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Are you serious!

The Anne Murray song of a "Little Good News" talks about a local paper rolled up in a rubber band. She doesn't say anything about rain. I get up to do the paper route, check the radar, look at the sky, and all is clear this morning. No sign of rain. So I have a few people that instead of bagging this morning, I thought I would roll them with a rubber band.

As I'm sitting here doing the daily, I suddenly hear this noise from outside. It's a downpour. Are you serious! I'm thinking about those that have not gotten their paper yet and are probably drenched. I'm so sorry about that - the South Dakota weather is really unpredictable. Not only that, I'm sure I have a wet seat in my car as I had left my window down. In that downpour we had .05. That ought to raise the humidity today.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Groton Pool has good opening day

The Groton Swimming Pool had a very good opening day. 96 degree weather certainly did not hurt also. According to one of the pool managers, Kami Lipp, there were 73 patrons in the afternoon session and 81 in the evening session. Another manager, Trista Keith, said it was so different as there was a whole different group of patrons in the evening session compared to the afternoon session. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Adam Franken was signing the COVID-19 waiver forms at the pool. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Trista Keith was explaining the new pool rules to Ashley Johnson. Lifeguards Trisha Keith and Allyssa Locke took their turns manning the front desk. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Grant Will Help Expand Public Hunting and Fishing Access Opportunities on South Dakota's Private Lands

Public access opportunities for hunting and fishing on private lands will be expanded thanks to a grant awarded to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP).

The \$2.175 million grant was awarded through the 2020 Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and was authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill.

In South Dakota, VPA-HIP funding will be used to offer up-front signing incentive payments to landowners for opening their lands to public hunting access for multiple years. Lands already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Easements or other conservation programs that create undisturbed habitat or lands containing high demand big game hunting opportunity will be eligible to receive the VPA-HIP incentive payment.

GFP also plans to use VPA-HIP funding to expand public fishing access on private lands. It will extend existing public fishing access leases and add new public fishing access sites to waters on private land. The VPA-HIP funding may also be used to create new boat ramps on private land to provide improved public water access to established fisheries. These sites will not only improve public fishing access, but public access for other recreational watercraft to use these waters.

"Over 80% of South Dakota is privately-owned," said Mark Norton, GFP Farm Bill and Hunting Access Coordinator. "Obtaining access to private lands is very important to hunters and anglers, and to the great outdoor legacy we enjoy here."

In 2019, over 1,500 landowners participated in GFP public hunting or fishing access programs statewide, providing public access on more than 1.4 million land acres, 31 ponds and lakes, and more than 100 miles of stream.

"This VPA-HIP award will allow GFP to continue to expand access to quality habitat and provide more places in the state for hunters and anglers to recreate," Norton said.

"It is exciting to be able to partner with the NRCS to add an aquatics component to the VPA-HIP award," said Jason Jungwirth, GFP Aquatic Habitat and Access Coordinator. "Opening waters on private land will provide added recreational opportunities across the state. We look forward to working with NRCS to implement these funds on some of the best habitat in South Dakota."

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.

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National Average Pennies Away from \$2/Gallon

June 1, 2020 - The national gas price average is \$1.97, just one penny more expensive than last week. Part of the incremental jump can be attributed to increases in gasoline demand, which saw a 7% week-over-week increase. However, demand is still down nearly 25% compared to last year, according to the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest reports.

South Dakota Gas Prices

Today \$1.87

Yesterday \$1.87

Last week \$1.82

Last month \$1.62

Last year \$2.78

"Americans are slowly but steadily returning to driving, causing gas prices to increase across the country," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "The good news is gas is still cheap. Motorists can fill-up for \$2/gallon or less at 70% of gas stations across the country."

Today's national average is 20 cents more than a month ago, but 85 cents less than a year ago.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases are: Alaska (+12 cents), Colorado (+12 cents), Idaho (+8 cents), Utah (+7 cents), New Mexico (+7 cents), South Dakota (+6 cents), Montana (+6 cents), Nevada (+5 cents), Washington, D.C. (+4 cents) and Wyoming (+4 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Mississippi (\$1.58), Alabama (\$1.64), Louisiana (\$1.64), Arkansas (\$1.64), Texas (\$1.65), Missouri (\$1.65), Oklahoma (\$1.65), South Carolina (\$1.67), Kansas (\$1.68) and Tennessee (\$1.71).

Central States and Great Lakes Region

Pump prices saw very modest increases or decreases on the week - two cents or less - in the Great Lakes and Central states, with the exception of South Dakota (+6 cents). State averages in the region range between as low as \$1.65 in Missouri to as expensive as \$2.22 in Illinois. Both of these states rank among the top 10 least and most expensive state averages, respectively, in the country.

Compared to a year ago, motorists are seeing pump price savings of roughly 80 – 95 cents.

The region's refinery utilization rate saw the largest jump of any in the country, increasing by 4%. At 77%, it is also the highest rate among all regions. It contributed to a 300,000 bbl build in Great Lakes and Central States stocks, to total 55 million bbl. According to EIA data, gasoline stocks have surpassed year-ago levels (of nearly 48 million bbl).

Oil Market Dynamics

At the end of Friday's formal trading session, WTI increased by \$1.78 to settle at \$35.49 per barrel. At the end of last week, crude prices spiked amid increased market optimism that demand for crude oil and refined products from it, including gasoline, may be rebounding. For this week, crude prices may continue to rise if the market believes that the 9.7 million b/d production reduction agreement for May and June 2020 between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other major crude exporters, including Russia, is helping to rebalance the global oil market as demand remains low due to COVID-19.

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Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Things have gone crazy since yesterday; numbers are wildly increased. I'm wondering whether this is a Monday correction after a weekend of weak reporting; we've seen that before. If that's not it, if this increase is real, we could be in serious trouble. We'll be watching the next few days.

We're at 1,819,900 cases in the US. New case numbers came close to doubling since yesterday. NY leads with 376,520 cases, an increase. NJ has 160,918 cases, also an increase. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 121,635, CA – 115,635, MA – 100,805, PA – 76,734, TX – 66,080 MI – 58,435, FL – 56,822, and MD – 54,035 These ten states account for 65% of US cases. 4 more states have over 40,000 cases, 2 more states have over 30,000 cases, 6 more states have over 20,000 cases, 11 more have over 10,000, 6 more + DC over 5000, 6 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, LA, FL, OH, MD, IN, GA, and CO. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, AZ, VA, WI, NC, AL, TN, and MS. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, PA, NJ, MI, IL, CT, MA, and IA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 105,093 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths increased like everything else has. NY has 29,766, NJ has 11,721, MA has 7035, PA has 5574, MI has 5525, IL has 5458, CA has 4287, and CT has 3944. One state (MA) reported over 200 new deaths today; 2 reported over 100, and the rest are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today. There are 6 more states over 2000 deaths, 5 more states over 1000 deaths, 9 more over 500, 12 more + DC and PR over 100, and 10 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

There've been a couple of new papers published, one in The Lancet and the other in the New England Journal of Medicine. I've been able to read only the first one; NEJM continues to give trouble with accessing articles—might be several days before I can lay hands on that one. I do have a second-hand summary from which I'll work tonight. They float the theory that Covid-19 may be, at least in some cases, an infection of the blood vessels as well as of the respiratory system. They cite the "high prevalence of blood clots, strokes, and heart attacks," as well as the other kinds of symptoms seen throughout the body. It appears there is actual infection of the endothelium, the lining of blood vessels all over the body; this would account for the wide array of hitherto puzzling symptoms seen in seriously ill patients and also provides clues to what kinds of treatments may help.

We have talked over the past weeks about the role of ACE2 receptors as the site of viral binding in this infection and the fact that these receptors are found in tissues all over the body, including vessels. We also talked about the role played by furin cleavage sites in the virus which enable infection to be established and the importance of this because furin is also found in all of our cells, making all of them, theoretically at least, susceptible to infection by this virus. This is bad news because it opens a lot of possibilities for this virus to do damage. It also helps to explain why high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and heart disease would all be particular risk factors for the worst complications because all of those conditions cause endothelial dysfunction, placing blood vessels at risk of additional damage and inflammation caused by the virus. It also helps us to understand why sometimes ventilation doesn't seem to help much: If the problem isn't getting air into the lungs (which is what a ventilator's for), but rather oxygen/carbon dioxide exchange through vessel walls, then ventilation isn't the point. This theory would also reduce emphasis on the cytokine storm as a primary means of damage; the blood vessel damage by itself can account for what we're seeing according to these authors.

The implications for therapeutics are significant. If this is a vascular disease, we have drugs to help deal with endothelial damage. There are medications called statins, routinely prescribed to people with elevated blood cholesterol levels; one of the things these drugs do is stabilize plaques (deposits built up inside blood vessels). That could reduce some of the kinds of damage, for example, blood clotting, that occur in Covid-19. ACE inhibitors, a class of drugs often prescribed for hypertension (high blood pressure) also seem to protect you from vascular damage. There is evidence that use of statins and ACE inhibitors together improve survival rates; this theory would provide some theoretical support for the efficacy of this therapy.

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Under the heading, In Case You Didn't Have Enough to Worry About, there are some concerns about therapies in current use for Covid-19 patients, primary among those, antibiotics. Now we had a conversation early on about why antibiotics don't work against viruses, ever, so no one's trying to cure this infection with them; but in some patients, viral pneumonias just sort of soften them up so they're more susceptible to subsequent bacterial infections. And antibiotics do work for those.

The problem is that, the more often you use antibiotics, the more resistant to them bacteria can become. The mechanisms of antibiotic resistance are complex, but the upshot is a Darwinian sort of thing. In any population of bacteria, there will be individual organisms that are more and less resistant to a given drug; this is what's called natural variation. Just as some people are taller than others, so some individual members of a bacterial species are more easily killed by an antibiotic than others. Antibiotic exposure is an environmental pressure, so when you expose the population to antibiotics frequently, then the most susceptible ones succumb, leaving the less susceptible ones to reproduce. In that manner, mutations that result in resistance are favored, making a successive generation more and more fully resistant instead of containing just a few resistant individuals. This is why doctors are reluctant to prescribe antibiotics unless they are warranted—and why you should stop demanding a drug when you have a bad cold instead of hollering about that horrid doctor who left you to suffer. Turns out that horrid doctor knows things you don't (go figure), and you should listen and stop with your complaining.

We have growing issues with antibiotic resistance already, and the wide use of antibiotics prophylactically (that is, to prevent a secondary bacterial infection) in Covid-19 patients is becoming an issue. The WHO is warning physicians that only a small proportion of Covid-19 patients need antibiotics and that they should not be used prophylactically in those with mild to moderate illness without a clinical suspicion of bacterial infection.

Additionally, the WHO noted the disruptions caused by the pandemic to prevention and treatment programs for non-communicable diseases. Especially in low-income countries, this has become a significant issue, and this lack of treatment not only poses long-term problems from the untreated disease, but also places these patients at higher risk for severe Covid-19 illness because some of the conditions not receiving treatment are those that predispose people to serious illness. There are reports of disruption in services for treatment of hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes and its complications, cancer, and cardiovascular emergencies. This is not a great situation.

One more warning posted by the organization is with regard to large gatherings. This applies to the protests occurring in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota and to the resumption of sporting events in some countries. Mass gatherings are still a very high-risk proposition. I do expect we'll see spikes in new case reports within the next couple of weeks in locations where protests are occurring. We will be wise to be watchful and prepared to treat increased numbers of cases in upcoming days.

On the vaccine front, we have one vaccine moving into Phase 2 clinical trials, pretty much as projected. Phase 1 began a couple of months ago, and Phase 1 data released a couple of weeks ago look promising. The plan is to enroll 600 Phase 2 participants, half of whom will be 55 and older, which will give us some information about how older immune systems respond; this has been one of the big question marks about any vaccine. There will be two doses given, and there will be a placebo control group who receives an inert injection that does not contain any viral antigens. This stage should go faster because with safety data from Phase 1 in hand, there will be no need to wait for those figures before giving a second dose. The plan, if all goes well, would be to begin Phase 3 trials in July. That one will require several thousand participants in order to spot rare side effects that may turn up only in tiny percentage of recipients. We can all hope things continue to go swimmingly, but it's good to recognize that glitches often occur in these larger trials.

There are some concerns about this accelerated vaccine development process. There's a reason clinical trials generally proceed at a slow, methodical pace; it decreases the chances for mistakes, misinterpretations, and missed phenomena. We all understand, of course, what the rush is; but we need to be aware of the trade-offs here. I listened today to an interview with a physician that laid out some of these concerns. She cited a historical event known as the Cutter incident. When the polio vaccine was rushed to market

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in the '50s, we were also in the middle of an ongoing epidemic, this one the poliovirus that targeted children. One of the companies distributing the vaccine distributed some lots that were contaminated with live virus, and tens of thousands of children got polio from the vaccine. It was disastrous, not only for those children and their families, but also for the vaccine effort as a whole. Public support for vaccination was significantly undermined for a long time after. In this time of vaccine skepticism, we do not need a repeat performance.

This will be a more serious concern if political forces interfere with the careful application of scientific principles to the development and approval process. However badly we need a vaccine, one that damages people and damages the acceptance of vaccination overall would be catastrophic. There is a risk the vaccine will not be effective or that it will produce side effects. I will add my own concern, given what we are learning about this multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) we've talked about. The damage done in those children appears to be a result of antibodies the children develop in response to the virus; there will have to be careful attention paid to whether antibodies produced in response to vaccine can have the same sorts of effects in children. It bears watching.

Even a cursory glance at the news shows us new turmoil compounding what was already a difficult time. It might feel as though everything's terrible—and I have to admit a whole lot seems pretty terrible at the moment. Still, there is beauty to be found in people, both young and old.

First the young: I saw a photo this morning of a group of teen-aged kids in Sioux Falls going around town on a sort of rampage—against damage and disorder, that is. Having heard much of the damage done last night was done by people their age, they decided to demonstrate to the city that the protests were not about damage and destruction, but about caring for their fellow human beings. They were caught on film doing things like sweeping up broken glass from a business's window shattered during the civil unrest last night; the story said they were going all around town trying to find things to clean up. So when someone starts in with you on what's wrong with these kids today, stop them. You know what's wrong with kids these days? Not much, that's what. You can demonstrate this to your own satisfaction if you will engage in a systematic, concerted attempt to catch kids doing something right. I am pleased a reporter bothered to do so.

And then, there are the old: We know these are challenging days for residents of nursing homes. Frail and ill elderly are often lonely in good times; now, in bad times, when they're locked down with no visitors, that loneliness is acute and dangerous to their health. A group of them in nursing homes across the country has found an outlet for themselves and others: They DJ for an online radio station called Radio Recliner, playing the music of their youth, and many of them are quite literally performing from recliners, using DJ names like M&M, Ginger Bee, and Karaoke Cowboy. They tell stories, talk about the music, and play Elvis, '40s big band songs, '60s rock, a little Johnny Cash, even Kelly Clarkson and Pink Floyd, a lot of love songs, something for everyone. I listened a while this morning at radiorecliner.com, and I heard Dolly Parton come on to deliver a message to the radio audience before a couple of her songs were played. You might wish to give a listen yourself; they're on 24 hours a day, using prerecorded DJ performances—no worries about the old folks getting a good night's sleep. With an eclectic assortment of tunes, I think this thing has real legs.

So today's bywords are self-care and pitch in. First address your own need; then take some of the energy that gives you and go clean up a mess somewhere. The world's full of them, so there's probably one close to home. If we do that, we can get through this—together, apart.

Stay well. I'll be back tomorrow.

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26
Minnesota	17,029	17,670	18,200	19,005	19,845	20,573	21,315
Nebraska	10,846	11,122	11,425	11,662	11,989	12,134	12,355
Montana	471	478	479	479	479	479	479
Colorado	22,482	22,797	23,191	23,487	23,964	24,174	24,269
Wyoming	583	596	608	608	615	638	644
North Dakota	1,994	2095	2229	2317	2365	2418	2457
South Dakota	4,085	4177	4250	4356	4468	4563	4586
United States	1,528,661	1,551,853	1,577,758	1,602,148	1,622,670	1,643,499	1,662,768
US Deaths	91,938	93,439	94,729	96,013	97,087	97,722	98,223
Minnesota	+657	+641	+530	+805	+840	+728	+742
Nebraska	+221	+276	+303	+237	+327	+145	+221
Montana	+1	+7	+1	0	0	0	0
Colorado	+280	+315	+394	+296	+477	+210	+95
Wyoming	+6	+13	+12	0	+7	+23	+6
North Dakota	+63	+101	+134	+88	+48	+53	+39
South Dakota	+58	+92	+73	+106	+112	+95	+23
United States	+20,493	+23,192	+25,905	+24,390	+20,522	+20,829	+19,269
US Deaths	+600	+1,501	+1,290	+1,284	+1,074	+635	+501
	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2
Minnesota	21,960	22,464	22,947	23,531	24,190	24,850	25,208
Nebraska	12,619	12,976	13,261	13,654	13,905	14,101	14,345
Montana	479	481	485	493	505	515	519
Colorado	24,565	24,767	25,121	25,613	26,098	26,378	26,577
Wyoming	648	653	667	682	688	693	700
North Dakota	2422	2439	2481	2520	2554	2577	2625
South Dakota	4653	4710	4793	4866	4960	4993	5034
United States	1,681,418	1,699,933	1,721,926	1,747,087	1,770,384	1,790,191	1,811,370
US Deaths	98,929	100,442	101,621	102,836	103,781	104,383	105,165
Minnesota	+652	+504	+483	+548	+659	+660	+358
Nebraska	+264	+357	+285	+393	+251	+196	+244
Montana	0	+2	+4	+8	+12	+10	+4
Colorado	+296	+202	+354	+492	+485	+280	+199
Wyoming	+4	+5	+14	+15	+6	+5	+7
North Dakota	-----	+17	+42	+39	+34	+23	+48
South Dakota	+67	+57	+83	+73	+94	+33	+41
United States	+18,650	+18,515	+21,993	+25,161	+23,297	+19,807	+21,179
US Deaths	+706	+1,513	+1,179	+1,215	+945	+602	+782

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June 1st COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

June is being ushered in like a lamb so far with nine counties having new positive cases while seven counties had recovered cases with no new positives. The big one was Roberts County, seeing 13 newly recovered individuals.

Beadle County had the only double digit increase of positive cases with 14.

Both Brown County and the state have 77.5 percent recovered cases. Brown County has 2 fewer active cases, 4 recovered and 2 new positive cases.

Day County has 3 active cases, Marshall had two and Spink county has 1 - no change from last week. Minor County fell off the fully recovered list.

No new deaths in the Dakotas.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -2 (61)

Recovered: +4 (213)

Total Positive: +2 (275)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (13)

Deaths: 1

Negative Tests: +25 (1532)

Percent Recovered: 77.5% (no change)

South Dakota:

Positive: +41 (5034 total)

Negative: +1492 (40627 total)

Hospitalized: +3 (435 total) - 87 currently hospitalized (1 more than yesterday)

Deaths: 0 (62 total)

Recovered: +66 (3903 total)

Active Cases: -25 (1069)

Percent Recovered: 77.5% up 0.7

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +5 (29), Brule +7 (245), Butte +9 (196), Campbell +5 (36), Custer +3 (150), Dewey +1 (349), Haakon 37, Hanson +1 (74), Harding +1 (30), Jones -1 (13), Mellette +1 (67), Perkins 22, Potter 104, unassigned +375 (3088).

Beadle: +14 positive, +8 recovered (76 of 275 recovered)

Brown: +2 positive, +4 recovered (213 of 275 recovered)

Buffalo: +1 positive, +1 recovered (2 of 18 recovered)

Codington: +4 recovered (22 of 37 recovered)

Davison: +1 recovered (10 of 16 recovered)

Jerauld: +1 recovered (19 of 35 recovered)

Lincoln: +3 recovered (205 of 238 recovered)

Meade: +2 positive (6 of 21 recovered)

Miner: +1 positive (1 of 2 recovered)

Minnehaha: +6 positive, +23 recovered (2918 of 3355 recovered)

Oglala Lakota: +5 positive, +1 recovered (8 of 31 recovered)

Pennington: +8 positive, +3 recovered (62 of 235 recovered)

Roberts: +13 recovered (30 of 36 recovered)

Sanborn: +1 recovered (7 of 13 recovered)

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Union: +2 positive, +2 recovered (63 of 91 recovered)

Yankton: +1 recovered (42 of 51 recovered)

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

The NDDoH & private labs report 2,378 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 48 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,625.

State & private labs have reported 97,111 total completed tests.

2,078 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	585	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	909	18%
Hispanic	890	18%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	508	10%
Other	592	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1550	31%

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

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	26	13	125
Beadle	275	76	450
Bennett	0	0	29
Bon Homme	8	6	379
Brookings	16	15	786
Brown	275	213	1532
Brule	0	0	245
Buffalo	18	2	182
Butte	0	0	196
Campbell	0	0	36
Charles Mix	17	10	275
Clark	4	4	126
Clay	15	13	536
Codington	37	22	1071
Corson	4	3	59
Custer	0	0	150
Davison	16	10	807
Day	13	10	193
Deuel	1	1	211
Dewey	0	0	349
Douglas	3	1	152
Edmunds	1	0	68
Fall River	4	3	189
Faulk	1	1	54
Grant	13	9	136
Gregory	1	0	75
Haakon	0	0	37
Hamlin	4	3	158
Hand	2	1	102
Hanson	0	0	74
Harding	0	0	30
Hughes	19	15	621
Hutchinson	5	3	396

Hyde	1	1	36
Jackson	4	0	32
Jerauld	35	19	142
Jones	0	0	13
Kingsbury	1	0	203
Lake	8	6	275
Lawrence	11	9	525
Lincoln	238	205	2681
Lyman	14	8	211
Marshall	4	2	103
McCook	6	4	277
McPherson	1	1	93
Meade	21	6	650
Mellette	0	0	67
Miner	2	1	111
Minnehaha	3355	2918	13657
Moody	19	15	229
Oglala Lakota	31	8	283
Pennington	235	62	3465
Perkins	0	0	22
Potter	0	0	104
Roberts	36	30	601
Sanborn	13	7	101
Spink	5	4	376
Stanley	10	8	88
Sully	1	1	35
Todd	27	17	470
Tripp	6	6	187
Turner	24	20	361
Union	91	63	624
Walworth	5	5	209
Yankton	51	42	1424
Ziebach	1	1	55
Unassigned****	0	0	3088

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2367	35
Male	2667	27

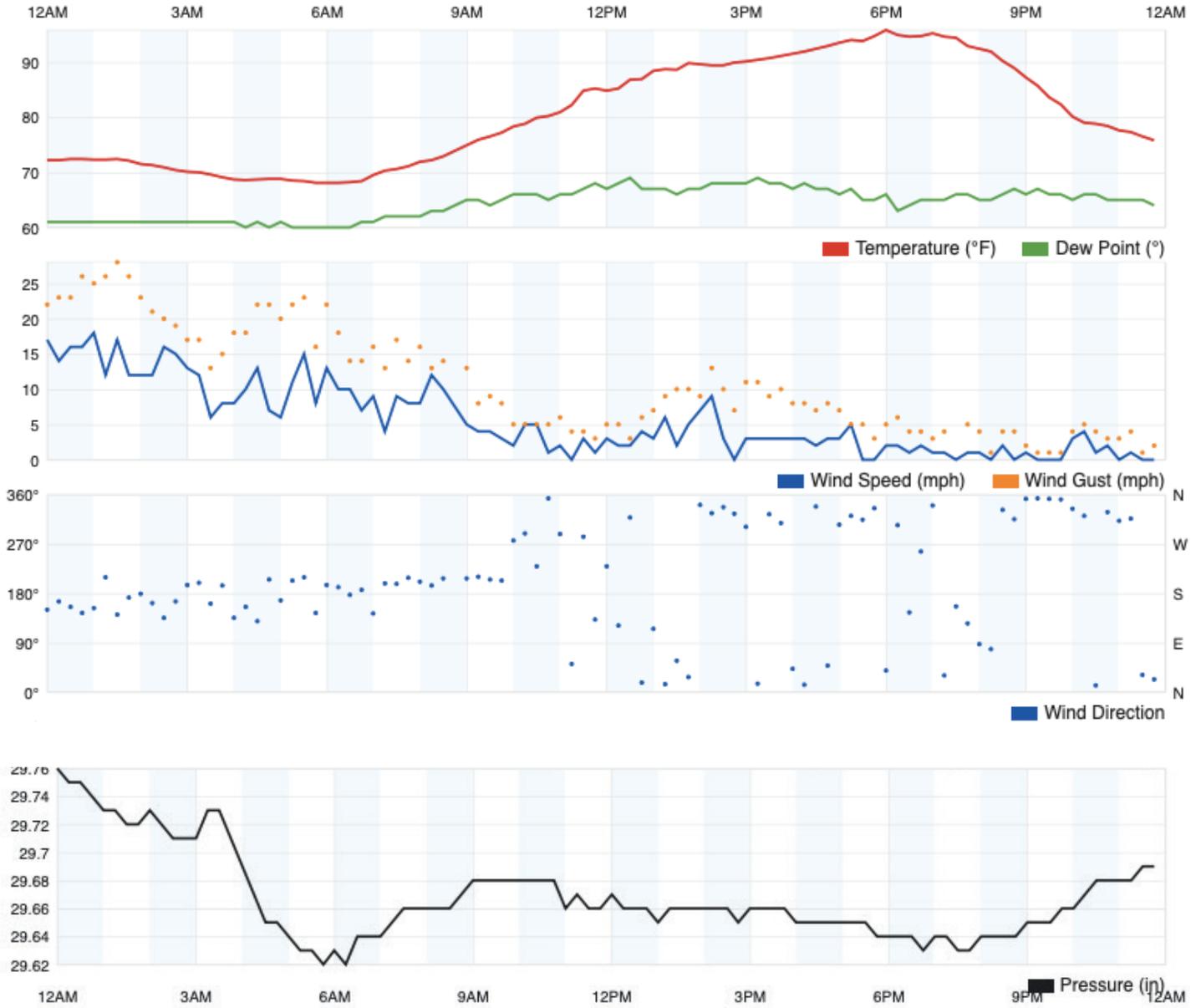
Age Range # of Cases # of Deaths

0-19 years	482	0
20-29 years	972	1
30-39 years	1131	3
40-49 years	872	4
50-59 years	832	8
60-69 years	465	10
70-79 years	139	6
80+ years	141	30

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Mondays' Heat In Retrospect

	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Record High</i>	<i>Record Warm Low</i>
Aberdeen	98	67*	99(1933)	65(1933)
Pierre	90	57	100(1940)	65(1940)
Mobridge	93	63	96(1934)	64(1933)
Watertown	93	64	94(1940)	66(1987)
Sisseton	94*	64	93(1940)	64(2002)



Graphic Created
6/2/2020 3:15 AM

*New Record

National Weather Service

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



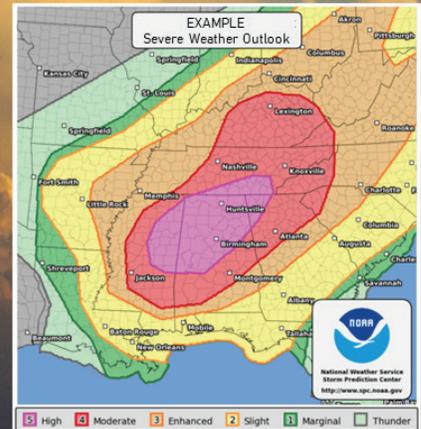
@NWSAberdeen

Here is how Mondays' heat compared to records. For a few locations it was only a degree off the record. Remember, these are our standard climate sites with sensors at the airports. Throughout the day we will receive our observer reports for other communities across central/north central and northeast South Dakota as well as western Minnesota. While this will give us greater detail on the amount of heat observed, established records don't exist for many of these locations.

We frequently talk about severe weather, but...

What do we mean by the risk for Severe Storms?

