the face shields of officers. Police used batons to move the crowd back and fired rubber bullets. A graffiti-covered police car burned in the street.

— And in New York City, dangerous confrontations flared repeatedly as officers made arrests and cleared streets. A video showed two NYPD cruisers lurching into a crowd of demonstrators who were pushing a barricade against one of them and pelting it with objects. Several people were knocked to the ground, and it was unclear if anyone was hurt.

"The mistakes that are happening are not mistakes. They're repeated violent terrorist offenses and people need to stop killing black people," Brooklyn protester Meryl Makielski said.

Not all protests devolved into violence. In Juneau, Alaska, law enforcement officers joined elected officials and residents at a peaceful protest in front of a giant whale sculpture on the city's waterfront.

"We don't tolerate excessive use of force," Juneau Police Chief Ed Mercer told the gathering.

Back in Minneapolis, the city where the protests began, police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in soon after an 8 p.m. curfew took effect to break up protests, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to clear streets outside a police precinct and elsewhere.

The show of force came after three days when police largely avoided engaging protesters, and after the state poured in more than 4,000 National Guard troops to Minneapolis and said the number would soon rise to nearly 11,000.

"The situation in Minneapolis is no longer in any way about the murder of George Floyd," said Gov. Tim Walz, who also said local forces had been overmatched the previous day. "It is about attacking civil society, instilling fear and disrupting our great cities."

Minneapolis' streets steadily grew calmer as the night went on, and Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell said the tough response would remain as long as it takes to "quell this situation."

Some residents were glad to see the upheaval dissipating.

"I live here. I haven't been able to sleep," said Iman Muhammad, whose neighborhood saw multiple fires set Friday night. Muhammad said she sympathized with peaceful protests over Floyd's death but disagreed with the violence: "Wrong doesn't answer wrong."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 51 of 82

Trump appeared to cheer on the tougher tactics Saturday night, commending the Guard deployment in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!" and saying police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!"

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden condemned the violence as he continued to express common cause with those demonstrating after Floyd's death.

"The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest," Biden said in a statement Saturday night.

Overnight curfews were imposed in more than a dozen major cities nationwide, including Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Seattle.

More than 1,300 people have been arrested in 16 cities since Thursday, including over 500 Friday in Los Angeles.

The unrest comes at a time when most Americans have spent months inside over concerns surrounding the coronavirus, which the president has called an "invisible enemy." The events of the last 72 hours, seen live on national television, have shown the opposite: a sudden pivot to crowds, screaming protesters and burning buildings, and a stark contrast to the empty streets of recent months.

"Quite frankly I'm ready to just lock people up," Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields said at a news conference. Demonstrations there turned violent Friday, and police were arresting protesters Saturday on blocked-off downtown streets. "Yes, you caught us off balance once. It's not going to happen twice."

This week's unrest recalled the riots in Los Angeles nearly 30 years ago after the acquittal of the white police officers who beat Rodney King, a black motorist who had led them on a high-speed chase. The protests of Floyd's killing have gripped many more cities, but the losses in Minneapolis have yet to approach the staggering totals Los Angeles saw during five days of rioting in 1992, when more than 60 people died, 2,000-plus were injured and thousands arrested, with property damage topping \$1 billion.

Many protesters spoke of frustration that Floyd's death was one more in a litany. It came in the wake of the killing in Georgia of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who was shot dead after being pursued by two white men while running in their neighborhood, and in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic that has thrown millions out of work, killed more than 100,000 people in the U.S. and disproportionately affected black people.

The officer who held his knee to Floyd's neck as he begged for air was arrested Friday and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. But many protesters are demanding the arrests of the three other officers involved.

Trump stoked the anger on Twitter, saying that if protesters had breached the White House fence, they would "have been greeted with the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons, I have ever seen."

Leaders in many affected cities have voiced outrage over Floyd's killing and expressed sympathy for protesters' concerns. But as the unrest intensified, they spoke of a desperate need to protect their cities and said they would call in reinforcements, despite concerns that could lead to more heavy-handed tactics.

Governors in Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio and Texas also activated the National Guard after protests there turned violent.

Police in St. Louis were investigating the death of a protester who climbed between two trailers of a Fed Ex truck and was killed when it drove away. And a person was killed in the area of protests in downtown Detroit just before midnight after someone fired shots into an SUV, officers said. Police had initially said someone fired into the crowd from an SUV.

With masks and gloves, Ukraine's priests return to duties

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV Associated Press

IVANO-FRANKIVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Wearing a white biohazard suit, a face shield and a blue mask over his mouth and nose, the Rev. Yaroslav Rokhman is hard to recognize as a priest when he visits terminally ill patients at a Ukrainian care center.

But his words still bring comfort to the dying.

Rokhman, a clergyman in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, is pleased just to be performing one of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 52 of 82

a cleric's most heartfelt duties again. As the coronavirus pandemic's grip slowly recedes in Ukraine, priests received clearance on May 22 to resume religious services and to visit the sick and bereaved.

"Patients missed the support and spiritual care. They needed a priest. They needed to pray and talk," he said while attending to patients at a palliative-care facility in Ivano-Frankivsk, a city 450 kilometers (270 miles) west of the capital of Kyiv.

Galina Shamineva, a 34-year-old mother of two with cancer, was heartened to see Rokhman, his intimidating protective gear notwithstanding.

"I feel good — all thanks to you," she said from her bed. "I really needed to be able to confess and partake in the sacrament."

Rokhman spoke to Shamineva in a soothing way and made the sign of the cross with his gloved hands.

"Sometimes I cry, but I never give up. I'm fighting 'til the last breath," she told him.

In Chernivtsi, one of the Ukrainian cities hit hardest by the virus, the Rev. Vasyl Gasynets has returned to conducting services at his Greek Catholic church, wearing vestments along with a mask while giving Holy Communion. Members of the congregation also were masked as they stood near each other, as did some choir members as they sang.

"Our church was clean before the pandemic. And it's clean during the pandemic. We respect our people. We want everyone to be healthy," Gasynets said. "We want them to believe that in the house of God, Jesus Christ, Holy Church, everything is clean."

Regulations to prevent the spread of the virus widened a religious fault line in Ukraine. The Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Greek Catholic Church complied with government restrictions on holding services. But the rival Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church, resisted.

After the Russia-linked church allowed people to attend Easter services, authorities filed criminal cases against five priests. If convicted, they face prison sentences of up to eight years. At the church's world-renowned Pechersk Monastery in Kyiv, more than 100 clerics were infected with the virus, and at least three died.

Ukrainian authorities reported 393 new confirmed cases on Saturday, down from some 500 new cases a day earlier in May. The country has recorded a total of more than 23,000 confirmed cases and 696 deaths.

Protesters converge on White House for second straight day

By **ASHRAF KHALIL, KEVIN FREKING and MICHAEL BALSAMO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police fired pepper spray at demonstrators near the White House and the D.C. National Guard was called in as pockets of violence and vandalism erupted during a second straight night of protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and President Donald Trump's response to it.

Hundreds of people converged on the White House and marched along the National Mall, chanting "Black Lives Matter," "I can't breathe" and "No justice, no peace."

Protesters threw water bottles, traffic cones, scooters, even tear gas cans at police lines. They set fire to a car and a trash bin and smashed windows, including at Bay Atlantic University. "What are you doing? That's a school," one man yelled.

An American flag hanging at the Export-Import Bank was taken down, burned and replaced with a Black Lives Matter banner.

The D.C. demonstration was one of several around the country responding to the death of Floyd, a black man who died in police custody.

Trump appeared to cheer on the tougher tactics being used by law enforcement to disperse protesters Saturday night. He commended National Guard troops deployed in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!" and he also said police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!"

"Let New York's Finest be New York's Finest," Trump said on Twitter after returning to the White House from Florida, where he watched the launch of a SpaceX rocket. He did not talk to reporters upon his return and it was not clear if he could hear the protest over the sound of his helicopter. But for at least part of the flight, televisions on Air Force One were turned to Fox News and its coverage of the protests.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 53 of 82

Earlier in the day, he had belittled the protesters and pledged to "stop mob violence."

"I stand before you as a friend and ally to every American seeking justice and peace, and I stand before you in firm opposition to anyone exploiting this tragedy to loot, rob, attack and menace," the president said after watching the launch of a SpaceX rocket. "Healing, not hatred, justice, not chaos, are the missions at hand."

Police were in tactical gear. The D.C. National Guard was activated at the direction of the secretary of the Army and at the request of the Park Police to help maintain order near the White House, Commanding Gen. William J. Walker said in a post on the Guard's Facebook page.

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said. "They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys," she said.

Some vocal protesters directed their comments at a black police officer. "Do you support this violence?" they asked him. "How are you going to protect your kids?" The officer got emotional to the point he had to be relieved.

An activist wearing a Black Lives Matter T-shirt put himself between police and the protesters and yelled, "Stop. This is what they want."

Speaking over a megaphone earlier in the evening, Cameron McCall said, "We don't need violence. All we need are our voices."

While some protesters stayed near the White House, others marched through the streets chanting, "No justice and no peace." and "Say his name: George Floyd." The mood was angry and several speakers implored marchers to remain peaceful.

The march paused between the the Washington Monument and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Demonstrators sat down in the street for a moment of silence lasting for the eight minutes or more that the Minneapolis police officer reportedly knelt on Floyd's neck.

At the Lincoln Memorial, one organizer spoke over a megaphone. "Look to the left and to the right and thank that person. We can't hug anybody because of COVID, but I love you anyway." Many of the protesters wore masks, but did not socially distance themselves.

Another group circled through the Capitol Hill neighborhood for at least an hour in cars, honking. A helicopter hovered overhead.

In a series of tweets earlier Saturday, Trump doubted protesters' allegiance to Floyd's memory, saying they were "professionally managed." He offered no evidence to back his assertion, and the president even seemed to invite supporters to make their presence felt: "Tonight, I understand, is MAGA NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE???"

Trump later rejected the suggestion that he was stoking a potential conflict between protesters and his supporters. "I was just asking. But I have no idea if they are going to be here," he said. "MAGA is Make America Great Again. By the way, they love African American people. They love black people."

At Saturday's demonstration, there was no evidence of a counter-move by Trump supporters.

Trump said he had "watched every move" from inside the executive mansion during Friday's protest and "couldn't have felt more safe" as the Secret Service let the protesters carry on, "but whenever someone ... got too frisky or out of line, they would quickly come down on them, hard — didn't know what hit them."

The president also criticized the mayors of Washington and Minneapolis.

Trump said Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey "is probably a very good person, but he's a radical, left mayor." He then described how he watched as a police station in the city was overrun. "For that police station to be abandoned and taken over, I've never seen anything so horrible and stupid in my life," Trump said when speaking briefly to reporters at the White House.

He said Minnesota officials have to get tougher with rioters, and that by doing so they would be honoring the memory of Floyd.

The Secret Service said in a statement Saturday that six protesters were arrested in Washington and "multiple" officers were injured. There were no details on the charges or nature of the injuries. A spokesman for U.S. Park Police said their officers made no arrests, but several suffered minor injuries and one was taken to a hospital after being struck in the helmet by a projectile.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 54 of 82

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf on Saturday called the protesters "criminals" who committed "acts of violence while hiding behind their First Amendment right of lawful protest."

Late Saturday and early Sunday, protesters vented their rage by breaking into tony shops of Georgetown, on the western edge of the District, and in downtown Washington, breaking windows and glass doors of many stores and looting some of them.

