

# Groton Daily Independent

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Wishing outgoing Councilman David McGannon and happy retirement are Drew Johnson, Kristie Flihs, Damian Bahr, David Blackmun, Karyn Babcock, and there is David McGannon, Mayor Scott Hanlon, Shirley Wells and Jon Cutler. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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

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

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## McGannon's last council meeting

It was the end of over three decades of service as Councilman David McGannon left the meeting after the 132nd council adjourned for the year. McGannon first got on the council in 1989. Mayor Scott Hanlon thanked McGannon for all of his years of service to the community. "We really appreciate it."

The Ward 2 election canvass was conducted to approve the election. Damian Bahr won the election. He, along with Kristie Flihs, were sworn in as new councilmen at the Wednesday meeting. Flihs takes over for the spot vacated by Burt Glover who moved out of town. Bahr takes over the spot vacated by David McGannon.

It is interesting to note there will be three women and three men on the council and Mayor Scott Hanlon.

Jon Cutler and David Blackmun were issued the renewal of office while Bahr and Flihs were sworn in as new councilmen.

David Blackmun was re-elected as council president. Shirley Wells was re-elected as vice president.

The committees were formed as follows:

NECOG Representative: Babcock

Planning & Zoning Representative: Cutler

Electric, trains, insect & weed control, airport: Blackmun as chairman, Wells as co-chairman.

Water, swimming pool, skating, economic development: Babcock as chairman, Flihs as co-chairman.

Streets, baseball, storm drainage, Other Rec (tennis, basketball, golf): Blackmun as chairman, Bahr as co-chairman.

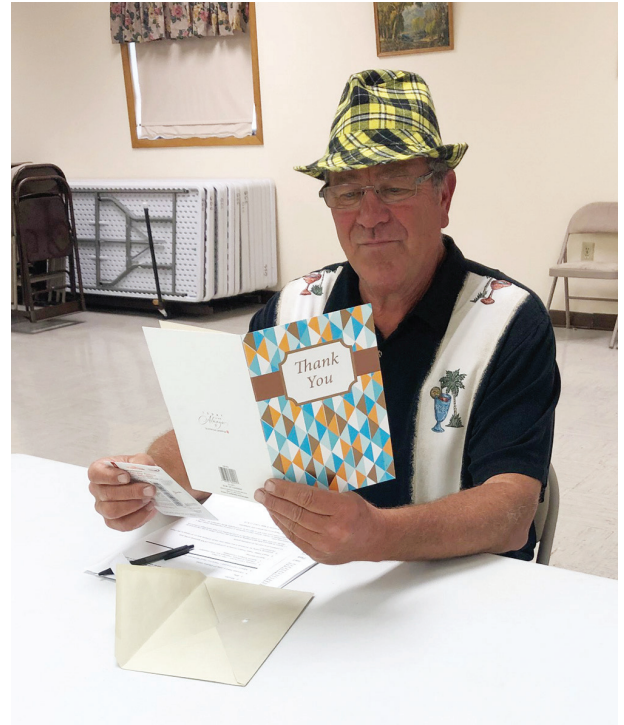
Wastewater, cemetery, civil defense, community center: Wells as chairman, Cutler as co-chairman.

Finance office, legal, a library, insurance, general administration, elections, code enforcement: Cutler as chairman, Babcock as co-chairman.

Solid waste, rubble site, parks, forestry, liquor: Flihs as chairman, Cutler as co-chairman.

Police: Bahr as chairman, Blackmun as co-chairman.

Drew Johnson was re-appointed as city attorney.



**Councilman David McGannon looks over a thank you card signed by city employees and fellow councilmen.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Mayor Scott Hanlon swears in Damian Bahr and Kristie Flihs as new councilmen.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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One of the bills discussed was the asbestos test down on the pump room. Any time a building is renovated or demolished, an asbestos test needs to be conducted when it applies to a public building. The test came back negative. It cost \$300 to do the test.

The council approved two of the three water projects which include the water tower and new pump house.

The water tower replacement is \$1,057,000 by Maguire Iron and the pump house and site piping was awarded to AB Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$439,760.61.

The third project, a water main loop on the south side of town will be expanded to include a water main loop on the north side of town and will be rebid in hoping to secure more grant money. The Olson Development loop is estimated at \$216,400 and the south side of town loop is estimated at \$749,000.

The council voted to proceed with finding out what funding is available for the third project.

The council approved raising the swimming pool vacation pass from \$30 to \$60 which is good for up to 10 immediate family members for 7 days.

The council declared some old playground equipment and a refrigerator at city hall as junk.

After an executive session, the council hired Matt Locke as day coach and Alyssa Thaler as a grounds keeper.



**Jon Cutler and David Blackmun were re-affirmed as councilmen as well.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## #101 in a series Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Things looking good.

We're at 1,857,600 cases in the US. New case numbers are well down again, also below 20,000 again. NY leads with 378,924 cases, another decrease, now to just over 1000. NJ has 162,068 cases, another day of decrease, also below 1000. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 124,060, CA – 118,905, MA – 101,592, PA – 77,871, TX – 69,106 MI – 58,990, FL – 58,756, and MD – 55,617 These ten states account for 65% of US cases. 4 more states have over 40,000 cases, 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 6 more states have over 20,000 cases, 10 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 MA, GA, FL, LA, MD, OH, VA, and IN. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, WA, TX, AZ, NC, WI, TN, and AL. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MI, NJ, CT, IL, MN, PA, and IA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 107,045 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths decreased for a second consecutive day, and it is below 1000 again. NY has 29,918, NJ has 11,880, MA has 7152, PA has 5742, MI has 5579, IL has 5652, CA has 4374, and CT has 3989. One state (NJ) reported over 100 new deaths today, and the rest are reporting fewer than 100. 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.

A research team at Yale School of Public Health has had a look at excess deaths since this pandemic hit the US. They based their modeling on historical data for all deaths between 2015 and 2020 from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and modeled expected deaths each week from March 1 to May 9 (latest date with relatively complete death figures collected). They did take into account seasonal variations, the intensity of flu epidemics each year, and year-to-year variations. They also adjusted for reporting lags—the fact that some states report more slowly than others so that their expected figures reflect what we would have seen from a given state at this point in the past rather than comparing at-this-point figures from this year to when-it's-all-over figures from historical data.

You may remember our earlier conversations about excess deaths, but just in case you're a bit fuzzy or just joined us, excess deaths is a concept that enables us to get a fuller picture of the impact of an event like a catastrophe (a hurricane, for example) or a pandemic (now, for example) on mortality. Essentially what you do (in a very sophisticated statistical sort of way, using fancy computers and all) is take a look at how many people died in, say, the first week of April over the past five years to establish a baseline we call expected deaths. That is, of course, adjusted for the fact that the population grows every year and other things like an especially bad—or easy—flu season in a given year. And once we have that first-week-of-April baseline, we can look at reported deaths from the actual first week of April and see how those compare. Excess deaths are those above the expected number.