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winds to 40 mph Small hail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winds 40-60 mph Hail up to 1" Low tornado risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or two tornadoes Reports of strong winds/wind damage Hail ~1", isolated 2" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few tornadoes Several reports of wind damage Damaging hail, 1 - 2" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong tornadoes Widespread wind damage Destructive hail, 2" + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tornado outbreak Derecho



The Storm Prediction Center creates daily Severe Weather Outlook graphics:

<https://www.spc.noaa.gov>

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD 6/1/2020 7:21 AM  

We frequently talk about the risk for severe storms. These daily graphic are created by the Storm Prediction Center, and highlight the potential for non-severe storms to widespread and intense storms...
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/> Learn more about these thunderstorm risk graphics here...
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/about.html#Severe%20Weather%20Risks>

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Today



Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 55 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 84 °F

Wednesday
Night



Chance
T-storms

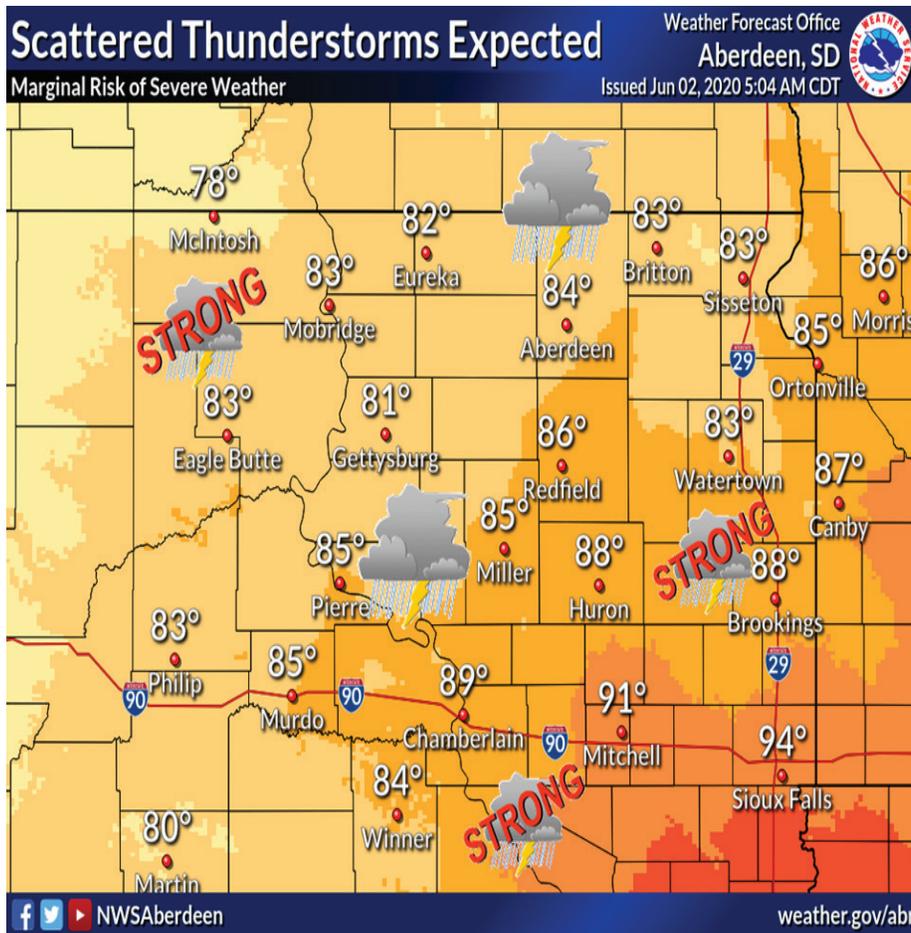
Low: 58 °F

Thursday



Chance
T-storms

High: 79 °F



Scattered thunderstorms are expected today with a few severe storms possible. Highs will be in the 80s.

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Today in Weather History

June 2, 1891: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast, passing one mile south of Hazel in Hamlin County, where three people were killed in a barn. The farm home was entirely swept away. A horse was seen being carried in the air for 400 yards. The tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 5 miles.

After touching down, an estimated F2 tornado moved northeast along the eastern edge of Watertown, where a barn was destroyed, and debris was scattered for a half mile. Two homes were leveled 5 miles northeast of Watertown. Near Waverly, one person was injured in the destruction of a flour mill. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 15 miles.

June 2, 1964: Some bitter cold temperatures were observed during the early morning hours on the 2nd. Some low temperatures include; 27 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 28 degrees in Andover and 23 N of Highmore; 29 degrees 4 NW of Gann Valley, Redfield, and 2 NW of Stephan; 30 degrees in Castlewood and 1 W of Highmore; 31 degrees in Britton, 1 NW of Faulkton, and in Kennebec; and 32 degrees in McLaughlin.

June 2, 2008: Several supercell thunderstorms rolled southeast from northwest South Dakota into central South Dakota bringing large hail, damaging winds, and flash flooding during the late afternoon and evening hours. The large hail, up to baseball size, and high winds killed a large number of birds, pheasants, grouse, and rabbits. Thousands of acres of grassland and cropland along with many shelter belts received minor to major damage in Stanley and Hughes County. The large hail also knocked out many windows and damaged the siding of tens of buildings and homes in both Stanley and Hughes counties. Many roads and cropland were also affected by flash flooding throughout Hughes and Stanley counties. Very heavy rain of over 3 inches caused flash flooding in many parts of Pierre into the early morning hours. Many roads were reportedly flooded with 1 to 2 feet of water. Several homes in southeast Pierre received sewer backup. Also, several houses on Grey Goose Road received flood damage. A Federal Disaster Declaration was issued for Hughes and Stanley counties mainly for the flooding. Tennis ball hail broke most of the west side windows out of the house near Mission Ridge in Stanley County. Hail up to the size of baseballs fell in Pierre breaking some windows out of homes and vehicles. Very heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches fell across much of Stanley County causing extensive flash flooding. Seventeen roads also sustained some form of damage from the flooding.

1889: The same storm that caused the historic dam failure in Johnstown, PA, also affected Washington, D.C. The streets and reservations in the center of the city and all the wharves and streets along the riverfront were under water. Pennsylvania Avenue was flooded from 2nd to 10th Streets. The Potomac River crested at the Aqueduct Bridge at 19.5 feet on June 2. Additionally, damage occurred on Rock Creek, with the Woodley Lane Bridge washed away. Considerable damage occurred to machinery plants and material at the Navy Yard.

1917: The temperature at Tribune, Kansas dipped to 30 degrees to establish a state record for June.

1998: Frostburg, Maryland on June 2, 1998, at 9:45 PM - This was part of a killer outbreak of tornadoes that moved southeast from Pennsylvania. The storm entered Garrett County, Maryland striking the town of Finzel. It then moved up and over Big Savage Mountain in Allegany County and ripped through the northern portion of Frostburg. It reached its peak strength as it crossed the ridge. Winds were estimated between 210 and 250 mph (F4 on the Fujita Tornado Damage Scale). This was the first tornado to "officially" be rated an "F4" in the State of Maryland. The National Weather Service adopted the Fujita Damage Scale in 1973. The total damage path of the Frostburg tornado was over 25 miles long (8 miles in Allegany County) and up to a half-mile wide. Along most of its path, it was producing winds over 125 mph (F2 or stronger). The damage path was continuous as it moved up and down over 2000-foot mountain ridges. The fact that no one was killed in Maryland was attributed to 5 to 10 minutes warning that was well communicated to people in Frostburg over television, radio, scanners, telephones, and sirens. People took quick action to move to their basements. A mother and child rode out the storm as it destroyed their house hiding under a table in the basement. They were shaken but unharmed. A jacket from a Frostburg home was found 25 miles away. A diploma was found near Winchester, Virginia, 60 miles away and a bill was found near Sterling Virginia (about 100 miles away).

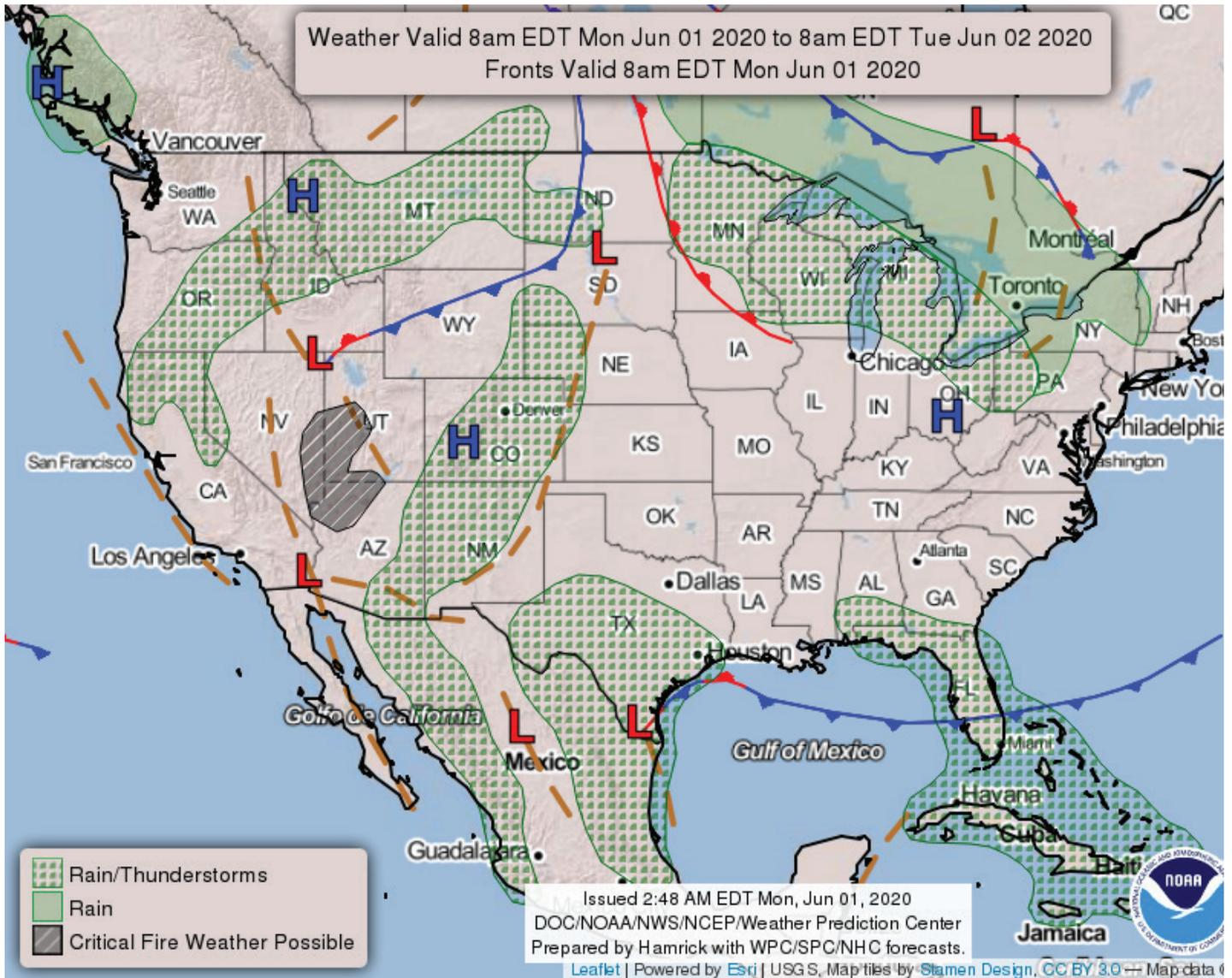
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 96 °F at 6:00 PM
Low Temp: 68 °F at 5:45 AM
Wind: 28 mph at 1:29 AM
Precip: .00

Record High: 100° in 1917
Record Low: 30° in 1946
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 50°F
Average Precip in June.: .11
Precip to date in June.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 7.25
Precip Year to Date: 4.63
Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47 a.m.



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Out Of Service

Recently, while waiting for a bus to take me to an airport parking lot, bus after bus passed by the "waiting zone" without stopping or even pausing. Tired and exhausted, I was puzzled and frustrated until I noticed that they had signs in their windows that read OUT OF SERVICE!

There I stood waiting and wondering, part of a crowd but still alone, left in the exhaust and noise of empty buses. I waited for quite some time until one came to take me to my vehicle.

While waiting I thought of those standing around me. No doubt they, too, were anxious to get to their destination. Perhaps they had been on a long, lonely journey and were discouraged with the results of their efforts. Maybe they were fearful of what might be awaiting them, knowing that a loved one was sick and in pain. And, of course, some were filled with joy and the expectations of a happy homecoming to a welcoming family or friends.

As I waited with them, I was reminded of all the people that God brings into my life, who like me, are on life's journey. Everyone faces the same issues at one time or another: good days and bad ones, successes and failures, sickness and health, life and death. Unfortunately, many whom we see every day face their problems alone because no one is willing to provide help or hope. Like the buses, we neglect to recognize their needs; we are "OUT OF SERVICE."

Jesus said, "Look around you! Vast fields are ready right now for the harvest."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to willingly serve You by serving others. Open our eyes to see the needs of others, open our ears to hear their cries, and share Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: John 4:34-38 But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
 - **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
 - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
 - **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
 - **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
 - **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
 - **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
 - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
 - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
 - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
 - 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
 - **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
 - 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
 - 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
 - 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
 - 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
 - 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
 - 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
 - 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
 - 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
 - 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
 - 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
 - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
-
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
-
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

News from the Associated Press

7 states, DC vote amid coronavirus pandemic, social unrest

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

Voters are being asked to navigate curfews, health concerns and a sharp increase in mail balloting on Tuesday as elections take place from Maryland to Montana.

Four states were originally scheduled to vote in April but delayed their contests because of the coronavirus outbreak. Pennsylvania offers the day's biggest trove of delegates and represents a high-profile test case for Republicans and Democrats working to strengthen their operations in one of the most important general election battlegrounds.

"We think we're prepared," Pennsylvania Democratic Party Chairwoman Nancy Patton Mills said. "Thank goodness we have the opportunity of working this out in the primary because we don't know where we'll be with the pandemic in November."

Joe Biden needs to win 89% of all delegates at stake on Tuesday to formally clinch the nomination, but his role as his party's clear presidential nominee is not in danger should he fall short. With a dominant showing on Super Tuesday in early March, the former vice president pushed out all his major opponents. He will almost certainly secure the needed delegates later in the month if necessary.

Still, Tuesday offers a historic opportunity for the 77-year-old Democrat, who is waging his third presidential campaign and who hopes to amass as many delegates as possible to show strength before going up against President Donald Trump.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is not actively campaigning, having suspended his operation and endorsed Biden, but his name will appear on the ballots. On the eve of Tuesday's primaries, senior adviser Jeff Weaver encouraged progressives to vote for Sanders anyway.

"People who support Bernie Sanders and his agenda, who want to maximize the influence of progressives at the convention, should cast their vote for Bernie Sanders," Weaver said, reminding voters that the Vermont senator is seeking leverage to shape the party's platform and rules.

The comments serve as a reminder that Biden may have no legitimate Democratic rivals remaining but must still win over skeptical activists from his party's far-left flank, who worry he's too close to the political establishment.

Party unity will likely be an afterthought this week, however, as more immediate health and safety concerns dominate the national conversation.

The coronavirus death toll has surged past 100,000 nationwide, and thousands of new cases are reported each day. At the same time, several major cities, including some voting Tuesday, are grappling with protests following the killing of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered a 7 p.m. curfew, though voting places will be open until 8 p.m. Voting has been deemed essential, and city officials say voters will not be subject to arrest if they cast ballots during the curfew. It's much the same in Philadelphia, where officials have promised that voters would not be arrested should their city's 6 p.m. curfew be extended for a fourth consecutive night.

"We are in unique times, and voting is a unique challenge for people," said Josh Schwerin, chief strategist for the pro-Democrat super PAC Priorities USA. He said that his organization and others will be watching closely on Tuesday "to see how well it works, where issues are and where obstacles have been put in place."

Political groups have had to adjust as some states move to a system that relies largely on voting by mail. They include Montana, where all 56 counties decided to vote entirely by mail. Voting rights watchdogs in multiple states have expressed concerns about access to mail ballots, confusion about deadlines and a shortage of poll workers that could lead to long lines.

Those voting Tuesday are the District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and South Dakota. An eighth state holding primary elections, Iowa, chose its presidential

nominee early in the year and focused on other offices.

Rounds seeks 2nd term in virus-altered South Dakota primary

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Poll workers will attempt to space voters apart Tuesday during South Dakota's primary election, although there's a good chance most ballots will have already been submitted ahead of in-person voting.

The secretary of state's office reports that more than 82,000 absentee ballots have been returned following an absentee voter campaign in order to avoid crowded polling places during the coronavirus pandemic. The number of absentee ballots returned is more than half of the total voter turnout for the last primary, which numbered about 141,000 statewide.

The results for the Democratic presidential primary won't be much more than a statement in an all-but-decided race as Joe Biden looks to rack up enough votes nationwide to formally secure the nomination. Meanwhile, GOP Sen. Mike Rounds and Rep. Dusty Johnson are considered strong favorites to advance to the general election in an effort to secure second terms in the Republican-dominated state. The election will also decide a host of statehouse, city and school posts, including some contests that were postponed due to virus concerns.

Polling places will be open across the state from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., but some county election officials have changed locations due to the coronavirus. Extra precautions amid the pandemic, fewer poll workers and additional ballots for local elections may result in long lines at some polling places, said Beadle County Auditor Jill Henson.

"We're going to try to police everyone, but it kind of gets crazy with everything's that going on," Henson said.

Amy Scott-Stoltz, president of the League of Women Voters in South Dakota, said she still plans to show up at her local polling station in Sioux Falls to check how the voting process is working during the coronavirus pandemic.

She said that voting absentee works well for some who like to research the candidates as they fill out the ballot, but that an election where most people vote from the comfort of home also takes away some of "the pomp and circumstance of the vote — going to your polling place, seeing your neighbors."

REPUBLICAN SENATE PRIMARY

Rounds, of Fort Pierre, has not shown concern with his primary challenger, first-term Republican state Rep. Scyller Borglum from Rapid City. But she has taken an increasingly aggressive approach leading up to the election, trying to call out Rounds for encouraging Chinese foreign investment. She has even called him "China Mike" and posted an image on her campaign's Facebook page with Rounds face photoshopped onto Mao Zedong.

Borglum may have gotten a boost from Fox News host Tucker Carlson last week after he said Rounds, along with eight other Republican senators, should lose their next primary for lobbying the White House to keep temporary worker visas for agriculture workers.

Rounds' campaign holds a commanding cash advantage, and he has not engaged with Borglum or entertained her request for a debate. He appears focused on talking about his track record in the Senate and as governor.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE PRIMARY

Johnson, from Mitchell, is running for a second term for South Dakota's lone seat in the U.S. House. He faces former state legislator Liz Marty May, a rancher from Kyle in the southwest corner of the state who has tried to challenge Johnson on his record of helping out cattle producers.

Her campaign has been mostly limited to the western half of the state and hampered both by a lack of cash and the coronavirus pandemic. Johnson has outspent his challenger by nine to one this election cycle.

The winner will have a clear path to Congress. Democrats failed to field anyone, and there is just one other candidate running: a Libertarian.

LEGISLATIVE RACES

All 105 seats in the Legislature are up for grabs in November, but one leader is facing a tough primary challenge from a political newcomer.

Rep. Lee Qualm, who is currently the Republican House majority leader, is attempting to win a Senate spot because he is term-limited in the House. But after the Platte Republican introduced a bill that would have gotten rid of schools' requirements for vaccinations earlier this year, he is facing an opponent with more campaign money and the backing of some doctors in the region.

Erin Tobin is a family nurse practitioner from Winner who has highlighted her health care experience, saying it's important to have someone with a medical background in Pierre, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

Primaries become test run for campaigning during coronavirus

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Tuesday's primaries in eight states are the biggest test to date of campaigning during the coronavirus era, a way for parties to test-drive new ways of getting out the vote during a time when it can be dangerous to leave your home.

Voters from Pennsylvania to New Mexico will cast ballots in both the Democratic presidential contest, where former Vice President Joe Biden is the only contender with an active campaign, and a host of down-ballot primaries for everything from governors to state representatives. Of the eight, Iowa selected its presidential nominee early in the year and is focusing on other offices.

Many states postponed elections scheduled between mid-March and May to the date because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Unable to send candidates out to barnstorm the states or volunteers to knock on voters' doors, campaigns have had to improvise. One Pennsylvania Republican congressional campaign recruited 100 people, including its candidate's large extended family, to hand-write thousands of letters to voters urging support. Another organized "pop-up food banks" for the needy. Others moved up television advertising to capitalize on a captive audience locked down at home. Democrats have created a phone banking model almost along the lines of a technology support hub, where knowledgeable volunteers and staffers can guide confused voters, step by step, through the process of voting by mail.

"Any plan you had three months ago is out the window," said Brock Lowrance, a Republican strategist working on two Montana races — Sen. Steve Daines' reelection bid and Rep. Greg Gianforte's bid for the GOP gubernatorial nomination. "Campaigns are having to adapt in the ways they're talking to voters but also in the ways voters are going to vote."

Some voting experts predict half or more of all ballots cast in the November election will be sent through the mail, as the Centers for Disease Control recommends as a way to lessen risk of exposure to the virus at polling stations. States have scrambled to adjust to the new reality with some sending every voter an absentee ballot request.

In Iowa, the traditional frenzy of pre-primary barbecues and rallies has shifted to twice-a-week Zoom training of volunteers for Democratic Senate candidate Theresa Greenfield, who then start dialing voters to ensure they've requested and returned their mail ballots.

"Just because we're staying home doesn't mean we're standing still," said Sam Newton, communication director for Greenfield.

In Montana, where the populace is more accustomed to voting by mail, the outbreak has still altered the rhythm of the political season. Lowrance says he's noticed far more down-ballot races advertising on television, a reflection of how campaigns have fewer ways to reach voters and more eyeballs glued to the screen during quarantine.

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Lowrance said campaigns, including his own, have had to watch their budgets as the pandemic and economic crash have crimped fundraising and refrained from hiring the legion of door-knockers who usually hit the streets before elections. And now they are having to plan for two possibilities — that November will resemble the intense lockdowns of the past two months, or the more mixed reality of reopened states.

“It’s really trying to build two different plans and execute them,” Lowrance said.

The greatest attention is on Pennsylvania, however. It’s simultaneously the biggest state voting on Tuesday, the only one that is likely to be a presidential battleground in November and the state that’s seen the biggest shift in voting in the COVID-19 era.

That’s because this is the first statewide election under a new, more permissive mail voting law passed last year. In 2016, only 4.6% of the state’s voters cast a ballot by mail. Now 21% of all the state’s 8.5 million voters have already requested absentee ballots.

Democrats are overwhelmingly the ones asking to vote by mail — 1.3 million have filed requests, compared with 525,000 Republicans, state records show. That’s partly a reflection of GOP distrust of mail voting that’s been stoked by President Donald Trump, who’s claimed without evidence it will lead to widespread fraud. Even the Trump campaign, recognizing that getting supporters to mail ballots in is key to winning elections, has been pushing Republicans to use the technique.

Some Pennsylvania Republicans have worried Trump is hobbling the party by making its voters distrust the easiest method of voting during the pandemic. Others argue the gap will close in the fall, when Democrats aren’t the only ones to have a presidential candidate on the ballot.

“They had that Bernie and Biden thing going, and it drove some enthusiasm, as it naturally would,” said Dave Feidt, the party chairman in Dauphin County, home to the state capital of Harrisburg. “But to come full circle, you’ll see a very different dynamic in the fall when things are R against D.”

Democrats are elated with their mail ballot lead, saying it reflects their voters’ excitement. “They’re willing to crawl through broken glass to make sure they participate,” said Democratic National Committee spokesman David Bergstein.

The party has also shifted its campaign tactics, building upon its success in Wisconsin, where the state party pushed mail voting heavily and Democrats won a contested state supreme court election in April. The party has distributed new call scripts to volunteers with detailed instructions on mail voting and ensured there are experts who can walk confused voters through requesting ballots. People marooned at home are answering phones and texts at a notably higher rate, Bergstein said.

Pennsylvania has revealed one potential weak spot for Democrats in the mail voting era — African Americans voters, who operatives say have been requesting ballots at lower rates. Claudette Williams, a black Democrat running for a state legislative seat in eastern Pennsylvania, has had to replace her regular circuit of black churches with regular Zoom calls with black ministers and their parishioners. Her campaign has also organized “pop-up food banks” to distribute food to the needy, at a distance, during the outbreak.

Normally Williams would be frantically meeting voters in the days before a primary. “Today I have to pick up 60 pounds of meat for a pop-up pantry,” she said Friday.

Republicans have also been testing new ways of reaching voters. Once the lockdowns began, it switched its Trump Victory organizing push to online meetings, says it recruited 300,000 new members who have made millions of calls, often with the aid of the campaign’s app that helps target voters in key states.

“Within just 24 hours, our teams transitioned to an entirely virtual campaign,” said Republican National Committee spokeswoman Mandi Merritt.

Also conducting primaries Tuesday are Indiana, Maryland, Rhode Island and South Dakota.

South Dakota prison inmate dies of non-coronavirus illness

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota state prison inmate serving a life sentence for a fatal stabbing nearly 25 years ago died over the weekend, authorities said.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections said Lorenzo Benallie, 44, died Sunday after an extended illness. Officials said the illness was not related to COVID-19.

Benallie died in a comfort care setting at the Jameson Annex to the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

The Argus Leader reported Benallie was serving a life sentence for second-degree murder out of Mellette County for the 1996 stabbing death of Joe Moran.

Noem: National Guard still deployed for violent protests

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Monday said she is keeping the National Guard deployed and ready to step in if demonstrations over the death of George Floyd turn violent.

The Republican governor deployed National Guard troops to the scene of a violent protest in Sioux Falls on Sunday night after stores were vandalized and protesters hurled rocks at police. Her comments came shortly after President Donald Trump told governors in a video conference call they “look like fools” for not deploying more National Guard members to demonstrations across the country.

Noem said she would keep the National Guard “pre-staged” nearby protests planned in other cities across the state.

“Rioting and looting will not be tolerated,” she said.

The governor said there was a “stark contrast” between the peaceful protest in downtown Sioux Falls and the vandalism that occurred during the night near the city’s largest mall. Sioux Falls police are investigating vandalism at several businesses.

“Protests have a purpose,” she said. “That purpose was met yesterday in a peaceful protest that I think for many people honored the memory of George Floyd but also recognized that we have to take action.”

Noem said she wanted to work towards solutions against inequality and racial discrimination.

The Latest: German envoy: Peaceful protests must be allowed

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on the May 25 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:

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- German minister backs peaceful protests in the US
- EU envoy: George Floyd’s death an “appalling” abuse of power
- Officer shot in Las Vegas, authorities respond to 2nd shooting
- Hungary reprimands soccer player with Floyd slogan on shirt
- Protesters march in Sydney in solidarity with US demonstrators

BERLIN — Germany’s foreign minister says the peaceful protests in the United States following the death of George Floyd are “understandable and more than legitimate.”

Heiko Maas said in Berlin on Tuesday that his thoughts are with the friends and family of Floyd, who “lost his life in a truly terrible and shocking way, or one should say it was taken from him.”

Maas said that peaceful protests must always be allowed. He added that “the peaceful protest we are seeing in the United States — with many very moving gestures including by American police officers — this protest is understandable and more than legitimate.”

He added: “I can only express my hope that the peaceful protests do not continue to lead to violence, but even more express the hope that these protests have an effect in the United States.”

Maas also stressed that journalists must be able to do their jobs without risking their safety and criticized violence against them.

BRUSSELS — The European Union’s top diplomat said Tuesday the death of George Floyd was the result of an abuse of power and that the 27-nation bloc is “shocked and appalled” by it.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters that “like the people of the United States, we are

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shocked and appalled by the death of George Floyd.”

Floyd died last week after he was pinned to the pavement by a white police officer in Minneapolis who put his knee on the handcuffed black man’s neck until he stopped breathing. His death set off protests that spread across America.

Borrell says law enforcement officials must not be “using their capacities in the way that has been used in this very, very unhappy death of George Floyd. This is an abuse of power and this has to be denounced.”

He underlined that Europeans “support the right to peaceful protest, and also we condemn violence and racism of any kind, and for sure, we call for a de-escalation of tensions.”

Borrell says “we trust in the ability of the Americans to come together, to heal as a nation and to address these important issues during these difficult times.”

BUDAPEST, Hungary — The Hungarian soccer federation has issued a written reprimand to a player of African origin who showed his undershirt with the words “Justice for George Floyd” after scoring for Ferencvaros in its 1-1 draw with Puskas Akademia on Sunday.

Tokmac Nguen was born in a refugee camp in Kenya to parents from South Sudan and grew up in Norway.

The federation’s disciplinary committee said in its ruling issued Monday that any similar actions by Nguen in the future would result in “actual penalties” on each occasion.

Just hours after Nguen’s reprimand, FIFA, the world soccer’s governing body urged soccer competition organizers to apply “common sense” and consider not sanctioning players demanding justice for Floyd during matches.

The German soccer federation is investigating similar actions by four players in the Bundesliga, including American midfielder Weston McKennie, who wore an armband over his Schalke jersey with the handwritten message “Justice for George.”

LAS VEGAS — An officer has been shot in Las Vegas and authorities are responding to another shooting as people protest the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, authorities said.

The officer was shot in the area of the Las Vegas Strip and an officer was involved in a shooting in the downtown area, according to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Protesters have been rallying for days across the country over the death of George Floyd, a black man seen on video pleading that he couldn’t breathe while a white police officer pressing his knee into his neck for several minutes before he stopped moving.

Police in Las Vegas said Monday that 338 people were arrested during three nights of protests. Police said suspects were jailed despite a local court policy calling for most people accused of misdemeanors to receive court summons to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

SEOUL — South Korea’s Foreign Ministry says it has far confirmed 79 cases of property damage at stores run by Korean Americans amid U.S. protests over the death of George Floyd.

The ministry, which held a teleconferencing meeting with diplomats based in the United States to review the demonstrations’ impact on Korean Americans and South Korean citizens, said Tuesday it has yet to confirm any injuries or deaths.

The ministry says 50 cases of property damage were reported from Philadelphia, 10 from Minneapolis, five from Raleigh and four from Atlanta.

SYDNEY — More than 1,000 protesters marched through downtown Sydney on Tuesday in solidarity with Americans demonstrating against the death of George Floyd half a world away.

Police escorted a crowd carrying banners that said: “Black Lives Matter,” “Aboriginal Lives Matter,” “White Silence is Violence” and “We See You, We Hear You, We Stand With You.”

The group marched from Hyde Park to New South Wales state Parliament with plans to continue to the U.S. Consulate.

The protest proceeded despite some organizers canceling it Monday for fear of conflict with counter

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protesters. But no counter protest emerged.

Around 2,000 demonstrators gathered in Australia's west coast city of Perth on Monday night to peacefully protest Floyd's death, and rallies are planned for other Australian cities this week.

Referring to the violence in U.S. streets, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said "there's no need to import things ... happening in other countries here to Australia."

ST. LOUIS — Police say four officers were hit by gunfire after protests in St. Louis that started peacefully Monday became violent overnight, with demonstrators smashing windows and stealing items from businesses and fires burning in the downtown area.

The police department tweeted early Tuesday that the officers were taken to a hospital with injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening. It was unclear who had fired the shots.

The chaos in St. Louis followed continued protests Monday in Missouri over the death of George Floyd and police treatment of African Americans, with gatherings also held in Kansas City and Jefferson City.