In his tweeting, Trump claimed that many Secret Service agents were "just waiting for action" and ready to unleash "the most vicious dogs, and the most ominous weapons, I have ever seen." His reference to "vicious dogs" potentially being sicced on protesters revisits images from the civil rights movement when marchers faced snarling police dogs and high-pressure fire hoses.

In a news conference Saturday afternoon, Muriel Bowser, mayor of the nation's capital, called Trump's remarks "gross" and said the reference to attack dogs conjures up with the worst memories of the nation's fight against segregation.

"I call upon our city and our nation to exercise restraint, great restraint, even as the president tries to divide us," she said. "I feel like these comments are an attack on humanity, an attack on black America, and they make my city less safe."

In contrast with the president's tweets, the Secret Service said it "respects the right to assemble and we ask that individuals do so peacefully for the safety of all."

'We Grieve': Community project unites neighbors in healing

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It's nothing flashy. But then, it's not supposed to be.

The plywood wall that surrounds a building site, painted with the words "WE GRIEVE" in massive letters, has become a focal point for people of the Stamford Hill neighborhood. It is there that they gather each Thursday to remember those who have died during the coronavirus pandemic.

It might seem an odd venue. But it's central and there's space for social distancing — a place for civic grief.

"What we've found, almost by accident, is the need for communities to stand together and grieve," said the Rev. William Taylor, vicar of St. Thomas', an Anglican church on Clapton Common.

This London neighborhood is diverse, even for a multicultural city. The common park was once surrounded by terraced houses built for the genteel who flocked to the area in the 19th century. But new groups moved in after World War II, and these days it is most well known as home to one of the largest Ultra Orthodox Jewish communities in Europe.

And, in a way, it is that diversity that spawned the grief wall.

Taylor felt bereft when Britain's coronavirus lockdown prevented him from mourning with others after the death of his friend Rabbi Avrohom Pinter, a leader of the Orthodox Jewish community.

The friendship between Taylor, who tweets as @HackneyPreacher and Pinter, a leading figure in the deeply traditional community of thousands, may have seemed unlikely. But the two bonded over their wish to build a spirit of friendship among those who lived near Clapton Common.

Among many initiatives, the pair worked together to convert a derelict public toilet into a community center on the edge of the common. The mock-Tudor structure was half-timbered like the Liberty department store in central London, giving the new center its name — Liberty Hall.

The project was designed to create neutral ground. Pinter, for instance, was adamant that it offer a bicycle repair clinic, so his cycling-mad community would go there.

After years of work, Liberty Hall was nearly complete. Ahead of its April opening, backers painted the words THANK YOU on the temporary wall surrounding the site in bright orange letters to show gratitude for often small contributors who raised 50,000 pounds, (\$61,600), for the project.

Then the virus struck.

Pinter tried to persuade his community to follow the government's lockdown rules, which many were reluctant to do. He spread the word door-to-door until he contracted COVID-19 himself. The rabbi died

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 55 of 82

April 13.

Taylor grieved. One morning while running the common, he was jarred by the sign on their joint project. He discussed it with other members of the Clapton Commons community group, and they decided to repaint the wall.

"THANK YOU" was replaced by "WE GRIEVE."

Everyone who rode the 254 bus into central London could see it. The community responded, flooding social media with support. The wall clearly hit a nerve, for Britain has seen over 38,000 people die in the pandemic, a death toll second only to the United States.

A conversation between Taylor and designer Mike Abrahams led to the ceremony of posting the names of the dead every Thursday, just before the nation pauses to clap in support of health workers battling the pandemic.

Each person is remembered with a simple sheet of paper glued to the wall. A bell is rung. Then there's a moment of silence.

Sixteen people have been remembered. They include a doctor, a hospital porter, a father and son who worked as cobblers, a retired seamstress, and a bass guitarist.

Marcia Mullings came to remember a friend and her brother, Gary, who died of cancer and had only a small funeral because of coronavirus restrictions. Being with her neighbors eased her pain.

"We remember that we have lost loved ones," she said. "We also are going to remember that we're not alone in this."

The Latest: One dead in Indianapolis shootings amid protests

The Associated Press

The Latest on the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck:

INDIANAPOLIS - Authorities are investigating "multiple shootings," including one that left a person dead, in downtown Indianapolis on Saturday amid protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Randal Taylor confirmed the shootings during a late night news conference, but didn't offer any more details. Police later tweeted that no officers were involved.

Protests became dangerous for a second straight night in Indianapolis as buildings were damaged, officers deployed tear gas and at least one business was briefly on fire.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden condemned the violence in a statement, as he continued to express common cause with those demonstrating after Floyd's death.

"The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest," Biden said in a statement Saturday night. "It should not drive people away from the just cause that protest is meant to advance."

MINNEAPOLIS — Officials in Minneapolis say they've succeeded for now in stopping the violent protests that ravaged parts of the city for several days after the death of George Floyd.

Police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in to break up protests after an 8 p.m. curfew took effect, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to clear streets outside a police precinct and elsewhere. The show of force came after three days where police mostly declined to engage with protesters.

It also came after the state poured in more than 4,000 National Guard members and said the number would soon rise to nearly 11,000.

As Minneapolis streets appeared largely quiet, Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell said the heavy response would remain as long as it takes to "quell this situation."

Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 56 of 82

RICHMOND, Va. — The Richmond, Virginia, police headquarters was the target of protesters for the second night in a row as officers formed a barricade around the building late Saturday night.

A dumpster was set afire near the police headquarters, which had its front windows broken out Friday night. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the police fired tear gas to move crowds away from the building.

Several blocks away near Virginia Commonwealth University hundreds of protesters blocked streets chanting "George Floyd," referring to the black man who died Monday after an arresting officer in Minneapolis pushed his knee into Floyd's neck while he was on the ground handcuffed.

Media reports showed video of protesters hurling what appeared to be water bottles at a police car, which moved through the crowd and sped away. A police cruiser was burned in the violence on Friday night, along with a city bus.

LOS ANGELES -- The mayor of Los Angeles says the National Guard will be deployed overnight to help local law enforcement quell violence in the nation's second-largest city.

Mayor Eric Garcetti says he asked California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday to send 500 to 700 members of the Guard. Crowds of demonstrators have torched police cars, vandalized and burglarized stores and clashed with lines of officers. Hundreds of people have been arrested since Friday night.

SALT LAKE CITY — Protests are continuing in Salt Lake City despite a curfew issued by the mayor and National Guard troops deployed by Utah's governor.

Police officials say they are prepared to give people time to leave, but they plan to arrest people who refused to comply.

What started as a peaceful demonstration Saturday against the death of George Floyd turned destructive. A group of people flipped over a police car and lit it on fire. A second car was later set on fire.

Police officials say six people have been arrested and that a police officer was injured after being struck in the head with a baseball bat.

RENO, Nevada -- City officials in Reno instituted an immediate mandatory curfew Saturday night after protesters broke windows at City Hall and set fires.

Police fired tear gas into the building, the Reno Gazette Journal reported, and a SWAT team arrived to help disperse the crowd.

The fires were extinguished. In announcing the curfew in a statement, city officials asked residents to avoid the downtown area, where a "heavy police presence" would be in force overnight.

RALEIGH, N.C. — More than 1,000 people marched in downtown Raleigh on Saturday night, breaking windows as police in riot gear released tear gas and pepper spray to disburse the crowds.

WRAL-TV showed video of throngs of people in front of the Wake County Courthouse, some walking with signs, others on bikes and skateboards to protest the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a police officer on Monday.

Protesters gathered in late afternoon marching peacefully north from the courthouse chanting "No Justice, No Peace." But tension grew after nightfall as some people threw rocks at windows and spray painted anti-police slogans on walls.

Fayetteville Street was the focus of most of the vandalism with multiple buildings along the street having windows broken out.

MIAMI — A student at Florida International University said the protest was largely peaceful with the crowd of about 500 "singing, we were doing poetry" and urging each other not to "break windows" or hurt businesses.

But when they arrived at the police station, another group of protesters also converged there and things

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 57 of 82

escalated within minutes.

"There was a sniper on the roof with the police chief standing next to him and they started throwing smoke bombs to the crowd," 27-year-old Liseth Hatta said. "Most of them were kids. They couldn't have been older than 21. Everyone ran away screaming;"

They tried to flee and rushed to the train station to head home, but police closed down the entrance.

"A lot of people tried to get back on the train to leave and they weren't letting us," Hatta said. "They basically trapped us in."

ATLANTA — An Atlanta police officer was struck by someone riding an ATV in downtown Atlanta during protests that continued despite a curfew, and police said they were still trying to determine whether the crash was deliberate.

Police spokesman Carlos Campos said it happened about 10:30 p.m.; the mayor had set a 9 p.m. curfew. The officer suffered significant injuries and was in stable condition, Campos said.

The ATV drive suffered minor injuries and was taken into custody, Campos said.

LOS ANGELES — Police have arrested nearly 1,400 people in 17 U.S. cities as protests continue over the death of George Floyd.

Floyd died Monday in Minnesota after a police officer put his knee on Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes. The officer was arrested Friday and charged with third-degree murder.

But the arrest has done little to quell protests across the country. Most have been peaceful. But a few have erupted in violence.

An Associated Press tally of arrests found at least 1,383 people have been arrested since Thursday. The actual number is likely higher as protests continue Saturday night.

WASHINGTON — The National Guard has been called out in Washington, D.C., as pockets of violence erupted during a second straight night of protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and President Donald Trump's reaction to it.

Hundreds of protesters converged on the White House during the day Saturday and marched on the National Mall, chanting "Black Lives Matter," "I can't breathe" and "No justice, no peace."

Police used pepper spray to try to disperse the crowd but the standoff continued. Protesters dragged away barricades and some broke up concrete to use as projectiles. At one point, a trash bin was set on fire.

National Guard troops took up position around the White House on Saturday night.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump appears to be cheering on the tougher tactics being used by law enforcement around the country to confront sometimes violent demonstrators joining in protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

On Saturday, the president commended National Guard troops deployed in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!"

He also said police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!" In a tweet, Trump said: "Let New York's Finest be New York's Finest."

He was commenting on Twitter from the White House while crowds of protesters gathered outside.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — The mayor of Nashville, Tennessee, has declared a state of civil emergency after protesters set a fire inside the Metro Courthouse in the state's capital city.

Thousands had rallied near the Capitol building Saturday afternoon to peacefully protest police brutality and racism. But things turned violent after darkness fell, with protesters breaking windows in government buildings and causing other property damage.

The Tennessean newspaper says demonstrators also pulled down a statue outside the Capitol of Edward Carmack, a controversial former lawmaker and newspaper publisher who espoused racist views.

Police deployed tear gas and began warning demonstrators that the protest was unlawful.

Gov. Bill Lee issued an order Saturday night for the National Guard to mobilize "in response to protests

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 58 of 82

that have now taken a violent, unlawful turn in Nashville.”

MINNEAPOLIS — Police in Minneapolis are confronting protesters out after curfew on the fifth day of protests over the death of George Floyd.

A group of marchers was moving north toward downtown on a city street when officers fired tear gas Saturday night. The group immediately retreated.

Soon after, officers fired tear gas and moved in to push away throngs of protesters who were milling around the city police’s 5th Precinct.

The tougher tactics came after city and state leaders were criticized for not more strongly confronting violent and damaging protests.

Minneapolis has been the epicenter of protests since the death Monday of Floyd after a police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for some eight minutes. The protests have spread to cities across the United States.

CHICAGO — Chicago’s mayor has announced an overnight curfew in the city running from 9 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. Sunday, and she says police will crack down on any violence.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot says that peaceful protesting over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has “devolved into criminal conduct.”

She says police will be aggressive with arrests for anyone caught damaging property.