This is a useful tool because it's easy to miss deaths from a catastrophic event at the time: You're too busy dealing with the catastrophe. In addition, in the case of a pandemic, early on no one really knows what to look for, so there are misdiagnoses; you also might not have enough (or any if it's a new thing like this virus) testing to accurately identify cases for some time. If you just go by what's on the death certificates, you're going to miss a lot of deaths that were actually due to the infection. Expected deaths studies are also useful in responding to folks alleging that we're mocking up the numbers to make this pandemic thing look a lot worse than it actually is. After all, if you have an extra hundred thousand or so

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folks dying in a relatively short period of time, it's pretty tough to make the case that there was some completely coincidental spike in deaths from some other cause just at the same moment a new infection was raging through a population—or it ought to be. And it turns out that's pretty much what we have—an extra hundred thousand or so folks dying since March began. It really is important to properly attribute those deaths; if you're interested in reducing preventable mortality—and I think this is one thing we all can agree on—then you need to know what's killing people.

You will likely recall the US hit the 100,000 mark for deaths due to Covid-19 on May 27. This model estimates the number of excess deaths between March 1 and May 9 to be between 97,500 and 105,500. Midpoint of that range is 101,500. Now, some of these excess deaths were probably not people with Covid-19: Some of them will be people who had heart attacks but couldn't get seen fast enough because hospitals were overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients; some of them will be people who didn't call the doctor when they felt ill because they were scared to go to the hospital with this infection raging, so they died at home; maybe one was someone struck and killed by an ambulance rushing a Covid-19 patient to the hospital. But a fair proportion of them were people who died of Covid-19 infections but hadn't been tested, people who weren't sick enough to go to the hospital, then took a sudden turn and died without being seen, people who died waiting to be seen in an emergency department, people who got sick early on and were not recognized as cases. And it is inescapable that the actual number of people who died from this virus very likely hit 100,000 well before May 27 and also that today's number is well short of the real one.

The report also addressed all kinds of state-by-state variation in impact. There was a lot in it, but this is the takeaway for folks who aren't necessarily data nerds. It provides good support for the information about excess deaths we've discussed way back in April and again last month, and it's more up-to-date. The problem has been getting better as we've gone along, but there is ample evidence we are undercounting Covid-19 deaths.

I just read a sort of round-up of what we've learned about this virus in the few months we've even known it existed, and it's an impressive amount. Much of what I read is things we've already discussed. I won't rehash all the stuff you know; but there were some nice tidbits in there I wanted to share with you.

I loved the description of this virus as "an assembly manual for a photocopier, model SARS-CoV-2." If you will cast your mind back to our earliest discussions of how a virus works, this is a great metaphor. This author also mentioned that we may now understand where the expression, going viral, came from and how apropos it really is. Good point there.

He also addressed the size of this virus. It's not particularly small, as viruses go; but it's small. Here's the best analogy from the article: "If a person were the size of Earth, the virus would be the size of a person." (My frame of reference for these things is the punctuation mark, the period—like the one at the end of this sentence. Depending on the font, that's around 1 million nanometers, or 1000 micrometers. This virus is one-eighth of a micrometer, so 8000 of them would fit, single-file, across the period.)

He mentions that this virus has an unusually large genome (the complete set of genetic instructions coded in its RNA) for a virus, about twice the usual size, which means it codes for more different proteins than most viruses by quite a lot. That gives them more options for shutting down our cells as they execute their takeover to get our cells to make virus particles instead of doing their usual tasks.

There was also an excellent description of the cooperative efforts to attack the problem of this pandemic we're seeing from the research community, quoting one researcher, Dr. Melanie Ott, director of the Gladstone Institute of Virology in San Francisco, saying, "We're mounting a reaction against the virus that is truly unprecedented." In comparing this effort to that surrounding the one at the time HIV emerged

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in the '70s, she said, "What's fundamentally different now is that we have generated this community of collaboration and data-sharing. It's really mind-blowing."

And that's a good word for the pace of research: mind-blowing. Work started on the first vaccine three hours after the genome was published from China. Three hours! It usually takes longer than that to fill out an application for research approval. And there are currently more than 100 vaccine projects in the works. People are working on understanding every facet of this virus's operation in a cell, looking for a vulnerability we can target with a drug or a vaccine or an antibody. We have a long way to go, but the work is going along at a furious tempo.

Something we're hearing a lot about is efforts to do contact tracing digitally using apps on your phone, for example. The information gathered in this way would be invaluable in tracing efforts, but of course, there is a real risk to privacy if governmental agencies or commercial interests are able to track people's movements. Fortunately, this is one of the few things Congress apparently can get together on, and there is a proposal called the "Exposure Notification Privacy Act," to establish some legal guidelines for what is and is not OK. The effort is to avoid forcing people to participate against their will and to protect the data so gathered from commercial use. There appears to be some question whether people in the US will ever be comfortable adopting this sort of technology on a scale that would do much good. The hurry to deal with the problem now—and the surprising bipartisan nature of the effort—underscores how pitiful have been past attempts to adopt a comprehensive consumer privacy law. Perhaps the urgency of the moment will get results this time, although I remain skeptical about bipartisanship these days.

The bill currently proposed requires companies developing these apps to collaborate with public health authorities and requires consent from users before their locations are tracked. There is a provision prohibiting employers from discriminating against employees who refuse their consent. There are prohibitions against commercial use of information collected and provision for users to request their data be deleted. Users would have to be notified if there was a breach of the system, and there would be penalties for abuses. Of course there are still squabbles about the details; we'll see about progress as time goes on.

Since we don't actually know for sure the ways this virus is transmitted, it is important to at least understand what helps to prevent transmission. I read a report in *The Lancet* of just such an effort to sort this out. A large collaboration of researchers undertook a systematic review and meta-analysis of the literature to sort out what is known. This sort of work gathers all available reports from studies that address these questions and culls from them the relevant findings; meta-analysis is a statistical procedure that goes a step farther and combines data from multiple studies. They had a lot to work with, ending up with 172 usable studies, 44 of which were suitable for meta-analysis.

Here's what they found: (1) "current policies of at least 1 m [3'] physical distancing are associated with a large reduction in infection, and distances of 2 m might be more effective," (2) "wearing face masks protects people (both health-care workers and the general public) against infection by these coronaviruses," and (3) "eye protection could confer additional benefit." It is noted that none of these things is completely protective, however; there are no guarantees of zero transmission.