On Monday afternoon, several hundred people rallied peacefully outside the justice center in downtown St. Louis, including Mayor Lyda Krewson and St. Louis Public Safety Director Jimmie Edwards. Protestors later walked to the Gateway Arch National Park and then onto nearby Interstate 64.

But later Monday, protesters gathered in front of police headquarters, where officers fired tear gas. Some protesters smashed windows at a downtown 7-11 store and stole items from inside before the building was set on fire.

NEW YORK — New York City imposed a late-night curfew Monday that failed to prevent another night of destruction, including arrests after a break-in at the iconic Macy's store on 34th Street, following protests over George Floyd's death.

As the 11 p.m. deadline to get off the streets approached, bands of protesters marched peacefully through Manhattan and Brooklyn, but police simultaneously responded to numerous reports of roving groups of people smashing their way into shops and emptying them of merchandise.

The doors of Macy's flagship Manhattan store were breached. Police pulled two handcuffed men out and put them in a van.

People rushed into a Nike store and carried out armloads of clothing. Near Rockefeller Center, storefront windows were smashed and multiple people arrested. Bank windows were smashed. Wreckage littered the inside of an AT&T store.

Video posted on social media showed some protesters arguing with people breaking windows, urging them to stop, but instances of vandalism and smash-and-grab thefts mounted as the night deepened.

New York joined other cities around the country in imposing a curfew after days of unrest. It comes on top of months of restrictions on public gatherings already imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Enough mayhem happened before the curfew took effect that Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted that it would move up to 8 p.m. Tuesday. The curfew lifts at 5 a.m.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Workers in Alabama's largest city began removing a Confederate monument Monday night after demonstrators failed to knock down the obelisk the night before.

Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin sent workers with heavy equipment to take down the more than 50-foot-tall Confederate monument made of stone. Late on Monday, after a 7 p.m. curfew took effect and streets were mostly clear, crews began their work.

Live video showed workers attaching straps to the peak of the obelisk so it could be lifted away with a crane. Within a few hours they had removed the top of the monument.

Woodfin said the city would see if the memorial could be given to a museum or another group.

Woodfin said the fine the city may face for violating a state law banning the removal of Confederate and other long-standing monuments is more affordable than the cost of continued unrest in the city.

Attorney General Steve Marshall, in a statement, said the city would face an assessment of \$25,000 if it

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removed the monument, which has been the subject of a court fight between the mostly black city and Republican-controlled state.

CICERO, Ill. — Two people have been killed during unrest in the Chicago suburb of Cicero as protests continued over the death of George Floyd, according to a town official.

Spokesman Ray Hanania says 60 people were arrested in the town of about 84,000 located west of Chicago. Hanania didn't provide additional information about those killed or the circumstances of their deaths.

The Illinois State Police and Cook County Sheriff's Office were called in to help local police Monday as people broke into a liquor store and other businesses and stole items.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A vehicle plowed through a group of law enforcement officers at a George Floyd demonstration Monday night in Buffalo, injuring at least two.

Video from the scene shows the vehicle accelerating through an intersection shortly after officers apparently tackle a protester on the street and handcuff him. Officers are seen scattering to avoid the SUV as it drives off on Buffalo's east side. Apparent gunshots are heard.

The officers were taken to Erie County Medical Center. Authorities said they were in stable condition.

World outrage grows at Floyd's death; EU 'shocked, appalled'

By **LORNE COOK and RICK RYCROFT Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — World outrage at George Floyd's death in the U.S. was growing Tuesday as the European Union's top diplomat said the bloc was "shocked and appalled" by it and thousands marched in Australia's largest city.

In France, protests were planned for the evening in Paris and across the country after calls from the family of a French black man who died shortly after he was arrested by police in 2016. A protest was also planned in The Hague, Netherlands.

Floyd died last week after he was pinned to the pavement by a white police officer in Minneapolis who put his knee on the handcuffed black man's neck until he stopped breathing. His death set off protests that spread across America.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's remarks in Brussels were the strongest so far to come out of the 27-nation bloc, saying Floyd's death was a result of an abuse of power.

Borrell told reporters that "like the people of the United States, we are shocked and appalled by the death of George Floyd." He underlined that Europeans "support the right to peaceful protest, and also we condemn violence and racism of any kind, and for sure, we call for a de-escalation of tensions."

Protesters around the world have expressed solidarity with Americans demonstrating against Floyd's death. Thousands marched through downtown Sydney on Tuesday. The protesters in Australia's largest city chanted, "I can't breathe" — some of the final words of both Floyd and David Dungay, a 26-year-old Aboriginal man who died in a Sydney prison in 2015 while being restrained by five guards.

The demonstrators carried placards reading, "Black Lives Matter," "Aboriginal Lives Matter," "White Silence is Violence" and, referring to those protesting in cities across the U.S., "We See You, We Hear Your, We Stand With You." Other placards read, "We're here because they aren't," with depictions of Floyd and Dungay.

The protesters, who appeared to number around 3,000, marched from Hyde Park to the New South Wales state Parliament, with plans to continue to the U.S. Consulate.

"It's just gut-wrenching the climate of what's happening in America, and it's also happening here in Australia, though it's subtle. Racism is real for me," said one of the protesters, Aoatua Lee.

Around 2,000 demonstrators had gathered in Australia's west coast city of Perth on Monday night to peacefully protest Floyd's death, and rallies are planned for other Australian cities this week.

An indigenous Australian lawmaker called on governments to use Floyd's death as an opportunity to reduce deaths of indigenous people in custody.

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Linda Burney, the opposition spokeswoman on indigenous Australians, said Tuesday that more than 430 indigenous people had died in Australian police custody since 1991.

"I think we should be using it as an opportunity," Burney told Australian Broadcasting Corp., referring to Floyd's death. "Whether we like it or not, it doesn't take much for racism to come out of the underbelly of this country."

"It seems to me that there are lots of things that state and territory governments could do, and the federal government could do to lower the number of Aboriginal people in custody," she added.

While indigenous adults make up only 2% of the Australian population, they account for 27% of the prison population.

Opposition leader Anthony Albanese backed Burney's call. "There are far too many indigenous Australians who are incarcerated today. As a percentage of the population, this is a tragedy and it's one that must be addressed as an absolute national priority," Albanese told reporters.

Meanwhile, more African leaders are speaking up over the killing of Floyd.

"It cannot be right that, in the 21st century, the United States, this great bastion of democracy, continues to grapple with the problem of systemic racism," Ghana's president, Nana Akufo-Addo, said in a statement, adding that black people the world over are shocked and distraught.

Kenyan opposition leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga offered a prayer for the U.S., "that there be justice and freedom for all human beings who call America their country."

Like some in Africa who have spoken out, Odinga also noted troubles at home, saying the judging of people by character instead of skin color "is a dream we in Africa, too, owe our citizens."

And South Africa's finance minister, Tito Mboweni, recalled leading a small protest outside the U.S. Embassy several years ago over the apparent systemic killings of blacks. Mboweni said the U.S. ambassador at the time, Patrick Gaspard, "invited me to his office and said: 'What you see is nothing, it is much worse.'"

In Europe on Monday, thousands spilled across streets in Amsterdam to denounce police brutality, and those demonstrating in Paris urged the French government to take police violence more seriously and held up signs like "Racism is suffocating us."

Some government leaders have seen the U.S. unrest as a chance to highlight what they see as American hypocrisy on protest movements at home versus abroad.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam questioned the foreign criticism over an imminent national security law being imposed in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

"They take their own country's national security very seriously, but for the security of our country, especially the situation in Hong Kong, they are looking at it through tinted glasses," Lam said Tuesday.

Parisians return to cafes; Latin America sees virus surge

By **MENLAOS HADJICOSTIS, NICK PERRY and THIBAUT CAMUS** Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Parisians returned to the City of Light's beloved sidewalk cafes as the French government eased lockdown restrictions Tuesday, but across the ocean, health experts expressed deep concerns as several Latin American countries opted to reopen their economies despite a rapid rise in coronavirus cases.

The new post-lockdown freedom along Paris' cobbled streets will be tempered by social distancing rules for the city's once-densely packed cafe tables. Paris City Hall has authorized opening outside seating areas only, with indoor seating off-limits until June 22. But the tiny tables will have to be spaced at least 1 meter apart, sharply cutting their numbers.

Municipal authorities were helping the situation by granting restaurateurs more space outside.

"It's amazing that we're finally opening up, but the outside area is just a fraction of the inside space," said Xavier Denamur, the owner of five popular cafes and bistros.

"It's a start," he conceded, but "two in three outside tables had to be removed."

But as Parisians reclaimed their rhythm of city life, health experts warned that virus cases are still rising in Latin America, the world's latest COVID-19 epicenter.

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"Clearly the situation in many South American countries is far from stable. There is a rapid increase in cases and those systems are coming under increasing pressure," said Dr. Mike Ryan, the executive director of the World Health Organization's emergencies program.

His warning came as some of Brazil's hardest-hit cities, including the jungle city of Manaus and the sprawling metropolis of Rio de Janeiro, were starting to allow more business activity. Brazil has reported more than 526,000 infections, second only to the 1.8 million cases reported by the U.S.

Bolivia and Venezuela have also started opening up their economies, Ecuador has resumed flights and shoppers have returned to Colombia's malls.

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador offered a personal note of caution to his country's gradual roll-back of virus restrictions by opting to drive 1,000 miles instead of flying for a trip promoting a key infrastructure project.

Despite its public praise of China, the WHO was deeply frustrated with Chinese authorities for not immediately providing the world body with information it needed to fight the spread of the deadly virus, the Associated Press has found.

Tight controls on information and competition within China's health services are believed to be why the country delayed releasing the genetic map, or genome, of the virus for more than a week after three different government labs had fully decoded the information.

WHO officials publicly lauded China to coax more information out of the government, but privately complained in the first week of January that China wasn't sharing enough data to assess how the virus spread between people or what the global risk was, costing valuable time.

Back in Europe, France on Tuesday put technology to work to check the spread of the virus by rolling out its StopCovid contact-tracing app as most neighboring countries including the U.K., Germany and Italy prepare to launch their own versions.

French users can voluntarily download the app on their smartphones. If they test positive, they'll be able to send a notification to others that have been in close contact for at least 15 minutes.

But similar technology in Russia has been beset with issues. A flood of complaints has met the app designed to track Moscow's quarantined coronavirus patients.

The app's nearly 70,000 registered users were subject to fines if they left their home or if they failed to take a selfie when directed to do so to prove their location. Some people said the app asked for selfies in the middle of the night.

"I don't mind paying a fine for something I did wrong, but I don't understand what I'm paying for here," said Grigory Sakharov who was handed six fines — two of which were given before he installed the app while he was in the hospital recovering from coronavirus-induced pneumonia.

Russian authorities have handed out 54,000 fines and say they have only been issued to those who repeatedly violated quarantine regulations.

British lawmakers were returning to Parliament on Tuesday but some are sharply critical of the government's decision to scrap a remote-voting system used during the country's lockdown. They worry that an end to the country's unprecedented but brief experiment with virtual voting will turn those who must stay at home because of age, illness or family responsibilities into second-class lawmakers.

Britain's Conservative government says lawmakers should be setting an example by showing up in person as the country gets back to work. But critics argue that it's too risky to return to Parliament.

"Asking people to travel from all corners of the U.K. to go to the global hot spot that is London ... is gambling with the virus," said Scottish National Party lawmaker Angus MacNeil.

Singapore reopened 75% of its economy Tuesday, allowing financial firms and electronics factories to resume after a two-month closure with strict safety requirements. Schools will reopen in stages this month. But most shops, personal services, restaurants and social gatherings are still banned.

"It feels like it has come back to where it should be. Like you know, people start to see people again, and working again. It feels good," said Firman Hanif, who works in a security firm.

In the U.S., health authorities were concerned that widespread protests over the death of George Floyd, a black man pinned at the neck by a white police officer, could cause new outbreaks in a nation where

the pandemic has disproportionately affected racial minorities.

And a new estimate by the Congressional Budget Office cautioned the damage to the world's largest economy could amount to nearly \$16 trillion over the next decade if Congress doesn't work to mitigate the fallout. Some 41 million Americans have applied for unemployment benefits.

Some 6.5 million people have been infected with the virus, which has killed over 375,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that experts believe is too low for several reasons. The United States has seen over 105,000 deaths and Europe has had nearly 175,000 die in the pandemic.

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. **SHOWDOWN: TRUMP VS. PROTESTERS** Hours after the U.S. president vowed to send out the military and "dominate the streets," American cities were engulfed in more violence and destruction that overshadowed peaceful protests.

2. **WHO: CHINA DELAYED RELEASING CORONAVIRUS INFO** World Health Organization officials privately expressed frustration over not getting the information they needed from China to fight the spread of the deadly virus, the AP finds.

3. **CLOSING IN ON NOMINATION** Joe Biden is hoping to seize the delegates needed to formally clinch the Democrats' presidential nomination as seven states and the District of Columbia vote.

4. **HOW CABLE NEWS HAS COVERED PROTESTS** CNN and MSNBC have concentrated on peaceful protests in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of police, whereas Fox News has focused mostly on violence and property destruction.

5. **BASEBALL THROWS CURVE AT LEAGUE** Players counter an owner proposal with a 114-game regular season and full prorated salaries, leaving each player with approximately 70% of what he had been slated to earn.

China delayed releasing coronavirus info, frustrating WHO

By The Associated Press

Throughout January, the World Health Organization publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to the new coronavirus. It repeatedly thanked the Chinese government for sharing the genetic map of the virus "immediately," and said its work and commitment to transparency were "very impressive, and beyond words."

But behind the scenes, it was a much different story, one of significant delays by China and considerable frustration among WHO officials over not getting the information they needed to fight the spread of the deadly virus, The Associated Press has found.

Despite the plaudits, China in fact sat on releasing the genetic map, or genome, of the virus for more than a week after three different government labs had fully decoded the information. Tight controls on information and competition within the Chinese public health system were to blame, according to dozens of interviews and internal documents.

Chinese government labs only released the genome after another lab published it ahead of authorities on a virologist website on Jan. 11. Even then, China stalled for at least two weeks more on providing WHO with detailed data on patients and cases, according to recordings of internal meetings held by the U.N. health agency through January — all at a time when the outbreak arguably might have been dramatically slowed.

WHO officials were lauding China in public because they wanted to coax more information out of the government, the recordings obtained by the AP suggest. Privately, they complained in meetings the week of Jan. 6 that China was not sharing enough data to assess how effectively the virus spread between people or what risk it posed to the rest of the world, costing valuable time.

"We're going on very minimal information," said American epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove, now WHO's

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technical lead for COVID-19, in one internal meeting. "It's clearly not enough for you to do proper planning."

"We're currently at the stage where yes, they're giving it to us 15 minutes before it appears on CCTV," said WHO's top official in China, Dr. Gauden Galea, referring to the state-owned China Central Television, in another meeting.

The story behind the early response to the virus comes at a time when the U.N. health agency is under siege, and has agreed to an independent probe of how the pandemic was handled globally. After repeatedly praising the Chinese response early on, U.S. President Donald Trump has blasted WHO in recent weeks for allegedly colluding with China to hide the extent of the coronavirus crisis. He cut ties with the organization on Friday, jeopardizing the approximately \$450 million the U.S. gives every year as WHO's biggest single donor.

In the meantime, Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to pitch in \$2 billion over the next two years to fight the coronavirus, saying China has always provided information to WHO and the world "in a most timely fashion."

The new information does not support the narrative of either the U.S. or China, but instead portrays an agency now stuck in the middle that was urgently trying to solicit more data despite limits to its own authority. Although international law obliges countries to report information to WHO that could have an impact on public health, the U.N. agency has no enforcement powers and cannot independently investigate epidemics within countries. Instead, it must rely on the cooperation of member states.

The recordings suggest that rather than colluding with China, as Trump declared, WHO was kept in the dark as China gave it the minimal information required by law. However, the agency did try to portray China in the best light, likely as a means to secure more information. And WHO experts genuinely thought Chinese scientists had done "a very good job" in detecting and decoding the virus, despite the lack of transparency from Chinese officials.

WHO staffers debated how to press China for gene sequences and detailed patient data without angering authorities, worried about losing access and getting Chinese scientists into trouble. Under international law, WHO is required to quickly share information and alerts with member countries about an evolving crisis. Galea noted WHO could not indulge China's wish to sign off on information before telling other countries because "that is not respectful of our responsibilities."

In the second week of January, WHO's chief of emergencies, Dr. Michael Ryan, told colleagues it was time to "shift gears" and apply more pressure on China, fearing a repeat of the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome that started in China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people worldwide.

"This is exactly the same scenario, endlessly trying to get updates from China about what was going on," he said. "WHO barely got out of that one with its neck intact given the issues that arose around transparency in southern China."

Ryan said the best way to "protect China" was for WHO to do its own independent analysis with data from the Chinese government, because otherwise the spread of the virus between people would be in question and "other countries will take action accordingly." Ryan also noted that China was not cooperating in the same way some other countries had in the past.

"This would not happen in Congo and did not happen in Congo and other places," he said, probably referring to the Ebola outbreak that began there in 2018. "We need to see the data.....It's absolutely important at this point."

The delay in the release of the genome stalled the recognition of its spread to other countries, along with the global development of tests, drugs and vaccines. The lack of detailed patient data also made it harder to determine how quickly the virus was spreading — a critical question in stopping it.

Between the day the full genome was first decoded by a government lab on Jan. 2 and the day WHO declared a global emergency on Jan. 30, the outbreak spread by a factor of 100 to 200 times, according to retrospective infection data from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus has now infected over 6 million people worldwide and killed more than 375,000.

"It's obvious that we could have saved more lives and avoided many, many deaths if China and the

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WHO had acted faster," said Ali Mokdad, a professor at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

However, Mokdad and other experts also noted that if WHO had been more confrontational with China, it could have triggered a far worse situation of not getting any information at all.

If WHO had pushed too hard, it could even have been kicked out of China, said Adam Kamradt-Scott, a global health professor at the University of Sydney. But he added that a delay of just a few days in releasing genetic sequences can be critical in an outbreak. And he noted that as Beijing's lack of transparency becomes even clearer, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's continued defense of China is problematic.

"It's definitely damaged WHO's credibility," said Kamradt-Scott. "Did he go too far? I think the evidence on that is clear...it has led to so many questions about the relationship between China and WHO. It is perhaps a cautionary tale."

WHO and its officials named in this story declined to answer questions asked by The Associated Press without audio or written transcripts of the recorded meetings, which the AP was unable to supply to protect its sources.

"Our leadership and staff have worked night and day in compliance with the organization's rules and regulations to support and share information with all Member States equally, and engage in frank and forthright conversations with governments at all levels," a WHO statement said.

China's National Health Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no comment. But in the past few months, China has repeatedly defended its actions, and many other countries — including the U.S. — have responded to the virus with even longer delays of weeks and even months.

"Since the beginning of the outbreak, we have been continuously sharing information on the epidemic with the WHO and the international community in an open, transparent and responsible manner," said Liu Mingzhu, an official with the National Health Commission's International Department, at a press conference on May 15.

The race to find the genetic map of the virus started in late December, according to the story that unfolds in interviews, documents and the WHO recordings. That's when doctors in Wuhan noticed mysterious clusters of patients with fevers and breathing problems who weren't improving with standard flu treatment. Seeking answers, they sent test samples from patients to commercial labs.

By Dec. 27, one lab, Vision Medicals, had pieced together most of the genome of a new coronavirus with striking similarities to SARS. Vision Medicals shared its data with Wuhan officials and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, as reported first by Chinese finance publication Caixin and independently confirmed by the AP.

On Dec. 30, Wuhan health officials issued internal notices warning of the unusual pneumonia, which leaked on social media. That evening, Shi Zhengli, a coronavirus expert at the Wuhan Institute of Virology who is famous for having traced the SARS virus to a bat cave, was alerted to the new disease, according to an interview with Scientific American. Shi took the first train from a conference in Shanghai back to Wuhan.

The next day, Chinese CDC director Gao Fu dispatched a team of experts to Wuhan. Also on Dec. 31, WHO first learned about the cases from an open-source platform that scouts for intelligence on outbreaks, emergencies chief Ryan has said.

WHO officially requested more information on Jan. 1. Under international law, members have 24 to 48 hours to respond, and China reported two days later that there were 44 cases and no deaths.

By Jan. 2, Shi had decoded the entire genome of the virus, according to a notice later posted on her institute's website.

Scientists agree that Chinese scientists detected and sequenced the then-unknown pathogen with astonishing speed, in a testimony to China's vastly improved technical capabilities since SARS, during which a WHO-led group of scientists took months to identify the virus. This time, Chinese virologists proved within days that it was a never-before-seen coronavirus. Tedros would later say Beijing set "a new standard for

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outbreak response.”

But when it came to sharing the information with the world, things began to go awry.

On Jan. 3, the National Health Commission issued a confidential notice ordering labs with the virus to either destroy their samples or send them to designated institutes for safekeeping. The notice, first reported by Caixin and seen by the AP, forbade labs from publishing about the virus without government authorization. The order barred Shi’s lab from publishing the genetic sequence or warning of the potential danger.

Chinese law states that research institutes cannot conduct experiments on potentially dangerous new viruses without approval from top health authorities. Although the law is intended to keep experiments safe, it gives top health officials wide-ranging powers over what lower-level labs can or cannot do.

“If the virologist community had operated with more autonomy...the public would have been informed of the lethal risk of the new virus much earlier,” said Edward Gu, a professor at Zhejiang University, and Li Lantian, a PhD student at Northwestern University, in a paper published in March analyzing the outbreak.

Commission officials later repeated that they were trying to ensure lab safety, and had tasked four separate government labs with identifying the genome at the same time to get accurate, consistent results.

By Jan. 3, the Chinese CDC had independently sequenced the virus, according to internal data seen by the Associated Press. And by just after midnight on Jan. 5, a third designated government lab, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, had decoded the sequence and submitted a report — pulling all-nighters to get results in record time, according to a state media interview. Yet even with full sequences decoded by three state labs independently, Chinese health officials remained silent. The WHO reported on Twitter that investigations were under way into an unusual cluster of pneumonia cases with no deaths in Wuhan, and said it would share “more details as we have them.”

Meanwhile, at the Chinese CDC, gaps in coronavirus expertise proved a problem.

For nearly two weeks, Wuhan reported no new infections, as officials censored doctors who warned of suspicious cases. Meanwhile, researchers found the new coronavirus used a distinct spike protein to bind itself to human cells. The unusual protein and the lack of new cases lulled some Chinese CDC researchers into thinking the virus didn’t easily spread between humans — like the coronavirus that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, according to an employee who declined to be identified out of fear of retribution.

Li, the coronavirus expert, said he immediately suspected the pathogen was infectious when he spotted a leaked copy of a sequencing report in a group chat on a SARS-like coronavirus. But the Chinese CDC team that sequenced the virus lacked specialists in the molecular structure of coronaviruses and failed to consult with outside scientists, Li said. Chinese health authorities rebuffed offers of assistance from foreign experts, including Hong Kong scientists barred from a fact-finding mission to Wuhan and an American professor at a university in China.

On Jan. 5, the Shanghai Public Clinical Health Center, led by famed virologist Zhang Yongzhen, was the latest to sequence the virus. He submitted it to the GenBank database, where it sat awaiting review, and notified the National Health Commission. He warned them that the new virus was similar to SARS and likely infectious.

“It should be contagious through respiratory passages,” the center said in an internal notice seen by the AP. “We recommend taking preventative measures in public areas.”

On the same day, WHO said that based on preliminary information from China, there was no evidence of significant transmission between humans, and did not recommend any specific measures for travelers.

The next day, the Chinese CDC raised its emergency level to the second highest. Staffers proceeded to isolate the virus, draft lab testing guidelines, and design test kits. But the agency did not have the authority to issue public warnings, and the heightened emergency level was kept secret even from many of its own staff.

By Jan. 7, another team at Wuhan University had sequenced the pathogen and found it matched Shi’s, making Shi certain they had identified a novel coronavirus. But Chinese CDC experts said they didn’t trust Shi’s findings and needed to verify her data before she could publish, according to three people familiar with the matter. Both the National Health Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology, which

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oversees Shi's lab, declined to make Shi available for an interview.

A major factor behind the gag order, some say, was that Chinese CDC researchers wanted to publish their papers first. "They wanted to take all the credit," said Li Yize, a coronavirus researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

Internally, the leadership of the Chinese CDC is plagued with fierce competition, six people familiar with the system explained. They said the agency has long promoted staff based on how many papers they can publish in prestigious journals, making scientists reluctant to share data.

As the days went by, even some of the Chinese CDC's own staff began to wonder why it was taking so long for authorities to identify the pathogen.

"We were getting suspicious, since within one or two days you would get a sequencing result," a lab technician said, declining to be identified for fear of retribution.

On Jan. 8, the Wall Street Journal reported that scientists had identified a new coronavirus in samples from pneumonia patients in Wuhan, pre-empting and embarrassing Chinese officials. The lab technician told the AP they first learned about the discovery of the virus from the Journal.

The article also embarrassed WHO officials. Dr. Tom Grein, chief of WHO's acute events management team, said the agency looked "doubly, incredibly stupid." Van Kerkhove, the American expert, acknowledged WHO was "already late" in announcing the new virus and told colleagues that it was critical to push China.

Ryan, WHO's chief of emergencies, was also upset at the dearth of information.

"The fact is, we're two to three weeks into an event, we don't have a laboratory diagnosis, we don't have an age, sex or geographic distribution, we don't have an epi curve," he complained, referring to the standard graphic of outbreaks scientists use to show how an epidemic is progressing.

After the article, state media officially announced the discovery of the new coronavirus. But even then, Chinese health authorities did not release the genome, diagnostic tests, or detailed patient data that could hint at how infectious the disease was.

By that time, suspicious cases were already appearing across the region.

On Jan. 8, Thai airport officers pulled aside a woman from Wuhan with a runny nose, sore throat, and high temperature. Chulalongkorn University professor Supaporn Wacharapluesadee's team found the woman was infected with a new coronavirus, much like what Chinese officials had described. Supaporn partially figured out the genetic sequence by Jan. 9, reported it to the Thai government and spent the next day searching for matching sequences.

But because Chinese authorities hadn't published any sequences, she found nothing. She could not prove the Thai virus was the same pathogen sickening people in Wuhan.

"It was kind of wait and see, when China will release the data, then we can compare," said Supaporn.

On Jan. 9, a 61-year-old man with the virus passed away in Wuhan — the first known death. The death wasn't made public until Jan. 11.

WHO officials complained in internal meetings that they were making repeated requests for more data, especially to find out if the virus could spread efficiently between humans, but to no avail.

"We have informally and formally been requesting more epidemiological information," WHO's China representative Galea said. "But when asked for specifics, we could get nothing."

Emergencies chief Ryan grumbled that since China was providing the minimal information required by international law, there was little WHO could do. But he also noted that last September, WHO had issued an unusual public rebuke of Tanzania for not providing enough details about a worrisome Ebola outbreak.

"We have to be consistent," Ryan said. "The danger now is that despite our good intent...especially if something does happen, there will be a lot of finger-pointing at WHO."

Ryan noted that China could make a "huge contribution" to the world by sharing the genetic material immediately, because otherwise "other countries will have to reinvent the wheel over the coming days."

On Jan. 11, a team led by Zhang, from the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center, finally published a sequence on virological.org, used by researchers to swap tips on pathogens. The move angered Chinese

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CDC officials, three people familiar with the matter said, and the next day, his laboratory was temporarily shuttered by health authorities.

Zhang referred a request for comment to the Chinese CDC. The National Health Commission, which oversees the Chinese CDC, declined multiple times to make its officials available for interviews and did not answer questions about Zhang.

Supaporn compared her sequence with Zhang's and found it was a 100% match, confirming that the Thai patient was ill with the same virus detected in Wuhan. Another Thai lab got the same results. That day, Thailand informed the WHO, said Tanarak Plipat, deputy director-general of the Department of Disease Control at Thailand's Ministry of Public Health.

After Zhang released the genome, the Chinese CDC, the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences raced to publish their sequences, working overnight to review them, gather patient data, and send them to the National Health Commission for approval, according to documentation obtained by the AP. On Jan. 12, the three labs together finally published the sequences on GISAID, a platform for scientists to share genomic data.

By then, more than two weeks had passed since Vision Medicals decoded a partial sequence, and more than a week since the three government labs had all obtained full sequences. Around 600 people were infected in that week, a roughly three-fold increase.

Some scientists say the wait was not unreasonable considering the difficulties in sequencing unknown pathogens, given accuracy is as important as speed. They point to the SARS outbreak in 2003 when some Chinese scientists initially — and wrongly — believed the source of the epidemic was chlamydia.

"The pressure is intense in an outbreak to make sure you're right," said Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealthAlliance in New York. "It's actually worse to go out to go to the public with a story that's wrong because the public completely lose confidence in the public health response."

Still, others quietly question what happened behind the scenes.

Infectious diseases expert John Mackenzie, who served on a WHO emergency committee during the outbreak, praised the speed of Chinese researchers in sequencing the virus. But he said once central authorities got involved, detailed data trickled to a crawl.

"There certainly was a kind of blank period," Mackenzie said. "There had to be human to human transmission. You know, it's staring at you in the face... I would have thought they would have been much more open at that stage."

On Jan. 13, WHO announced that Thailand had a confirmed case of the virus, jolting Chinese officials.

The next day, in a confidential teleconference, China's top health official ordered the country to prepare for a pandemic, calling the outbreak the "most severe challenge since SARS in 2003", as the AP previously reported. Chinese CDC staff across the country began screening, isolating, and testing for cases, turning up hundreds across the country.