In the mayor’s words: “We can have zero tolerance for people who came prepared for a fight and tried to initiate and provoke our police department.”

MIAMI — An initially peaceful protest in Miami over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has turned violent, with some demonstrators setting fire to police cars.

Witnesses to the clash Saturday say officers responded with tear gas and fireworks to disperse the crowd. The mayor has declared a 10 p.m. curfew.

At one point, Interstate 95 was shut down as protesters stood on the busy highway. Police also used bicycles to push back an increasingly rowdy crowd throwing rocks.

Elsewhere in Florida, protesters in Tampa smashed store windows and set a gas station ablaze Saturday night after a peaceful demonstration during the day. Some broke into AT&T and Gold N Diamond stores.

Curfews are in effect or imminent in more than a dozen U.S. cities facing rising unrest following the death of George Floyd.

The start times Saturday evening range from 6 p.m. in parts of South Carolina to 10 p.m. around Ohio. People are being told to get off the streets beginning at 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. in Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles and Seattle.

A curfew is in effect for a second night in and around Minneapolis, where Floyd died earlier this week after a police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes during an arrest. Thousands ignored the Friday night curfew and peaceful protests gave way to violence late into the night.

PHILADELPHIA — Authorities in Philadelphia say a peaceful demonstration protesting the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis later turned violence, and at least 13 police officers have been injured amid incidents of arson and store break-ins in the city’s downtown.

Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw says at least four police vehicles were set ablaze and other fires were set throughout downtown Saturday afternoon. Protesters smashed windows and stole merchandise from stores as police tried to work to corral the crowd, which Outlaw estimates numbered about 3,000.

Protesters also sprayed graffiti on a statue of former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, tried to topple it and set a fire at its base. Rizzo was Philadelphia’s mayor from 1972 to 1980 and was praised by supporters as tough on crime but accused by critics of discriminating against minorities.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 59 of 82

Authorities in Philadelphia have ordered a citywide curfew has been implemented from 8 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday.

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has activated the Utah National Guard after protesters angry over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis turned violent during a demonstration at which some participants carried rifles in Salt Lake City.

Herbert says in a tweet that the Guard will help control “the escalating situation” in the downtown area following the unrest Saturday afternoon.

The protest started out peacefully, but degenerated into violence. A group of people flipped over a police car and lit it on fire. Some demonstrators smashed eggs and wrote graffiti on the walls of the Salt Lake City police station. Others marched through downtown to the state Capitol.

Some people in the protest openly carried rifles, which is legal in Utah.

LOS ANGELES -- Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has imposed a downtown curfew for Saturday night after some protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis turned violent.

With protesters were back out Saturday, Garcetti said everyone must be off down town streets by 8 p.m. and stay away until 5:30 a.m.

Several police cars were torched Saturday afternoon as some protesters ignored authorities’ call for peaceful demonstrations.

That followed a night of violence during which people smashed windows, robbed stores and set fires. Los Angeles police reported arresting 533 people during the night.

SEATTLE — The Washington State Patrol has closed Interstate 5 in both directions through downtown Seattle after a protest over the death of George Floyd spilled onto the freeway.

Thousands of people gathered in the downtown area Saturday for a largely peaceful demonstration, but some protesters turned rowdier as the afternoon worn on. Police used pepper spray on the demonstrators and deployed flash bang devices.

Police said arrests were made but an exact figure wasn’t available.

State patrol Chief John Batiste said in a statement that “the freeway is not a safe or appropriate place for demonstration.”

ATLANTA — A crowd has gathered in Atlanta to protest the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and some people have started throwing objects at officers guarding the Georgia governor’s mansion.

Hundreds of people stood on a residential sidewalk Saturday evening across the street from the mansion in the city’s affluent Buckhead neighborhood. Cars and motorcyclists continued to sporadically drive by in front of the demonstrators.

Authorities responded by taking at least one person into custody.

Gov. Brian Kemp was not inside the home Saturday evening.

Earlier in the day, Atlanta’s mayor announced a curfew will be in effect in the city from 9 p.m. Saturday to sunrise Sunday. That order followed a night of violence that erupted in the city during demonstrations over Floyd’s death.

MINNEAPOLIS — Several Minneapolis City Council members are asking Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to appoint the state’s attorney general as a special prosecutor in the death of George Floyd.

Six of the council’s 13 members say they support a call from Floyd’s family for Attorney General Keith Ellison to handle the prosecution of the police officer who held his knee on Floyd’s neck Monday. The council members say they don’t think Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman has the public trust necessary for the job.

Freeman on Friday charged now-fired officer Derek Chauvin with third-degree murder in Floyd’s death.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 60 of 82

Chauvin is white; Floyd was black.

The council members say Freeman waited too long in bringing charge. They say Ellison, who is black, is best qualified to handle the case. They also cite a working group he helped lead on deaths involving police.

WASHINGTON — Several hundred people shouting “Black Lives Matter” and “I can’t breathe” have converged on the White House for a second straight day to protest the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and President Donald Trump’s response.

Trump earlier on Saturday belittled the protesters and he pledged to “stop mob violence.”

Speaking in Florida after watching the launch of a SpaceX rocket, the president said: “I stand before you as a friend and ally to every American seeking justice and peace, and I stand before you in firm opposition to anyone exploiting this tragedy to loot, rob, attack and menace. Healing, not hatred, justice, not chaos are the missions at hand.”

Three lines of barricades separate protesters from a loose line of uniformed police officers at Lafayette Park, across from the White House. At one point, the protesters left the park, chanting as they marched up a nearby street. A block from the White House, they held a moment of silence and brief sit-in.

ATLANTA -- Atlanta’s mayor has announced a curfew will be in effect from 9 p.m. Saturday to sunrise Sunday following violence that erupted in the city during demonstrations over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced the curfew during a news conference Saturday evening. She called it a “very unusual and extreme step” after the violence that rocked Atlanta during Friday night.

Several other cities across the nation have order curfews following unrest surrounding demonstrations protesting Floyd’s death.

Georgia’s governor declared a state of emergency early Saturday to activate the state National Guard as violence flared in Atlanta.

In Friday’s protests, some demonstrators smashed police cars and spray-painted the iconic logo sign at CNN headquarters downtown. Police say at least three officers were hurt and there were multiple arrests as protesters shot at officers with BB guns and threw bricks, bottles and knives. Atlanta officials said crews were temporarily unable to reach a fire at a restaurant because of crowds of protesters.

NEW YORK — Protesters angry over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis have returned to the streets of New York for a third straight day as Mayor Bill de Blasio pleads for calm after a demonstration in Brooklyn the previous night descended into chaos that left people bloodied and vehicles burned.

On Saturday, a large crowd marched through Harlem, chanted outside a police precinct and then blocked traffic on the highway along Manhattan’s East River.

Demonstrations of several thousand at Union Square and outside Brooklyn’s Prospect Park appeared mostly peaceful. Late in the day, protesters in Brooklyn confronted police, who shoved some of the demonstrators and used an irritating chemical spray.

De Blasio expressed solidarity with demonstrators upset over police brutality, but promised an independent review of the Friday night confrontation in which both protesters and police officers engaged in violence.

The mayor said he was upset by videos of the clashes in which “protesters were handled very violently” by police and by reports that a state senator and member of the state Assembly were among the people sprayed with irritating chemicals by officers.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla — President Donald Trump says he will not tolerate mob violence during demonstrations over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The president made the comment as he spoke in Florida after watching the successful launch of a SpaceX rocket Saturday. He turned his attention to the unrest in American cities following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis before he congratulated NASA and others involved in the space mission.

Trump says the rule of law is the crown jewel of the country and that “my administration will stop mob

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 61 of 82

violence and we'll stop it cold."

Trump says that "I stand before you as a friend and ally to every American seeking justice and peace, and I stand before you in firm opposition to anyone exploiting this tragedy to loot, rob, attack and menace. Healing, not hatred. Justice not chaos are the missions at hand."

Mayor says George Floyd's body will return to Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The mayor of Houston said Saturday that the body of George Floyd, whose death after a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck during an arrest has sparked protests across the U.S., will be returning to the city where he grew up.

Floyd was a Houston native before moving to Minnesota. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said at a news conference that Floyd's body would be coming back to Houston but provided no additional details. His family has not announced funeral plans.

"This is the same city that George Floyd grew up in. And his body will be returning to this city," Turner said. "And so the focus needs to be on supporting and uplifting this family."

Turner spoke alongside Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, who said his department had arrested more than 130 people since protests began Friday in the nation's fourth-largest city.

Floyd, 46, grew up in Houston's Third Ward, one of the city's predominantly black neighborhoods. At 6 feet, 6 inches, Floyd emerged as a star tight end for Jack Yates High School and played in the 1992 state championship game in the Houston Astrodome. Yates lost to Temple, 38-20.

Floyd's death Monday and other police killings of black men have fueled tense demonstrations nationwide.

The white police officer who held his knee to Floyd's neck as he begged for air was arrested Friday and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. But many protesters are demanding the arrests of the three other officers involved.

Police make nearly 1,400 arrests as protests continue

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police have arrested nearly 1,400 people in 17 U.S. cities since Thursday as protests continue over the death of George Floyd.

Floyd died Monday in Minneapolis after a police officer put his knee on Floyd's neck for more than 8 minutes. The officer, Derrick Chauvin, was arrested on Friday and charged with third-degree murder. Floyd was black. Chauvin is white.

The arrest has done little to quell protests across the country over the weekend. Most have been peaceful, but some have erupted in violence.

An Associated Press tally of arrests found at least 1,383 people have been arrested since Thursday. The actual number is likely higher as protests continue Saturday night.

More than a third of the arrests, 533, came from Los Angeles alone on Friday. The mayor of the nation's second-largest city has imposed a citywide curfew until 5:30 a.m. Sunday.

Officials blame differing groups of 'outsiders' for violence

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and KATHLEEN HENNESSEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As protests over the death of George Floyd grow in cities across the U.S., government officials have been warning of the "outsiders" -- groups of organized rioters they say are flooding into major cities not to call for justice but to cause destruction.

But the state and federal officials have offered differing assessments of who the outsiders are. They've blamed left-wing extremists, far-right white nationalists and even suggested the involvement of drug cartels. These leaders have offered little evidence to back up those claims, and the chaos of the protests makes verifying identities and motives exceedingly difficult.

Police officers across the country were gearing up Saturday for another night of potentially violent clashes in major cities. Some states had even called in the National Guard to aid overwhelmed police.

The finger pointing on both sides of the political spectrum is likely to deepen the political divide in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 62 of 82

U.S., allowing politicians to advance the theory that aligns with their political view and distract from the underlying frustrations that triggered the protests.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on Saturday told reporters he'd heard unconfirmed reports that white supremacists were coming from elsewhere to stoke the violence and that even drug cartels "are trying to take advantage of the chaos." John Harrington, the state's commissioner of public safety, later said they had received intel reports on white supremacists.

"But I cannot say that we have confirmed observations of local law enforcement to say that we've seen cells of white supremacists in the area," he said Saturday.

But federal officials later pointed to "far left extremist groups." President Donald Trump alleged the violence was "being led by Antifa and other radical groups." Antifa, short for anti-fascists, is an umbrella term for far-left-leaning militant groups that resist neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations.

Attorney General William Barr later seemed to echo Trump's assertion, saying the violent incidents in Minneapolis were driven by groups using "Antifa-like tactics." Barr vowed that federal prosecutors across the country would use federal riots statutes to charge protesters who cross state lines to participate in violent rioting.