I read an article outlining current obstacles to and ethical considerations in testing therapies and vaccines as we go along. The issues cited are several. One is a problem of running out of patients to test things on as the disease outbreaks come under control in one country after another. There were a couple of studies halted in China in the early days as case numbers dropped dramatically. Some of those drugs being tested, remdesivir, for example, were later tested in countries where the virus had arrived. The same sort of problem can develop in vaccine trials: If the risk of becoming infected drops too low, then there's no way to test whether the vaccine prevents infection—no one's getting the infection anyhow. The solution



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would be a similar one: Find a country where the pandemic continues. This raises the costs for trials and can present logistical challenges.

Another class of problems centers on ethics. When the standard of care is not necessarily all that effective, physicians are having trouble with the idea of a randomized, placebo-controlled trial where some of the patients in the study will not receive the therapy under study. When there's a chance something will work, it can be tough to deny that chance to people who are sick. Thing is, the reason we do controlled studies is to prevent us from reaching conclusions that are not warranted—to make sure we found out what we think we found out. No way to do that without a control arm on the study, that is, people who don't receive the therapy being tested. Since a lot of people with Covid-19 get better, even seriously ill people, it's hard to know whether the therapy being tested is responsible for that improvement or the people would have gotten better anyhow. Rigorous controlled studies prevent leaping to inaccurate conclusions and declaring something effective that doesn't actually help. Stephen Evans, a medical-statistic expert at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said, "Medicine is littered with studies of treatments people believed worked, but didn't." And that's the risk here. Is it more ethical to give all the patients the drug which may or may not help or to get a definitive answer to the question of efficacy? Tough question, for sure.

This pandemic has been hard on children: They can't go see grandparents, their favorite activities are being cancelled, and they're missing their friends. One such is a 7-year-old in North Carolina named Curtis Rogers, who was missing his babysitter, a high school girl who is, according to Rogers, "one of the best people I've known." When he learned she was sad about the cancellation of her high school prom, little Curtis decided to do something about that; so he planned and threw her a prom himself. Using a pool noodle to measure appropriate distance and all dressed up in a three-piece suit, bow tie and all, he welcomed her to his back yard. She was gussied up in the dress she'd bought for the prom; just her date and the venue had changed. He served her favorite foods along with sparkling grape juice in crystal wine glasses—very elegant, indeed. There was music and dancing. There were absolutely charming photos taken and shared on Twitter. Reportedly, a good time was had by all. What a great kid those parents are raising! And what a good sport the babysitter, one Rachel Chapman, was. She said, "I'm really glad that he did that." I am too.

A 7-year-old, even while he's missing his own pleasures, was caring enough to notice someone else's sadness and to want to do something to alleviate it. We're all grown-ups here, aren't we? Surely we can match that. All this newfound time you have, now that you're not going places and seeing people and scheduling appointments, should afford you ample opportunity to look around you and notice how the folks around you are coping. Some of them are sad or scared or bored or lonely or suffering one way or another. There must be something you can do about some small part of that. So what are you waiting for? If we don't figure out how to show some caring and why we should, we're going to end up in a very dark place. It's not that long 'til midnight. Time to go to work. And be joyful about it; giving to others feels great.

Please stay well. We'll talk tomorrow.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 3	June 4
Minnesota	25,508	25,870
Nebraska	14,611	14,866
Montana	523	525
Colorado	26,788	27,060
Wyoming	701	703
North Dakota	2646	2679
South Dakota	5067	5162
United States	1,831,821	1,851,520
US Deaths	106,181	107,175

Minnesota	+300	+362
Nebraska	+266	+255
Montana	+4	+2
Colorado	+211	+272
Wyoming	+1	+2
North Dakota	+21	+33
South Dakota	+33	+95
United States	+20,451	+19,699
US Deaths	+1,016	+994

	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 3rd COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

One more death in North Dakota, none in South Dakota. Brule and Hanson Countys have fallen from the perfect list to now having positive cases. Hamlin County went back to fully recovered.

South Dakota has 95 new positive cases and 94 recovered. The percent recovered is still inching upward. Brown County has an extra active case with five new positive tests and 4 that have recovered. Day County has seen two more recovered so they are down to one before going on the fully recovered list.

#### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: +1 (62)  
Recovered: +4 (223)  
Total Positive: +5 (286)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (13)  
Deaths: 1  
Negative Tests: +30 (1596)  
Percent Recovered: 78.0% (0.1 increase)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +95 (5162 total)  
Negative: +1721 (43500 total)  
Hospitalized: +13 (456 total) - 87 currently hospitalized (2 less than yesterday)  
Deaths: 0 (62 total)  
Recovered: +94 (4084 total)  
Active Cases: +1 (1016)  
Percent Recovered: 79.1% up 0.4

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Brule, Hanson): Bennett +42 (118), Butte +8 (219), Campbell +1 (39), Custer +11 (180), Haakon 37, Harding 30, Jones 14, Mellette +2 (74), Perkins 22, Potter +19 (127), unassigned +781 (3757).

Aurora: +1 positive, +1 recovered (15 of 27 recovered)  
Beadle: +32 positive, +18 recovered (112 of 308 recovered)  
Brookings: +3 positive (16 of 20 recovered)  
Brown: +5 positive, +4 recovered (223 of 286 recovered)  
Brule: First Cases (+2 positive), +1 recovered (1 of 2 recovered)  
Buffalo: +1 positive (4 of 22 recovered)  
Charles Mix: +1 recovered (11 of 18 recovered)  
Davison: +4 positive (10 of 20 recovered)  
Day: +2 recovered (12 of 13 recovered)  
Edmunds: +2 positive (0 of 3 recovered)  
Fall River: +1 positive (3 of 6 recovered)  
Hamlin: +1 recovered (4 of 4 recovered)  
Hand: +1 positive (1 of 3 recovered)  
Hanson: First Positive Case  
Jerauld: +3 positive, +3 recovered (25 of 38 recovered)  
Kingsbury: +1 positive (1 of 3 recovered)  
Lake: +2 positive, +1 recovered (7 of 10 recovered)  
Lincoln: +1 positive, +5 recovered (216 of 240 recovered)

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Lyman: +1 positive (10 of 15 recovered)  
Meade: +2 recovered (8 of 22 recovered)  
Minnehaha: +5 positive, ++28 recovered (2973 of 3377 recovered)  
Oglala Lakota: +1 positive, +1 recovered (10 of 32 recovered)  
Pennington: +16 positive, +15 recovered (80 of 257 recovered)  
Sanborn: +1 recovered (9 of 13 recovered)  
Todd: +1 recovered (19 of 28 recovered)  
Union: +1 positive, +5 recovered (71 of 92 recovered)  
Yankton: +1 recovered (45 of 51 recovered)