Yet even as the Chinese CDC internally declared a level one emergency, the highest level possible, Chinese officials still said the chance of sustained transmission between humans was low.

WHO went back and forth. Van Kerkhove said in a press briefing that "it is certainly possible there is limited human-to-human transmission." But hours later, WHO seemed to backtrack, and tweeted that "preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission" — a statement that later became fodder for critics.

A high-ranking official in WHO's Asia office, Dr. Liu Yunguo, who attended medical school in Wuhan, flew to Beijing to make direct, informal contacts with Chinese officials, recordings show. Liu's former classmate, a Wuhan doctor, had alerted him that pneumonia patients were flooding the city's hospitals, and Liu pushed for more experts to visit Wuhan, according to a public health expert familiar with the matter.

On Jan. 20, the leader of an expert team returning from Wuhan, renowned government infectious diseases doctor Zhong Nanshan, declared publicly for the first time that the new virus was spreading between people. Chinese President Xi Jinping called for the "timely publication of epidemic information and

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deepening of international cooperation.”

Despite that directive, WHO staff still struggled to obtain enough detailed patient data from China about the rapidly evolving outbreak. That same day, the U.N. health agency dispatched a small team to Wuhan for two days, including Galea, the WHO representative in China.

They were told about a worrying cluster of cases among more than a dozen doctors and nurses. But they did not have “transmission trees” detailing how the cases were connected, nor a full understanding of how widely the virus was spreading and who was at risk.

In an internal meeting, Galea said their Chinese counterparts were “talking openly and consistently” about human-to-human transmission, and that there was a debate about whether or not this was sustained. Galea reported to colleagues in Geneva and Manila that China’s key request to WHO was for help “in communicating this to the public, without causing panic.”

On Jan. 22, WHO convened an independent committee to determine whether to declare a global health emergency. After two inconclusive meetings where experts were split, they decided against it — even as Chinese officials ordered Wuhan sealed in the biggest quarantine in history. The next day, WHO chief Tedros publicly described the spread of the new coronavirus in China as “limited.”

For days, China didn’t release much detailed data, even as its case count exploded. Beijing city officials were alarmed enough to consider locking down the capital, according to a medical expert with direct knowledge of the matter.

On Jan. 28, Tedros and top experts, including Ryan, made an extraordinary trip to Beijing to meet President Xi and other senior Chinese officials. It is highly unusual for WHO’s director-general to directly intervene in the practicalities of outbreak investigations. Tedros’ staffers had prepared a list of requests for information.

“It could all happen and the floodgates open, or there’s no communication,” Grein said in an internal meeting while his boss was in Beijing. “We’ll see.”

At the end of Tedros’ trip, WHO announced China had agreed to accept an international team of experts. In a press briefing on Jan. 29, Tedros heaped praise on China, calling its level of commitment “incredible.”

The next day, WHO finally declared an international health emergency. Once again, Tedros thanked China, saying nothing about the earlier lack of cooperation.

“We should have actually expressed our respect and gratitude to China for what it’s doing,” Tedros said. “It has already done incredible things to limit the transmission of the virus to other countries.”

Showdown: Law-and-order president versus protesters

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, TIM SULLIVAN and AARON MORRISON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hours after President Donald Trump posed with a Bible and vowed to deploy the military to “dominate the streets,” American cities were engulfed in more violence and destruction, overshadowing peaceful protests demanding justice after generations of racism.

In New York City, nonviolent demonstrations were punctuated by people smashing storefront windows near Rockefeller Center and breaching the doors into the storied Macy’s store on 34th Street, littering parts of Manhattan with broken glass. A vehicle plowed through a group of law enforcement officers at a demonstration in Buffalo, injuring at least two.

Demonstrations erupted from Philadelphia, where hundreds of protesters spilled onto a highway in the heart of the city, to Atlanta, where police fired tear gas at demonstrators, to Nashville, where more than 60 National Guard soldiers put down their riot shields at the request of peaceful protesters who had gathered in front of Tennessee’s state Capitol to honor George Floyd.

Bystander Sean Jones, who watched as people ransacked luxury stores in Manhattan’s chic Soho neighborhood, explained the destruction this way: “People are doing this so next time, before they think about trying to kill another black person, they’re going to be like, ‘Damn, we don’t want them out here doing this ... again.’”

The unrest in Minneapolis appeared to stabilize on the same day Floyd’s brother made an impassioned plea for peace at the location where a white police officer put his knee on the handcuffed black man’s

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neck until he stopped breathing last week.

The death toll from the unrest began to mount, including two people killed in a Chicago suburb. The police chief in Louisville was fired after a beloved restaurant owner was killed by police and National Guard enforcing a curfew.

An officer was shot shortly before midnight near the Circus Circus casino in Las Vegas. Police had no immediate word on the officer's condition. Four officers were shot in St. Louis, Missouri, where police said they were expected to recover.

Trump, meanwhile, portrayed himself as a hard-nosed, law-and-order president, with police under federal command forcing back peaceful demonstrators with tear gas so he could pose with a Bible outside a damaged church.

Emerging after two days out of public view, he threatened from the White House Rose Garden to deploy "thousands and thousands" of U.S. troops. Then he made a surprise walk across Lafayette Park to a house of worship known as "The Church of the Presidents."

The photo op was condemned by Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde.

"The president just used a Bible and one of the churches of my diocese as a backdrop for a message antithetical to the teachings of Jesus and everything that our church stands for," she said.

For nearly a week since Floyd's death, largely peaceful protests by day have turned to chaos at night. Many express frustration that after years of seeking reforms, minorities still suffer and die in police custody. With so many aspects of society and the economy disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, people are demanding fundamental changes, nationwide.

"We have been sitting on a powder keg for some time and it has burst," Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said.

The president, seeking his second term in office, vowed to use more force to stop the violence.

If governors don't deploy the National Guard in sufficient numbers to "dominate the streets," Trump said, the U.S. military would step in to "quickly solve the problem for them."

"We have the greatest country in the world," the president declared. "We're going to keep it safe."

As Trump spoke, tear gas canisters could be heard exploding.

A military deployment by Trump to U.S. states would mark a stunning federal intervention rarely seen in modern American history. It drew comparisons to 1968, when Richard Nixon ran as the law-and-order candidate in the aftermath of riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Minutes before Trump began speaking, police and National Guard soldiers began aggressively removing hundreds of peaceful protesters from the Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, where they were chanting against police brutality and Floyd's death.

Five months before Election Day, the president made clear that he would stake his reelection efforts on convincing voters that his strong-arm approach was warranted to quell the most intense civil unrest since the 1960s. He made little effort to address the grievances of black Americans and others outraged by Floyd's death and the scourge of police brutality, undermining what his campaign had hoped would be increased appeal to African American voters.

The scene in and around the White House appeared to be carefully orchestrated. As the crowd of protesters grew, Attorney General William Barr arrived in Lafayette Park to look over at the demonstrations and the swarm of law enforcement. Once his path was cleared, Trump, who rarely attends church, then walked through the park and held up a Bible, posing for photos with an all-white group of advisors.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Trump "used the military to push out a peaceful protest so he could have a photo op at a church."

Federal law permits presidents to dispatch the military into states to suppress an insurrection or if a state is defying federal law, legal experts said. But officials in New York and other states asserted that the president does not have a unilateral right to send in troops against the will of local governments.

Earlier Monday, Trump told the nation's governors in a video conference that they "look like fools" for not deploying even more National Guard troops. "Most of you are weak," he said.

"You've got to arrest people, you have to track people, you have to put them in jail for 10 years and

you'll never see this stuff again," Trump said.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, dismissed Trump's comments as the "rantings of an insecure man trying to look strong after building his entire political career on racism."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, vowed to address institutional racism in his first 100 days in office. He met in person with black leaders in Delaware and also held a virtual meeting with big-city mayors.

Biden said hate emerges "when you have somebody in power who breathes oxygen into the hate."

More than 5,600 people nationwide have been arrested over the past week for such offenses as stealing, blocking highways and breaking curfew, according to a count by The Associated Press.

Monkeys, ferrets offer needed clues in COVID-19 vaccine race

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

The global race for a COVID-19 vaccine boils down to some critical questions: How much must the shots rev up someone's immune system to really work? And could revving it the wrong way cause harm?

Even as companies recruit tens of thousands of people for larger vaccine studies this summer, behind the scenes scientists still are testing ferrets, monkeys and other animals in hopes of clues to those basic questions — steps that in a pre-pandemic era would have been finished first.

"We are in essence doing a great experiment," said Ralph Baric, a coronavirus expert at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, whose lab is testing several vaccine candidates in animals.

The speed-up is necessary to try to stop a virus that has triggered a pandemic, killing more than 360,000 worldwide and shuttering economies. But "there's no question there is more risk in the current strategy than what has ever been done before," Baric said.

The animal testing lets scientists see how the body reacts to vaccines in ways studies in people never can, said Kate Broderick, research chief at Inovio Pharmaceuticals.

With animals, "we're able to perform autopsies and look specifically at their lung tissue and get a really deep dive in looking at how their lungs have reacted," Broderick said.

She's awaiting results from mice, ferrets and monkeys that are being exposed to the coronavirus after receiving Inovio's vaccine. Since no species perfectly mimics human infection, testing a trio broadens the look at safety.

And there's some good news on the safety front as the first animal data from various research teams starts to trickle out. So far, there are no signs of a worrisome side effect called disease enhancement, which Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health calls reassuring.

Enhancement is just what the name implies: Very rarely, a vaccine doesn't stimulate the immune system in quite the right way, producing antibodies that not only can't fully block infection but that make any resulting disease worse.

That first happened in the 1960s with failure of a vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus, RSV, an infection dangerous to young children. More recently, it has complicated efforts at vaccines against mosquito-spread dengue fever.

And some attempted vaccines for SARS, a cousin of COVID-19, seemed to cause enhancement in animal testing.

Fast forward to the pandemic. Three recently reported studies in monkeys tested different COVID-19 vaccine approaches, including shots made by Oxford University and China's Sinovac. The studies were small, but none of the monkeys showed evidence of immune-enhanced disease when scientists later dripped the coronavirus directly into the animals' noses or windpipes.

Some of the best evidence so far that a vaccine might work also comes from those monkey studies. Oxford and Sinovac created very different types of COVID-19 vaccines, and in separate studies, each team recently reported that vaccinated monkeys were protected from pneumonia while monkeys given a dummy shot got sick.

But protection against severe disease is just a first step. Could a vaccine also stop the virus's spread?

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The Oxford study raises some doubt.

Those researchers found as much virus lingering in the vaccinated monkeys' noses as in the unvaccinated. Even though the experiment exposed monkeys to high levels of the coronavirus, it raised troubling questions.

The type of vaccine -- how it targets the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus -- may make a difference. Researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston designed six different vaccine prototypes. Some only partially protected monkeys -- but one fully protected eight monkeys from any sign of the virus, said Dr. Dan Barouch, who is working with Johnson & Johnson on yet another COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

In monkeys, the new coronavirus lodges in the lungs but seldom makes them super sick. Ferrets — the preferred animal for flu vaccine development — may help tell if potential COVID-19 vaccines might stop the viral spread.

"Ferrets develop a fever. They also cough and sneeze," infecting each other much like people do, said vaccine researcher Alyson Kelvin of Canada's Dalhousie University.

And while COVID-19 is a huge risk to the elderly, vaccines often don't rev up an older person's immune system as well as a younger person's. So Kelvin also is studying older ferrets.

Some vaccine makers are reporting promising immune reactions in the first people given the experimental shots, including production of "neutralizing" antibodies, a kind that latches onto the virus and blocks it from infecting cells. But there's a hitch.

Said Inovio's Broderick: "Let me be honest. We're still not clear at all on what those correlates of protection are" — meaning what mix of immune reactions, and how much, are needed.

Some clues come from the blood of COVID-19 survivors, although "there's a huge variation" in immune reactions between the severely and mildly ill, Broderick added.

Still, if vaccinated animals that produce the same neutralizing antibody levels as certain COVID-19 survivors are protected — and people given test doses likewise produce the same amount — "that is great comfort that your vaccine approach actually may work," said Kathrin Jansen, head of Pfizer Inc.'s vaccine research.

But ultimately the real proof won't come before huge studies of whether vaccinated people get sick less often than the unvaccinated.

Death toll grows in national protests

By LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

One man was the beloved owner of a Louisville barbecue restaurant who made sure to provide free meals to officers. Another was a man known as "Mr. Indianapolis," a former star football player. Yet another was a federal officer working security during a protest.

They are among the people who have been killed as protests roiled American cities in the week since 46-year-old George Floyd died when a white officer jammed his knee into the back of the black man's neck.

The deaths have at times been overshadowed by the shocking images of chaos engulfing cities across America, from heavy-handed riot police tactics to violence, vandalism and arson. Tens of thousands have marched peacefully in demonstrations against police brutality and racism.

Many of the people killed were African Americans, compounding the tragedy for black families to lose more members of their community amid the unrest.

Dozens more have been hurt in various altercations — vehicles plowing into crowds, police officers suffering head injuries and broken bones and protesters ending up in emergency rooms with a variety of injuries from the melees.

The death toll and circumstances surrounding the killings are still being sorted out in many cities, but here is what we know about the cases so far:

LOUISVILLE

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As local police and the National Guard sought to disperse a crowd early Monday, they heard gunshots and returned fire, killing the owner of a barbecue restaurant, David McAtee. The mayor has since terminated the city's police chief after finding out that officers on the scene did not activate their body cameras. The state police and the U.S. attorney also are investigating.

The 53-year-old McAtee was an African American man known for offering free meals to officers who stopped by.

"We lost a wonderful citizen named David McAtee," Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said. "David was a friend to many, a well-known Barbecue man."

The protests in Louisville have centered not just on Floyd's killing but also the death of Breonna Taylor, a black woman killed in her home in Louisville in March. The 26-year-old EMT was shot eight times by narcotics detectives who knocked down her front door as they attempted to enforce a search warrant. No drugs were found in the home.

OAKLAND

A federal law enforcement officer was providing security at the federal courthouse in Oakland during a protest when someone fired shots from a vehicle.

Dave Patrick Underwood, 53, died and another officer was critically injured in the shooting.

It was not immediately clear if the drive-by shooting was related to the protests, though the federal building's glass doors were smashed and the front entrance was sprayed with anti-police graffiti.

Underwood, who was black, and the other officer were contracted security officers and employed by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service; they were monitoring a nearby protest.

No one has been arrested and a motive for the shooting has not yet been determined.

Underwood was the brother of Angela Underwood Jacobs, recently a Republican candidate to fill a vacant U.S. congressional district north of Los Angeles.

INDIANAPOLIS

Two people were killed over the weekend amid unrest in Indianapolis, including 38-year-old Chris Beaty, a former offensive lineman for Indiana University.

Beaty was known as "Mr. Indianapolis" and remained involved with the Hoosiers long after his graduation. He also was a prominent businessman in the city and ran multiple nightclubs.

"I am at a loss for words. The news of the passing of Chris Beaty is just devastating," coach Tom Allen said in a statement. "Since I returned home to coach at Indiana, Chris embraced me, encouraged me and supported me! His passion for life and Indiana Football energized me every time we were together."

The circumstances of his shooting weren't immediately clear but some media reports said it happened near an apartment where he lived. It also occurred the same night that an 18-year-old man also was fatally shot as protests broke out in the city.

MINNEAPOLIS

In what is believed to be the first killing since the protests broke out, a 43-year-old black man was fatally shot outside a pawn shop as rioting broke out last week in Minneapolis and then spread nationally.

The owner of the pawn shop, who is white, was arrested in the death of Calvin L. Horton Jr. Police say they are investigating the circumstances surrounding the killing, including whether it was related to protests in the neighborhood.

The shop was described as having been significantly damaged during unrest.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

A 22-year-old black man was killed after authorities said he tussled with the owner of two bars in downtown Omaha. Surveillance video of the strip of bars shows a group of people, including James Scurlock, approach bar owner Jake Gardner.

Two people are seen on the video tackling Gardner, who ended up on his back and fired shots in the air.

Seconds later, Scurlock is seen tackling Gardner, who then fires the gun over his shoulder, striking Scurlock. Authorities have declined to press charges, calling the shooting self-defense.

DETROIT

A 21-year-old man was killed in downtown Detroit after someone fired shots into a vehicle during a protest. According to a police report, the man was sitting in the driver's seat of a car in a parking lot with two others when someone fired shots into the vehicle and then fled on foot.

CHICAGO SUBURB

Two people were killed during unrest Monday in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, according to a town official. Spokesman Ray Hanania did not provide details about those who were killed but said it happened amid protests there.

Associated Press journalist Herbert McCann contributed from Chicago.

The Latest: Police say 4 officers shot in St. Louis protests

By 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:

ST. LOUIS — Police say four officers were hit by gunfire after protests in St. Louis that started peacefully Monday became violent overnight, with demonstrators smashing windows and stealing items from businesses and fires burning in the downtown area.

The police department tweeted early Tuesday that the officers were taken to a hospital with injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening. It was unclear who had fired the shots.

The chaos in St. Louis followed continued protests Monday in Missouri over the death of George Floyd and police treatment of African Americans, with gatherings also held in Kansas City and Jefferson City.

On Monday afternoon, several hundred people rallied peacefully outside the justice center in downtown St. Louis, including Mayor Lyda Krewson and St. Louis Public Safety Director Jimmie Edwards. Protesters later walked to the Gateway Arch National Park and then onto nearby Interstate 64.

But later Monday, protesters gathered in front of police headquarters, where officers fired tear gas. Some protesters smashed windows at a downtown 7-11 store and stole items from inside before the building was set on fire.

NEW YORK — New York City imposed a late-night curfew Monday that failed to prevent another night of destruction, including arrests after a break-in at the iconic Macy's store on 34th Street, following protests over George Floyd's death.

As the 11 p.m. deadline to get off the streets approached, bands of protesters marched peacefully through Manhattan and Brooklyn, but police simultaneously responded to numerous reports of roving groups of people smashing their way into shops and emptying them of merchandise.

The doors of Macy's flagship Manhattan store were breached. Police pulled two handcuffed men out and put them in a van.

People rushed into a Nike store and carried out armloads of clothing. Near Rockefeller Center, storefront windows were smashed and multiple people arrested. Bank windows were smashed. Wreckage littered the inside of an AT&T store.

Video posted on social media showed some protesters arguing with people breaking windows, urging them to stop, but instances of vandalism and smash-and-grab thefts mounted as the night deepened.

New York joined other cities around the country in imposing a curfew after days of unrest. It comes on top of months of restrictions on public gatherings already imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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Enough mayhem happened before the curfew took effect that Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted that it would move up to 8 p.m. Tuesday. The curfew lifts at 5 a.m.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Workers in Alabama's largest city began removing a Confederate monument Monday night after demonstrators failed to knock down the obelisk the night before.

Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin sent workers with heavy equipment to take down the more than 50-foot-tall Confederate monument made of stone. Late on Monday, after a 7 p.m. curfew took effect and streets were mostly clear, crews began their work.

Live video showed workers attaching straps to the peak of the obelisk so it could be lifted away with a crane. Within a few hours they had removed the top of the monument.

Woodfin said the city would see if the memorial could be given to a museum or another group.

Woodfin said the fine the city may face for violating a state law banning the removal of Confederate and other long-standing monuments is more affordable than the cost of continued unrest in the city.

Attorney General Steve Marshall, in a statement, said the city would face an assessment of \$25,000 if it removed the monument, which has been the subject of a court fight between the mostly black city and Republican-controlled state.

CICERO, Ill. — Two people have been killed during unrest in the Chicago suburb of Cicero as protests continued over the death of George Floyd, according to a town official.

Spokesman Ray Hanania says 60 people were arrested in the town of about 84,000 located west of Chicago. Hanania didn't provide additional information about those killed or the circumstances of their deaths.

The Illinois State Police and Cook County Sheriff's Office were called in to help local police Monday as people broke into a liquor store and other businesses and stole items.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A vehicle plowed through a group of law enforcement officers at a George Floyd demonstration Monday night in Buffalo, injuring at least two.

Video from the scene shows the vehicle accelerating through an intersection shortly after officers apparently tackle a protester on the street and handcuff him. Officers are seen scattering to avoid the SUV as it drives off on Buffalo's east side. Apparent gunshots are heard.

The officers were taken to Erie County Medical Center. Authorities said they were in stable condition.

WASHINGTON — Law enforcement officers used tear gas, pellets and low-flying helicopters to turn back demonstrators in Washington protesting the death of George Floyd.

Protesters remained on the streets well past the 7 p.m. curfew that had been imposed by District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser. They had spent hours marching peacefully around the nation's capital before they were buzzed by the helicopters, which kicked up debris.

A standoff developed within site of the Capitol.

Protesters smashed windows at the Teamsters building as they dispersed.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Riot police firing tear gas scattered several hundred protesters from Louisville's downtown Jefferson Square, violently capping a day of mostly peaceful protests.

Riot police with batons at the ready stood shoulder to shoulder as they advanced down key streets before breaking up the protest after a brief standoff shortly after 10 p.m. Demonstrators shouted at police as authorities on a microphone ordered the crowd to disperse before loud bursts of tear gas crackled and spread acrid, choking smoke over the area.

Protesters began running and military-style vehicles could later be seen occupying the key square fronting a courthouse complex. Some protesters gasped and held wet cloths to their faces as they ran from the wafting gas and advancing police. A helicopter clattered overhead amid the bursts of tear gas fire, and streets appeared to largely empty out.

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Tiger Woods is speaking out for the first time since George Floyd's death, saying his heart goes out to Floyd, his family and everyone who is hurting right now.

The golfer says he has always had the "utmost respect for our law enforcement," but Floyd's death crossed a line.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

Referencing the protests in his statement, Woods says, "We can make our points without burning the very neighborhoods we live in."

ATLANTA — Protesters were still in the streets of downtown Atlanta on Monday night as curfew neared, and police officers and the National Guard used tear gas, starting shortly before 9 p.m.

Protesters largely dispersed after that, though some remained, and officers were making arrests, apparently for curfew violations. A similar scene played out the night before.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The fatal shooting of the popular owner of a Louisville barbecue spot has prompted a massive march to the site where the restaurateur was killed early Monday.

David McAtee died while police officers and National Guard soldiers were enforcing a curfew amid waves of protests in the Kentucky city. Mayor Greg Fischer revealed earlier Monday that police officers lacked body camera video for the investigation.

The large group marched peacefully Monday evening as some honked horns in solidarity and marchers raised clenched fists. Louisville's police chief was fired by the city's mayor on Monday after the mayor learned that officers failed to activate body cameras at the chaotic scene where McAtee was shot.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — More than 60 National Guard troops put down their riot shields Monday evening at the request of peaceful protesters who had gathered in front of Tennessee's state Capitol in Nashville to honor George Floyd.

Guardsman had initially rushed to grab their shields and form a hard line to block the slowly moving crowd — which was singing and chanting — from advancing up the Capitol steps. As the National Guard began moving, Tennessee State Police grabbed batons and formed a line behind them. However, the crowd remained calm.

Democratic lawmakers leaving the Capitol asked to be able to move past the line of guards to join the crowd. As the crowd continued to sing and call for justice for black Americans, slowly the shields began to drop. The state troopers declined to drop their batons but backed farther away from the crowd.

Monday's peaceful vigil was a marked difference from several protests that turned violent in Tennessee over the weekend.

At least 5,600 people have been arrested in cities around the country since demonstrations broke out protesting the death of George Floyd, according to a tally compiled by AP journalists from police department press releases, police agency Twitter activity and media reports.

The protests began after the May 25 death of Floyd, a black man who died in Minneapolis after a white police officer who is now charged with murder, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped moving and pleading for air.

The arrests come as protests in some cities become more violent and as police and governors are urged by President Donald Trump to take a stronger hand in quelling the demonstrations.

In Minneapolis, where Floyd died, some 155 arrests have taken place. Some of the biggest cities in the U.S. have made a significant number of arrests, including nearly 800 in New York City and more than 900 in Los Angeles.

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WASHINGTON — Protesters took a knee in the middle of a downtown Washington street Monday night, chanting, “What do we want? Justice. When do we want it? Now.”

They applauded as they rose to their feet and declared that the streets were theirs.

Over the past few nights, demonstrators protesting the death of George Floyd in Minnesota had asked black police officers to take a knee to show their support.

The march Monday night was peaceful as nightfall approached. There was no apparent effort to get protesters off the streets even though a 7 p.m. curfew had passed.

Earlier, law enforcement officers on horseback and foot aggressively pushed the protesters away from Lafayette Park near the White House so President Donald Trump could visit a church that was damaged by fire during the protests Sunday night.

WASHINGTON — Protesters marched on the National Mall and D.C. streets after being driven from the White House by law enforcement officers on horseback and foot so President Donald Trump could visit St. John’s Church, which was damaged during the demonstrations Sunday night.

The demonstrators passed the Lincoln and World War II Memorials and the Washington Monument on the Mall before heading back to the streets near the White House. There was no apparent attempt to disburse the protesters even though a 7 p.m. curfew had passed.

At Farragut Square, a few blocks from the White House, there were about two law enforcement officers for every civilian.

Multiple helicopters buzzed overhead, a relative rarity in the District of Columbia, which is normally a no-fly zone for helicopters and drones.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Heavy equipment arrived Monday night at the Birmingham park where protesters tried but failed to topple a more than 50-foot-tall Confederate monument made of stone Sunday.

It could be the first step toward removing the obelisk. Mayor Randall Woodfin has vowed to remove the monument, which was at the center of a court fight between the city and state over an Alabama law protecting rebel memorials.

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on Monday evening slammed President Donald Trump’s threat to deploy the United States military to American cities to quell a rise of violent protests.

In an emailed statement in response to the president’s comments, the Democrat said Trump “has repeatedly proven he is incapable of governing and shown nothing but false bravado throughout the chaos that has accompanied his time in office.”

“He cowers at the feet of authoritarians around the world,” Inslee said. “Now he uses the most supreme power of the presidency in a desperate attempt to hide his timidity and vapidty. I pray no soldier and no civilian is injured or killed by this reckless fit.”

The Seattle area has seen several days of violence, including vandalism in the city’s downtown core.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown says she won’t send National Guard troops to actively help quell violent protests in Portland over the killing of George Floyd because they aren’t needed and that “is exactly what President Trump wants.”

At a Monday news conference, Brown said she would send 100 state police from around Oregon to assist the city, and activate 50 Guard troops to work in support and behind the scenes.

Earlier in the day, President Donald Trump slammed many governors as “weak” and demanded tougher crackdowns on burning and stealing among some demonstrations. Trump spoke to governors via video teleconference.

Brown said having National Guard soldiers on the streets was the wrong way to go.

“You don’t defuse violence by putting soldiers on the streets,” the Democrat said. “Trump wants governors to deploy the national guard to intimidate the public.”

Portland remains under a curfew order that takes effect at 8 p.m. nightly. Police arrested 11 adults during

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protests Sunday and early Monday morning after authorities said projectiles — including “large, industrial grade mortar-type fireworks” — were thrown at officers.

“Having soldiers on the streets of America is exactly what President Trump wants,” Brown said.

Former boxing champion Floyd Mayweather has offered to pay for George Floyd’s funeral and memorial services, and the family has accepted the offer.

Mayweather personally has been in touch with the family, according to Leonard Ellerbe, the CEO of Mayweather Promotions. He will handle costs for the funeral on June 9 in Floyd’s hometown of Houston, as well as other expenses.

TMZ originally reported Mayweather’s offer.

“He’ll probably get mad at me for saying that, but yes, he is definitely paying for the funeral,” Ellerbe told ESPN.com on Monday.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn’t breathe. His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is visiting the 200-year-old church near the White House that was set on fire as demonstrators clashed with police over the weekend.

Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of president has attended a service at St. John’s Church.

Law enforcement cleared protesters out of the area with tear gas before Trump’s visit. Tear gas canisters could be heard exploding as Trump spoke in the Rose Garden. He then walked over to the church.

The protesters appeared to be acting peacefully before they were dispersed by force.

Trump is urging the nation’s governors to get tougher with violent protesters and to deploy the National Guard.

He said in the Rose Garden that he is an ally of peaceful protesters, but he stressed that “I am your president of law and order.”

PHILADELPHIA — Police fired non-lethal bullets and tear gas at hundreds of protesters who spilled onto an interstate highway in the heart of Philadelphia on Monday just before a 6 p.m. curfew took effect.

The crowds on Interstate 676 also led to the closure of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, the main link from downtown Philadelphia to New Jersey suburbs across the Delaware River.

Some climbed a steep embankment and scaled a fence as police acted.

More than two dozen were arrested as a few hundred other protesters moved to block the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a grand thoroughfare leading from downtown the city’s imposing art museum.

Virus-tracking app angers thousands in Moscow with fines

By DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — When nurse Maria Alexeyeva caught coronavirus at work, she isolated herself at home and followed the rules set down by Moscow authorities: She checked in with doctors regularly, didn’t leave her apartment and downloaded a smartphone app required by the city to keep tabs on quarantined patients.

The Social Monitoring app tracks users via GPS and sends them random notifications demanding a selfie to prove they’re still at home. If it detects they’ve left home or they fail to provide a photo, they face a fine of about \$56 each time.

But soon the app became a nightmare for Alexeyeva. It crashed when she tried to take a photo. Weak with illness, she struggled with the software for days, sometimes on hold for hours with technical support. And when her quarantine ended, she discovered she had accumulated 11 fines totaling \$620.

“That’s more than my monthly wage,” Alexeyeva told The Associated Press. “This quarantine has been hard on me. And now I have to deal with this on top of it.”

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Thousands of Muscovites also complain they have been wrongfully fined by the quarantine app. In slightly over a month, authorities issued some 54,000 fines, totaling \$3 million among its nearly 70,000 registered users.