A Justice Department spokesperson said the attorney general's assertion was based on information provided from state and local law enforcement agencies, but did not detail what that information entailed.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf was even more vague, declining to point to any particular ideology in his assessment. His agency has heard that "a number of different groups are involved in these whether it's Antifa or it's others, frankly," he said. The groups appeared to be organized and using tactics that wouldn't normally happen in peaceful protest, he said, though he didn't elaborate.

While the motives behind the violence were unclear, there was firmer evidence that some of the protesters were coming to the demonstrations from outside the urban centers that have been the epicenter of the demonstrations.

In New York City, federal officials were bringing charges against several suspects, including one of two sisters from upstate New York accused of throwing a Molotov cocktail through the back window of a police van in Brooklyn, a law enforcement official said. The initially peaceful demonstrations in New York City over Floyd's death spiraled into chaos as night fell Friday. Protesters confronted police officers, destroying police vehicles and setting fires.

In Detroit, 37 of the 60 people who were arrested in overnight protests did not live in the city — and many came from nearby suburbs, police Chief James Craig said Saturday. Although Detroit is about 80% black, many of those arrested were white.

"We support the right to free speech. We support peaceful protests," Craig told reporters. "If you want to disrupt, stay home and disrupt in your own community."

Initially, St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter said he'd been told all of those arrested in his city Friday were from outside the state. But a spokesman said Saturday night the mayor had later learned more than half are from Minnesota.

In Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis, 47 of the 57 people arrested in protest incidents through Saturday morning had provided a Minnesota address to authorities, according to Jeremy Zoss, a spokesman for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

Carter expressed the opinion of many black activists in the Twin Cities who have expressed disbelief that local residents would destroy their own neighborhoods, burning down essential services and damaging small businesses. And while it was local protesters and groups that staged initial angry, but peaceful, demonstrations, it was agitators from elsewhere that strategically escalated the tension by causing damage and setting fires, they said. Their beliefs were reinforced by the large numbers of white people in the protests in Minneapolis.

"I think about a third of the people are from out of town here to make the city burn," said Justin Terrell, executive director of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage. "It is just putting black people in a crossfire not just between fascists and anarchists -- but putting us in a crossfire with the national guard."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 63 of 82

It's exceedingly difficult in the chaos and dark of the events to prove these claims. The challenge is made harder in the Minnesota protest, where very few arrests were made in the first two nights of unrest. St. Paul arrest records showed 18 people were arrested on charges related to civil unrest from Thursday to early Saturday morning. Of those, only four were from outside the state; two were listed as unknown.

Still, some civil rights leaders had a clear message for anyone coming to protest, even those who show up to call for justice for Floyd.

"The moment has passed. Go home, stay away from here. We are a vulnerable population. At the end of that day if black folks can't rebuild then the only thing we've done is build more power for white folks," said Terrell. "You're talking about years, decades of work undone by these groups -- and by the officer."

Trump vowed Saturday that the "radical left criminals, thugs and others" would "not be allowed to set communities ablaze."

"I will not allow angry mobs to dominate," he said. "Won't happen."

'Back in the game': SpaceX ship blasts off with 2 astronauts

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A rocket ship built by Elon Musk's SpaceX company thundered away from Earth with two Americans on Saturday, ushering in a new era in commercial space travel and putting the United States back in the business of launching astronauts into orbit from home soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

NASA's Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken rode skyward aboard a white-and-black, bullet-shaped Dragon capsule on top of a Falcon 9 rocket, lifting off at 3:22 p.m. from the same launch pad used to send Apollo crews to the moon a half-century ago. Minutes later, they slipped safely into orbit.

"Let's light this candle," Hurley said just before ignition, borrowing the historic words used by Alan Shepard on America's first human spaceflight, in 1961.

The two men are scheduled to arrive Sunday at the International Space Station, 250 miles above Earth, for a stay of up to four months, after which they will come home with a Right Stuff-style splashdown at sea, something the world hasn't witnessed since the 1970s.

The mission unfolded amid the gloom of the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed more than 100,000 Americans, and racial unrest across the U.S. over the case of George Floyd, the handcuffed black man who died at the hands of Minneapolis police.

NASA officials and others expressed hope the flight would lift American spirits and show the world what the U.S. can do.

"We are back in the game. It's very satisfying," said Doug Marshburn, of Deltona, Florida, who shouted, "USA! USA!" as he watched the 260-foot rocket climb skyward.

SpaceX becomes the first private company to launch people into orbit, a feat achieved previously by only three governments: the U.S., Russia and China.

"This is something that should really get people right in the heart of anyone who has any spirit of exploration," Musk, the visionary also behind the Tesla electric car company, said after liftoff, pounding his chest with his fist.

The flight also ended a nine-year launch drought for NASA. Ever since it retired the space shuttle in 2011, NASA has relied on Russian spaceships launched from Kazakhstan to take U.S. astronauts to and from the space station.

Over the past few years, NASA outsourced the job of designing and building its next generation of spaceships to SpaceX and Boeing, awarding them \$7 billion in contracts in a public-private partnership aimed at driving down costs and spurring innovation. Boeing's spaceship, the Starliner capsule, is not expected to fly astronauts until early 2021.

NASA plans to rely in part on commercial partners as it pursues its next goals: sending astronauts back to the moon within a few years, and on to Mars in the 2030s.

At a post-liftoff rally held at NASA's massive 525-foot-high Vehicle Assembly Building, President Donald

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 64 of 82

Trump commended Musk and proclaimed: "Today we once again proudly launch American astronauts on American rockets, the best in the world, from right here on American soil."

He vowed the U.S. will be the first to land on Mars, promising a "future of American dominance in space."

Vice President Mike Pence, who also witnessed the launch, said that as the nation deals with the coronavirus and racial strife, "I believe with all my heart that millions of Americans today will find the same inspiration and unity of purpose that we found in those days in the 1960s" during Apollo.

The first attempt to launch the rocket, on Wednesday, was called off with less than 17 minutes to go in the countdown because of lightning. On Saturday, stormy weather threatened another postponement for most of the day, but the skies began to clear just in the time.

The astronauts set out for the launch pad in a gull-wing Tesla SUV after Behnken pantomimed a hug of his 6-year-old son, Theo, and said: "Are you going to listen to Mommy and make her life easy?" Hurley blew kisses to his 10-year-old son and wife.

Nine minutes after liftoff, the rocket's first-stage booster landed, as designed, on a barge a few hundred miles off the Florida coast, to be reused on another flight.

"Thanks for the great ride to space," Hurley told SpaceX ground control. The two crewmates batted around a floating blue dinosaur plush toy doubling as a dragon, demonstrating that they had reached zero gravity.

SpaceX controllers at Hawthorne, California, cheered and applauded wildly, and NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine declared: "This is everything that America has to offer in its purest form."

Attendance inside Kennedy Space Center was strictly limited because of the coronavirus, and the crowd amounted to only a few thousand. By NASA's count, over 3 million viewers tuned in online.

Despite NASA's insistence that the public stay safe by staying home, spectators flocked to beaches and roads, some of them not wearing masks or keeping 6 feet from others.

Among the spectators was Neil Wight, a machinist from Buffalo, New York.

"With everything that's going on in this country right now, it's important that we do things extraordinary in life," he said. "We've been bombarded with doom and gloom for the last six, eight weeks, whatever it is, and this is awesome. It brings a lot of people together."

Hurley, a 53-year-old retired Marine, and Behnken, 49, an Air Force colonel, are veterans of two space shuttle flights each.

Because of the coronavirus, the astronauts were kept in quasi-quarantine for more than two months. The SpaceX technicians who helped them get into their spacesuits wore masks and gloves that made them look like black-clad ninjas. And the SpaceX controllers had masks and were seated far apart.

In keeping with Musk's penchant for futuristic flash, the astronauts wore angular white uniforms with black trim. Instead of the usual multitude of dials, knobs and switches, the Dragon capsule has three large touchscreens.

Once settled in orbit, Hurley disclosed that the capsule has been christened Endeavour, a storied name in the history of exploration, also given to one of the space shuttles.

SpaceX has been launching cargo capsules to the space station since 2012.

Under the new corporate-public model, aerospace companies design, build, own and operate space-ships, and NASA is essentially a paying customer on a list that could eventually include non-government researchers, artists and tourists. (Tom Cruise has already expressed interest.)

Saturday's mission is technically considered a test flight. The next SpaceX voyage to the space station, set for the end of August, will have a full, four-person crew: three Americans and one Japanese.

The first flight was originally targeted for around 2015. But the project encountered bureaucratic delays and technical setbacks. A SpaceX capsule exploded on the test stand last year. And Boeing's first Starliner capsule ended up in the wrong orbit and was nearly destroyed during a test flight in December.

For SpaceX and the future of public-corporate space exploration, the stakes on Saturday were extraordinarily high.

With the spaceship finally on its way, Musk got choked up talking about the weight of his responsibility for the astronauts' lives and their families and noted that the return to Earth is more dangerous in some

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 65 of 82

ways than ascent, "so we don't want to declare victory yet."

Still, Musk said he wasn't nervous about the launch on Saturday the way he was during the previous attempt.

"Today, I don't know, it felt like just the fates were aligned," he said.

'Death By Racism': Part of America's DNA from the start?

By JERRY SCHWARTZ Associated Press

Imagine, for a moment, that you are a black man or woman living in America in 2020. How could you not believe that racism kills?

If you are black, you need not imagine anything. You know it very well.

You don't need to see the video of George Floyd, a police officer's knee on his neck as he struggled for his dying breaths, to know that black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than are white people.

You don't need to hear the racial statistics on COVID-19 to know that black people have been affected disproportionately -- the same is true of eight of the 10 leading causes of death in the United States. Even before the pandemic, black life expectancy was 3½ years shorter than white.

Many blacks are redlined into densely packed, crime-ridden urban areas. Stuck in underfinanced, sub-standard schools. Subjected to silent environmental catastrophes, like lead hidden in pipes and on walls.

"It's not just how could you not believe that racism is killing you if you are black," said Brittany Packnett Cunningham, founder of Campaign Zero, which fights police brutality. "How could ANYBODY not realize the lethal nature of racism?"

This is all true 401 years after the arrival of the first slaves on these shores, 155 years after they were emancipated, more than five decades after the passage of the voting rights acts. If whites are surprised, Cunningham said, it is only because they view the world through rose-colored, Caucasian glasses.

"I think white people were spared the truth of what was happening so they could believe there was progress being made," she said.

But recent events like the deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old black man chased and killed by armed white men as he jogged through a south Georgia neighborhood, could not be ignored. Especially because there was video.

"There's something about seeing a dead body on the ground," said Rashawn Ray, a sociology professor at the University of Maryland and fellow at The Brookings Institution.

Ray said black people are often victims of over-policing. For example, he said, 80 to 90 percent of the arrests for breaking social distancing rules in New York City were of blacks or Latinos.

And these encounters often escalate. He cited the incident last week involving a white woman in New York's Central Park and a black birdwatcher who complained that her dog was not leashed. She told him she was going to tell the police that "an African-American man is threatening my life."

Police came and left without incident. But Ray said he could easily imagine a scenario where they believed the white woman, not the black man, and the situation deteriorated. "It ends with George Floyd," he said.

For many blacks, the line between police brutality and their sufferings in the COVID-19 pandemic is not a tenuous one. An Associated Press analysis of state and local data showed black Americans are dying at a far greater rate than would be expected, given their share of the population.

Pre-existing conditions in the black population have been cited, but Ray said those conditions often can be blamed on circumstances beyond their control -- poverty, environmental ills, a lack of green space for exercise and of decent grocery stores that offer healthy foods.