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

The NDDoH & private labs report 2,626 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 33 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,679. NDDoH also reports one new death. State & private labs have reported 101,327 total completed tests. 2,169 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	599	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	917	18%
Hispanic	903	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	541	10%
Other	607	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1595	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	27	15	135
Beadle	308	112	498
Bennett	0	0	118
Bon Homme	8	6	389
Brookings	20	16	850
Brown	286	223	1596
Brule	2	1	260
Buffalo	22	4	255
Butte	0	0	219
Campbell	0	0	39
Charles Mix	18	11	313
Clark	4	4	137
Clay	15	13	605
Codington	38	29	1139
Corson	4	3	68
Custer	0	0	180
Davison	20	10	832
Day	13	12	203
Deuel	1	1	218
Dewey	1	0	405
Douglas	3	2	155
Edmunds	3	0	130
Fall River	6	3	289
Faulk	1	1	57
Grant	13	10	139
Gregory	1	0	79
Haakon	0	0	37
Hamlin	4	4	165
Hand	3	1	105
Hanson	1	0	79
Harding	0	0	30
Hughes	19	15	643
Hutchinson	6	3	418

Hyde	1	1	40
Jackson	4	0	39
Jerauld	38	25	160
Jones	0	0	14
Kingsbury	3	1	211
Lake	10	7	292
Lawrence	11	9	606
Lincoln	240	216	2754
Lyman	15	10	282
Marshall	4	2	111
McCook	6	4	283
McPherson	1	1	105
Meade	22	8	686
Mellette	0	0	74
Miner	2	1	116
Minnehaha	3377	2973	13944
Moody	19	15	236
Oglala Lakota	32	10	377
Pennington	257	80	3670
Perkins	0	0	22
Potter	0	0	127
Roberts	36	31	657
Sanborn	13	9	134
Spink	5	5	389
Stanley	10	8	92
Sully	1	1	35
Todd	28	19	512
Tripp	6	6	193
Turner	25	21	388
Union	92	71	644
Walworth	5	5	244
Yankton	51	45	1461
Ziebach	1	1	60
Unassigned****	0	0	3757

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2445	35
Male	2717	27

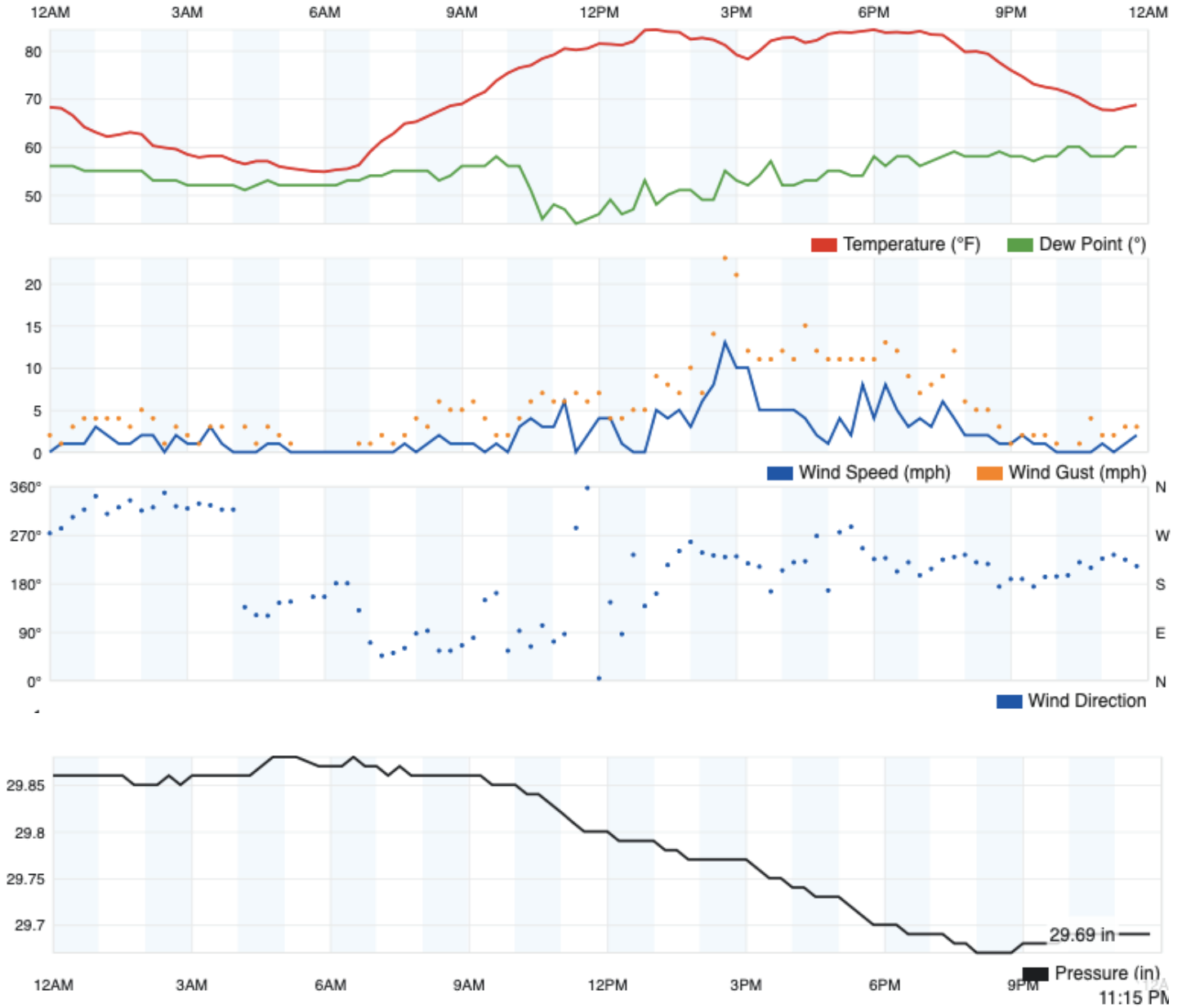
Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	501	0
20-29 years	995	1
30-39 years	1154	3
40-49 years	898	4
50-59 years	848	8
60-69 years	478	10
70-79 years	145	6
80+ years	143	30



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



## Outlook for Severe Weather Saturday

ISSUED: 3:44 AM - Thursday, June 04, 2020

### WHAT

Potential **Severe Weather** and **Heavy Rain** for this weekend.