Authorities insist the fines were justified, issued to those who repeatedly violated quarantine. But the app's users say it has glitches and flaws, sometimes demanding selfies in the middle of the night, adding that the fines were dished out arbitrarily.

Moscow has been Russia's biggest hot spot during the pandemic, recording nearly half of the country's more than 414,000 cases. As the city of 12 million struggled to contain the outbreak, it used technology that later drew widespread criticism.

After two virus cases were reported in February, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin authorized facial recognition software to track Chinese citizens in the capital, drawing complaints from rights groups. When the city introduced digital passes for commuters in April, tightly packed crowds formed at Metro stations as police checked smartphones individually.

But the biggest complaints focus on the Social Monitoring app, which was rolled out in early April and was mandatory for those infected with the virus or suspected of having it.

Patients had to sign a form requiring them to install the app as part of their quarantine notifications, although they said they were not told how to use the app or what actions would lead to fines.

Grigory Sakharov, who self-isolated after a week in the hospital with coronavirus-induced pneumonia, was given six fines, totaling about \$336. Two dated back to when he was still hospitalized, even though he didn't install the app until after his discharge.

"I don't mind paying a fine for something I did wrong, but I don't understand what I'm paying for here," Sakharov told the AP.

Svetlana Bystrova, quarantined at home with flu-like symptoms, didn't install the app. She said her doctors didn't tell her she had to, and she didn't notice a clause obligating her to use the app in the quarantine order she signed.

After two weeks of strict self-isolation, Bystrova found she had been fined four times, totaling \$224. One was for not installing the app, two said it detected her outside her apartment, and one was for not giving details of her wrongdoing.

"The one for not installing the app I get, fair enough," Bystrova said. "But how can the app I never installed track my movements?"

Vladimir Perevalov, who installed the app and diligently took selfies, was fined three times for \$168. The app never sent him any notifications, he said.

The outrage has mounted as tales of arbitrary fines mushroomed on social media. By the end of May, authorities got over 2,500 complaints contesting the fines, and more than 200 lawsuits were filed. Three online petitions demanding to abolish the app got over 94,000 signatures.

Tanya Lokshina, associate director for Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia division, said while many countries use mobile tracking apps, she hasn't seen one getting so many complaints.

"The situation is absurd. It's insane," Lokshina said. "Instead of serving to contain the epidemic, it in fact serves ... to punish law-abiding citizens who actually attempt to play by the rules."

On May 21, Human Rights Watch urged Moscow authorities to drop the app, noting that on top of the arbitrary fines, Social Monitoring violated users' privacy by accessing their location, calls, camera, network information and other data.

Russia's Presidential Human Rights Council echoed HRW's stance, urging officials to cancel all fines.

But Alexei Nemeryuk, the mayor's deputy chief of staff, said there will be no amnesty, noting: "There's a system for contesting the fines."

That has proved unsuccessful, said Leonid Solovyov of the Apologia Protesta legal aid group, which is working with over 100 people were fined. He said those who are fined must provide proof they did nothing wrong, which is difficult, while authorities are basing the punishment on data from the app.

"Some fines are indeed being overruled," Solovyov told AP, but only the "most egregious cases."

City Hall has said it was canceling 468 fines for failing to take a selfie because the app made those requests in the middle of the night.

Another high-profile case involved Irina Karabulatova, a bed-ridden professor who hasn't left her apartment in a year and got two fines for not installing the app. After her story made national headlines, the fines were canceled and officials apologized.

"They canceled my (fines) because journalists stood up for me," Karabulatova told AP. "But what is going to happen to the others is a big question."

On Thursday, Sakharov started receiving messages saying his fines were canceled. Alexeyeva, the nurse, also was contacted by officials who promised to lift all her fines.

Then, Alexeyeva's mother was notified she was being fined: Social Monitoring detected her leaving the apartment.

"My mother was quarantined with me. She didn't sign (a document) that had a clause on using Social Monitoring and she doesn't have the app," Alexeyeva said. "Looks like we got excited too soon."

Democratic governors reject Trump's call to send in military

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Several Democratic governors on Monday pushed back against President Donald Trump's threat to deploy the U.S. military unless they dispatch National Guard units to "dominate the streets" in reaction to the violence that has erupted across the country.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said he doesn't believe the federal government can send military troops into his state. He accused the president of creating an "incendiary moment" by threatening to do just that to quell violence that has arisen as demonstrators have taken to the streets in reaction to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"I reject the notion that the federal government can send troops into the state of Illinois," Pritzker said on CNN after Trump urged governors to deploy the Guard. If they did not, he said he would send in "thousands and thousands" of soldiers.

Pritzker was among the first governors to react to Trump's comments, which came hours after the president called governors "weak" and urged them to take a more aggressive response to weekend violence. It came as Americans gathered to protest police brutality against black Americans following the killing of Floyd, who was handcuffed and on the ground pleading for air as a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck for several minutes.

Some demonstrations have turned violent, with people breaking into and stealing from businesses, smashing car windows and setting fires.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not deployed the state's National Guard to New York City, although he said earlier Monday the state had 13,000 troops that "we can use at any moment."

"I say thank you but no thank you," Cuomo said on CNN about Trump's call to send military troops to the states.

At least 23 states and the District of Columbia had already deployed guard troops as of Monday morning, according to a statement from the National Guard. It wasn't clear whether the action would be enough to satisfy the president. Trump took no questions from reporters and did not say how he would decide whether a state's response was sufficient.

Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington, who has activated the state's guard, said in a statement he prays "no soldier and no civilian is injured or killed by this reckless fit."

"This president has repeatedly proven he is incapable of governing and shown nothing but false bravado throughout the chaos that has accompanied his time in office," Inslee said in a statement.

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, also a Democrat, said any suggestions the state's National Guard is ill equipped to handle the states needs is "misinformed." "As the Commander In Chief of the Nevada National Guard I can state, categorically, that they have done their duty to protect all Nevadans, and will continue to do so."

In neighboring Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown said the violence is being perpetrated by a small segment of

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demonstrators. She refused to deploy the National Guard on Sunday at Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's request because she was concerned it would escalate a tense situation, but on Monday activated 50 un-armed guard members in support roles.

"You don't defuse violence by putting soldiers on the streets," Brown, a Democrat, said earlier Monday in reaction to Trump's comments about governors being weak in their response. "Trump wants governors to deploy the National Guard as a show of force to intimidate the public. I want to ensure that the public can safely raise their voices in this much-needed call for reform."

She didn't immediately comment on Trump's remarks about deploying the U.S. military.

Nor did California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has deployed thousands of guard troops to Los Angeles and other cities. He called Trump's morning comments "noise" and avoided addressing them directly, although he said the nation is desperate for leadership.

Guard members can assist law enforcement and perform duties such as traffic control, communications support and extinguishing fires.

Trump threatens military force against protesters nationwide

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE, TIM SULLIVAN and AARON MORRISON** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wielding extraordinary federal authority, President Donald Trump threatened the nation's governors on Monday that he would deploy the military to states if they did not stamp out violent protests over police brutality that have roiled the nation over the past week. His announcement came as police under federal command forced back peaceful demonstrators with tear gas so he could walk to a nearby church and pose with a Bible.

Trump's bellicose rhetoric came as the nation convulsed through another round of violence over the death of George Floyd at a time when the country is already buckling under the coronavirus outbreak and the Depression-level unemployment it has caused. The president demanded an end to the heated protests in remarks from the White House Rose Garden and vowed to use more force to achieve that aim.

If governors throughout the country do not deploy the National Guard in sufficient numbers to "dominate the streets," Trump said the U.S. military would step in to "quickly solve the problem for them."

"We have the greatest country in the world," the president declared. "We're going to keep it safe."

A military deployment by Trump to U.S. states would mark a stunning federal intervention rarely seen in modern American history. Yet the message Trump appeared to be sending with the brazen pushback of protesters outside the White House was that he sees few limits to what he is willing to do.

Some around the president likened the moment to 1968, when Richard Nixon ran as the law-and-order candidate in the aftermath of a summer of riots, capturing the White House. But despite his efforts to portray himself as a political outsider, Trump is an incumbent who risks being held responsible for the violence.

Minutes before Trump began speaking, police and National Guard soldiers began aggressively forcing back hundreds of peaceful protesters who had gathered in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, where they were chanting against police brutality and Floyd's death in Minneapolis. As Trump spoke, tear gas canisters could be heard exploding.

Floyd died last week after he was pinned to the pavement by a police officer who put his knee on the handcuffed black man's neck until he stopped breathing. His death set off protests that spread from Minneapolis across America. His brother Terrence pleaded with protesters on Monday to remain peaceful.

Five months before Election Day, the president made clear that he would stake his reelection efforts on convincing voters that his strong-arm approach was warranted to quell the most intense civil unrest since the 1960s. He made little effort to address the grievances of black Americans and others outraged by Floyd's death and the scourge of police brutality, undermining what his campaign had hoped would be increased appeal to African American voters.

The scene in and around the White House on Monday night appeared to be carefully orchestrated. As the crowd of protesters grew, Attorney General William Barr arrived in Lafayette Park to look over at the

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demonstrations and the swarm of law enforcement.

The sudden shift in tactics against the protesters was initially a mystery. Then, after finishing his Rose Garden remarks, Trump emerged from the White House gates and walked through the park to St. John's Church, where an office had been set on fire the previous night.

Trump, who rarely attends church, held up a Bible and gathered a group of advisers — all white — to pose for photos.

The moment was quickly decried by Trump's critics, with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo saying the president "used the military to push out a peaceful protest so he could have a photo op at a church."

"It's all just a reality TV show for this president," he said on Twitter. "Shameful."

Federal law permits presidents to dispatch the military into states to suppress an insurrection or if a state is defying federal law, legal experts said. But Trump's statements also set up an immediate conflict with officials in New York and other states who asserted that the president does not have the unilateral right to send in troops against the will of local governments.

The country has been beset by angry demonstrations for the past week in some of the most widespread racial unrest in the U.S. since the 1960s. Spurred largely by Floyd's death, protesters have taken to the streets to decry the killings of black people by police. Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin has been charged with murder, but protesters are demanding that three of his colleagues be prosecuted, too. All four were fired.

While most of the demonstrations have been peaceful, others have descended into violence, leaving neighborhoods in shambles, stores ransacked, windows broken and cars burned, despite curfews around the country and the deployment of thousands of National Guard members in at least 15 states.

On Monday, demonstrations erupted from Philadelphia, where hundreds of protesters spilled onto a highway in the heart of the city, to Atlanta, where police fired tear gas at demonstrators, to Nashville, where more than 60 National Guard soldiers put down their riot shields at the request of peaceful protesters who had gathered in front of Tennessee's state Capitol to honor Floyd. Two people were killed during protests in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, authorities said, but provided no details. In Louisville, Kentucky, riot police firing tear gas scattered several hundred protesters from downtown, violently capping a day of mostly peaceful protests.

A vehicle plowed through a group of law enforcement officers at a demonstration in Buffalo, New York, injuring at least two. Video from the scene showed the vehicle accelerating through an intersection shortly after officers apparently tackled a protester and handcuffed him. The officers were hospitalized in stable condition, authorities said.

In New York City, where nightfall has brought widespread scenes of destruction, large crowds rallied peacefully in Times Square and Brooklyn during the day. Then, in early evening, looters rushed into a Nike store in Manhattan and protesters smashed storefront windows near Rockefeller Center. Video posted on social media showed some protesters arguing with people breaking windows, urging them to stop.

The city has already endured immense commercial damage from the unrest. On Monday, rioters got through the doors of the city's flagship Macy's store, famous for its Thanksgiving Day parade, and police later pulled at least two handcuffed men out of the store and put them into a van. By that time, most of the the street was littered with broken glass.

In Washington, protesters continued marching peacefully through Washington hours after being forced from Lafayette park and past the 7 p.m. curfew.

Eventually, within sight of the Capitol building, the marchers were turned back by law enforcement officers using tear gas, pellets and low-flying helicopters kicking up debris. As they dispersed, some protesters smashed windows at a nearby office building.

Earlier Monday, Trump told the nation's governors in a video conference that they "look like fools" for not deploying even more National Guard troops. "Most of you are weak," he said.

He added: "You've got to arrest people, you have to track people, you have to put them in jail for 10 years and you'll never see this stuff again."

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Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, dismissed Trump's comments as the "rantings of an insecure man trying to look strong after building his entire political career on racism."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, vowed to address institutional racism in his first 100 days in office. He met in person with black leaders in Delaware and also held a virtual meeting with big-city mayors.

Biden said hate emerges "when you have somebody in power who breathes oxygen into the hate."

In Minneapolis, meanwhile, Floyd's brother Terrence made an emotional plea for peace at the site where Floyd was arrested.

"Let's switch it up, y'all. Let's switch it up. Do this peacefully, please," Terrence Floyd said as he urged people to use their power at the ballot box.

Also Monday, an autopsy commissioned for Floyd's family found that he died of asphyxiation from neck and back compression, the family's attorneys said.

Authorities in many cities have blamed the violence on outside agitators, though have provided little evidence to back that up.

But on Monday, federal authorities arrested a 28-year-old Illinois man saying he had posted self-recorded video on his Facebook page last week that showed him in Minneapolis handing out explosive devices and encouraging people to throw them at law enforcement officers.

More than 5,600 people nationwide have been arrested over the past week for such offenses as stealing, blocking highways and breaking curfew, according to a count by The Associated Press.

Tear gas, threats for protesters before Trump visits church

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It began with Attorney General Bill Barr standing with his hands casually in his pockets, not wearing a tie, surveying the scene at Lafayette Park across from the White House, where several thousand protesters had gathered for more demonstrations after the police killing of George Floyd.

President Donald Trump had announced he would soon be addressing the nation from the White House Rose Garden, as a 7 p.m. curfew in the city loomed and a mass of law enforcement, including U.S. Secret Service agents, Park Police and National Guardsmen, stood sentry, many dressed in riot gear.

Moments before 6:30 p.m., just when Trump said he would begin his address, the officers suddenly marched forward, directly confronting the protesters as many held up their hands, saying, "Don't shoot."

Soon, law enforcement officers were aggressively forcing the protesters back, firing tear gas and deploying flash bangs into the crowd to disperse them from the park for seemingly no reason. It was a jarring scene as police in the nation's capital forcefully cleared young men and women gathered legally in a public park on a sunny evening, all of it on live television.

With smoke still wafting and isolated tussles continuing in the crowd, Trump emerged in the Rose Garden for a dramatic split-screen of his own creation.

"I am your president of law and order and an ally of all peaceful protesters," he declared, before demanding that governors across the nation deploy the National Guard "in sufficient numbers that we dominate the streets." And he warned that, if they refused, he would deploy the United States military "and quickly solve the problem for them."

As an additional show of force, Trump announced he was deploying even more of the military to Washington, D.C., giving it the feel of an armed, locked-down city after days of violent clashes, arson and looting.

"As we speak I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers," he said, as explosions rang out in the background. "We are putting everybody on warning."

Then, before departing, Trump announced he wasn't done for the evening, and would be "going to pay my respects to a very very special place."

Moments later, the White House press pool was quickly summoned for a surprise movement. And soon after, Trump strolled out of the White House gates — something he had never done before — and walked across the park that had just been cleared to accommodate his movements.

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Trump walked slowly, followed by an entourage of his most senior aides, security and reporters. The faint residue of pepper spray hung in the air, stinging eyes and prompting coughing.

Sections of the park and surrounding sidewalks were strewn with garbage, including plastic water bottles and other debris. Some sections had been scrawled with graffiti.

Trump crossed H Street and walked toward St. John's Church, the landmark pale yellow building where every president, including Trump, has prayed. It had been damaged Sunday night in a protest fire.

Trump, standing alone in front of cameras, then raised a black-covered Bible for reporters to see.

"We have a great country," Trump said. "Greatest country in the world."

He didn't talk about Floyd, the church or the damage it had suffered, or the peaceful protesters police had cleared. He said nothing about the coronavirus pandemic, the parallel crisis that has continued to ravage the nation as Trump campaigns for a second presidential term. And then he invited his attorney general, national security adviser, chief of staff, press secretary and defense secretary — all white — to join him for another round of photos before he walked back across the park to the White House.

At one point, he stopped and pumped his fist in the air at National Guard members in the distance.

"We're going to keep it nice and safe," he said.

Rabbi Jack Moline, the president of Interfaith Alliance, slammed the fact that peaceful protesters near the White House were gassed and shot with rubber bullets so Trump could hold his photo op.

"Seeing President Trump stand in front of St. John's Episcopal Church while holding a Bible in response to calls for racial justice — right after using military force to clear peaceful protesters out of the area — is one of the most flagrant misuses of religion I have ever seen," Moline said in a statement. This only underscores the president's complete lack of compassion for Black Americans and the lethal consequences of racism."

And the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, to which St. John's belongs, said she was "outraged" by the moment and noted that Trump didn't pray during his visit.

"He took the symbols sacred to our tradition and stood in front of a house of prayer in full expectation that would be a celebratory moment," Budde told The Associated Press. "There was nothing I could do but speak out against that."

Black female mayors in spotlight amid protests and pandemic

By KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms captured the nation's attention when she addressed the civil unrest occurring in her city after George Floyd's death.

"I am a mother to four black children in America, one of whom is 18 years old," Bottoms said Friday in a rousing speech. "When I saw the murder of George Floyd, I hurt like a mother."

Bottoms and other black female mayors, including Lori Lightfoot of Chicago, are leading some of the nation's largest cities during an unprecedented moment of challenge as protests against police brutality overlap with the coronavirus pandemic and an economic collapse. They're being praised as thoughtful leaders at a time of political tumult and high-profile examples of black women seeking and winning political office across the country.

Higher Heights for America PAC, a political action committee dedicated to electing more progressive black women, said there are seven black women serving as mayors in the nation's 100 most populous U.S. cities, compared to just one in 2014.

"Black women have always been leading and we have been the defenders of our homes, our communities and our nation," said Glynda Carr, the president and CEO of Higher Heights. "Our leadership was built for this moment and their unique experiences as black women, not only as Americans, has provided the type of trusted leadership that can help move this country forward."

The mayors have demonstrated leadership with personal connections. Lightfoot, Chicago's first black female mayor and first openly gay leader, frankly acknowledged America's dark history of racism and blasted President Donald Trump's divisive tweets in which he called protesters "thugs" and said "when

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the looting starts, the shooting starts.”

“It’s impossible for me as a black woman who has been the target of blatant racism over the course of my life not to take the killing of George Floyd personally,” Lightfoot said. “Being black in America should not be a death sentence.”

The question is whether this moment will translate into a long-lasting higher profile for the mayors.

Bottoms, for example, was already believed to be under consideration as Joe Biden’s running mate before the protests. Her stature has only risen amid the unrest.

Beyond her well-received remarks Friday, she acted swiftly two days later, firing two police officers and placing three others on desk duty over excessive use of force during a protest arrest involving two college students.

“Use of excessive force is never acceptable,” Bottoms told reporters.

Nadia Brown, a political science professor at Purdue University, said her research has found that many black female leaders, especially within their own communities, are seen as relatable figures — something that has worked in their favor at this time.

During the pandemic, residents made viral memes of Lightfoot enforcing her stay-at-home orders. Instead of chiding them, Lightfoot embraced the moment and used it to connect with residents, Brown said.

“I think that we’re seeing some of this play out in real time,” Brown said. “She was speaking in that role of telling residents what to do from an authority figure that seemed very familiar. And I think that’s kind of a mode in which we’re seeing some other black women elected officials deal with unrest in that they’re speaking to constituents not just as an authority figure but one that is familiar.”

Rochester, New York, Mayor Lovely Warren, who is in her second term as the first black female mayor of the state’s third-largest city, said that while black women have made strides in gaining prominence, they still face unique challenges of racism and stereotypes.

“We’re trying to fight a system that was institutionally built to create the disparities that it has created over generations and so we’re trying to undo the damage that has been done to prepare our children for the future,” Warren said. “A lot of times we get branded with the ‘angry black woman syndrome’ when we’re speaking up to a number of different issues that impact our community, but we have been built to take on the responsibility and we take it in stride.”

“No matter which mayor I look at across this country right now, they have done an extraordinary job trying to balance all that’s coming toward them,” Warren added.

Other black mayors including San Francisco’s London Breed and Muriel Bowser of Washington have also been recognized for their measured responses and handling of their communities.

A’shanti Gholar, president of Emerge America, an organization that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office, said many of the black women in office today were entrenched in grassroots political work for decades, paving the way for those to come behind them.

“This is about a movement, a movement of women extending and taking their leadership all over across the country,” Gholar said. “Black women running for office and winning, it isn’t an anomaly. They’re also building up the next generation of black women elected officials and black women mayors who they’re inspiring to run.”

Although gains have been made, Carr said there’s still much more work to be done. Biden has pledged to pick a woman as a running mate and is considering several women of color.

No black woman has ever served as governor in the country. Carr noted that black women make up 7.6% of the country’s population yet account for just 4.3% of all members of the House and 1% of the Senate.

“All that we celebrate about the gains we made 51 years after Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman to serve in Congress, we also recognize that the 23 million black women in this country are so underrepresented and underserved,” Carr said. “So, we need to continue to invest in recruiting, training and supporting black woman.”

Brands weigh in on national protests over police brutality

By LINDSEY BAHR and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO The Associated Press

As thousands of protesters take to the streets in response to police killings of black people, companies are wading into the national conversation but taking care to get their messaging right.

Netflix's normally lighthearted Twitter account took on a more somber tone on Saturday: "To be silent is to be complicit. Black lives matter. We have a platform, and we have a duty to our Black members, employees, creators and talent to speak up." That got retweeted over 216,000 times and "liked" over a million times.

The streaming service is just one of many corporate brands that have turned to social media to voice concerns over racial injustice after the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes.

At the same time, companies must consider whether it makes sense for them to weigh in, especially on an issue as sensitive as race.

"It's brand activism," said Alexander Chernev, a professor of marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. "It's not surprising. But companies have to think very carefully before they take a stand on these issues."

There are plenty of examples of brands speaking out forcefully on social media, particularly in industries where cultural awareness is crucial. WarnerMedia, which is owned by AT&T and includes brands like HBO and TBS, changed their handles to #BlackLivesMatter and all posted the same James Baldwin quote: "Neither love nor terror makes one blind: indifference makes one blind."

Twitter changed its iconic profile image to black with the Black Lives Matter hashtag. Media giant ViacomCBS tweeted "Black Lives Matter. Black Culture Matters. Black Communities Matter," and on Monday announced that its cable properties like MTV and Comedy Central will go dark for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to honor Floyd.

Nike, which famously took on the racial injustice issue head-on with its ad campaign featuring former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, revealed a new video ad on Friday that bore the words: "For once, don't do it." The ad, a twist on its "Do it" motto, urged viewers not to "pretend there's not a problem in America."

But some companies that offered up statements of support were called out on their own track records on race. L'Oreal, one of the world's biggest cosmetics companies, tweeted Monday: "Speaking out is worth it," and pledged a "commitment" to the NAACP. That drew swift criticism online from those who see the company's business model and advertising as focused on white consumers.

Likewise, Amazon's tweet urging the end of "the inequitable and brutal treatment of black people" received backlash from followers, who questioned the company's own commitment during the coronavirus pandemic in which employees have been complaining about unsafe working conditions.

Other companies have been kept their messages broad. For instance, The Walt Disney Co. and its brands, like Marvel, Star Wars and Pixar, all posted the same statement on Twitter about standing for inclusion and with the black community. Starbucks, which took heat in 2018 when two black men in one of its Philadelphia stores were arrested for not ordering anything, simply said it will stand in solidarity with black partners, customers and communities: "We will not be bystanders."

Brand experts say corporate America needs to go beyond statements and outline what they plan to do to combat racism.

"Expressing solidarity with the Black Lives Movement is the right message, but everyone is jumping in on that bandwagon," said Allen Adamson, co-founder and managing partner of Metaforce a marketing and product consultancy. "Just saying you are standing with them is nice but probably isn't going to be meaningful for them or for the brand. It can be seen as opportunistic."

Wendy Liebmann, founder and CEO of WSL Strategic Retail, agrees, saying there is no reason to make a public statement unless the company actually has a concrete plan to help resolve the issue of racism. She praised Peloton's Twitter pledge to donate \$500,000 to the NAACP legal defense fund as an example.

Jeans giant Levi Strauss & Co. is also backing its statements with money, committing \$100,000 to its

longstanding partner ACLU. YouTube pledged \$1 million to support efforts addressing social injustice. And semiconductor chip manufacturer Intel is pledging \$1 million to address social justice and racism.

Some of the most moving statements so far have come from corporate executives who are black.

Marvin Ellison, president and CEO of home improvement chain Lowe's tweeted a statement about growing up in the Jim Crow South and the company's zero tolerance for racism, discrimination and hate. Citigroup's Chief Financial Officer Mark Mason repeated Floyd's words "I can't breathe" in an emotional corporate blog post.

And Jide Zeitlin, chairman and CEO of Kate Spade, Coach and Stuart Weitzman parent Tapestry Inc., who along with Ellison is one of only a handful of black CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, noted in a heartfelt LinkedIn post to his employees that some of Tapestry's stores had been damaged during the protests but he said his focus quickly turned to the looters after determining his staff was safe.

"What was going through their minds as they acted? Has our society truly left them with little to lose and few other ways to force the rest of us to come to the negotiating table?" he wrote. "We can replace our windows and handbags, but we cannot bring back George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Emmett Till, and too many others. Each of these black lives matter."

Mexican president defies leftist label in virus response

By MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

When Andrés Manuel López Obrador won Mexico's presidency after years of agitating for change, many expected a transformative leader who would take the country to the left even as much of Latin America moved right.

Instead, López Obrador is leading like a conservative in many ways — cutting spending, investing heavily in fossil fuel development and helping the U.S. crack down on the northbound flow of migrants.

As coronavirus spreads through Mexico, the president known as AMLO has rejected widespread shutdowns and pressed to keep the economy going. He's used the pandemic to justify weakening environmental protections, and pushed for oil-centered infrastructure projects despite the collapse in petroleum prices. He's resisted both economic stimulus programs and expansion of coronavirus testing and tracking.

López Obrador is resuming his trademark tours of the Mexican countryside this week despite the fact that the country is suffering its highest rates of coronavirus infection and death rates so far.

After a two-month hiatus, López Obrador returned Monday to the on-the-ground tours of the provinces. In Cancun and Isla Mujeres, he visited a Navy base and presided over a ceremony marking the start of construction of a tourist train that will link beach resorts and ruin sites on the Yucatan peninsula. His only concession to the coronavirus pandemic is that he is no longer wading through crowds of supporters, kissing children and receiving hugs.

When he's not on tour, López Obrador uses social media and daily press conferences to dominate the news cycle and label virtually any criticism as part of a conspiracy. Many observers draw parallels to U.S. President Donald Trump's communication strategy.

"They really are similar," said Federico Estevez, a political science professor at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico.

When López Obrador doesn't like what statistics show, he does not shy away from changing them.

He recently suggested replacing gross domestic product, which hasn't seen any growth in over a year, with a "wellbeing" index to measure "happiness?"

"We are going to ask people, not just about their material conditions, but about other factors like spiritual well-being, and not just material issues," López Obrador said last week.

On coronavirus, Mexico says it is deliberately administering very few tests for the disease. Mexico has performed only about 250,000 tests for a nation of over 125 million, or less than 2 in 1,000 people, leading critics to say the country's COVID-19 figures are greatly underestimated.

"The Mexican government, unlike many and perhaps most governments, has declared that its epidemiological policy has no intention of counting each and every case," said Hugo López-Gatell, the assistant

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health secretary who is the president's point-man on the virus. "We are not interested in it, because it is useless, costly and not feasible to test everybody in the country."

AMLO was confronted with a choice of expensive, probably unobtainable testing, or a quick expansion of hospital beds and the choice for him was obvious: equip beds.

His single stated goal in the pandemic is "that we not be outstripped, that there be enough hospital beds."

What's more striking is the information Mexico hides: figures on "excess deaths," or patterns of deaths from previous years that could serve to tell how many people have actually died this year compared to previous years of causes like pneumonia. There is a two-year lag in reporting such figures.

The civic group Mexicans Against Corruption said the strategy of little testing "limits the possibility of identifying super-spreaders, people who are asymptomatic and spread the virus massively," and could spell disaster as the economy re-opens starting June 1.

On the economic front, López Obrador views the pandemic as an opportunity to deepen his drive toward a state-centered, nationalistic movement that is not beholden to international scrutiny.

And like Trump, López Obrador has used the pandemic to weaken some environmental policies. If oil — the stuff that dreams were made of in his home state of Tabasco in the 1970s — is going out of fashion, why not just cancel the renewable energy projects that compete with oil? López Obrador is forging ahead with building a new oil refinery, even as excess capacity builds around the world.

His love of oil — he has cancelled electricity purchases from new wind and solar energy projects, in part to save government-owned fuel-oil plants from competition — was born in his first government job in the 1970s. As head of indigenous affairs, he turned to the state-run oil company, Pemex, to help solve the lack of farmland in the swampy homeland of the Chontal Indians. He got Pemex to lend him a dredging barge and dredge up wetlands to pile soil into thin strips of land.

"The answer to understanding him is to go back and look at his hometown," Estevez said, referring to the small Tabasco town where López Obrador grew up. "He's never left that world. Biography does matter ... In Tabasco it's all public investment ... that's all he's ever known."

However, as the rest of the world turns Keynesian, expanding spending, Mexico's president has gone to unprecedented lengths to cut budgets, asking public universities to give back part of their budgets, scientists to donate some of their pay, and federal officials to take a pay cut.