As "essential," low-paid workers, they had to labor through the pandemic, often with little protection. But when they got sick, they were not so essential. A study found that black people seeking testing or treatment for COVID-19 were six times more likely to be turned away than whites, Ray said.

He said they've had to rely on a health care system that has long failed them: fewer and more distant hospitals, urgent care centers and specialists, and pharmacies that are understaffed and understocked.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 66 of 82

How bad is black health care? In a 2010 study, sociologist Evelyn J. Patterson found that while prison generally shortened the lives of white inmates, incarcerated black prisoners had lower death rates than those on the outside. Mostly, she concluded, it was because they received better health care there.

None of this is new. The statistics on black mortality, the accounts of black killings at the hands of the police and others, have played out over generations, not weeks.

The Rev. William J. Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, said "death by racism" goes back to the founding of the country. It is "a wound," he said, that has caused untold suffering over the centuries.

"We only discuss it and deeply probe it at a moment like this," he said.

Heartened by the outrage shown by people of all races after Floyd's death, he also sees this as a moment when change is possible.

He is planning a virtual assembly and march on Washington for June 20. He will continue to call out President Donald Trump: "Every time he opens his mouth, he spreads racism." He has redoubled his efforts against voter suppression; by reducing black representation, he said, politicians are preventing blacks from gaining the power they need to turn the fatal, racist tide.

"There comes a time in every generation when the wound becomes so infested that the body politic cannot stand it," he said. "I pray that this is one of those moments."

Trump postpones G7 meeting, seeks expansion of members

By JILL COLVIN and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he will postpone until the fall a meeting of Group of 7 nations he had planned to hold next month at the White House despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. And he said he plans to invite Russia, Australia, South Korea and India as he again advocated for the group's expansion.

Trump told reporters on Air Force One as he returned to Washington from Florida that he feels the current makeup of the group is "very outdated" and doesn't properly represent "what's going on in the world."

He said he had not yet set a new date for the meeting, but thought the gathering could take place in September, around the time of the annual meeting of the United Nations in New York, or perhaps after the U.S. election in November.

Alyssa Farah, White House director of strategic communications, said that Trump wanted to bring in some of the country's traditional allies and those impacted by the coronavirus to discuss the future of China.

The surprise announcement came after German Chancellor Angela Merkel's office said Saturday that she would not attend the meeting unless the course of the coronavirus spread had changed by then.

The leaders of the world's major economies were slated to meet in June in the U.S. at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, but the coronavirus outbreak hobbled those plans. Trump announced in March he was canceling the summit because of the pandemic and that the leaders would confer by video conference instead. But Trump then switched course, saying a week ago that he was again planning to host an in-person meeting.

"Now that our Country is 'Transitioning back to Greatness', I am considering rescheduling the G-7, on the same or similar date, in Washington, D.C., at the legendary Camp David," Trump tweeted. "The other members are also beginning their COMEBACK. It would be a great sign to all - normalization!"

The G7 members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The group's presidency rotates annually among member countries.

Trump has repeatedly advocated for expanding the group to include Russia, prompting opposition from some members, including Canada's Justin Trudeau, who told reporters he had privately aired his objection to Russian readmittance.

"Russia has yet to change the behavior that led to its expulsion in 2014, and therefore should not be allowed back into the G7," he said at a news conference.

The House also passed a bipartisan resolution in December 2019 that supports Russia's previous expul-

sion from the annual gathering.

Russia had been invited to attend the gathering of the world's most advanced economies since 1997, but was suspended in 2014 following its invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea.

US cities fear protests may fuel new wave of virus outbreaks

By BRIAN MELLEY and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The massive protests sweeping across U.S. cities following the police killing of a black man in Minnesota have sent shudders through the health community and elevated fears that the huge crowds will lead to a new surge in cases of the coronavirus.

Some leaders appealing for calm in places where crowds smashed storefronts and destroyed police cars in recent nights have been handing out masks and warning demonstrators they were putting themselves at risk.

"If you were out protesting last night, you probably need to go get a COVID test this week," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Saturday evening. "There is still a pandemic in America that's killing black and brown people at higher numbers."

Minnesota's governor said too many protesters weren't socially distancing or wearing masks after heeding the call earlier in the week.

But many seemed undeterred.

"It's not OK that in the middle of a pandemic we have to be out here risking our lives," Spence Ingram said Friday after marching with other protesters to the state Capitol in Atlanta. "But I have to protest for my life and fight for my life all the time."

Ingram, 25, who was wearing a mask, said she has asthma and was worried about contracting the virus. But she said as a black woman, she always felt that her life was under threat from police and she needed to protest that.

The demonstrations over the killing of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee into his neck, are coming at a time when many cities were beginning to relax stay-at-home orders.

That's especially worrisome for health experts who fear that silent carriers of the virus who have no symptoms could unwittingly infect others at gatherings with people packed cheek to jowl and cheering and jeering without masks.

"Whether they're fired up or not that doesn't prevent them from getting the virus," said Bradley Pollock, chairman of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

Even for the many protesters who have been wearing masks, those don't guarantee protection from the coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cloth masks because they can make it more difficult for infected people to spread the virus — but they are not designed to protect the person wearing the mask from getting it.

The U.S. has been worst hit by the coronavirus outbreak, with more than 1.7 million cases and over 103,000 deaths, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

In New York, where more than 21,000 people have died during the pandemic, a large crowd in Brooklyn tossed water bottles at officers and torched a police van Friday outside the Barclays Center. Officers cleared the crowd by spraying an eye-irritating chemical.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said after another night of unrest in Minneapolis that many protesters wearing masks were simply trying to hide their identities and "cause confusion and take advantage of this situation."

"I will continue to stress, because it seems like a lifetime ago: We are still in the middle of a pandemic and passed 1,000 deaths yesterday. We still have hospitals on the verge of being overrun with COVID-19," he said.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey echoed those concerns: "We have two crises that are sandwiched on top of one other."

The state's health commissioner had warned just days earlier that the massive protests were almost

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 68 of 82

certain to fuel new cases of the virus. Minnesota reported 35 deaths on Thursday, a single-day high since the start of the outbreak, and 29 more on Friday.

But it wasn't just protesters at risk — unmasked officers stood within arm's reach of shouting demonstrators. In Atlanta, police Chief Erika Shields waded into a crowd without a mask Friday while she listened to people air frustrations.

When Los Angeles officials announced earlier in the week that the city was relaxing stay-at-home orders and reopening stores, they said political protests could resume but with a cap of 100 people.

Several hundred people showed up for a protest organized by Black Lives Matter-LA and later shut down a freeway. Most wore masks, but many did not observe a buffer zone.

Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Friday that was an ongoing concern.

"Show respect for each other by putting on that face covering so that your respiratory droplets aren't unintentionally getting into somebody else's mouth, nose or eyes," she said.

Those same concerns surfaced Saturday in Paris when unions flouted a ban on large gatherings at a march to protest conditions for workers in the country illegally. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowds and said they had banned the march due to the "health risks that such an event is likely to generate."

Meanwhile, the European Union on Saturday urged President Donald Trump to rethink his decision to terminate the U.S. relationship with the World Health Organization as spiking infection rates in India and elsewhere reinforced that the pandemic is far from contained.

Trump on Friday charged that the WHO didn't respond adequately to the pandemic and accused the U.N. agency of being under China's "total control." The U.S. is the largest source of financial support for the WHO, and its exit is expected to significantly weaken the organization.

The head of the EU's executive arm urged Trump to reconsider. "The WHO needs to continue being able to lead the international response to pandemics, current and future," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told Germany's Funke media group that Trump's decision was the "wrong signal at the wrong time."

In China, where the virus outbreak began, only four new confirmed cases were reported Saturday, all brought from outside the country.

More than 6 million coronavirus infections have been reported worldwide, with over 368,000 deaths and more than 2.5 million recoveries, according to the Johns Hopkins tally. The true death toll is widely believed to be significantly higher, with experts saying many victims died of the virus without ever being tested for it.

Elite sporting events will be allowed to resume in England starting Monday, but without spectators, paving the way for the planned June 17 return of the Premier League, the world's richest soccer competition.

England's deputy chief medical officer Jonathan Van-Tam warned that the situation overall remained precarious. "I believe this is also a very dangerous moment," he said. "We have to get this right."

India registered another record single-day jump of 7,964 cases and 265 deaths. The government had been expected to end a 2-month-old nationwide lockdown but instead extended measures in some areas due to coronavirus outbreaks.

Italy, though, added 111 new victims to its death toll and nearly 420 new infections, in line with its recent daily tallies, suggesting the virus is under control nearly four weeks after the country began gingerly loosening a strict lockdown in the onetime European epicenter of the pandemic.

US faith leaders wrestle twin traumas in protests, virus

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — American religious leaders across faiths are grappling with the heavy burden of helping to heal two active traumas: rising civil unrest driven by the police killing of George Floyd and the coronavirus pandemic.

Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders have raised their voices to condemn racial bias in the justice sys-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 69 of 82

tem while discouraging violence in response to the killing of Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck. Those words of solidarity, for many clergy, came as their worship routines remained upended by a virus that has forced them to rely on digital or outdoor gathering.

At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, which has provided relief and medical help to demonstrators this week as protests roiled the city, associate pastor Angela T. Khabeb said the shared pain caused by Floyd's death was exposing the brutal double toll being exacted on people of color.

"There were other pandemics we didn't always talk about that faced black communities, indigenous, Latinx" before the virus outbreak, Khabeb said, citing "institutionalized racism" and poverty. "And then we layer on COVID-19, which disproportionately affects black, indigenous, Latinx communities."

Khabeb acknowledged that she felt challenged by the task of tending to her congregation during the current crisis when the latest police killing of a black American had caused "a crisis of my own that's very personal."

Among the religious leaders in Minnesota organizing for spiritual care since Floyd's death was Bernard Hebda, the Catholic archbishop of the Twin Cities. Hebda held a Friday online prayer service "for racial justice and peace" alongside Rev. Erich Rutten, the priest of a historic African American parish in St. Paul. The Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton also traveled to Minneapolis on Thursday, with Jackson speaking at a local Baptist church.

Imam Asad Zaman, the Muslim American Society of Minnesota's executive director, outlined multiple law enforcement reform proposals in response to Floyd's death. Zaman noted in an op-ed this week that "the Qur'an teaches us that to save a single life is to save all of humanity."

But as the frustration sparked by Floyd's killing scorched dozens of other cities, religious denominations nationwide began speaking out to sympathize with the pain that brought protesters into the streets. White Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has been charged with murder in connection with Floyd's death, which follows the highly-publicized killings of two black Americans this year -- Georgian Ahmaud Arbery, shot while running, and Breonna Taylor, shot by police in her Louisville, Kentucky home.

Seven senior members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement calling racism "not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue," adding: "While it is expected that we will plead for peaceful non-violent protests, and we certainly do, we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged."

The National Association of Evangelicals rooted its call for racial equality in the Bible, while Southern Baptist leaders released a statement noting Biblical teachings against "injustice and the misuse of authority and force."

One pastor planning to reopen his church for in-person worship this week, amid ongoing tension over the public health risk of physical services, said the protests show communities have a strong need for religious institutions during a time of crisis.

"I think the church is essential, and I think people need church in America, and the church has got to stand against social injustice," said Danny Carroll, of Water of Life Community Church in Fontana, California.

For Rev. Jacqui Lewis, whose church plans to keep forgoing in-person worship as the pandemic goes on, spiritual comfort and social organizing can happen just as effectively online. Lewis, senior minister at New York City's Middle Collegiate Church, urged other faith leaders to respond to Floyd's killing by taking their sympathy from words to actions.