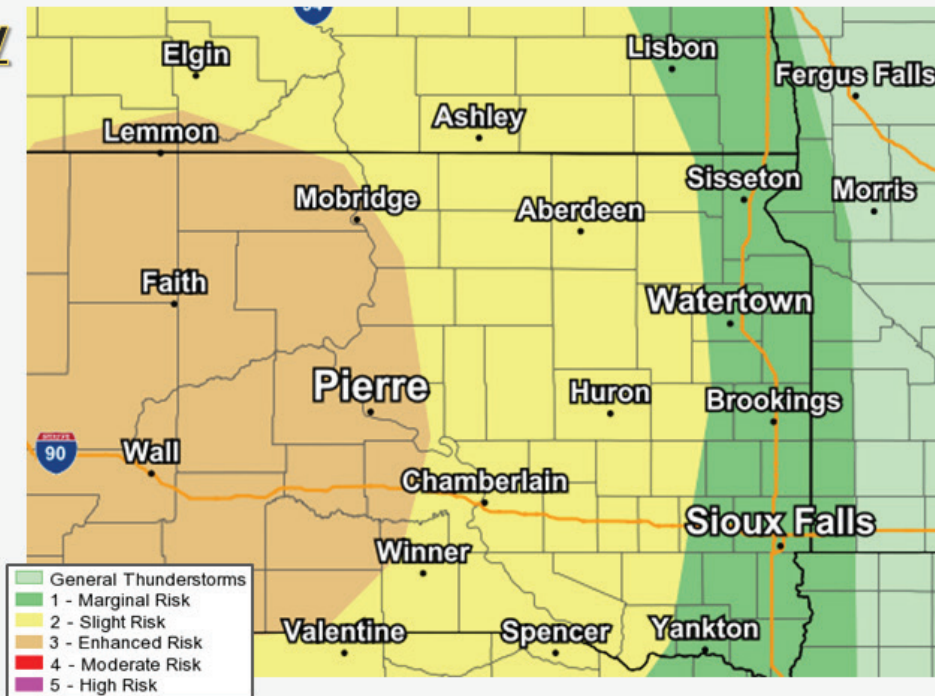
### WHERE

At this time: Western and Central South Dakota are main focus areas Saturday, with the threat spreading east Saturday night.

### CONFIDENCE

Moderate confidence.

\*\*greater detail is expected through the next 24-48 hours.



 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The potential exists for widespread severe weather and heavy precipitation for the weekend. Stay tuned for updates as more details become available.

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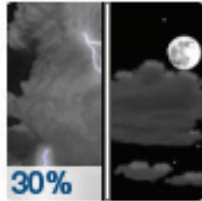
Today



30%

Chance  
T-storms

Tonight



30%

Chance  
T-storms then  
Partly Cloudy

Friday



Sunny

Friday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Saturday



30%

Chance  
T-storms and  
Breezy

High: 81 °F

Low: 53 °F

High: 82 °F

Low: 57 °F

High: 77 °F

## Storm Risk For This Afternoon

ISSUED: 4:04 AM - Thursday, June 04, 2020

### WHAT

Risk for severe thunderstorms with the threat of **damaging wind gusts** and **large hail**. A **tornado** or two is not out of the question.

### WHERE

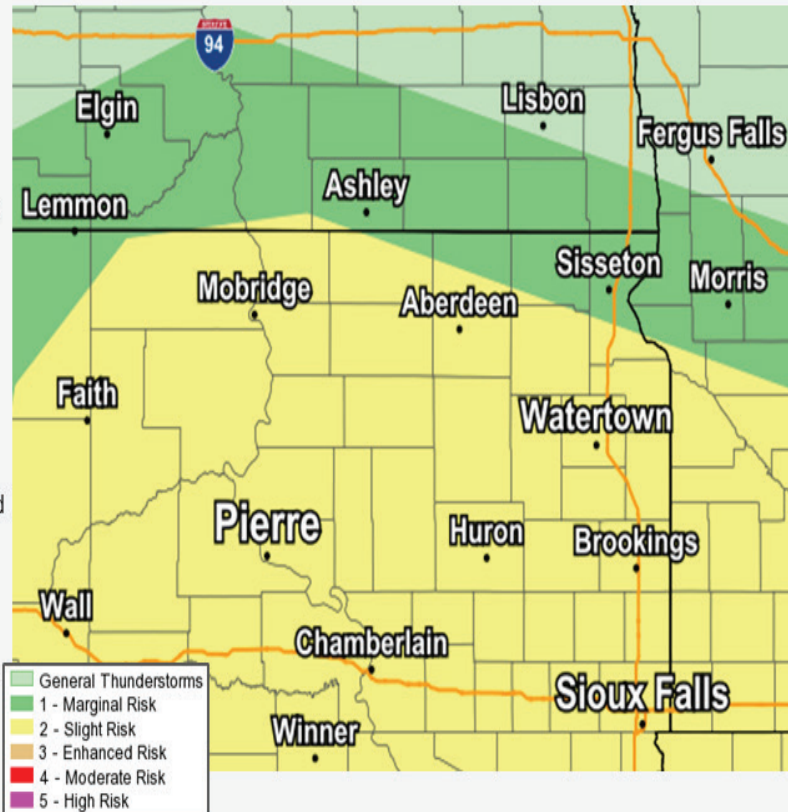
Central and eastern South Dakota.

### WHEN

Storms should develop in the afternoon and move east-southeast. Storms will weaken and move southeast away from the forecast area in the evening.

### CONFIDENCE

Moderate confidence on storm development and threat. Lower confidence on thunderstorm coverage.



 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The environment is favorable for strong to severe storms this afternoon, with the threat of large hail, strong winds and we can't rule out an isolated tornado or two. There are caveats however, as we lack a strong forcing mechanism, which means it's difficult to ascertain thunderstorm coverage and timing for the area. We are confident however, that any storms that do form will present a risk for severe weather in the afternoon and early evening.



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## Today in Weather History

June 4, 1984: Heavy rains of up to seven inches caused the Bad River to rise over 23 feet in six hours at Fort Pierre. Flash flooding resulted as a dam, 17 miles west of Fort Pierre gave way, and an irrigation dam near town was damaged. Water covered some roads and bridges. Many homes had water damage. Strong thunderstorm winds gusting up to 60 mph downed numerous branches and several signs in Faulk, Edmunds, McPherson, and Brown Counties.

June 4, 1991: Heavy rains of 2 to 5 inches caused street flooding in Harrold. Several county roads in Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman Counties were closed due to flooding. Some rainfall amounts include 1.83 inches at Oahe Dam; 1.96 inches, 12 miles SSW of Harrold; and 3.20 inches, two miles North of Onaka.

June 4, 1993: An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale shook a portion of northeast South Dakota but caused no real damage or injuries. The epicenter of the quake was 22 miles northwest of Morris, Minnesota or 38 miles east of Sisseton and was felt in most of Roberts, Grant, and Deuel Counties. The quake was the first in the area since 1975.

1825: A severe storm of tropical origin swept up the Atlantic Coast during the first week of June 1825 with reports of significant damage from Florida to New York City. Shipping logs told of a disturbance at Santo Domingo on May 28th and Cuba on June 1st. Gales were reported at St. Augustine, Florida on the 2nd. The Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald reported "undiminished violence" from the gale force winds for 27 hours, ending on June 4th. The effect of the storm reached well inland. Washington had cold, heavy rain all day on the 4th with high winds laying the crops in the vicinity. The wind also tore up trees by the roots in front of the State House in Philadelphia. This storm impacted the New Jersey Coast and the Long Island area as well with high winds and a two-foot storm surge. A Columbian frigate was driven ashore as were many smaller boats. The largest loss of life occurred along the Long Island shore when a schooner capsized. The entire crew of seven was lost.