The president has granted no tax payment extensions, and instead relied largely on small loans to small and micro-businesses. He vows not to borrow a dime or even run up a budget deficit, a pretty inflexible stance given that Mexico faces a 10% drop in GDP and the loss of a million jobs this year. And he has angered private investors with moves like cancelling the new solar and wind energy projects, many of which are already built.

According to report by Bank of America Global Research "the lack of testing will likely keep demand for services constrained even when supply restrictions are lifted, making for a weak recovery. The cleanest example is tourist-related services," which are Mexico's third-largest source of foreign revenues behind exports and remittances.

But while López Obrador's stubbornness has paid off in some areas: he successfully played brinkmanship to win a fraction of the production cut that OPEC had been demanding. He got Walmart's Mexico subsidiary to cough up \$359 million in back taxes the government said it was due for the company's 2014 sale of a restaurant chain. And López Obrador's popularity hasn't really suffered; according to a telephone poll of 500 people conducted for the newspaper El Universal in mid-May, López Obrador's approval rating remained around 58%, essentially where it was in late 2019.

Still, López Obrador remains highly sensitive to criticism, labeling any call for reassessment of his policies as conspiracy against him, personally. He recently compared his critics to "buzzards," accusing them of using coronavirus deaths in a bid to discredit him.

Civic groups say that information from death certificates — and anecdotal accounts of crematoriums running beyond capacity — suggest the death toll from COVID-19 may be three times as high as official figures.

"They started talking about deaths, later they claimed we were hiding deaths, and later they went with

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scenes of crematoriums, right up to three, four days ago, they were talking about the ovens being full at the crematoriums," López Obrador said. "That is very perverse, very unethical."

Egypt's ex-PM faces torture allegation in American's lawsuit

CAIRO (AP) — After his arrest in 2013 for documenting the deadliest crackdown on protesters in Egypt's modern history, Mohamed Soltan landed in a notorious prison where he says he was brutally tortured for 21 months.

He never thought he'd get a chance to fight back, let alone make it out alive.

But on Monday, Soltan, a 32-year-old U.S. citizen now living in Virginia, used a federal statute to accuse former Egyptian prime minister Hazem el-Beblawi of crimes against humanity.

The 1991 Torture Victims Protection Act allows for victims of torture and extrajudicial killings committed by foreign officials abroad to seek justice through the American court system.

It's the first such case against an Egyptian official, made possible by the grim coincidence that el-Beblawi now lives just miles from Soltan, in Washington, where he is an executive director of the International Monetary Fund.

"He's completely gotten away with it, and is walking free downtown," Soltan said. "I just want to regain some of the justice and dignity stripped away from me."

El-Beblawi, contacted through the IMF, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In the summer of 2013, after the military-led ouster of the country's first democratically elected but divisive president, Mohamed Morsi, Egyptian security officers descended on a protest camp packed with his Islamist supporters, killing hundreds. Soltan, an Ohio State graduate and the son of a prominent member of the now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, was shot in the arm while working as a stringer for Western news organizations in Rabaa al-Adawiya Square.

Before long he was picked up by security forces. In a mass trial widely condemned by human rights groups, Soltan was sentenced to life in prison on charges of spreading "fake news" to tarnish Egypt's image.

In the maximum-security Tora prison complex, Soltan says he endured unspeakable torments overseen by el-Beblawi and other high-ranking officers. He says he was denied medical care for his festering bullet wound, beaten to unconsciousness, held in solitary confinement and forced to listen to the sounds of his father being tortured in a nearby cell. He lost 160 pounds over the course of a 16-month hunger strike to protest his unjust imprisonment.

Under pressure from the Obama administration, Egypt released Soltan in 2015, although his father remains in prison. He has attempted to build a new life in Virginia, advocating for fellow political prisoners still in Egypt and pursuing a master's degree at Georgetown University. But memories from his dark cell in Tora still haunt him.

"There's this perpetual, compounded trauma every single day," he said, "where you get up and look in the mirror and see the scars and cigarette burns and the bullet marks...it changes you."

Eric Lewis, a lawyer with Lewis Baach Kaufmann Middlemiss, who represents Soltan, says he hopes the case sends a message to Egypt's government "that they cannot commit crimes against humanity and then seek haven in the United States."

An estimated 60,000 political prisoners languish in Egypt's jails, according to Human Rights Watch, including many journalists and critics held on vague terrorism charges without trial. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who came to power in 2013, has waged an unprecedented crackdown on dissent.

The lawsuit lists el-Sissi, intelligence chief Abbas Kamel and three other former senior security officials as culpable, saying that they can be served if they set foot in the United States.

Trump as thug or hero? Depends on what network you watch

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a split screen for the ages on MSNBC Monday: on the left side, President Donald Trump talking about restoring law and order. On the right, a tear-gassed young woman vomiting in a Washington street.

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For a nation rubbed raw following a traumatic weekend, cable television news did little to promote peace, love and understanding in its most-watched hours

Fox News Channel, CNN and MSNBC poke and prod the nation's divide on most nights, and each has been amply rewarded in the ratings. Trump's stern speech and walk to a nearby church after protesters were forcibly cleared out of the way Monday raised the temperature on those networks even higher.

"The president seems to think that dominating black people, dominating peaceful protesters, is law and order," CNN's Anderson Cooper said. "It's not. He calls them thugs. Who's the thug here?"

At the same time on Fox News Channel, Tucker Carlson said that Trump provided "a powerful symbolic gesture, a declaration that this country, our national symbols, our oldest institutions, will not be desecrated and defeated by nihilistic destruction."

For the most part, the television commentators talked past each other to vastly different audiences. CNN and MSNBC concentrated on peaceful protests in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of police; the Fox News focus was on violence and property destruction in the streets.

The same arguments have animated American politics for decades, but cable news uses megaphones to amplify them.

Trump has the full authority to use the federal government to go into states to restore order, Fox's Sean Hannity said.

"If the liberal mayors or governors in most cases are unwilling and unable to protect their own citizens, the federal government will," he said.

Not so fast, Rachel Maddow said on MSNBC.

"While there are depths that even the most doomsday predictions about the Trump presidency did not plumb, this rubicon moment arrived tonight in the haphazard and slipshod way that has become familiar for most of the other previously unimaginable dark turns this country has taken since Mr. Trump has become president," she said.

CNN's Chris Cuomo concluded of Trump: "This is who he is, and it's not what the country needs right now."

"You're not surprised, are you?" his colleague Don Lemon said.

Trump came off Monday as "a modern-day dictator," Lemon said.

But the headline on Fox News at that moment was "Chaos Blankets American Streets." Reporter Bryan Llenas showed pictures of broken glass in front of storefronts littering New York City streets.

Criminals and domestic terrorists are using George Floyd "to try to murder America," host Laura Ingraham said.

"The president tonight reaffirmed his duty to defend the Constitution," she said.

Tear gas, threats for protesters before Trump visits church

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It began with Attorney General Bill Barr standing with his hands casually in his pockets, not wearing a tie, surveying the scene at Lafayette Park across from the White House, where several thousand protesters had gathered for more demonstrations after the police killing of George Floyd.

President Donald Trump had announced he would soon be addressing the nation from the White House Rose Garden, as a 7 p.m. curfew in the city loomed and a mass of law enforcement, including U.S. Secret Service agents, Park Police and National Guardsmen, stood sentry, many dressed in riot gear.

Moments before 6:30 p.m., just when Trump said he would begin his address, the officers suddenly marched forward, directly confronting the protesters as many held up their hands, saying, "Don't shoot."

Soon, law enforcement officers were aggressively forcing the protesters back, firing tear gas and deploying flash bangs into the crowd to disperse them from the park for seemingly no reason. It was a jarring scene as police in the nation's capital forcefully cleared young men and women gathered legally in a public park on a sunny evening, all of it on live television.

With smoke still wafting and isolated tussles continuing in the crowd, Trump emerged in the Rose Garden for a dramatic split-screen of his own creation.

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"I am your president of law and order and an ally of all peaceful protesters," he declared, before demanding that governors across the nation deploy the National Guard "in sufficient numbers that we dominate the streets." And he warned that, if they refused, he would deploy the United States military "and quickly solve the problem for them."

As an additional show of force, Trump announced he was deploying even more of the military to Washington, D.C., giving it the feel of an armed, locked-down city after days of violent clashes, arson and looting.

"As we speak I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers," he said, as explosions rang out in the background. "We are putting everybody on warning."

Then, before departing, Trump announced he wasn't done for the evening, and would be "going to pay my respects to a very very special place."

Moments later, the White House press pool was quickly summoned for a surprise movement. And soon after, Trump strolled out of the White House gates — something he had never done before — and walked across the park that had just been cleared to accommodate his movements.

Trump walked slowly, followed by an entourage of his most senior aides, security and reporters. The faint residue of pepper spray hung in the air, stinging eyes and prompting coughing.

Sections of the park and surrounding sidewalks were strewn with garbage, including plastic water bottles and other debris. Some sections had been scrawled with graffiti.

Trump crossed H Street and walked toward St. John's Church, the landmark pale yellow building where every president, including Trump, has prayed. It had been damaged Sunday night in a protest fire.

Trump, standing alone in front of cameras, then raised a black-covered Bible for reporters to see.

"We have a great country," Trump said. "Greatest country in the world."

He didn't talk about Floyd, the church or the damage it had suffered, or the peaceful protesters police had cleared. He said nothing about the coronavirus pandemic, the parallel crisis that has continued to ravage the nation as Trump campaigns for a second presidential term. And then he invited his attorney general, national security adviser, chief of staff, press secretary and defense secretary — all white — to join him for another round of photos before he walked back across the park to the White House.

At one point, he stopped and pumped his fist in the air at National Guard members in the distance.

"We're going to keep it nice and safe," he said.

Rabbi Jack Moline, the president of Interfaith Alliance, slammed the fact that peaceful protesters near the White House were gassed and shot with rubber bullets so Trump could hold his photo op.

"Seeing President Trump stand in front of St. John's Episcopal Church while holding a Bible in response to calls for racial justice — right after using military force to clear peaceful protesters out of the area — is one of the most flagrant misuses of religion I have ever seen," Moline said in a statement. This only underscores the president's complete lack of compassion for Black Americans and the lethal consequences of racism."

And the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, to which St. John's belongs, said she was "outraged" by the moment and noted that Trump didn't pray during his visit.

"He took the symbols sacred to our tradition and stood in front of a house of prayer in full expectation that would be a celebratory moment," Budde told The Associated Press. "There was nothing I could do but speak out against that."

Amid protests, Trump talks of war — and reelection

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and ALAN SUDERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Embracing the language of confrontation and war, President Donald Trump on Monday declared himself the "president of law and order" and signaled he would stake his reelection on convincing voters his forceful approach, including deploying U.S. troops to U.S. cities, was warranted in a time of national tumult and racial unrest.

Trump made his Rose Garden declaration to the sound of tear gas and rubber bullets clearing peaceful protesters from the park in front of the White House. It created a split screen for the ages, with his

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critics saying the president was deepening divisions at a time when leadership was crucial to help unify a fractured country.

The president's forceful turn to a partisan posture was reminiscent of the us-vs.-them rhetoric he has often used when under pressure, including in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. He has responded to the violence with a string of polarizing tweets, one starkly laying out the political stakes by underscoring the approach of Election Day.

"NOVEMBER 3RD," was all it said.

Trump vowed to deploy the U.S. military to America's own cities to quell a rise of violent protests, including ransacking stores and burning police cars. He offered little recognition of the anger coursing through the country as he demanded a harsher crackdown on the mayhem that has erupted following the death of George Floyd.

Floyd died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned him down and pressed his neck with his knee as the man pleaded that he couldn't breathe. Violent demonstrations have raged in dozens of cities across the nation, marking a level of widespread turmoil unseen for decades.

The political ground beneath Trump has greatly shifted in the spring of this election year. He was supposed to be running on a strong economy, but now he's facing a pandemic, an economic collapse and civil unrest not seen since the 1960s.

Indeed, some around the president likened the moment to 1968, when Richard Nixon ran as the law-and-order candidate in the aftermath of a summer of riots and captured the White House. But Trump is the incumbent and, despite his efforts to portray himself as a political outsider, he risks being held responsible for the violence.

Trump emerged after two days out of public view in the White House to threaten to deploy "thousands and thousands" of U.S. troops. Then he made a surprise walk through Lafayette Park to a Washington house of worship known as "The Church of the Presidents" that suffered fire damage in the protests.

That brought a quick condemnation from Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde.

"The president just used a Bible and one of the churches of my diocese as a backdrop for a message antithetical to the teachings of Jesus and everything that our church stands for," she said. But he had his campaign moment.

In a video teleconference Monday morning, Trump scolded governors.

"Most of you are weak," he said. "It's like a war. And we will end it fast. Be tough."

"You have to dominate" and "if you don't dominate you're wasting your time," Trump said, demanding the protests be swiftly crushed, even as some warned that such an aggressive law enforcement response could lead to an escalation of violence.

The president urged governors to make more use of the National Guard, which he credited for helping calm the situation Sunday night in Minneapolis. He demanded that similarly tough measures be taken in cities that also experienced spasms of violence, including New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

"You're going to arrest all those people and you're going to try them. And if they get five years or 10 years, they have to get five years or 10 years," the president said. "So I say that, and the winners dominate."

Trump's exhortations came after a night of escalating violence, with images of chaos overshadowing largely peaceful protests. The disturbances grew so heated Friday night that the Secret Service rushed the president to an underground White House bunker previously used during terrorist attacks.

Some West Wing officials and political advisers have acknowledged that some of the president's tweets have not been helpful, and they have been pushing Trump to acknowledge the pain of the peaceful protesters without lumping them in with the agitators he says are responsible for the violence.

But another faction within the administration, including longtime law-and-order proponent Attorney General William Barr, has encouraged Trump's instincts to focus on the group violence. The hope is such a posture can help Trump draw a contrast with Democrats who have been less vocal in their condemnation of the unrest.

The West Wing had been mostly empty over the weekend. Many staffers were told to stay home to avoid the protests, chief of staff Mark Meadows was out of town celebrating his daughter's wedding and

senior adviser Jared Kushner was marking a Jewish holiday.

Among the options being discussed in the White House: a new criminal justice reform package, a task force that would include Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson and a listening tour of African American communities, according to people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity because nothing had been finalized.

Democrats hammered Trump, accusing him of stirring the unrest.

"Hate just hides. It doesn't go away, and when you have somebody in power who breathes oxygen into the hate under the rocks, it comes out from under the rocks," said the party's presumptive presidential nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, speaking at a church in Wilmington, Delaware.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Trump "struggles to summon even an ounce of humanity in this time of turmoil."

"The president has reacted to the pain and anger in the country by playing politics and encouraging police to be tougher on protesters by bragging about his reelection prospects and his personal safety inside the White House," Schumer said.

Long drawn to displays of strength, Trump and his advisers believe that the combative rhetoric and promises to send the military into cities will reassure voters, including senior citizens and suburban women, concerned by the lawlessness.

Eager to change the narrative of the election, just five months away, from a referendum on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, Trump and his aides see a cultural war issue that could captivate his base.

Ralph Reed, chairman of the Faith & Freedom Coalition and a close ally of the president, said, "In the same way that he became the unlikeliest of champions for evangelicals and the faith community, he has it in him to do the same thing for the minority community."

Much as he has with the pandemic, Trump has tried to scapegoat the nation's Democratic governors and mayors, much to their dismay.

During the teleconference, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker bluntly told Trump that "the rhetoric that's coming out of the White House is making it worse."

DC Episcopal bishop: 'I am outraged' by Trump church visit

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

The bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington sharply criticized President Donald Trump on Monday for staging a visit to the historic St. John's Church across from the White House, where he held up a Bible after authorities had cleared the area of peaceful protesters.

The Rev. Mariann Budde, whose diocese St. John's belongs to, said in a statement that she was "outraged" by Trump's visit and noted that he didn't pray while stopping by the church, a landmark known for its regular visits from sitting presidents since the early 19th century.

"He took the symbols sacred to our tradition and stood in front of a house of prayer in full expectation that would be a celebratory moment," Budde said in an interview after her statement on Trump's visit was posted to the diocese's Twitter account.

"There was nothing I could do but speak out against that," she added, calling for a focus on "the deeper wounds of the country" amid ongoing demonstrations against racial injustice.

Budde said the church was "just completely caught off-guard" by the visit, with "no sense that this was a sacred space to be used for sacred purposes." In order to facilitate Trump's statement there, she said, she believed tear gas was used in the area between the White House and the church.

As protests nationwide flared following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, St. John's suffered minor damage Sunday night from a fire in the church basement. Budde said "our suffering was minimal" compared with businesses that were destroyed by recent looting, even as she defended the goals of peaceful protesters responding to Floyd's killing.

"We can rebuild the church. We can replace the furnishings of a nursery," she said, referring to the damaged area. "We can't bring a man's life back."

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, issued his own statement saying that Trump had "used a church building and the Holy Bible for partisan political purposes."

"This was done in a time of deep hurt and pain in our country, and his action did nothing to help us or to heal us," added Curry, the first African American to hold that leadership post for U.S. Episcopalians.

Budde took her position at the church in Washington in 2011 after spending 18 years in Minneapolis.

"I want to build up the liberal church again so we can be a legitimate conversation partner in the public arena," she told The Washington Post at the time.

The bishop, who last year joined other Washington National Cathedral leaders in a statement that excoriated Trump's "racialized rhetoric," firmly aligned her faith with the goals of peaceful protesters driven by Floyd's death to decry systemic racism.

"In no way do we support the President's incendiary response to a wounded, grieving nation," Budde said in her statement. "In faithfulness to our Savior who lived a life of non-violence and sacrificial love, we align ourselves with those seeking justice for the death of George Floyd."

On the spot where George Floyd died, his brother urges calm

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — George Floyd's brother pleaded for peace in the streets Monday, saying destruction is "not going to bring my brother back at all."

Terrence Floyd's emotional plea came as the United States braced for another night of violence in response to Floyd's killing a week ago.

Chants of "What's his name? George Floyd!" filled the air as a large crowd gathered at the spot where the black man who became the latest symbol of racial injustice in America lay handcuffed and dying as a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck.

Wearing a face mask with Floyd's image on it, his brother dropped to his knees at the storefront that has been turned into a memorial covered with flowers and signs. As he kneeled silently, many who were around him joined him on the ground.

The memorial site was a space of calm compared to the devastation left in the wake of fires and violence that paralyzed the city for days last week before it spread nationwide.

"I understand y'all are upset. I doubt y'all are half as upset as I am," said Terrence Floyd, who lives in New York. "So if I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community, then what are y'all doing? What are y'all doing? Y'all doing nothing. Because that's not going to bring my brother back at all."

George Floyd, 46, died last week after he was arrested in Minneapolis, accused of using a forged \$20 bill to pay for goods at a grocery store. The white officer, Derek Chauvin, has been charged with murder.

Terrence Floyd took several minutes sitting in the spot where the officer pinned his brother, and he sobbed.

Addressing the crowd, he said he did not understand why the other three police officers who arrested Floyd and were fired with Chauvin have not been charged.

Still, he said, the Floyd family, which he described as "peaceful" and "God-fearing," wants calm protests at this time with hopes that justice will follow.

"In every case of police brutality, the same thing has been happening. Y'all protest, y'all destroy stuff. ... Let's do this another way," he said, encouraging the crowd to vote and to educate themselves. "Let's switch it up, y'all."

In contrast to the peaceful message, President Donald Trump took a tough tone later in the day in the White House Rose Garden, threatening to mobilize "thousands and thousands" of U.S. soldiers if state governors don't deploy the National Guard to "dominate the streets" and halt the protests. As he spoke, tear gas canisters could be heard exploding just a block away as police and National Guard soldiers worked to force people protesting the death of Floyd back.

Before his death, George Floyd — like millions of Americans during the coronavirus pandemic — was out of work and looking for a new job.

He and some friends moved to Minneapolis from his native Houston around 2014 to find work and start a new life, his lifelong friend Christopher Harris has said. But he was laid off when Minnesota shut down restaurants as part of a stay-at-home order.

"My brother moved here from Houston. He loved it here," Terrence Floyd said Monday. "So I know he would not want y'all to be doing this."

He said he appreciates the show of support and love for his brother and their family.

Civil rights leader Rev. Kevin McCall of New York, said he brought Terrence Floyd, community members and others out to the memorial site in Minneapolis to urge calm.

"We're sending a message to people all over the country," he said. "Stop the looting and throw up the peace sign. Don't stop protesting, but throw up the peace sign."

At the end of his remarks, Terrence Floyd led the crowd in more chants.

"What's his name?" he said.

"George Floyd!" the crowd answered back.

'Hate just hides': Biden vows to take on systematic racism

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, STEVE PEOPLES and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Joe Biden vowed to address institutional racism in his first 100 days in office as he sought to elevate his voice Monday in the exploding national debate over racism and police brutality.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee offered emotional support and promised bold action during an in-person discussion with black leaders in Delaware and a subsequent virtual meeting with big-city mayors who are grappling with racial tensions and frustrated by a lack of federal support.

"Hate just hides. It doesn't go away, and when you have somebody in power who breathes oxygen into the hate under the rocks, it comes out from under the rocks," Biden told more than a dozen African American leaders gathered at a church in downtown Wilmington, his face mask lowered around his chin as he spoke.

Without offering specifics, he promised to "deal with institutional racism" and set up a police oversight body in his first 100 days in office, if elected. The former vice president also said he'd be releasing an economic plan focused on education, housing and "access to capital" and investments, especially for minority Americans, later this month.

"I really do believe that the blinders have been taken off. I think this tidal wave is moving," Biden told the mayors of Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and St. Paul, Minnesota. "I realize we've got to do something big, we can do it, and everyone will benefit from it."

Largely sheltering in place amid the coronavirus, Biden has struggled in recent weeks to be heard from his makeshift home TV studio over the noise of dueling national crises. But after another night of violent protests, he ventured out into public for the second time in two days and just the third time since the pandemic arrived in mid-March.

His hopeful and collaborative approach marked a sharp contrast to that of President Donald Trump, who has made little effort to unify the country. The Republican president slammed governors as "weak" during a video teleconference on Monday and demanded tougher crackdowns on protesters. Trump also lashed out at Biden on Twitter, writing that "Sleepy Joe Biden's people are so Radical Left that they are working to get the Anarchists out of jail, and probably more."

Biden's softer style may foreshadow how he presents himself in the five months before the presidential election, emphasizing calm and competence as a contrast to a mercurial president. It is an approach that carries the risk of being drowned out by Trump's much louder voice.

On Monday evening, Trump declared himself "the president of law and order" from the White House as military police and law enforcement fired tear gas and cleared protesters from nearby Lafayette Park. Biden made no mention of the unfolding events during an online fundraiser that took place at the same time, though he talked at length about persistent racism in the U.S.

He plans to deliver remarks on the unrest gripping the U.S. on Tuesday in Philadelphia.

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In the early moments of Monday's gathering at the Bethel AME church in Wilmington, Biden listened quietly and took notes. All the attendees, including Biden, wore face masks but lowered them as they spoke.

"The vice president came to hear from us. This is a homeboy," pastor Sylvester Beaman said before everyone bowed their heads in prayer.

Biden's standing with the black community weighs heavily as he works to deny Trump a second term. African Americans rescued Biden's flailing primary campaign, but it's unclear if they will turn out for him in large numbers in November.

"I want to make something clear. I don't expect anything from the black community," Biden said Monday, insisting he has never taken its support for granted. The former vice president has been doing cleanup since telling a prominent black radio host a week and a half ago that African Americans who back Trump "ain't black."

Yet the mayors who spoke with Biden, three of whom are black, were clearly frustrated and angry with Trump, who has offered military support to address violent protests while denying them federal support to address the coronavirus fallout and repeatedly attacking them on social media.

"To see the president of the United States say that he's going to send the military into our communities but hadn't mentioned sending a single dime of support into our communities, speaks to where we are in America," said Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

Much of Biden's campaign strategy centers on trying to draw a contrast with Trump on temperament and values. He has called the White House contest a battle for the soul of the nation and has been particularly forceful in condemning Trump's handling of moments of racial tension.

In an election that is likely to be a referendum on the sitting president, some Biden aides say privately that the best plan may be to let Trump do himself in.

Yet there is also a recognition that Biden needs to do more than simply wait for voters who may be turned off by Trump to turn toward him. Some Democrats who have criticized Biden for not being more visible during the onset of the coronavirus said he is making the right moves now.

"I'm sure they have some reluctance, understandably, right now to politicize it. That's not who he is," said Democratic strategist James Carville. "There might be a time for eloquence, but I think that simplicity is eloquence right now."

CBO projects virus impact could trim GDP by \$15.7 trillion

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Congressional Budget Office said Monday that the U.S. economy could be \$15.7 trillion smaller over the next decade than it otherwise would have been if Congress does not mitigate the economic damage from the coronavirus.

The CBO, which had already issued a report forecasting a severe economic impact over the next two years, expanded that forecast to show that the severity of the economic shock could depress growth for far longer.

The new estimate said that over the 2020-2030 period, total GDP output could be \$15.7 trillion lower than CBO had been projecting as recently as January. That would equal 5.3% of lost GDP over the coming decade.

After adjusting for inflation, CBO said the lost output would total \$7.9 trillion, a loss of 3% of inflation-adjusted GDP.

CBO called this a "significant markdown" in GDP output as a result of the pandemic.

"Business closures and social distancing measures are expected to curtail consumer spending, while the recent drop in energy prices is projected to severely reduce U.S. investment in the energy sector," CBO Director Philip Swagel said in a letter.

"Recent legislation will, in CBO's assessment, partially mitigate the deterioration in economic conditions," Swagel said in the letter to Sens. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. The two had requested the information as a way to pressure Republicans to follow the lead of the House and pass

more economic relief.

"Last week we learned that over 40 million Americans lost their jobs as a result of this horrific pandemic," Schumer and Sanders said in a joint statement. "Today, the CBO tells us that if current trends continue, we will see a jaw-dropping \$16 trillion reduction in economic growth over the next decade."

Schumer and Sanders said Republicans should stop blocking legislation to provide more assistance given that 40 million workers have lost their jobs already.

"In order to avoid the risk of another Great Depression, the Senate must act with a fierce sense of urgency," Schumer and Sanders said.

The CBO is forecasting that the GDP, which shrank at a 5% rate in the first three months of this year, will fall at a 37.7% rate in the current April-June quarter, the biggest quarterly decline on record.

The CBO also issued a separate report detailing a cost estimate for a \$3.4 trillion COVID-19 rescue bill that passed the Democratic-controlled House in mid-May. That legislation is built around \$915 billion in aid to state and local governments, another \$1,200 payment to most American workers, and additional aid to colleges and local school districts. The price tag is slightly higher than a back-of-the-envelope figure provided by Democrats when the measure passed.

Senate Republicans have dismissed the proposal as a wish list but have yet to unveil any proposal to counter it.

Judge: Justice Department reversal in Flynn case 'unusual'

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday defended his decision not to quickly approve the Justice Department's request to dismiss its own criminal case against former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn, saying that the department's reversal was unusual and he wanted to consider the request carefully before ruling on it.

The brief from U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan offers the most detailed explanation for his refusal to immediately sign off on the department's decision to drop its case against Flynn, who pleaded guilty as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. It raises the prospect of a drawn-out clash between two branches of government over whether a judge can be forced to unwind a guilty plea at the Justice Department's behest.

Flynn's attorneys have urged the Washington-based federal appeals court to order Sullivan to grant the department's request. But Sullivan laid out in detail his reasons for his concern as he urged the appeals court to stay out of the case until he has a chance to study the dismissal request, which he said he may ultimately grant.

"The question before this Court is whether it should short-circuit this process, forbid even a limited inquiry into the government's motion, and order that motion granted," lawyers for Sullivan wrote. "The answer is no."

The Justice Department, in its own brief Monday, said Sullivan has no authority "to stand in the way of a dismissal the defendant does not oppose." It urged the appeals court to direct him to drop the case.

"Far from authorizing further proceedings at the district court's behest, the Constitution requires the court to honor the Executive's unopposed decision to drop the pending charges, and precludes the case from proceeding to sentencing in the absence of a live controversy," lawyers for the department wrote.

Flynn admitted lying to the FBI about his conversations on sanctions during the presidential transition with the then-Russian ambassador, a topic that recently released transcripts of the call show the two men discussed in detail. But the Justice Department said last month that the FBI should never have interviewed Flynn in the first place and that the communication he had with the ambassador was entirely appropriate.

Flynn enjoys strong support from Trump and conservative media, but the decision to drop the case outraged former law enforcement officials who were involved in the investigation as well as many Democrats who called it a politically-motivated act. The motion to dismiss followed the recommendation of U.S. Attorney Jeff Jensen, who was appointed by Attorney General William Barr to investigate the handling of

the Flynn case.

Rather than grant the request, Sullivan appointed a retired federal judge, John Gleeson, to argue against the Justice Department's position and to consider whether Flynn could be held in criminal contempt for perjury since he had previously pleaded guilty under oath to lying and was now asserting his innocence. The judge also invited outside parties to weigh in with their opinions.

In their brief Monday, Sullivan's lawyers cited what they said were numerous irregularities about the Justice Department's recent actions, noting that "it is unusual for a criminal defendant to claim innocence and move to withdraw his guilty plea after repeatedly swearing under oath that he committed the crime."

Beyond that, they said that "it is unprecedented for an Acting U.S. Attorney to contradict the solemn representations that career prosecutors made time and again, and undermine the district court's legal and factual findings, in moving on his own to dismiss the charge years after two different federal judges accepted the defendant's plea."

The judge's brief also noted that the Justice Department's motion to dismiss was not signed by any of the career prosecutors involved in the case, and that it cited "minimal legal authority" for some of its positions.

Though Sullivan may ultimately grant the Justice Department's motion, he was duty-bound to seriously consider the significant legal issues that the case raised, the brief said.