"Grief is not enough. Prayer is not enough," Lewis said. "It's a baby, first step for denominations to decry the violence. The next step is, what will you do to make sure your congregations are not racist?"

This week's protests against racial injustice came as interfaith leaders prepared to mark a national day of mourning and lament for those killed by the coronavirus on Monday, an effort backed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Delaware, part of an accompanying bipartisan congressional proposal for a civic moment of silence, said the effort to honor the dead would "show the best of what faith means in America."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 70 of 82

The demonstrations also erupted just ahead of the Christian holy day of Pentecost and the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, both celebrated at a set time after previous holy days in the faiths. That count imbued this holy day with a more solemn meaning for Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Just as Jews have counted the days between Passover and Shavuot, Jacobs said, they have been "counting the dead from COVID-19, and sadly, tragically, we're counting more black people killed in our country at the hands of law enforcement."

"We could treat all of these things as separate ... but I do think there's an intersection" given the pandemic's outsized effect on communities already struggling with racism, he added.

Pentagon ready to send troops to Minneapolis if state asks

By **JAMES LAPORTA** and **ROBERT BURNS** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said Saturday it was ready to provide military help to authorities scrambling to contain unrest in Minneapolis, where George Floyd's death has sparked widespread protests, but Gov. Tim Walz has not requested federal troops.

Jonathan Rath Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said several military units have been placed on higher alert "as a prudent planning measure" in case Walz asks for help. The Associated Press first reported on the potential deployments and, citing sources with direct knowledge of the orders, named four locations from which soldiers would be drawn.

Hoffman did not identify the units, but other officials said they are mainly military police. Hoffman said these are units normally on 48-hour recall to support state authorities in the event of crises like natural disasters. They are now on four-hour alert, Hoffman said.

Defense officials said there was no intent by the Pentagon to deploy any federal forces to Minnesota unless Walz asked for help. If he did make such a request, federal units such as military police could provide logistical and other kinds of support to the Minnesota National Guard or state law enforcement, but would not get directly involved in law enforcement under current plans, the officials said. They were not authorized to discuss the planning publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hoffman said Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had spoken to Walz twice in the past 24 hours and told him the Pentagon was prepared to help if needed.

Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen, the adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, said the Pentagon's decision to place some military units on a higher state of alert for potential deployment was "a prudent move" that gave Walz more options.

Earlier, Alyssa Farah, the White House director of strategic communications, told the AP that the deployment of active-duty military police to Minnesota was untrue. In an email, she referred to Title 10, the U.S. law that governs the armed forces and would authorize active duty military to operate within the country "False: off the record - title 10 not under discussion," said Farah. No off-record agreement was negotiated with the AP.

President Donald Trump urged Walz and other authorities in Minnesota to "be tough" in Minneapolis. "We have our military ready, willing and able if they ever want to call our military, and we can have troops on the ground every quickly," Trump said.

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 were not were not authorized to discuss the preparations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The get-ready orders were sent verbally on Friday, after Trump asked 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 71 of 82

The person said the military units would be deployed under the Insurrection Act of 1807, which was last used in 1992 during the riots in Los Angeles that followed the Rodney King trial. Another official said Saturday, however, that federal troops could be deployed to Minnesota without invoking that act. In that situation, they would perform non-law enforcement duties such as providing logistics help.

"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 set 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 pressing his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopping moving and pleading for air. Floyd later died of his injuries. 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.

Active-duty forces are normally prohibited from acting as a domestic law enforcement agency. But the Insurrection Act offers an exception. There was no indication Saturday that Trump intended to invoke that act.

It 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 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.

As Minneapolis burns, mayor takes heat for the response

By TAMMY WEBBER and STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — First-term Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey appeared to be doing everything right. He worked with the city's booming business community and the City Council. He reached out to minority neighborhoods and advocated for affordable housing. He implemented stricter disciplinary measures against police who violated the city's body camera policy.

When George Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died Monday after a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes and ignored his "I can't breathe" pleas, Frey quickly expressed outrage and called for charges against the officer. Four officers were fired the next day, and on Friday, Officer Derek Chauvin was charged in Floyd's death.

But Frey's leadership is being questioned after police failed to quell several nights of rioting, fires and ransacking of local businesses that followed Floyd's death. Frey, who pleaded for calm, also approved the decision to abandon the city's 3rd Precinct station on Thursday night, surrendering it to protesters who set fire to the building.

The night the station burned, Frey appeared at an early-morning news conference after hours of criticism on social media for a police response that didn't confront the violence despite the activation of the National Guard. As he began talking, one reporter snapped, "What's the plan here?" Frey struggled to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 72 of 82

answer, and the next morning, Gov. Tim Walz — like Frey, a Democrat — criticized the “abject failure” of the city’s response and said the state had taken control. President Donald Trump took to Twitter to call Frey a “very weak Radical Left Mayor” and threatened to get involved.

By early Saturday morning, it was Walz who found himself struggling with the enormity of the challenge, conceding that he didn’t have enough people to cope with the protests and moving to mobilize another 1,000 Guard members. Walz also took pains to praise Frey, who appeared alongside him after another night of unrest.

Some wonder whether Frey’s approach to the crisis might damage his chances for reelection next year. The 38-year-old former lawyer, community organizer and one-term City Council member took office in 2018 after defeating Betsy Hodges, whose time as mayor was marred by two high-profile police shootings.

The 2015 shooting of 24-year-old black resident Jamar Clark after a scuffle with two white police officers set off weeks of protests; neither officer was charged. The 2017 shooting of unarmed Australia native Justine Ruszczyk Damond, who had called 911 to report a possible sexual assault behind her house, provoked an international outcry. The black officer in that case was convicted of third-degree murder and is serving a 12 1/2-year term.

Frey campaigned partly on a promise to add police officers. But a City Council committee this spring voted against applying for a federal grant to hire 10 new officers for traffic enforcement, with one member saying he worried it would exacerbate racial disparities in vehicle stops.

Community activist Mel Reeves, who said he has led rallies to protest Floyd’s killing, refused to discuss the mayor’s response except to say that Frey had been “put in a difficult position.” He said the black community doesn’t trust police and prosecutors to do the right thing.

“The mayor is new, and he said all the right things,” Reeves said. “This is not about the mayor; it’s about the police department.”

The day after the 3rd Precinct fire, University of Minnesota political science professor Larry Jacobs said Frey was “out of his depth” and “clearly unable to understand what he has to do to restore order while also creating the kind of healing that has to happen in Minneapolis.”

He said abandoning the police station “sent a powerful message” that the city was not in control.

“There needs to be another message: ‘Here is the line and order will be maintained,’” said Jacobs. “You’ve got businesses that are just shocked without words to see property going up in flames, often with no police intervention at all. You have the black community (that has) heard his words but does not believe them.

“He worked really hard at those relationships and they appear to be in tatters. And I think a lot of residents are unnerved by the violence and the chaos.”

Jonathan Weinhagen, president and CEO of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, said the mayor still has his support, and that many businesses damaged by the violent protests, including those owned by minorities and immigrants, want to rebuild.

“There is a lot of fear right now. If your store has been hit, you feel violated,” said Weinhagen, adding that some businesses already were suffering because of the coronavirus restrictions. “They were just beginning to see some light and this hit.”

But he believes the mayor is “leading with his values” and getting a lot of things right, including requesting the Guard assistance and implementing a curfew Friday and Saturday nights.

Jacobs, the political scientist, said Frey has been energetic, upbeat and dynamic, effectively leading the fast-growing city. But his inexperience with crisis management has shown.

“Until about a week ago, he looked to be on glide path to reelection, and within a week, his mayoralship looks like it’s crumbled,” Jacobs said.

Retreat or deploy? Police try to balance protest response

By STEFANIE DAZIO and DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On two straight nights of unruly protests against police brutality, officers retreated from their posts in some American cities, while in others, they deployed batons, flash-bang grenades and tear gas to quell the unrest.

The wide range of responses exacerbated tensions with the protesters in several locations and brought global attention to the tactics that American police use during riots as they try to find a balance between keeping the peace and protecting the safety of officers and the public.

The protests came in the wake of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed a knee into the 46-year-old black man's neck for more than eight minutes on Memorial Day. Floyd was handcuffed as Officer Derek Chauvin pushed his face into the pavement amid his pleas for help.

Tensions rose throughout the week and reached a crescendo Friday night as protests erupted in cities across America. On their smart phones, social media feeds and TVs, viewers saw the extremes in tactics play out all through the night Thursday and Friday, even as the majority of cops nationwide tried to keep the peace without retreating or shoving people to the ground.

In Minneapolis, leaders decided to evacuate a police precinct Thursday and surrender it to protesters who set it on fire. Protesters also broke into the police headquarters Friday in Portland, Oregon, and ignited a fire.

In New York, officers used batons and shoved protesters down as they took people into custody and cleared the streets. One video showed an officer slam a woman to the ground as he walked past her in the street. In Louisville, a police officer fired what appeared to be pepper balls at a news crew, and a clip of the video amassed more than 8 million views on Twitter in less than six hours. Los Angeles police arrested more than 500 protesters on Friday night.

Minneapolis police and Mayor Jacob Frey have been sharply criticized for the noticeably non-confrontational strategy Thursday in handling the protests after Floyd's death. Chauvin was arrested Friday and charged with murder.

To some, the act of protesters taking over the evacuated Minneapolis precinct amid fires could stoke further flames.

"You've got to defend that," said former Los Angeles Police Deputy Chief Michael Downing. "That's your command operation. Symbolically, it looks very bad if you have to give that up."

Downing would know: He witnessed the Los Angeles riots firsthand in 1992 following the acquittal of four officers accused of beating black motorist Rodney King.

In Los Angeles, the center of the uprising was an intersection, Florence and Normandie avenues, and the violence spiraled into five days of riots and fires. More than 60 people died, including 10 who were fatally shot by law enforcement.

In 1992, then-Lt. Downing would typically oversee that intersection, but he was on vacation studying for a promotional exam. A different lieutenant was in charge instead.

The lieutenant made a decision: He ordered his officers to abandon the intersection. An hour later, a truck driver was pulled from his vehicle and brutally beaten by rioters.

"I think that sent a signal to the rest of the city," said Downing, who immediately rushed to work. "When you have that coupled with political leadership saying 'show your anger, go to the streets' it was kind of like permission to go out and misbehave and be violent."

Nearly 30 years later, police officers around the country are confronted with an eerily similar dilemma, with cities aflame, violent protests erupting and another challenging night ahead Saturday as National Guard troops start arriving in some cities.

The mere presence of armed National Guard troops on the streets in Minneapolis and elsewhere brings back memories of the civil rights and anti-war protests of the 1960s and '70s, but they are only there as a support to local law enforcement and do not have the authority to make arrests.

They can use their weapons in "self defense" but are trained in less lethal crowd control tactics that

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 74 of 82

attempt to de-escalate tensions, unlike the combat techniques that have largely been abandoned since the Kent State University shootings in Ohio in 1970 when the state's National Guard killed four students and wounded nine.

Alex Vitale, a sociology professor at Brooklyn College, said that when deciding how to manage large protests, police and political leaders look for ways to facilitate "legitimate outpourings of anger" while trying to limit the likelihood of injury and property destruction. But he said the difficulty is trying to strike that balance.

"The crisis of police legitimacy has become so great that then to use the police to manage the situation just enflames the problem," said Vitale, who has studied the policing of protests for two decades.

In Minneapolis and other cities around the nation where high-profile police killings of black people have prompted protests, the rage felt by protesters is understandable, said Ed Gonzalez, sheriff of Harris County, Texas.