1860 - Iowa's Commanche Tornado , with wind speeds estimated in excess of 300 mph, was unquestionably one of the worst experienced by early settlers, with nearly a million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1877: A tornado of estimated F4 intensity touched down just west of Mt. Carmel, Illinois and moved east-northeast, devastating the town. 20 businesses and 100 homes were damaged or destroyed. At least 16 people and as many as 30 were killed, with 100 others injured.

1982 - A four day storm began over New England which produced up to 14 inches of rain in southern Connecticut breaching twenty-three dams and breaking two others. Damage was estimated at more than 276 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms in south Texas produced 6.5 inches of rain at Hockheim, and five inches at Hallettsville, in just a few hours. Afternoon thunderstorms in Virginia deluged northern Halifax County with 5.5 inches of rain in two hours. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Dusty WA, and wind gusts to 88 mph at Swanquarter NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Atlantic City NJ with a reading of 40 degrees. Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Glasgow MT and Havre MT with readings of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern Plains Region and the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Southern Atlantic Coast Region during the day and into the night. Just four tornadoes were reported, but there were 87 reports of large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

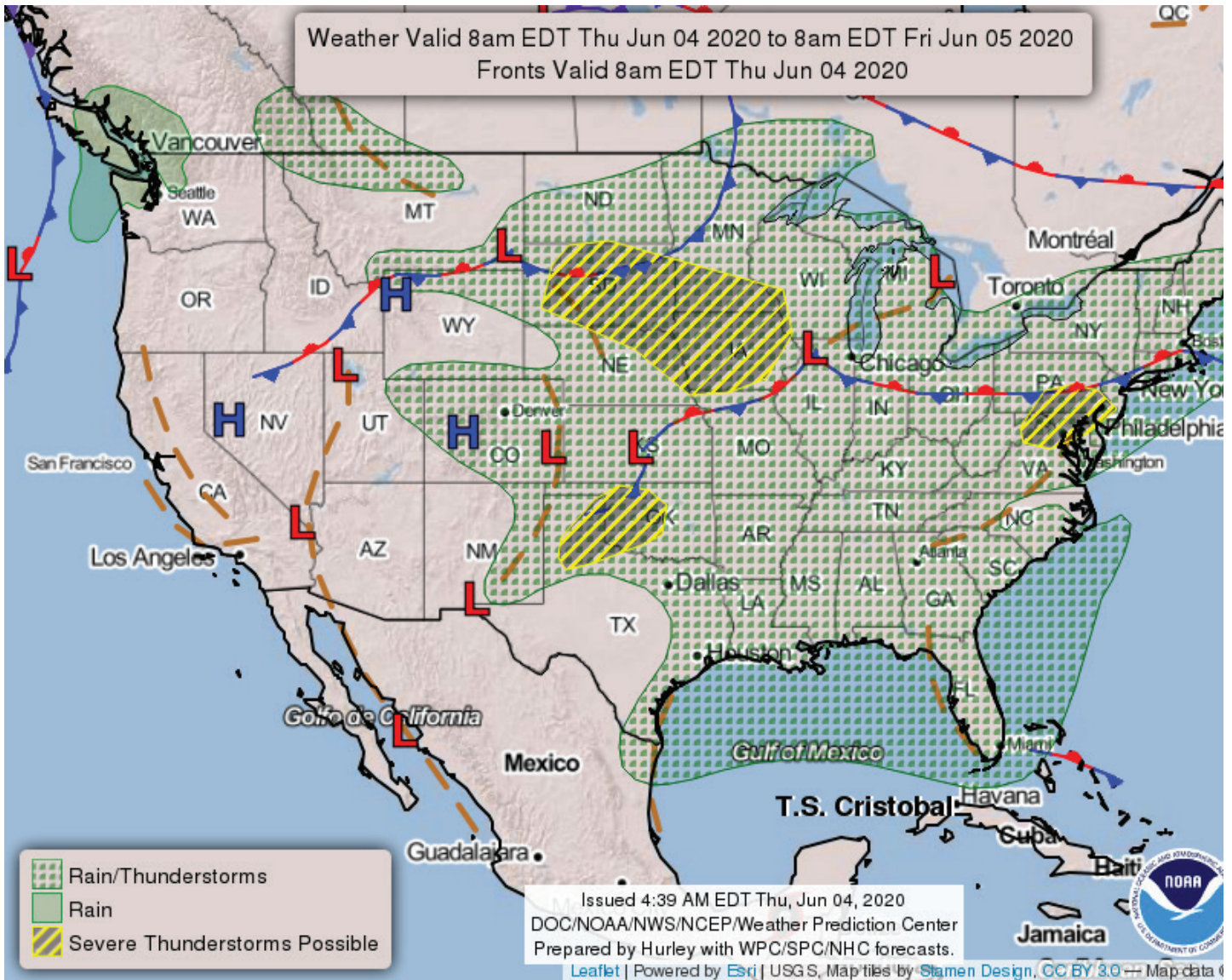
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 84.3**  
**Low Temp: 54.8**  
**Wind: 23**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 101° in 1933**  
**Record Low: 34° in 1954**  
**Average High: 74°F**  
**Average Low: 51°F**  
**Average Precip in June.: .34**  
**Precip to date in June.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 7.48**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.63**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:18 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.**



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## MOTION WITHOUT MOVEMENT

Charlie Brown was sitting behind his desk counseling Lucy one sunny afternoon. Looking at her sternly he said, "Try to accomplish something!"

"Accomplish something," she responded quickly, "I thought we were just supposed to be busy."

Peter had some good advice in one of his most powerful sermons. He reminded his audience that "Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Peter was reminding his listeners that Jesus lived a life of service and servanthood - always looking for and finding ways to accomplish God's work in His world. What is interesting about this sermon is its brevity: within a few sentences, he was able to present the life, death on the cross, and the resurrection of Jesus, as well as His fulfillment of all that had been written about Him in Scripture.

The effectiveness of our preaching or witnessing, working for or serving Christ does not depend on the length of time we take to present His message or how long we live. Rather, the source of the Christians' effectiveness is found in another statement in this same sermon. Peter said that "God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power."

Our Lord will bless our labors for Him when we are willing to become Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. Only then will our witness have His power and accomplish His will.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to surrender our lives to You and be available to You to do Your work. May we realize the blessings that may be ours as we serve You today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38



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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

**ALL GOLFING EVENTS SCHEDULED IN JUNE HAVE BEEN POSTPONED OR CANCELLED**

• 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS

• 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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

05-07-12-13-28

(five, seven, twelve, thirteen, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

07-22-28-41-46, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 2

(seven, twenty-two, twenty-eight, forty-one, forty-six; Star Ball: two; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.85 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$378 million

Powerball

01-03-26-41-64, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 2

(one, three, twenty-six, forty-one, sixty-four; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$135 million

### Report highlights voting inequities in tribal communities

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Native American voting rights advocates are cautioning against states moving to mail-in ballots without opportunities for tribal members to vote safely in person.