SpaceX captures the flag, beating Boeing in cosmic contest

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The first astronauts launched by SpaceX declared victory Monday in NASA's cosmic capture-the-flag game.

They quickly claimed the prize left behind at the International Space Station nearly a decade ago by the last crew to launch from the U.S.

"Congratulations, SpaceX, you got the flag," NASA astronaut Doug Hurley said a day after arriving at the space station.

Hurley showed off the small U.S. flag during a news conference and again in a linkup with SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California.

"You can bet we will take it with us when we depart back to Earth," said Hurley, floating alongside Dragon crewmate Bob Behnken.

The flag flew on the first space shuttle flight in 1981 and the final one in 2011. Hurley was on that last shuttle crew.

The flag was an added incentive for Elon Musk's SpaceX company and Boeing, competing to be the first private company to launch a crew to the space station. Saturday's liftoff of NASA astronauts was the first from the U.S. in nine years. Boeing's first astronaut flight isn't expected until next year. The crew will include Chris Ferguson, commander of the last shuttle flight who now works for Boeing.

"Proud to yield the title of "The last commander of an American launched spacecraft" to @Astro_Doug who, with @AstroBehnken, has returned US to space from KSC after 3,252 days. Well done," Ferguson tweeted following the SpaceX liftoff.

An estimated 100,000 people — suppliers, vendors, engineers, etc. — were responsible for Saturday's flawless launch of test pilots Hurley and Behnken aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center. The Dragon capsule, also built and owned by SpaceX, docked at the space station Sunday.

"It's awe-inspiring for all of us," SpaceX manager Benji Reed told the astronauts from Hawthorne.

Reed asked them about the Falcon ride. Hurley said he could feel when the rocket went transonic and broke the sound barrier. The final push to orbit, on the second stage, was full of vibrations and felt like "driving fast, very fast on a gravel road," he said. The astronauts instantly went from pulling more than three G's — more than three times the force of Earth's gravity — to zero gravity as soon as they reached orbit.

"Sounds like the ultimate ride in a Batmobile with the jet engine turned on," Reed said.

Behnken said one of the first things he did upon reaching the orbiting lab was call his 6-year-old son, Theo, to hear what it was like to watch his father blast into space "and share that a little bit with him while it was still fresh in his mind."

Hurley and Behnken spent Monday making sure their docked Dragon is ready to make an emergency getaway, if necessary. The capsule will serve as their lifeboat during their space station visit. They joined three station residents — an American and two Russians.

NASA will decide in the coming weeks how long to keep the pair there. Their mission could last anywhere from one to four months. The timing will depend on Dragon checkouts in orbit and launch preparations for the company's next astronaut flight, currently targeted for the end of August.

With so much uncertainty and so many variables, Behnken said it was a little hard explaining to his son when he'd back.

"From his perspective, he's just excited that we're going to get a dog when I get home," Behnken said with a smile.

Brooms in hand, people patch up stores damaged in protests

By JULIE WATSON and ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Carrying brooms, shovels, trash bags and cans of paint, thousands of people from Los Angeles to New York swept up glass from broken store windows, covered over graffiti and organized ransacked businesses Monday after protests over police killings of black people turned destructive once again.

Some showed up only hours after taking part in demonstrations over the death of George Floyd, a black man pinned to the ground by a white Minneapolis police officer who pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes. Many said cleaning felt cathartic during a dark period for a nation battling the coronavirus pandemic, the job losses that followed and now the worst racial unrest in half a century.

Bill Stuehler donned a mask Sunday and marched with a fellow nurse and other activists in Los Angeles, later trying to stop young people from breaking into stores and stealing. At home, he kept watching the violence on live feeds and fell deeper into despair.

So before sunrise, the 66-year-old grabbed brooms, a rake and a trash shovel and drove to nearby Long Beach to clean up the mess. Soon, more than 2,000 people were working side by side, scrubbing, filling trash containers and repairing what they could in the hard-hit city south of Los Angeles.

"It was pretty amazing to see the number of people turn out for the community," Stuehler said. "It restored the faith in humanity that I had lost last night."

Throngs of people nationwide volunteered to help businesses — from small shops to major chains — bounce back from the damage, though some stores had burned to the ground and another night of unrest was expected.

In New Jersey, Chris DeLeon, broom in hand, arrived at 8 a.m. with dozens of other people to sweep up broken glass in the capital of Trenton. The 34-year-old had protested Sunday, then decided to help clean up after seeing videos of people smashing windows.

"It just goes to show there's at least as many good people as there are other folks out there," DeLeon said.

In Wisconsin, volunteers in Milwaukee and Madison turned up for a second day to clean up damage from the night before.

Countless businesses already had taken a hit from restrictions designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus and were starting to reopen just as the protests led to more expensive setbacks: vandalism and stolen merchandise.

The owner of the Laugh Factory's club in Long Beach discovered broken windows and doors, computers smashed and memorabilia stolen, including Three Stooges posters and autographed photos of Redd Foxx and other late comedians. Workers boarded up windows and swept up broken glass Monday.

Owner Jamie Masada was offering an unspecified reward to anyone who returns the memorabilia.

"It is not worth anything to them but it means a lot to me," Masada said, because it's tied to those who

represent "the height of comedy."

In Sacramento, two-thirds of the capital city's 600 downtown properties took a hit, with more than 200 broken windows, 330 pieces of graffiti, and more than 50 cases of "significant property damage," said Michael Ault, executive director of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said she didn't recognize downtown when she walked through it Sunday, "but what I did recognize were the hundreds of volunteers and residents who came because they love Seattle."

Stuehler found the same community spirit in Long Beach. A nurse who had been treating COVID-19 patients, Stuehler took the month off when he joined the protest. He said a small percentage of people vandalized businesses but "the horror of the opportunism, the rage, the disregard for logic and reason — it was shocking."

They had an outsize impact that detracts from the message of overhauling police agencies, Stuehler said. But he said he's feeling revived after seeing so many people work together.

Alycia Barber also was moved to help after watching from her Long Beach apartment as people smashed windows and police doused the crowds with pepper spray Sunday.

The 22-year-old got up early and joined others organizing clothing and jewelry strewn inside a Forever 21 store, hours after thieves made off with armloads of merchandise. Few of the volunteers knew each other; they just showed up, she said.

There were parents with children, senior citizens, college students. One woman brought paint and brooms so people could paint over graffiti on the outside wall of a parking garage.

"I just feel so helpful today," Barber said, adding that she supports the fight against racial injustice. "But now we also want to get up and make the world a beautiful place for people."

U. of Miami professor pleads guilty in Venezuela graft case

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A University of Miami professor blamed a controversial law enforcement informant for his career-ending decision to try and hide \$3 million in proceeds from a corruption scheme run by a businessman connected to Venezuela's socialist government.

Bruce Bagley revealed the identify of the informant and the businessman in pleading guilty Monday to two counts of money laundering. He faces nearly five years in prison when sentenced Oct. 1 and also agreed to forfeit \$474,000.

"I should have understood that the money involved were proceeds of unlawful activity," the 74-year-old Bagley said during a Manhattan federal court hearing conducted via video conference because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bagley, an international studies professor and top expert on money laundering, has written numerous books on the subject, testified before Congress, as an expert in court and been interviewed by numerous news organizations, including The Associated Press.

But his charmed life came undone after he began working as a consultant for Miami businessman Alex Saab, according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private details.

Saab initially hired Bagley to help get a student visa for his son and later sought his advice on investments in Central America, according to the two people. Starting around November 2017, Bagley started receiving monthly deposits of approximately \$200,000 from a purported food company based in the United Arab Emirates, prosecutors alleged. Additional funds were wired from an account in Switzerland.

Bagley transferred 90% of the money into the accounts controlled by informant Jorge Luis Hernandez to conceal the nature, source and ownership of the funds. But he kept a 10% commission for himself. He continued to accept the dirty Venezuelan cash even after one of his accounts was closed for suspicious activity.

Last July, the Trump administration sanctioned Saab for allegedly running a corruption network that profited from a no-bid contract to import food to Venezuela on behalf of Nicolás Maduro's government.

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On the same day he was also indicted by federal prosecutors in Miami on charges of money laundering tied to a public housing program in Venezuela.

Maria Dominguez, an attorney representing Saab, declined to comment.

While attention in the case has focused on Saab, it was Hernandez who introduced him to Bagley, according to the two people.

Hernandez, known by his alias Boliche, has been a U.S. law enforcement informant in anti-narcotics cases dating back more than a decade, according to the two people. He's also helped connect narcos in his native Colombia with American defense attorneys. Along the way he developed a reputation for delivering results but also aggressive behavior towards friends and foes alike, the two people said.

Bagley, an expert on Colombia's criminal underworld, had known Hernandez for years and even provided testimony when he applied for asylum in the U.S. arguing he would be killed if he were deported to Colombia, where he had ties with right-wing paramilitary groups who then dominated drug trafficking along the the Caribbean coast, according to the two people.

It's not clear what motivated Hernandez to turn on Bagley. Attempts to locate him were unsuccessful. Prosecutors, without naming Hernandez, said he was working under the direction of law enforcement

But at some point Hernandez informed him that the money he was receiving represented the proceeds of foreign bribery and embezzlement stolen from the Venezuelan people.

"Corruption, your honor, that's what was said to me," Bagley told U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff when asked if he had been informed of the funds' origin.

"And did you have any more specific understanding of what kind of corruption?," the judge asked.

"No, your honor, I did not," Bagley answered.

Peaceful protesters get lost in action-packed coverage

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's unrest has made for an unprecedented nightly action show on television, with control rooms that switch quickly between cars ablaze, police officers advancing on demonstrators and ransacked stores in cities across the country.

What's easy to get lost are peaceful protesters concerned about police treatment of minorities — the raw wound reopened by George Floyd's death.

Floyd's brother, Terrence, publicly asked Monday for those people outraged by how George died last week after a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his brother's neck to make their feelings known peacefully.

That's daytime television, however.

When darkness falls and prime-time television begins, earnest activism is replaced by tense scenes of conflict unique in their breadth. Scenes of urban unrest have been visible before in the nation's history — the 1968 riots were more frightening and deadly — but not in so many cities at the same time, with so many cameras to observe.

Civil rights activist Al Sharpton said Monday that he's worried about a backlash caused by the attention paid to violent demonstrations.

"If you only display that, in this whole 'if it bleeds, it leads' media obsession, than in many ways you are hurting George Floyd all over again," said Sharpton, an MSNBC host. "Because he becomes a side story to the tragedy of what happened and to the pursuit of justice."

What's happening in the cities need to be covered, but not at the expense of losing Floyd, he said.

What appeared live on CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC the last few nights was gripping and absorbing. In Washington, people stood holding cell phone cameras above their heads Sunday night, capturing flames shooting in the air, the way they would at a concert in more peaceful times.

MSNBC's Garrett Haake walked through the streets reporting live and viewers could see what perhaps he couldn't: police officers waving at him to get away.

Suddenly, bang! And an expletive. Haake had been hit by a rubber bullet. He kept trying to talk but his

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crew had separated, and anchor Katy Tur told him to find a safe refuge.

Switch to CNN and reporter Shimon Prokupez is in New York's Union Square, watching a roiling crowd in a tense standoff with police. He's almost trampled when people suddenly run in his direction.

In Santa Monica, California, MSNBC's Gadi Schwartz is in an outdoor mall, watching people stream out of a sporting goods store, carrying as much plundered merchandise as they could hold.

A police siren wails nearby, and everyone scatters.

Networks have done strong work covering demonstrations and speaking to peaceful protesters during the day, but what comes later is hard to compete with, said Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University.

"The dominant pictures in 2020, as it was in 1968, are of fire and looting," said veteran journalist Dan Rather, who reported for CBS News during the rioting 52 years ago. "That skews the coverage, as it did in 1968. It gives the impression that the whole country is in collapse. But the whole country is not in collapse. The whole country is not in flames."

The challenge for journalists is to continue covering what prompted the demonstrations and the violence, he said.

"That gets lost in a newscast that goes from city to city, and scenes of looting or violence," Rather said. "That's part of the story. But the core of the story is why is this happening? What's this all about?"

CNN, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this week, wasn't around in 1968. Neither were Fox or MSNBC. Live coverage of rioting was rare. For one thing, television crews usually had to carry large, clunky cameras and race back to the office to have film processed.

Even during the 1994 Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, the dominant image was somewhat removed: a helicopter shot of a driver being pulled from his truck and beaten. Portable, lightweight equipment now permits journalists to get in the middle of the action.

Rather was memorably manhandled while reporting at the raucous Democratic convention in Chicago in 1968. That's mild compared to what happened this weekend. The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker is investigating a stunning 78 reported cases of physical attacks on journalists over the past three days, in at least 25 different cities.

In many cases, journalists made it clear to authorities that they were members of the press, and were attacked anyway, said Kirstin McCudden, managing editor of the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker.

It's one reason why Sally Buzbee, executive editor at The Associated Press, stressed safety to the company's news managers in an internal call on Monday morning.

Celebs take to streets for historic demonstrations

By AMANDA LEE MYERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jamie Foxx stood shoulder-to-shoulder with activists in Minneapolis, proclaiming that "we're not afraid of the moment." In Los Angeles, pop star Halsey and "Insecure" actor Kendrick Sampson were hit with rubber bullets during a tense stand-off. And in Chicago, John Cusack was filming a burning car when officers rushed up to him and began screaming at him to leave, and he says, hitting his bike.

Across the U.S., many celebrities have been doing far more than tweeting supportive words or issuing carefully prepared statements. They took to the streets alongside thousands of people to condemn the killings of black people at the hands of police and to demand reform.

"I was there in LA when it was the Rodney King beating and I watched that, and I said 'Man, if they get away with this what's going to happen later?' And it continues to happen," Foxx said Monday in San Francisco, where he joined church leaders and activists in a "kneel-in."

Foxx's comments came three days after he flew to Minneapolis to join the chorus of anger over the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after being pinned under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer for several minutes even after he became unresponsive.

"As I'm talking to my nephews, as I'm talking to my daughter, trying to telling them how to act when they're out there and they see a police officer, I'm sort of running out of things to tell them and it shouldn't

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be that way," Foxx said in San Francisco. "It shouldn't be that way in America in 2020. We have to evolve."

Many celebrities turned out Saturday and Sunday at sometimes intense protests in Los Angeles, including one outside a popular, high-end shopping mall where protesters took over a city bus, tagged buildings and burned police cars. Model and activist Emily Ratajkowski waved a sign that read "Dismantle power structures of oppression," Paris Jackson carried one that said "Peace Love Justice" and rapper Machine Gun Kelly's said, "Silence is betrayal." Pop star Ariana Grande tweeted that "we chanted, people beeped and cheered along."

Sampson ("Insecure," "How to Get Away With Murder") on Saturday grabbed a microphone.

"Our solutions are not defined by systems that oppression built!" he shouted. "America was founded on racism, anti-blackness and genocide. When you talk about America, don't leave that s--- out."

Later Sampson was shown at the front of a standoff with police. Some of the details of the video aren't clear, but Sampson said on Instagram that a rubber bullet that police shot into the ground ricocheted and hit his assistant. The video shows Sampson step in front of his assistant and an officer hit him at least twice with a baton.

"Then an officer aims straight at me, no ricochet, and shoots (rubber bullets)" Sampson wrote. "That was one of seven shots I took. They are excruciating. And they CAN kill."

Nearby, Halsey, who was at the protest with ex-boyfriend and recording artist Yungblud, also reported being hit with rubber bullets and getting tear-gassed.

"We were peaceful. Hands up, not moving, not breaching the line," she wrote on Instagram. "They opened fire of rubber bullets and tear gas multiple times on U.S. citizens who were not provoking them."

Los Angeles police did not respond to a request for comment about their actions at the scene.

Halsey was back out protesting Sunday in nearby Santa Monica, where many demonstrators acted peacefully but others continued a third day of looting in the Los Angeles area.

Recording artist Madison Beer tweeted Sunday for people to leave Santa Monica immediately.

"I was just tear gassed," she wrote. "They are arresting everyone and tear gassing all crowds."

Among the hundreds arrested at that mostly peaceful demonstration was "Riverdale" actor Cole Sprouse, who wrote on Instagram that "this is precisely the time to contemplate what it means to stand as an ally."

"I hope others in my position do, as well," he said.

While some celebrities chose to demonstrate, others took to social media to express their disapproval of looting.

"Everyone is angry but there is a way to direct that anger," actor/director Taika Waititi wrote on Twitter on Saturday. In another tweet, he wrote: "The police seem to be enjoying this. You're inciting the chaos, dudes!"

After peaceful protests turned violent in Atlanta on Friday, director Tyler Perry pleaded on Instagram to "please stop this violence!"

"Looting is NOT THE ANSWER!!!!" he said.

That night rapper Killer Mike, whose cousin is an Atlanta police officer, spoke alongside Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and gave an impassioned speech that soon went viral.

"It is your duty not to burn your own house down for anger with an enemy," he said, adding that he has a lot of love and respect for police while also acknowledging that some of them have done "horrendous" things.

On Monday, Perry posted on Instagram that he personally spoke with George Floyd's immediate family, and that "they are adamant in their call for peaceful protest."

In San Francisco, Foxx urged more of his fellow celebrities to step up.

"What I want to say about my Hollywood friends, you've got to get out here," he said. "You can't sit back, you can't tweet, you can't text ... When you hear and when you see how people are hurting, you can understand what it is as opposed to being in your bedroom or your living room and saying, 'Hey I don't like this.' Get out of the cul-de-sac and come down here on the courtroom steps."

Tank joined Foxx and sang a powerful rendition of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come."

"A change is gonna come," Tank told the crowd afterward. "As long as we keep doing this, a change is gonna come."

Spike Lee on what's different about these protests

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not the first time that Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" has been freshly urgent, but Lee's 1989 film has again found blistering relevance in the wake of George Floyd's death.

On Monday, Lee released a short film titled "3 Brothers" connecting the death of Radio Raheem (played by Bill Nunn) in "Do the Right Thing" to the deaths of Floyd and Eric Garner. Floyd died last week after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against his neck as he begged for air. Garner's dying plea of "I can't breathe" became a rallying cry against police brutality in 2014.

Blazed across the screen is the question: "Will history stop repeating itself?"

"I've seen this before. This is not new," Lee said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday. "I was born in '57 so I was 11 years old when I saw the riots with Dr. King's assassination, later on with Rodney King and the Simi Valley verdict, Trayvon Martin and Ferguson."

"People are tired and they take to the streets," said Lee.

"Do the Right Thing," about rising racial tensions on a hot summer day in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, took direct inspiration from reality. In the film, Raheem is choked to death by a police officer, sparking a riot.

Lee modeled the choke hold that kills Raheem on the murder of Michael Stewart, a graffiti artist who was killed by New York City police officers in 1983. Lee dedicated the film to Stewart's family, as well as those of several other black people killed by police officers.

"His death is not just made up. Many years later, Eric Garner, automatically I thought of Ray Raheem," said Lee. "Then to see my brother George Floyd. I mean, he was quoting the words of Eric Garner: 'I can't breathe.' He was channeling Eric Garner. I'm sure of it."

As much as Lee sees history repeating itself, there's one element of the current unrest that strikes the filmmaker as new.

"I've been very encouraged by the diversity of the protesters. I haven't seen this diverse protests since when I was a kid," Lee said, citing the movements of the '60s. "I'm encouraged that my white sisters and brothers are out there."

"That is the hope of this country, this diverse, younger generation of Americans who don't want to perpetuate the same (expletive) that their parents and grandparents and great-grandparents got caught up in. That's my hope."

To illustrate the point, Lee cited cities with smaller black populations, like Des Moines, Iowa, where protests and riots have occurred.

"My young white sisters and brothers are out there in the streets. How many black folks are in Salt Lake City, Utah? And let's take into account that the NBA is not playing," said Lee, letting out an enormous cackle. "The Utah Jazz are not playing!"

"3 Brothers" is the second short Lee has released during the pandemic. While Lee has kept to his Upper East Side apartment with his family, he has also biked around the city to shoot. Lee's "New York, New York," set to Frank Sinatra, was released in early May as an ode to his outbreak-stricken city. Next week, he'll release on Netflix "Da 5 Bloods," a Vietnam War drama about four black veterans who return to Vietnam to find the remains of their fallen squad leader (Chadwick Boseman).

Lee has only modest hopes for justice in the aftermath of Floyd's death. Attorney General William Barr he calls "not a friend to justice." "He's going to do what Agent Orange tell him to do," said Lee, using his favored nickname for President Donald Trump.

But Lee has been buoyed by a photo of New York police officers kneeling with protesters, an image he likened to Colin Kaepernick's NFL protests.

"They need to show the image more," said Lee. "Colin Kaepernick is a patriot."

Sobering US nursing home death report as lockdowns ease

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and CURT ANDERSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least a quarter of the COVID-19 deaths in the United States were among nursing home residents, a new report said, a disclosure that came as coronavirus restrictions eased Monday even as U.S. protests against police brutality sparked fears of new outbreaks.

The Florida Keys welcomed visitors for the first time in two months, the Colosseum opened its ancient doors in Rome, ferries restarted in Bangladesh and golfers played in Greece. But as tourist destinations worldwide reopened for business, new rules were in place to guard against the virus' spread.

"Bring facial coverings, gloves, hand sanitizer, reef-safe sunscreen and personal essential medicines. If you're feeling unwell, please stay home," the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, which includes the tourist-dependent Keys, said on its website.

Electronic signs warned travelers to two of the world's largest casinos about COVID-19 on the first day they partially reopened over Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont's objections. "Avoid Large Crowds, Don't Gamble With COVID," flashed the signs near Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun as cars — many with Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York license plates — passed by.

Meanwhile, the scope of the devastation in the nation's nursing homes became clearer in a report prepared for U.S. governors that said nearly 26,000 nursing home residents have died from COVID-19 — a number that is partial and likely to go higher.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 60,000 cases of coronavirus illness among nursing home residents, according to a copy of a letter addressed to the governors and an accompanying chart provided to The Associated Press.

The data was based on reports received from about 80% of the nation's 15,400 nursing homes as of May 24. But some states with high rates of nursing home deaths appeared to have low levels of response to the survey, intended as a first step toward developing policy changes.

"This data, and anecdotal reports across the country, clearly show that nursing homes have been devastated by the virus," wrote CDC Director Robert Redfield and CMS Administrator Seema Verma.

The U.S. has seen over 104,000 deaths and nearly 1.8 million infections in the pandemic, both count's the highest in the world.

And although the first wave of the pandemic may be easing in much of the U.S., that doesn't mean nursing homes are in any less danger: Experts say in a virus rebound they can again become the stage for tragic scenes of death and despair, as well as a risk for the broader community.

"What is going on in a nursing home can be a barometer for where the virus is," said Tamara Konetzka, a research professor at the University of Chicago, who specializes in long-term care issues.

Roadblocks were taken down shortly after midnight near Key Largo, the northernmost island in the Florida chain, where almost half of all workers are employed by hotels, bars and other hospitality industries, and many of the rest are involved in commercial and sport fishing.

But even as the Keys reopened, Miami-Dade County kept its beaches closed because of protests in South Florida and across the country over the May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man pinned at the neck by a white police officer in Minneapolis.

Richard Stanczyk, owner of Bud N' Mary's marina in Islamorada, said the 76-year-old business' fishing boats have had virtually no customers for weeks and welcomed the reopening.

"There has been a real uptick in phone calls. There have been more charter bookings," Stanczyk said. "We are encouraged. It's going to come back."

Countries around the Mediterranean Sea also tentatively kicked off a summer season where tourists could bask in their beaches with distancing measures in place.

"We are reopening a symbol. A symbol of Rome, a symbol for Italy," said Alfonsina Russo, director of the Colosseum's archaeological park. "(We are) restarting in a positive way, with a different pace, with a more sustainable tourism."

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Greece lifted lockdown measures for hotels, campsites, open-air cinemas, golf courses and public swimming pools, while beaches and museums reopened in Turkey and bars, restaurants, cinemas and museums came back to life in the Netherlands.

"Today, we opened two rooms and tomorrow three. It's like building an anthill," Athens hotel owner Panos Betis said as employees wearing face masks cleaned a rooftop restaurant and a window facing the ancient Acropolis. "Our aim now is to hang in there until 2021."

A long line of masked visitors snaked outside the Vatican Museums, which include the Sistine Chapel, as they reopened for the first time in three months.

The Vatican Museums' famous key holder — who holds the keys to all the galleries on a big ring on his wrist — opened the gate in a sign both symbolic and literal that the Museums were back in business. Still, strict crowd control measures were in place: Visitors needed reservations, their temperatures were taken before entering and masks were mandatory.

The Dutch relaxation of coronavirus rules took place on a major holiday with the sun blazing, raising fears of overcrowding in popular beach resorts. The new rules allowed bars and restaurants to serve up to 30 people inside if they keep social distancing, but there was no standing at bars and reservations were necessary.

Britain, which has the world's second-worst death toll, eased restrictions despite warnings from health officials that the risk of spreading COVID-19 was still too great. Some elementary school classes reopened and people could have limited contact with family and friends, but only outdoors and with social distancing.

Around 6.19 million infections have been reported worldwide, with over 372,000 people dying, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The true death toll is believed to be significantly higher, since many died without ever being tested.

In the U.S., the often-violent protests over Floyd's death raised fears of new outbreaks in a country where the pandemic has disproportionately affected racial minorities.

Protests have shaken cities from New York to Los Angeles, with demonstrators packed cheek by jowl, many without masks, shouting or singing. The virus is spread by microscopic droplets in the air when people cough, sneeze, talk or sing.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo expressed concern the protests in New York City could imperil the long, hard fight to contain the pandemic in a worldwide hot spot.

"You turn on the TV and you see these mass gatherings that could potentially be infecting hundreds and hundreds of people after everything that we have done," Cuomo said. "We have to take a minute and ask ourselves: 'What are we doing here?'"

Tropical storm kills 17 in El Salvador and Guatemala

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Rains from Tropical Storm Amanda left at least 17 dead and seven missing while causing extensive damage across El Salvador and Guatemala that pushed thousands of people into shelters amid the coronavirus pandemic.

El Salvador Interior Minister Mario Durán said Monday some 7,000 people were scattered across 154 shelters. He said a quarter of the rain that the country normally receives in a year fell in 70 hours.

That set off landslides and flooding, especially in the western part of the country. A day earlier officials had said at least 900 homes had been damaged.

President Nayib Bukele visited one of the most affected communities on the outskirts of San Salvador. Some 50 families lost their homes and Bukele said the government would give them \$10,000 to rebuild.

One whose home was damaged was María Torres. "We've never experienced this," she said. "The rain was so strong and suddenly the water entered the homes and we just saw how they fell."

The Legislative Assembly approved the government's use of a \$389 million loan from the International Monetary Fund to deal with the pandemic and the storm's impact.

El Salvador reports more than 2,500 infections and 46 deaths.

In Guatemala, a 9-year-old boy was swept away by a river and drowned and another person was killed

when a home collapsed, said David de León, spokesman for the national disaster agency.

Amanda pounded El Salvador with rain for days before moving ashore as a tropical storm on Sunday and pushing across Guatemala.

It quickly dissipated, but the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Monday afternoon its remnants had formed into a tropical depression in the Bay of Campeche off Mexico's gulf coast and was expected to move through the Gulf of Mexico in coming days.

Mexico issued a tropical storm warning from Campeche west to the port of Veracruz, expecting the depression to become a tropical storm Monday night or Tuesday.

It had sustained winds of 30 mph (45 kph) and was expected to move slowly just off the Mexican coast for the next couple days. The storm is expected to dump 10 to 15 inches of rain over the Mexican state of Tabasco and Veracruz with up to 20 inches in some isolated areas.

Mass gatherings, erosion of trust upend coronavirus control

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Protests erupting across the nation over the past week — and law enforcement's response to them — are threatening to upend efforts by health officials to track and contain the spread of coronavirus just as those efforts were finally getting underway.

Health experts need newly infected people to remember and recount everyone they've interacted with over several days in order to alert others who may have been exposed, and prevent them from spreading the disease further. But that process, known as contact tracing, relies on people knowing who they've been in contact with — a daunting task if they've been to a mass gathering.

And the process relies on something that may suddenly be in especially short supply: Trust in government. "These events that are happening now are further threats to the trust we need," said Dr. Sandro Galea, dean of the Boston University School of Public Health. "If we do not have that, I worry our capacity to control new outbreaks becomes more limited," he said.

Government officials have been hoping to continue reopening businesses, churches and other organizations after months of stay-at-home orders and other infection-prevention measures. But health experts also hoped that any reopening would be accompanied by widespread testing, contact tracing and isolation to prevent new waves of illness from beginning.

Over the past week, protests sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned a knee to his neck, have involved thousands of people gathered tightly together in large crowds in more than 20 cities nationwide.

It's unclear if the protests themselves will trigger large new outbreaks. The protests were outside, where infections don't spread as readily as indoors. Also, many of the protesters were wearing masks, and much of the contact was likely less-hazardous "transient" moments of people moving around, passing each other, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases expert at Vanderbilt University.

But, still, experts worry that public efforts to contain the disease in the future could be undermined. In Los Angeles, the city's mayor announced Saturday that COVID-19 testing centers were being closed because of safety concerns related to violent protests. Testing in Minneapolis will be affected because some of the clinics that provide the service have been damaged in the protests, according to a city government spokesperson.

Reduced testing could "be giving the virus another head start," Schaffner said. And contact tracing, which is only just getting going in several states, is an even bigger concern. It involves people who work for or with health departments asking intimate questions about where a person has been and who they've been talking to — and getting full, truthful answers in return.

"In this current environment which has enhanced or brought forth a mistrust of governmental authority, it might make them disinclined to speak with anyone in government," Schaffner said.