"We keep promising real change but not delivering it on a consistent basis," he said. "We see the resulting emotions and anger and calls for change that occur, only for it to happen again."

Edward Maguire, a criminology and criminal justice professor at Arizona State University whose research focuses primarily on policing and violence, said mass arrests are almost always a bad idea during protests. But so is not making arrests in the face of violence and property damage.

He said police departments should be continuously engaged in building connections with minority communities, faith representatives and social justice leaders so that they have a degree of social capital and open communications when protests break out.

In other recent protests, police found themselves in a similar situation as those on the front lines this week. Police were criticized in Baltimore and Charlottesville, Virginia, for taking too much of a hands-off approach during protests in 2015 and 2017.

In Minneapolis, Frey said he made the decision to evacuate the third precinct that was later torched because of "imminent threats" to both officers and the public.

"Brick and mortar is not as important as life," Frey said.

Even as law enforcement nationwide harshly condemned Chauvin's actions in unprecedented language earlier in the week, they denounced the violence of the fiery protests and pleaded for calm.

"You can't allow anarchy just because this horrible injustice has occurred," said Stephen Downing, Michael Downing's father and also a retired LAPD deputy chief. "You can't let your city burn. You just can't."

Minneapolis overwhelmed again by protests over Floyd death

By AARON MORRISON and TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Fires burned unchecked and thousands protesting the police killing of George Floyd ignored a curfew as unrest overwhelmed authorities for another night in Minneapolis, and the governor acknowledged Saturday that he didn't have enough manpower to contain the chaos.

The new round of tumult — which has also spread to other cities — came despite Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz vowing Friday to show a more forceful response than city leaders had the day before. But by early Saturday morning, Walz said he didn't have enough troops, even with some 500 National Guardsmen.

"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 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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 75 of 82

on the neck of Floyd, a black man who was handcuffed at the time, 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.

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 Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association urged Gov. 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 pleaded 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 \$20 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."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 76 of 82

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.

Biden ally sees Klobuchar as less likely Biden running mate

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar seems a less likely choice to become Joe Biden's running mate on his presidential ticket following this week's death of a black man in police custody in Minneapolis, a key ally of the former vice president said.

Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., told reporters on Friday that while he believes Klobuchar is "absolutely" qualified to be vice president, "This is very tough timing for her."

Klobuchar was a prosecutor years ago in the county that includes Minneapolis. During that period, more than two dozen people — mostly minorities — died during encounters with police. Following customary practice at the time, she sent the cases to grand juries, which brought no criminal charges against any of the officers involved.

Clyburn, who called his view a "gut feeling," played a pivotal role in helping Biden become the Democratic Party's all-but-certain presidential nominee. Clyburn is the No. 3 House Democratic leader and Congress' highest-ranking black lawmaker.

"So often in politics, timing really dictates things. Barack Obama I don't think could have gotten elected four years before he got elected," Clyburn said of the former president during a conference call. "And I don't know whether he could get elected today."

Clyburn helped revive Biden's badly flagging presidential campaign earlier this year, lifting him to a decisive win in a South Carolina primary in which large numbers of voters were black. That fueled a Biden run to a string of victories in other state contests that resulted in his becoming the party's presumptive nominee.

On MSNBC, Biden said the tensions in Minnesota following the death of George Floyd have "nothing to do with my running mate."

Pressed on whether Floyd's killing increases pressure to place an African American woman on his ticket, Biden said he's talked about putting women of color on the Supreme Court and in his Cabinet. "And I also already said that there are women of color under consideration," he said.

Klobuchar did not respond to a request Friday by The Associated Press for an interview. On CNN, she sidestepped a question about her vice presidential prospects.

"He's going to make the best decision on whoever he wants to govern with," she said of Biden.

Before being elected to the Senate in 2006, Klobuchar, who is white, spent eight years as prosecutor for Minnesota's largest county. Most of the more than two dozen people who died during police encounters in her tenure were people of color, according to data compiled by Communities United Against Police Brutality and news articles reviewed by the AP.

An officer involved in one of those past fatal incidents was Derek Chauvin, who was arrested and charged Friday in this week's death of Floyd. A video showing Floyd complaining that he could not breathe as

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 77 of 82

Chauvin knelt on his neck has helped spark unrest in cities around the country.

Chauvin was among six officers who fired on and killed a man in 2006 who reportedly stabbed two people and then aimed a shotgun at police.

Chauvin's 2006 case went to the grand jury after Klobuchar was elected to the Senate and had left the county attorney's office. Mike Freeman, Klobuchar's successor as prosecutor, made "all prosecutorial decisions" about Chauvin, according to a Freeman statement that Klobuchar's office provided Saturday.

Klobuchar told MSNBC that she now believes the practice of asking a grand jury to decide whether to charge officers was wrong.

Klobuchar and 27 other Democratic senators wrote Friday to the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, asking it to investigate "patterns and practices of racially discriminatory and violent policing" by the Minneapolis police.

US food prices see historic jump and are likely to stay high

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — As if trips to the grocery store weren't nerve-wracking enough, U.S. shoppers lately have seen the costs of meat, eggs and even potatoes soar as the coronavirus has disrupted processing plants and distribution networks.

Overall, the cost of food bought to eat at home skyrocketed by the most in 46 years, and analysts caution that meat prices in particular could remain high as slaughterhouses struggle to maintain production levels while implementing procedures intended to keep workers healthy.

While price spikes for staples such as eggs and flour have eased as consumer demand has leveled off, prices remain volatile for carrots, potatoes and other produce because of transportation issues and the health of workers who pick crops and work in processing plants.

In short, supermarket customers and restaurant owners shouldn't expect prices to drop anytime soon.

"Our biggest concern is long-term food costs. I believe they will continue to go up," said Julie Kalambokidis, co-owner of Adriano's Brick Oven, a restaurant in Glenwood, Iowa.

Tamra Kennedy, who owns nine Mexican-inspired fast food franchises in Iowa and Minnesota, joined Kalambokidis on a call set up by Iowa U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne and said sometimes even getting essential ingredients is difficult.

"You can pick an ingredient and I can tell you there are shortages," she said.

Big fluctuations in food prices began in March, when the coronavirus pandemic began to sink in for U.S. consumers.

The Labor Department reports that the 2.6% jump in April food prices was the largest monthly increase in 46 years. Prices for meats, poultry, fish and eggs increased the most, rising 4.3%. Although the 2.9% jump in cereals and bakery products wasn't as steep, it was still the largest increase the agency has recorded.

Dairy and related products, and fruits and vegetables increased by 1.5 percent in April.

Egg prices also reached an all-time record of more than \$3 a dozen in late March, but they have since fallen to less than \$1 a dozen.

The situation has been worse for meat prices, largely because of illnesses among slaughterhouse workers. The outbreaks struck pork processing plants the hardest, but beef and chicken processors also saw some impact as thousands of workers tested positive for the virus and the United Food and Commercial Workers union said at least 44 workers had died of COVID-19 as of Friday.

April retail prices for boneless pork chops and ham were nearly 6% higher than in March and retail prices for hamburger and sirloin steak were about 4% higher, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported. The price of whole fresh chickens rose by more than 12%.

After numerous closures, most pork plants have reopened but often not at full capacity, forcing pig farmers to euthanize animals that couldn't be processed.

"There are biological constraints to this and that's why I would anticipate prices to stay high at least for some period of time," said Trey Malone, an agriculture economist and professor at Michigan State

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 78 of 82

University. "If you're going to euthanize thousands of animals and it takes six months to raise a new one, obviously there's going to be some type of delay or buffer in the supply chain."

By mid-May, beef and pork slaughterhouses were operating at about 60% capacity, though that figure has since climbed to nearly 90%, said Jayson Lusk, an economist at Purdue University. Although Lusk was optimistic that the worst of the meat supply crunch is over, he said it's always possible that a second wave of illness could cause the situation to worsen.

Some grocery price jumps were because of people stocking up when the coronavirus first arrived. But even as some prices have dropped, the cost of produce such as potatoes, onions and carrots has remained above last year's prices.

Much of the increase appears to be because more people are cooking at home.

For garlic, most of which is imported from China, a 278% price increase from a year ago is largely due to a sluggish supply chain in China.

Jeff Dunn, CEO of Bolthouse Farms, a major provider of carrots and distributor of salad dressings and fruit and vegetable-based beverages, said he doesn't anticipate new supply problems. But he noted that some of his company's workers in distribution and field work have become sick, and that there is an additional cost to implement and maintain procedures intended to keep workers safe.

Someone has to pick up those costs, he said.

"There is real cost being built across every supply chain. Not just with us but with the retailer in terms of incremental cost associated with COVID," Dunn said. "At some point, if you want any chance to hold up any kind of margin, those costs are going to have to be passed on or somehow recognized by the government with some help."

Given that the percentage of Americans' paychecks that go toward food has declined over the past 50 years, many people likely can handle the recent price increases. But the coronavirus also has pushed roughly 41 million Americans out of work, and for them, even a small price hike can be troubling.

"We've obviously seen this record increase in unemployment filings, and so there are more people who are at risk in that sense that they literally don't have any employment to secure the money that they would need to buy the food that they traditionally purchase," Malone said. "For the people who are already operating on the margins, these price increases are nontrivial."

It's also a tough time for livestock farmers, who had hoped that after some down years, they would benefit from new trade deals and a strong domestic economy.

"Farmers thought they saw the light at the end of tunnel," Lusk said. "It turns out that it was the headlight of a train."

A year later, motive of Virginia mass shooting still unclear

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — The rampage at a Virginia Beach city government building was the latest in a string of high-profile mass shootings nationwide, between the high school killings in Parkland, Florida, and the Walmart massacre in El Paso, Texas.

As the tragedy nears its one-year anniversary Sunday, some victims' family members feel it has effectively been forgotten after the national spotlight moved on to other mass killings, and more recently has been all but eclipsed by the coronavirus pandemic.

That leaves less pressure on authorities to provide definitive answers about why their loved ones died, they say, with the shooter's motive officially still a mystery a year after he shot dead 12 people at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center before being killed by police.

"We were a flash in the pan," said Jason Nixon, whose wife, Kate, was among those killed. "I think that we should have had a lot more attention. It's not normal for someone to wake up and go murder 12 people."

City engineer DeWayne Craddock, 40, opened fire May 31, 2019, in offices where he had worked for more than nine years. Eleven co-workers and a contractor who was getting a permit died, four others were seriously wounded and a police officer received a bullet in his tactical vest but escaped serious injury.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 79 of 82

The shooter had submitted his resignation the same day citing "personal reasons," but city police investigators and an independent security firm that conducted an investigation know little about what drove him to go on his rampage, despite conducting hundreds of interviews and poring over thousands of documents.

The "answer to 'why' may be something we will never know," city officials wrote in an April update on the probe.

Nixon and other family members of victims believe they have an inkling, however: What they call a toxic workplace environment and poor management by supervisors.

"I know what led to this," said Nixon, who's been among the most outspoken of the relatives. "It wasn't random."

It's a notion echoed by Debbie Borato, sister of victim Missy Langer.

Langer had been harassed and bullied in the building, she said, and there was an office culture "that pushed that man over the edge." Borato also said workplace security was lax.

City officials and Hillard Heintze, a Chicago-based security firm that conducted the probe, say claims of a toxic culture were not supported by the investigation.

Virginia Beach Vice Mayor James Wood said he "can't begin to understand the grief" of the victims' families, but investigators found nothing pointing to that.

"In any organization, not every single manager and employee does everything 100 percent the right way, all the time," Wood said. "But if there was a systematic issue, if there was a problem, we would know about it."

The investigation also found no prior warning signs that might have enabled the city to prevent the shooting.