In a wide-ranging report released Thursday, the Native American Rights Fund outlined the challenges that could arise: online registration hampered by spotty or no internet service, ballots delivered to rarely-checked Post Office boxes and turnout curbed by a general reluctance to vote by mail.

"We're all for increased vote by mail," said Jacqueline De Leon, a staff attorney with the group and a member of Isleta Pueblo in New Mexico. "We're absolutely against all vote by mail. If there are no in-person opportunities, then Native Americans will be disenfranchised because it will be impossible for some of them to cast a ballot."

A few states automatically mail ballots to every eligible voter. Others are drawing up plans to rely more heavily on a mail-in system for this year's elections amid the coronavirus pandemic and with social distancing guidelines in mind.

Native Americans are reluctant to embrace the system because of cultural, historical, socioeconomic and language barriers, and past experiences, the report said.

The report is a result of field hearings held in North Dakota, Wisconsin, Arizona, Oregon, California, Oklahoma, New Mexico, California and the Navajo Nation in 2017 and 2018. The Native American Rights Fund plans to use the findings to develop policy, suggest legislative or regulatory action and promote voting rights in Indian Country.

Native Americans didn't become U.S. citizens until 1924, but some states restricted who was entitled to vote up into the 1960s, with laws saying Native Americans who weren't taxed, who lived on reservations or were enrolled with tribes couldn't cast a ballot. Southwestern states were the last holdouts.

Native Americans won or settled 86 election-related lawsuits they've filed over the years — a success rate of more than 90%, the report said. Among those were challenges over redistricting in Utah, voter ID requirements in North Dakota and language assistance for Alaska Native villages.

Still, Native American voting rights advocates say there's more work to be done.

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More than one-third of voting-age Native Americans — or 1.2 million people — aren't registered to cast a ballot, according to the National Congress of American Indians. While advocates have been pushing states to improve access to the polls, they're also reminding tribal members to register and vote to enact change.

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted inequalities in tribal communities, including access to running water, health care and housing. Those disparities won't improve without electing people to office who understand them, the report said.

"If we show up and we vote, then that gives them incentives to focus resources on us, and as our population continues to grow and we as a political force grow as a nation and as a people, that will help ensure that these minimum standards are met in Indian Country," former Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch said during the hearings.

As the November elections approach, Native American advocates are pushing states to allow voting early, curbside, and at mobile voting stations to reduce crowding. They also want officials to designate hours for voters who are vulnerable to the coronavirus, enact social distancing and provide protective equipment for poll workers.

During the primary that wrapped up this week in New Mexico, there were concerns about potential voter suppression as some of the usual polling locations in pueblo and rural communities were not opened due to challenges brought on by the pandemic. In Santa Fe County, election officials said they didn't expect it to be an issue because more voters were using mail-in ballots.

In Congress, advocates are pushing for polling places on reservations to cut down on the distance tribal members must travel to vote, prepaid postage for mail-in ballots and the acceptance of tribal IDs.

The report highlighted some successes in New Mexico where the secretary of state created a Native American task force to tackle inequities and to include Natives in making election-related decisions. It also pointed to Washington state where tribal members can use a system of tribally designated buildings to register to vote, and pick up and drop-off ballots while polls are open.

De Leon said barriers to voting can make Native Americans feel like they are not part of the system.

"The irony is if you don't participate, it will never be your system," she said. "It's a matter of knocking down those structural barriers. If it's easier to vote, they are going to vote."

## Rapid City Police Chief to leave job by end of the month

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Police Chief on Wednesday announced his plans to leave the job at the end of the month.

Chief Karl Jegeris has held the post since 2014 and worked for the Rapid City Police for 24 years. The department said it expects Mayor Steve Allender to name an interim replacement before Jegeris leaves on June 26.

Allender said in a statement that Jegeris served throughout his career "with a sense of calm, compassion and community."

Jegeris said he plans to take a position with the Children's Home Society of South Dakota, where plans to "continue to advocate for children and families."

## South Dakota reports 95 new COVID-19 cases, no deaths

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota on Wednesday reported 95 new cases of COVID-19 and no new deaths, according to the Department of Health.

The new cases bring the state's tally to 5,162 cases, but about 80% of those have fully recovered. 62 people have died in the state from COVID-19. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has remained mostly constant around 59 per day.

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.



## Noem floats idea of police reforms in light of Floyd death

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Wednesday said she will be examining the state's policing laws in light of what she called the "gut-wrenching" death of George Floyd.

The Republican governor stuck to a conservative approach to the issue and didn't have many specifics on policies she would like to see changed. She acknowledged that a pressing problem was revealed by the death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died in Minneapolis last week after a white police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes as Floyd pleaded for air and eventually stopped moving.

Video of the arrest sparked peaceful protests and civic unrest in cities throughout the country.

"Personally, I haven't even been able to make it through the video yet," she said. "It has been gut-wrenching to watch."

The governor said Floyd's death and the ensuing protests had made their point, but she spent much of the time at a news conference echoing conservative talking points: the need for personal responsibility, local control of policy changes and family values.

She mentioned that she would look into changing laws on contract negotiations with police unions, civil asset forfeiture laws and the use of police body cameras. Most reforms would have to come through the Legislature, which won't meet in a regular session until January.

"We are sitting down with an open mind, examining the data and the facts around each of these policies," she said.

National Guard troops were deployed in three South Dakota cities after people destroyed property and threw rocks at police in Sioux Falls on Sunday night. An earlier protest during the day was peaceful, but Noem said she posted National Guard troops nearby in case things turned violent.

She condemned the vandalism and other unrest, calling it "an end-run around public discourse." She said she looked forward to having a dialogue with advocates from the black community on how to improve policing.

That conversation is something that one organizer would welcome. Julian Beaudion, who organized the Sioux Falls protest and is a state highway trooper, said he would meet with Noem if given the opportunity.

He had several ideas for how policing could change but described more systemic changes that would allow what he called "oppressed minorities" to have a say in police tactics.

"There has to be an understanding of the community first, so we're not just treating the problem, but the root of the problem," he said.

Beaudion said he feels that many South Dakota police officers were outraged by the death of Floyd but have not been empowered to come alongside protests or change their tactics when people are in danger.

Laura Renée Chandler, another protest organizer and director of the South Dakota African American History Museum, said she would also advocate for more transparency in police departments.

## SD universities: No in-person class after Thanksgiving

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's public universities announced Wednesday they won't have students return to campus after the Thanksgiving break in order to mitigate coronavirus infections.