That is especially true in black communities trying to cope with episodes of police violence and longstanding frustrations with how they have been marginalized and mistreated by people who work for government

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agencies. And those are the communities that have been hardest hit by the coronavirus in the U.S. and most in need of public health measures to help control it.

Protests in Salt Lake City that drew several thousand people are a setback for contact tracers already struggling to contain the spread of the coronavirus, said Tair Kiphibane, infectious disease bureau manager for the Salt Lake County Health Department.

She became concerned as she watched hundreds of protesters go by her downtown Salt Lake City office Saturday afternoon where she and her staff were working another weekend day after seeing increases in COVID-19 cases last week.

She sent contact tracers home three hours early Saturday as protests grew violent near the office. She expects further increases in cases because so many people were close to one another during the protest. Tracing the web of infected people that may have been exposed will be daunting since protesters likely won't have names and phone numbers for many of the people they were around.

"It is going to make it so much harder," Kiphibane said. "It could be anybody. They don't know most of those people ... It is just too many people."

In a press conference Saturday, Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington used the term "contact tracing" when describing an investigation into arrested protesters there. He said the goal is to "see if there are crime or white supremacy organizations that have played a role" and "to understand how do we go after them, legally," Harrington said.

But Harrington's use of "contact tracing" by law enforcement may complicate the job of health workers as they try to track the virus's spread, some experts said.

"That was an abuse of the word 'contact tracing.' That is not what contact tracing is," said Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Contact tracing is a service to patients and their contacts to provide services for patients and warning for contacts. It has nothing to do with police activity. Nothing," said Frieden, who is now president of Resolve to Save Lives, a nonprofit that works to prevent epidemics.

Galea said he hopes many people will separate in their minds the contact tracing done by public health workers from crime investigations by the police. But, he added, "I do think sometimes it's difficult to make a distinction when you feel marginalized by, and targeted by, the entire government."

What you need to know today about the virus outbreak

By The Associated Press

Protests across the United States the past six days over the death of George Floyd have eclipsed issues over the coronavirus pandemic that have dominated much of the past three months.

Demonstrations from coast to coast — some peaceful, some violent — have taken place since the death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes.

The unrest comes as people around the world gradually try to return to normal. The first day of June saw coronavirus restrictions ease from Asia to Europe and in the United States.

The Colosseum opened its ancient doors in Rome, ferries restarted in Bangladesh, golfers played in Greece, students returned in Britain and Dutch bars and restaurants were free to welcome hungry, thirsty patrons.

The Florida Keys reopened to tourists after being shut down the past two months.

Here are some of AP's top stories Monday on the world's coronavirus pandemic. Follow [APNews.com/VirusOutbreak](https://www.apnews.com/VirusOutbreak) for updates through the day and [APNews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak](https://www.apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak) for stories explaining some of its complexities.

What's Happening Today:

— Federal health authorities have received reports of nearly 26,000 U.S. nursing home residents dying from COVID-19, according to materials prepared for the nation's governors. A letter from the Centers for

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Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 60,000 cases of coronavirus illness among nursing home residents.

— Countries around the Mediterranean Sea tentatively kicked off a summer season where tourists could bask in their sunny beaches while still being protected by social distancing measures from the coronavirus. Greece lifted lockdown measures for hotels, campsites, open-air cinemas, golf courses and public swimming pools, while beaches and museums reopened in Turkey, and bars, restaurants, cinemas and museums came back to life in the Netherlands. Commuter trains, taxis, ride-sharing cars, special shuttle buses and motorcycles rumbled back on the roads in the Philippine capital, Manila, but were only allowed to carry a fraction of their capacity as a safeguard.

— Protests erupting across the U.S. are threatening to upend efforts by health officials to track and contain the spread of coronavirus just as those efforts were finally getting underway. Health experts need newly infected people to remember and recount everyone they've interacted with over several days in order to alert others who may have been exposed and prevent them from spreading the disease further. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday, "We have to take a minute and ask ourselves: 'What are we doing here?'"

— Primaries Tuesday in eight U.S. states are the biggest test to date of campaigning during the coronavirus era, a way for parties to test-drive new ways of getting out the vote during a time when it can be dangerous to leave your home. Voters in Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and South Dakota will cast ballots in both the Democratic presidential contest and a host of down-ballot primaries for everything from governors to state representatives.

— COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted black Americans, infecting and killing them at higher rates across the nation. Experts say the pandemic has also exacerbated existing economic disparities and raised fresh concerns about the survival of black businesses, many of which have been the backbone of cities like Detroit and Atlanta for years.

— A California biotech company says its experimental drug remdesivir improved symptoms when given for five days to moderately ill, hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Gilead Sciences' drug is the only treatment that's been shown in a rigorous experiment to help fight the coronavirus.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The vast majority of people recover.

Here are the symptoms of the virus compared with the common flu.

One of the best ways to prevent spread of the virus is washing your hands with soap and water. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends first washing with warm or cold water and then lathering soap for 20 seconds to get it on the backs of hands, between fingers and under fingernails before rinsing off.

You should wash your phone, too. Here's how.

TRACKING THE VIRUS: Drill down and zoom in at the individual county level, and you can access numbers that will show you the situation where you are, and where loved ones or people you're worried about live.

ONE NUMBER:

— 1,600: There were some 1,600 people who reserved tickets in advance to see the Sistine Chapel on the first day the Vatican Museums opened to the public after a three-month coronavirus shutdown.

IN OTHER NEWS:

— **DISPATCHES FROM YOSEMITE:** Yosemite National Park has been closed to the public for nearly three months and a few dozen lucky kids have had it mostly to themselves. They are student journalists who put out the Yosemite Valley School newspaper. Their parents are Yosemite's essential staff who live in a residential area of the park and are watching over it while it's closed.

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— IT'S A START: Competitive sports have returned to England with greyhound racing as the first of three sports to resume after a 75-day shutdown because of the coronavirus outbreak. Horse racing and snooker are also taking place — all without spectators and following government-approved coronavirus protocols.

LA has seen racial uprisings, many not shocked by new round

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When violent protests over the death of George Floyd, a black man pinned down by a white Minneapolis officer, reached Los Angeles, people of color expressed heartbreak but not necessarily surprise — they had seen it nearly 30 years ago during the Rodney King riots.

On April 29, 1992, thousands in the city's largely minority south side took to the streets after an all-white jury acquitted four white police officers of attacking King, a black driver, after a traffic stop. The outcome outraged a community that watched video of King being beaten with police batons, shot with stun guns and stomped on.

By the time order was restored, rioting had spread across much of LA for five days, leaving more than 60 people dead, over 2,300 injured and \$1 billion in property damage. Smoke enveloped the city after hundreds of buildings burned to the ground.

The losses are far higher than in protests over Floyd's killing that have swept the nation for days, devolving into people setting buildings and police cars on fire, smashing their way into stores and hurling rocks and bottles at officers. Police have responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and thousands of arrests, many of them in LA.

Kerman Maddox was a young radio reporter who lived just a block from one of the flashpoints in the 1992 riots.

"I had a chance to see a lot and observe a lot, and I was hoping I would never see that again," said Maddox, who is black.

But he also thought he'd never see another video recorded by a bystander as violent as the one of King's beating, Maddox said. Not until he watched footage of white Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin pressing a knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

"I still have a hard time seeing that," said Maddox, who's a public affairs consultant.

He said the chaotic protests it triggered did not entirely surprise him, soon after white men were arrested in May in the February killing of black Georgia jogger Ahmaud Arbery and other incidents.

"The problem is this is 2020, Rodney King happened almost 30 years ago and a lot of people see this stuff is still going on," Maddox said. "You're upset, and you're angry, and you're perplexed because you're trying to figure out what do we have to do for this to end."

To see Los Angeles erupt in chaos for the second time in her life has been devastating, says Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, executive vice president of the Community Coalition South Los Angeles. As a high school student, she had to walk past burning buildings and looters after her school abruptly suspended bus service during the 1992 riots. The experience inspired her to dedicate her career to public service after earning a master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I felt that what I was seeing on TV the first night and when I walked through the fires the second day was a civil unrest by people who were fed up believing that the legal system, that the justice system, was going to work for our community," she said on the 25th anniversary of the King riots in 2017.

That's still the problem, she said Sunday, not only in Los Angeles but in other U.S. cities.

"I'm deeply concerned and heartbroken that this is happening in our city, and worse, that it's happening in different parts of the country because our elected officials refuse to hear or see the devastation that families are hearing and experiencing," Montes-Rodriguez said.

Civil rights scholar Jody Armour has noticed that people of color now protesting are often joined by white people, something he didn't see during the 1992 uprising.

That could be an indication, he says, that more white people, realizing black people were not exaggerating when they spoke of the dangers of driving or walking while black, have begun to develop an empathy

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and to stand with African Americans against oppression.

"Racial discrimination today isn't the old KKK racism, but racism of indifference," says Armour, a black University of Southern California professor who has written and lectured on racial justice, criminal justice and the rule of law. "You're not motivated by racial animus or spite, you just don't feel the pain of the out-group members as you do for your in-group members."

Still, he cautioned real change has never been easy and is often violent, from the Civil War to the 1960s civil rights movement.

That it has taken this long to get to that point is especially frustrating to Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, who was 13 when the Watts riots erupted near her home in 1965 after white officers got into a scuffle with a drunken driving suspect in the city's racially segregated Watts neighborhood. More than 30 people were killed.

While there were substantial efforts to rebuild communities after both uprisings, she said Sunday that it's clear that "despite what we have done, what has still not changed is the systemic racism that we're seeing across the country as it relates to the interaction between law enforcement and unarmed black men."

She said she's encouraged that several police chiefs have spoken out against Floyd's death. In New Jersey, for instance, Camden County Police Chief Joe Wysocki joined protesters in a march.

"I think that's where it has to start, we have to reform throughout this country our police departments," said Hahn, who is white and whose late father, Kenneth Hahn, was a revered figure in the largely black community he represented on the county Board of Supervisors for 40 years.

"I'm 68 years old," she said ruefully. "My hope is to see in my lifetime a real change. So that I don't go through one of these again."

Black Liberty U. alums rebuke Falwell after blackface tweet

By ELANA SCHOR and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly three dozen black alumni of Liberty University denounced school President Jerry Falwell Jr. on Monday, suggesting he step down after he mocked Virginia's mask-wearing requirement by invoking the blackface scandal that engulfed the state's governor last year.

In a letter to Falwell, shared with The Associated Press, 35 faith leaders and former student-athletes told Falwell that his past comments "have repeatedly violated and misrepresented" Christian principles. They said they would stop urging students to attend Liberty, would no longer donate to the university, and would urge fellow people of faith to avoid speaking at the school unless Falwell changes his behavior or steps aside.

"You have belittled staff, students and parents, you have defended inappropriate behaviors of politicians, encouraged violence, and disrespected people of other faiths," they wrote, advising Falwell that "your heart is in politics more than Christian academia or ministry."

Falwell, a stalwart backer of President Donald Trump, is the son of the late evangelist the Rev. Jerry Falwell, whose legacy the alumni invoked in imploring the younger Falwell to "stop this infantile behavior."

In response, Falwell said his comment about the blackface scandal was made in defense of Liberty students, including minorities, who would be affected by tuition assistance cuts proposed by Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat. Falwell said his involvement in politics was in the spirit of Jesus Christ, "who was not silent about the establishment political folks of his era."

"All they need to do is read the Gospels — Jesus got involved in politics," Falwell said in an interview.

In recent weeks, Falwell has jabbed repeatedly at Northam while downplaying the public health risks of the coronavirus. Last week, Northam issued an order that masks be worn inside all retail stores, while using public transportation or in any other indoor place where people congregate.

The next day, Falwell tweeted that he was "adamantly opposed" to the mask mandate "until I decided to design my own." With it, he posted a picture of a mask bearing a racist photo that appeared on Northam's medical yearbook page and — when made public last year — sparked a scandal that nearly forced him from office. The photo showed a person in blackface and another in a Ku Klux Klan costume.

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Falwell referred to Northam as "Governor Blackface" and then followed up with another tweet that said, in part: "Just a way to shine a spotlight on the fact that Democrats are and always have been the real racists in this country."

Monday's letter was signed by more than 30 former students at Liberty, one of the nation's biggest Christian universities, including pastors with churches in Virginia, Tennessee and Michigan. Current pro football player Walt Aikens and former pro football player Eric Green were also among the signatories.

"While your tweet may have been in jest about Virginia's Governor, it made light of our nation's painful history of slavery and racism," the alumni wrote to Falwell. They described the tweet as "a microcosm of the past several years of divisive rhetoric" that falls short of their faith's ideals.

Signatories included a daughter and son-in-law of the vice chairman of Liberty's board of trustees, Virginia pastor Allen McFarland.

The rebuke came after an online instructor for Liberty, a black pastor who also teaches at Ithaca College, announced his resignation online in response to the tweet.

The alumni who wrote Monday's letter also lauded their experience at the university and offered to meet with Falwell to "provide counsel on ways for L.U. to best move forward" if he stays in office.

They asked him to "withdraw your racist tweet immediately and make a public apology."

The Virginia General Assembly in March passed a budget for the 2021-2022 biennium that eliminates a tuition assistance grant for online students at private colleges such as Liberty. Existing students are grandfathered in, said Laura Osberger, spokeswoman for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

"The governor's intent was to harm Liberty, and to harm minority students and to harm low income students," Falwell said, linking the cuts to his tweet by saying that as a result, "people needed to be reminded of (Northam's) racist past."

Northam initially said he was in the yearbook photo and then denied it the next day, while acknowledging that he did wear blackface to a dance party that same year. He faced swift, widespread calls to resign, but he resisted, saying he instead wanted to help heal the state's lingering racial wounds and devote the rest of his term to promoting racial equality.

The governor and the university president sparred indirectly in March, as the coronavirus began to take a bigger hold in the U.S. and Falwell decided to "welcome" students back to campus after their spring break. Northam quoted from scripture in urging Falwell to rethink that decision.

A spokesman for the governor said Monday that it was good to see ministers "speaking out for civility" and that Northam would not dignify the tweet with a response.

"But I recall that Matthew's gospel teaches us to 'beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruits you will know them,'" Northam's chief communications officer, Grant Neely, wrote in an email.

Black businesses hit hard by COVID-19 fight to stay afloat

By KAT STAFFORD ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit (AP) — Stephanie Byrd agonized over temporarily laying off nearly the entire staff at her family's trio of Detroit businesses when the coronavirus pandemic hit.

But she's not just concerned about the impact on their bottom line.

She's worried other black-owned businesses will struggle to withstand another wave of economic uncertainty, following decades of inequity that made it hard for many to flourish in the first place.

"Most of the people I know who have businesses and are black are terrified right now," said Byrd, whose family owns Flood's Bar & Grille, The Block restaurant and the city's Garden Theater. "There could be a new wave of black businesses that are able to reinvent themselves post-pandemic, but black businesses could also be wiped out for the most part within a black city. What would it look like without black-owned businesses?"

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted black Americans, infecting and killing them at higher rates across the nation. But experts say the pandemic has also exacerbated existing economic disparities and

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raised fresh concerns about the survival of black businesses, many of which have been the backbone of cities like Detroit and Atlanta for years.

They also worry the pandemic could widen the existing black wealth gap. According to the Federal Reserve's 2016 Survey of Consumer Finance, the median white family net worth of \$171,000 is about 10 times greater than that of a black family's, which is \$17,150.

Black businesses historically have struggled to gain access to financing due to discriminatory lending practices and a lack of relationships with big banks. But civil rights leaders and historians say their struggles are also rooted in the simmering effects of racism and Jim Crow-era laws that enforced racial segregation and denied black people equal opportunities.

"Structural racism has created an environment where black businesses are starved for capital," said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, a civil rights and urban advocacy organization.

Juliet Walker, founder of University of Texas at Austin's Center of Black Business, History, Entrepreneurship and Technology, said black enterprises existed even prior to the Civil War. They especially thrived during a "golden age" from 1900 to 1930 in areas such as Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood District, known as Black Wall Street. But those moments were short-lived.

Tulsa's once-thriving African American business community was destroyed in 1921 when a racist white mob killed hundreds of black residents. Black residents attempted to rebuild in the decades that followed, only to see their work erased during urban renewal of the 1960's.

"Blacks were able to establish successful business enterprises during the age of slavery where black people had no political or economic rights," Walker said. "Yet, here we are today and the position of blacks in business differs very little from the position of blacks during the age of slavery."

Detroit was once home to Black Bottom and Paradise Valley — two predominantly African American neighborhoods, the latter of which had more than 350 black-owned businesses and a music scene that drew the likes of Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday.

Both were wiped out in the 1950's and 1960's, when a nearly all-white city government allowed the construction of a freeway system through the heart of the neighborhoods.

Jamon Jordan, a black historian based in Detroit, said the pandemic could have a similar crushing impact on black American businesses.

"Each time this happens, the amount of energy and time it takes to recreate something that's even as simple as what was destroyed is monumental," Jordan said. "Even though the coronavirus isn't the fault of a single person or leader, the impact of the devastation on the African American community is part of a long legacy of discrimination and segregation for black people and black businesses."

Some black business owners have also expressed frustration with the Small Business Administration's \$659 billion Personal Paycheck Protection Program, which was meant to provide small businesses with loans to keep employees on their payrolls during the COVID-19 crisis. The initial round of funding ran out in just 13 days, with complaints over lag times and confusion over the application process. However, the SBA made improvements in its second round and more than \$100 billion remains available.

But the Center for Responsible Lending, a nonprofit group that works to end predatory lending practices aimed at low-income communities, said challenges remain.

"This is just a new public health crisis and economic crisis that is coming after so many decades and centuries of structural inequality," said Ashley Harrington, the center's federal advocacy director and senior counsel.

National Business League President and CEO Ken Harris said his team has been fielding hundreds of questions from members who are struggling to survive. The league, founded in 1900 by Booker T. Washington, is launching its own \$1.8 million digital platform to help business owners gain access to funding.

"It's going to be a rebuilding process and we're going to have to focus on economic recovery," Harris said.

Pinky Cole, the African American owner of the popular Atlanta-area Slutty Vegan restaurants and food trucks, said she's been able to shift toward being a carryout business but others haven't been so lucky. Through her Pinky Cole Foundation, she's been paying the rent for small businesses that are struggling.

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"Black-owned businesses, we've always landed at the bottom of the totem pole as it relates to resources," Cole said. "We put our blood, sweat and tears into these businesses and everything you've worked hard for can be lost in a matter of days."

Several business companies and entrepreneurs, including Facebook, Magic Johnson and Mark Cuban, the billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks, have announced plans to help businesses owned by people of color, but some worry the assistance might come too late.

The Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council, which represents minority-owned firms that serve the country's automotive industry, took matters into its own hands and worked to identify lenders willing to help small firms.

"The difference for minority businesses is they can't walk into a bank and get the same treatment and if anything, I believe COVID-19 has exposed much of our disparity," said Michelle Sourie Robinson, the council's president and CEO.

OneUnited Bank, the nation's largest black-owned bank, announced its participation in the Small Business Administration program in April to help minority-owned businesses gain access to the stimulus funding.

"A lot of our customers as well as businesses who are in the community, I've counted on one hand the number that actually applied and got funded," said Teri Williams, president and chief operating officer. "Our community was really getting shut out."

On Thursday, the SBA announced it was setting aside \$10 billion exclusively for Community Development Financial Institutions, which work to expand economic opportunity in minority and other under-served communities.

Bernard Kanjoma and his fiancée Jessika-Katherine Naranjo Colina, who co-own the graphic design and marketing firm Naranjo Designs, said they received an \$8,000 loan May 5.

Kanjoma, who emigrated to the United States from Malawi, said their 12-person team has seen an 80% drop in business but they're identifying creative ways to weather the crisis.

"We have been heavily impacted and it's been challenging but I felt like all the hardships that I went through with immigration and everything else to be where I am now, this is something that is just going to blow over," Kanjoma said.

UN forced to cut aid to Yemen, even as virus increases need

By MAGGIE MICHAEL and MAGGIE HYDE Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Aid organizations are making an urgent plea for funding to shore up their operations in war-torn Yemen, saying they have already been forced to stop some of their work even as the coronavirus rips through the country.

Some 75% of U.N. programs in Yemen have had to shut their doors or reduce operations. The global body's World Food Program had to cut rations in half and U.N.-funded health services were reduced in 189 out of 369 hospitals nationwide.

"It's almost impossible to look a family in the face, to look them in the eyes and say, 'I'm sorry but the food that you need in order to survive we have to cut in half,'" Lise Grande, resident U.N. coordinator for Yemen, told The Associated Press.

The dwindling funds are the result of several factors, but among the top reasons is obstruction by Yemen's Houthi rebels, who control the capital, Sanaa, and other territories. The United States, one of the largest donors, decreased its aid to Yemen earlier this year, citing interference by the Houthis.

It's yet to be seen whether the Houthis will allow monitoring and oversight or give U.N. agencies the space to operate. A U.N. pledging conference for Yemen on Tuesday seeks \$2.41 billion to cover essential activities from June to December.

Grande said the Houthis are working to become more transparent, and that she hopes this will encourage donor countries to give aid.

Her optimism, however, comes as the Houthis face heavy criticism for suppressing information about the number of COVID-19 cases and fatalities in areas they control, while putting no mitigation measures in place.

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Tuesday's conference will be co-hosted for the first time by Saudi Arabia — a major player in Yemen's civil war since it first unleashed a bombing campaign in 2015 to try to push back the Iranian-backed Houthis who had seized the northern half of the country.

Critics question the Saudis' high-profile role in rallying humanitarian support even as they continue to wage a war — as do the Houthis — that has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Maysaa Shuja al-Deen, a Yemeni researcher and a non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, said the kingdom is trying to repair its international image by changing the conversation.

Saudi Arabia "has always tried to change the narrative of the war and present itself as a backer of the legitimate government, not part of the conflict," she said.

In past years, the kingdom has been one of the top donors for U.N. humanitarian aid operations in Yemen. The Saudi ambassador to Yemen, Mohammed al-Jaber, said the kingdom will allocate half a billion dollars this year to support U.N. programs, including \$25 million for a COVID-19 response plan.

The U.N. itself has also investigated allegations of corruption and diversion of aid in Yemen in its own ranks.

Reports indicate that the coronavirus is spreading at an alarming rate throughout the country.

Among the slashed programs is financial support to thousands of health workers who haven't received salaries from the government for nearly three years. Grande said that just a week before the first coronavirus case was announced in Yemen, aid agencies had to stop paying health workers.

Without salaries, medical staff won't be able to provide health services to patients amid the pandemic.

The U.N. received around \$3.6 billion in 2019 in international donations for its campaign, short of its \$4.2 billion goal. For its 2020 plan, it has so far received only 15% out of the needed \$3.5 billion.

Yemen has been caught in a grinding war since 2014 when Houthi rebels descended from their northern enclave and took over Sanaa, forcing the internationally recognized president to flee. In the spring of 2015, a U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition began a destructive air campaign to dislodge the Houthis while imposing a land, sea and air embargo on Yemen.

The air war and fighting on the ground has killed more than 100,000 people, shut down or destroyed half of Yemen's health facilities, and driven 4 million Yemenis from their homes. Cholera epidemics and severe malnutrition among children have led to thousands of additional deaths.

As the war enters its sixth year, with no sign of a viable cease-fire, the suffering looks set to continue. Fighting has continued unabated along several front lines in Yemen, including in Marib, an oil-rich eastern province, threatening new waves of displacement.

The U.N.'s massive aid program, totaling \$8.35 billion since 2015, is vital to keeping many Yemenis alive. Ten million people are on the brink of famine and 80% of the 30 million population are in need of aid, according to the U.N.

With the coronavirus spreading, more money is needed.

Since April, authorities in areas controlled by Yemen's internationally recognized government reported 354 cases, including 84 deaths. The Houthis declared only four cases, including one death.

The World Health Organization believes that there is a significant underestimation of the outbreak, which could further hinder efforts to get supplies into Yemen that are needed to contain the virus.

Richard Brennan, the WHO's regional emergency director, told the AP that he believes the deaths are in the hundreds and cases in the thousands, based on what he's heard from numerous health care providers. But he said the lack of funding means the organization's health programs are hanging by a thread.

Hospitals in the southern city of Aden have run out of beds for virus patients, international aid group Doctors without Borders said on Monday, due to a drastic spike of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in the city. The group said it was scrambling to increase capacity at a local treatment center.

The International Rescue Committee, an aid group, said Yemen is conducting just 31 tests per one million people, among the world's lowest scores.

With increasing needs and fewer funds, the U.N. refugee agency will have to stop cash assistance and shelter programs for more than 50,000 displaced families by August, said spokeswoman Heba Kanso. She

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said the agency will be forced to end its partnership with dozens of Yemeni NGOs that will have let go more than 1,500 national staff.

Relief agencies worry that donors will give less as many countries struggle their own virus outbreaks. But they warn that the world's worst humanitarian crisis can indeed get much worse.

"The world's attention is diverted elsewhere and these are the vulnerable among the most vulnerable on the planet, and we need a commitment," said Brennan.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 2, the 154th day of 2020. There are 212 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 2, 1941, baseball's "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, died in New York of a degenerative disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; he was 37.

On this date:

In 1886, President Grover Cleveland, 49, married Frances Folsom, 21, in the Blue Room of the White House. (To date, Cleveland is the only president to marry in the executive mansion.)

In 1897, Mark Twain was quoted by the New York Journal as saying from London that "the report of my death was an exaggeration." (Twain was responding to a report in the New York Herald that he was "grievously ill" and "possibly dying.")

In 1924, Congress passed, and President Calvin Coolidge signed, a measure guaranteeing full American citizenship for all Native Americans born within U.S. territorial limits.

In 1953, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place in London's Westminster Abbey, 16 months after the death of her father, King George VI.

In 1962, Soviet forces opened fire on striking workers in the Russian city of Novocherkassk; a retired general in 1989 put the death toll at 22 to 24.

In 1966, U.S. space probe Surveyor 1 landed on the moon and began transmitting detailed photographs of the lunar surface.

In 1976, Arizona Republic investigative reporter Don Bolles (boh-lz) was mortally wounded by a bomb planted underneath his car; he died 11 days later. (Prosecutors believed Bolles was targeted because he had written stories that upset a liquor wholesaler; three men were convicted of the killing.)

In 1979, Pope John Paul II arrived in his native Poland on the first visit by a pope to a Communist country.

In 1981, the Japanese video arcade game "Donkey Kong" was released by Nintendo.

In 1995, a U.S. Air Force F-16C was shot down by a Bosnian Serb surface-to-air missile while on a NATO air patrol in northern Bosnia; the pilot, Capt. Scott F. O'Grady, was rescued by U.S. Marines six days later.

In 1997, Timothy McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. (McVeigh was executed in June 2001.)

In 2009, Scott Roeder (ROH'-dur), an anti-abortion activist, was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of late-term abortion provider Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas. (Roeder was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 50 years.)

Ten years ago: Amid the Deepwater Horizon oil spill crisis, BP chief executive Tony Hayward apologized for having told reporters, "I'd like my life back," calling the remark hurtful and thoughtless in a statement posted on Facebook. Taxi driver Derrick Bird went on a murderous rampage across a tranquil part of rural England, leaving 12 dead before committing suicide. Pitcher Armando Galarraga of the Detroit Tigers lost his bid for a perfect game against Cleveland with two outs in the ninth inning on a call that first base umpire Jim Joyce later admitted he'd blown. (The Tigers beat the Indians, 3-0.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama signed the USA Freedom Act, extending three expiring surveillance provisions of the 9/11-era USA Patriot Act. FIFA President Sepp Blatter announced his resignation as head of soccer's governing body just four days after being re-elected to the post amid a widening

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corruption scandal.

One year ago: An out-of-control cruise ship rammed into a dock and a tourist riverboat on a busy Venice canal, injuring five people and renewing demands that cruise ships be kept out of the Italian city's lagoon.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Kellerman is 83. Actor Ron Ely (EE'-lee) is 82. Filmmaker and movie historian Kevin Brownlow is 82. Actor Stacy Keach is 79. Rock musician Charlie Watts is 79. Actor Charles Haid is 77. Rhythm and blues singer Chubby Tavares (Tavares) is 76. Movie director Lasse (LAH'-suh) Hallstrom is 74. Actor Jerry Mathers is 72. Actress Joanna Gleason is 70. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman is 68. Actor Dennis Haysbert is 66. Comedian Dana Carvey is 65. Actor Gary Grimes is 65. Pop musician Michael Steele is 65. Rock singer Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet) is 60. Actor Liam Cunningham is 59. Actor Navid Negahban is 56. Singer Merrill Bainbridge is 52. TV personality-producer Andy Cohen ("The Real Housewives" TV franchise) is 52. Rapper B-Real (Cypress Hill) is 50. Actress Paula Cale is 50. Actor Anthony Montgomery is 49. Actor-comedian Wayne Brady is 48. Actor Wentworth Miller is 48. Rock musician Tim Rice-Oxley (Keane) is 44. Actor Zachary Quinto is 43. Actor Dominic Cooper is 42. Actress Nikki Cox is 42. Actor Justin Long is 42. Actor Deon Richmond is 42. Actress Morena Baccarin is 41. Rhythm and blues singer Irish Grinstead (702) is 40. Rock musician Fabrizio Moretti (The Strokes) is 40. Olympic gold medal soccer player Abby Wambach is 40. Country singer Dan Cahoon (Marshall Dyllon) is 37. Singer-songwriter ZZ Ward is 34. Rapper/actress Awkwafina is 32. Actress Brittany Curran is 30. Actor Sterling Beaumon is 25.

Thought for Today: "We are minor in everything but our passions." — Elizabeth Bowen, Irish author (1899-1973).

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