Relatives told investigators Craddock had become isolated and described him as acting paranoid. He had gone through a divorce and was having trouble at work. He had claimed in unsent email drafts that he had been unfairly disciplined.

But the security firm could not explain how such "stressors" might have translated into violence, and investigators said last month there was still "no evidence to support what the suspect's motive was."

Police say they plan to release more information but not the full investigative file once it's complete. That has angered Nixon and others, who say they will be looking to the findings of a state commission being formed to examine the shooting.

If the Virginia Beach rampage has gotten a bit lost in the popular consciousness, it's perhaps in part because it occurred in a year that set a record for mass shootings, defined as involving four deaths or more: There were 33 of them in the country in 2019, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University.

Among the five mass shootings with over 10 dead in 2018 and 2019, most became part of larger narratives involving national and emotional issues. Two happened at schools in Florida and Texas, continuing a string of attacks on children, while shootings at an El Paso Walmart and a Pittsburgh synagogue were motivated by racism and anti-Semitism, respectively.

Office shooting sprees, experts say, while horrifying, typically do not resonate with Americans in the same way as more indiscriminate shootings at places such as movie theaters or concerts.

"Public interest and focus have a lot to do with whether people can see themselves as a victim, whether it could have happened to them," said James Alan Fox, a Northeastern University professor of criminology, law and public policy. "If it happens in a workplace, people think, 'That's not like my workplace.'"

The sense that the shooting has faded to the background has only been heightened by the coronavirus pandemic. Concerns about large gatherings prompted city officials to plan a virtual ceremony Sunday instead of an in-person commemoration.

Borato said that even if the eyes of the nation are elsewhere, in Virginia Beach people remember.

"It was just another horrible shooting situation to the rest of the country," Borato said. "So they have no interest in wondering why. Well, we do. Because those are our families. That was my sister."

Some Old Order Mennonites feel called to return to church

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** and **JESSIE WARDARSKI** Associated Press

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. (AP) — For the first time in weeks, kids played in the church cemetery. Nearby, a group of men in their 20s reflected on what it meant to gather again during the pandemic.

"Human health is important," one of them said. "But ultimately, spiritual health is more important."

Their order — one that shuns technology, cars and electricity — never missed Sunday services in more than 100 years, when the deadly 1918 flu pandemic interrupted worship.

Then, a different virus intruded in this world apart.

For nearly two months, the Old Order Stauffer Mennonite Church followed Pennsylvania's stay-at-home order and guidelines that discouraged gatherings in houses of worship. COVID-19 forced the postponement of weddings, funerals and their bi-annual communion, a high point. While some more modern Mennonite orders in Lancaster County held services by video, the Stauffers did not.

But now, it was "time to get back to work," their bishop said. "And more so ... in the spiritual sense." It was time to resume worship, he said — though he wondered how many worshippers would come, and he still felt concerns about "offending the public and the government."

News spread fast: first service together in weeks; not mandatory, only for those who felt safe.

That morning, dozens arrived: men in wide brimmed straw hats, women in bonnets and dark dresses; their children in suspenders. Some greeted each other without face masks. Others walked into the bathroom to apply hand sanitizer before they filled the long, creaky wooden church pews in silence and sang hymns in German and the dialect known as Pennsylvania Dutch.

"It has been many weeks since we gathered here. Are we thankful to be here again?" Bishop Marvin asked. "Aren't we thankful for health to go about our life?"

Like others in his congregation, he was welcoming, but he didn't want his last name to appear on the news because of religious views on modesty.

Mennonites believe in pacifism, reserve baptism for adults and oppose military service. They belong to a Protestant denomination and trace their origins to the Anabaptists, a radical 16th-century sect of the Reformation originating in Switzerland. Their name comes from Menno Simons, a Dutch Roman Catholic priest who joined the Anabaptists.

Some Old Order Mennonites eschew technology, cars and dress in plain clothes like the Amish, who separated from the Mennonites in the 17th century. There are some differences. The Amish worship at home and men grow beards without mustaches after they marry.

"I guess it's a little like you go down the highway and one vehicle says Ford and the other says Dodge, and they might all come out of the same assembly line," Bishop Marvin said. "But as far as the foundation, or the fundamentals of the faith, it's not that much different."

The Old Order Stauffer Mennonite Church formed in 1845. Today, they number about 2,000 in Pennsylvania, 500 of them in Lancaster County, said Steven Nolt, senior scholar at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

"The Stauffer Mennonites are probably the most technologically restrictive of any of the Old Order groups, so their means of communication has always been very much face-to-face. They need to be together in order to communicate," Nolt said. "Being apart was probably really hard for them."

During Sunday worship, Bishop Marvin said their time apart from each other gave parents a chance to read Scripture with their children at home. But he acknowledged challenges. His mother died at age 95 on April 2, and the community couldn't gather for a large funeral service.

Rules on houses of worship have varied from state to state. Gov. Tom Wolf's stay-at-home order in Pennsylvania effectively exempted religious activity, although it strongly discouraged gatherings.

The guidance said religious leaders were "encouraged to find alternatives to in-person gatherings and to avoid endangering their congregants."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 81 of 82

Other congregations adapted. The Groffdale Conference Old Order Mennonites used landline phones as an alternative to their in-person worship, canceled for the first time in more than a century.

"I can remember my great grandparents talking about the 1918 flu, the Spanish flu, when the churches were closed for three months. There were no funerals, and a lot of people died," said Aaron Hurst, a congregant who owns a hardware store.

The conference call worship was launched with the help of Elvin Hoover. From his home office overlooking the Conestoga River, he receives faxes offering farm products, masks and other services. He then announces the news in Pennsylvania Dutch through a phone line that reaches hundreds in his community. Church service became so popular, he said, that on a Sunday, it jammed the local phone exchange.

"The sheep were hungry!" he said. "We miss church. Oh, do we miss church."

Modern orders like the Akron Mennonite Church used video conferencing for the first time during Sunday worship. Co-pastor Rachel Nolt began the May 3 service by lighting a candle. After a reading, she divided the congregation into virtual breakout rooms and asked them to reflect on the Scripture.

"How did you hear it differently because of our current situation?" she asked. A couple shared their experience after they contracted the coronavirus. Others prayed for a boy who was going to undergo surgery, and a woman diagnosed with cancer.

The service ended with Nolt saying: "And so let us go with hope, transforming ourselves to transform the world," to which all responded: "Trusting in the God who brings life from places of death."

At the Stauffer Mennonite Church, the service ended when men, women and children turned around on their seats in unison and knelt on the wooden floor. With their eyes shut, hands cupped around their temples and foreheads pressed against the pews, they recited the Lord's Prayer, together but prayerfully isolated.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 31, the 152nd day of 2020. There are 214 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 31, 1921, a race riot erupted in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as white mobs began looting and leveling the affluent black district of Greenwood over reports a black man had assaulted a white woman in an elevator; hundreds are believed to have died.

On this date:

In 1859, the Big Ben clock tower in London went into operation, chiming for the first time.

In 1889, some 2,200 people in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, perished when the South Fork Dam collapsed, sending 20 million tons of water rushing through the town.

In 1910, the Union of South Africa was founded.

In 1949, former State Department official and accused spy Alger Hiss went on trial in New York, charged with perjury (the jury deadlocked, but Hiss was convicted in a second trial).

In 1961, South Africa became an independent republic as it withdrew from the British Commonwealth.

In 1962, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was hanged in Israel a few minutes before midnight for his role in the Holocaust.

In 1970, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in Peru claimed an estimated 67,000 lives.

In 1977, the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, three years in the making despite objections from environmentalists and Alaska Natives, was completed. (The first oil began flowing through the pipeline 20 days later.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush welcomed Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to Washington for a summit meeting. The situation comedy "Seinfeld" began airing as a regular series on NBC.

In 2005, breaking a silence of 30 years, former FBI official W. Mark Felt stepped forward as "Deep Throat," the secret Washington Post source during the Watergate scandal.

In 2009, Dr. George Tiller, a rare provider of late-term abortions, was shot and killed in a Wichita, Kansas,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 31, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 323 ~ 82 of 82

church. (Gunman Scott Roeder was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 50 years.) Millvina Dean, the last survivor of the 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic, died in Southampton, England at 97.

In 2014, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the only American soldier held prisoner in Afghanistan, was freed by the Taliban in exchange for five Afghan detainees from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (Bergdahl, who'd gone missing in June 2009, later pleaded guilty to endangering his comrades by walking away from his post in Afghanistan; his sentence included a dishonorable discharge, a reduction in rank and a fine, but no prison time.)

Ten years ago: Israeli commandos stormed six ships carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists on an aid mission to the blockaded Gaza Strip; eight Turkish activists and one Turkish-American were killed aboard one vessel, with each side accusing the other of starting the violence. Al-Qaida announced that its No. 3 official, Mustafa al-Yazid, had been killed along with members of his family. (A U.S. official said al-Yazid was believed to have died in a U.S. missile strike.) Artist Louise Bourgeois, 98, died in New York. Chris Haney, 59, co-creator of the popular Trivial Pursuit board game, died in Toronto.

Five years ago: The U.S. Senate held an extraordinary Sunday session during which it failed to produce an 11th-hour deal to extend the National Security Agency's authority to collect Americans' phone records in bulk. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry broke his leg in a bicycle crash near Geneva, forcing him to return to the U.S. for treatment and to scrap the rest of a four-nation trip. Jim Bailey, 77, a singer-actor who transformed himself into such show biz legends as Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Peggy Lee during a career that spanned decades, died in Los Angeles. Harriette Thompson of Charlotte, North Carolina, a 92-year-old cancer survivor, became the oldest woman to finish a marathon as she completed the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego in 7:24:36.

One year ago: A longtime city employee opened fire in a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia, killing 12 people on three floors before police shot and killed him; officials said DeWayne Craddock had resigned by email hours before the shooting. As he prepared for a three-day visit to Britain, President Donald Trump told the British tabloid The Sun that Boris Johnson would make an "excellent" prime minister; he also called Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, "nasty." Relentless flooding in the central U.S. inundated communities and damaged or spilled over levees on three major rivers in two states.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Clint Eastwood is 90. Singer Peter Dinklage is 82. Humanitarian and author Terry Waite is 81. Singer-musician Augie Meyers is 80. Actress Sharon Gless is 77. Football Hall of Famer Joe Namath is 77. Broadcast journalist/commentator Bernard Goldberg is 75. Actor Tom Berenger is 70. Actor Gregory Harrison is 70. Actor Kyle Secor is 63. Actress Roma Maffia (ma-FEE'-uh) is 62. Comedian Chris Elliott is 60. Actress Lea Thompson is 59. Singer Corey Hart is 58. Actor Hugh Dillon is 57. Rapper DMC is 56. Actress Brooke Shields is 55. Country musician Ed Adkins (The Derailers) is 53. TV host Phil Keoghan is 53. Jazz musician Christian McBride is 48. Actress Archie Panjabi is 48. Actress Merle Dandridge (TV: "Greenleaf") is 45. Actor Colin Farrell is 44. Rock musician Scott Klopfenstein (Reel Big Fish) is 43. Actor Eric Christian Olsen is 43. Rock musician Andy Hurley (Fall Out Boy) is 40. Country singer Casey James (TV: "American Idol") is 38. Actor Jonathan Tucker is 38. Rapper Waka Flocka Flame is 34. Actor Curtis Williams Jr. is 33. Pop singer Normani Hamilton (Fifth Harmony) is 24.

Thought for Today: "The future is no more uncertain than the present." — Walt Whitman, American poet (born this date in 1819, died 1892).

Copyright 2020, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.