The six public universities plan to bring students back to campus for classes in August, three days earlier than planned. But students will complete final exams remotely after the Thanksgiving break. The adjusted schedule will reduce student travel and the risk of coronavirus infections spreading on campus, said Regents President John W. Bastian.

"Everyone is looking for ways to successfully operate during a global pandemic and avoid the spread of this coronavirus wherever possible," he said.

The universities will also hold classes on three holidays — Labor Day, Native American Day, and Veterans Day — to make up for the lost class time and to further discourage students from traveling.

The Board of Regents, which oversees the universities, said it plans to announce further measures to

mitigate coronavirus infections.

## **FBI investigates 2 homicides on Rosebud reservation**

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — Two homicides that happened this week on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation are “totally separate” cases and are unrelated, investigators said.

FBI spokesman Kevin Smith said Lloyd Walking Eagle, 48, was fatally shot near the All Stop gas station in Rosebud last Sunday afternoon.

Joshua Bordeaux, 21, was found beaten to death the next morning in the South Antelope community, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Rosebud Sioux Capt. Iver Crow Eagle said suspects are in custody, but have not been charged by federal prosecutors. The motives for the crimes aren't yet known, he said.

## **The Latest: German car sales down despite open showrooms**

**By The Associated Press undefined**

BERLIN — Germany's auto industry says that car sales in the country remained very weak in May despite the reopening of showrooms and the easing of other coronavirus restrictions.

The German Association of the Automotive Industry, or VDA, said Thursday that 168,100 cars were registered last month, 50% fewer than a year earlier. That's a bit better than the 61% drop recorded in April.

Exports were even weaker. The VDA said 105,100 cars were exported in May, 67% fewer than a year earlier. While production has picked up in Germany after being all but halted at the height of European lockdowns, it was still down 66%, with 151,100 cars produced.

A 130 billion-euro (\$146 billion) stimulus package drawn up Wednesday by the German government includes an increase in financial incentives for electric and hybrid vehicles. There are no incentives for cars with conventional engines, though the main value-added tax rate is being cut from 19% to 16% for six months in a bid to spur purchases across the board.

### **HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY ABOUT THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:**

— There are no secrets in the tightly packed lanes of Dharavi, India's largest slum. Especially when it comes to the coronavirus.

— The pandemic has stranded merchant ship crews at sea for months

— Emergency room visits in the U.S. for chest pain and heart attacks fell as the virus scared people away from hospitals.

— Barcelona residents are reclaiming their city as Spain's virus restrictions provide a respite from the throngs of foreign tourists that flood Spain's top tourist destination each summer.

— Watch what you flush: Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney says home-bound residents are clogging sewers and storm water drains with face masks, gloves and wipes.

### **HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:**

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan reported a record single-day spike in coronavirus-related deaths with 82 new fatalities and 4,688 cases that it says resulted from increased testing in the past 24 hours.

Pakistan's outbreak has grown steadily since the country's first case in February. Since then, 1,770 people have died and 85,264 have tested positive.

As many as 901 patients were listed in critical condition at hospitals Thursday. The country has barely 3,000 intensive care beds serving a population of 220 million.

Pakistan for the first time conducted over 20,000 tests in the past 24 hours. It has done more than 615,000 tests after increasing its testing capacity from only two labs in February.

The spike comes after Prime Minister Imran Khan eased lockdown restrictions over expert's recommendations to maintain them to prevent the spread of the virus. Authorities have blamed people not adhering

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to social distancing regulations for the growing outbreak.

**NAYPYITAW, Myanmar** — Myanmar's official election commission has announced that this year's general election will take place as planned in November and not be postponed because of the coronavirus crisis.

Union Election Commission member Myint Naing said at a Thursday press conference that the body would announce the exact date about three to four months in advance.

He said: "Since we're able to control the COVID situation and it (the election) is a long way from now, the election date won't be changed."

Myanmar reported one new confirmed coronavirus case on Thursday, bringing the nationwide total to 234, including six deaths.

The last general election in 2015 brought the National League for Democracy party of Aung San Suu Kyi to power after more than five decades of military rule.

The election commission has said that more than 37 million people will be eligible to vote.

**NEW DELHI** — India's COVID-19 fatalities have passed 6,000 after registering 260 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The country registered 9,304 new cases in yet another record single-day spike in infections, raising its totals to 216,919 cases with 6,075 deaths, the Health Ministry reported Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry said it was ramping up the testing across the country and has performed 4 million. It said the daily capacity was almost 140,000 tests done through 480 government and 208 private laboratories.

India's infections have spiked in recent weeks, mostly in its cities. The coastal state of Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected, with 74,860 cases and 2,587 deaths. The state capital is densely crowded Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital.

India is the seventh worst-hit nation by the pandemic.

**JAKARTA** — Authorities in Indonesia's capital will ease a partial lockdown as the world's fourth most populous nation braces to gradually reopen its economy.

Jakarta Gov. Anies Baswedan announced the reopening of mosques, churches and temples on Friday but only at half capacity.

Offices, public transport, restaurants, grocery stores and beaches will be allowed to operate, also at half capacity. Malls and parks are scheduled to reopen in mid-June and schools remain shut this month.

Baswedan said the decision to reopen follows a significant decrease in the number of infections in recent days. He said everyone except the elderly, children under age 5, pregnant women and sick people will be allowed to leave their homes wearing masks.

Jakarta has recorded 7,690 confirmed cases with 523 deaths, while the toll nationwide stands at 28,818 infections and 1,721 fatalities.

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** — Authorities in Norway have turned down applications to hold rallies in the country's three largest cities in support of protests in the U.S. over the police killing of George Floyd, citing coronavirus social distancing.

Rallies were planned in Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim but local authorities said that without a dispensation from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, they cannot allow more than 50 people to gather in one place, said Mohamed Awil, the president of the African student association UiO.

The association is co-organizing the rally in Oslo, where more than 15,000 people said they planned to take part in the demonstration Thursday outside the U.S. Embassy. He said they were considering an alternative but details were not immediately available.

Thousands gathered Wednesday in support rallies in the capitals of Sweden and Finland.

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MADRID — Spain says restrictions on land border crossings with France and Portugal will be lifted from June 22.

Under special measures imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, only residents, cross-border workers and truck drivers were allowed since mid-March.

Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto also said 6,000 German tourists are expected to test new safety measures for travelers in the Mediterranean Balearic islands in mid-June, as the country prepares to fully reopen to international tourism on July 1. The tourists will have their temperatures checked and will fill out health questionnaires on arrival. They also will be encouraged to use a contact-tracing mobile app that authorities want to test in the archipelago.

Maroto said building trust in a safe destination is key for the recovery of tourism, an industry that generates 12% of Spain's GDP and helps employ 2.6 million people.

The COVID-19 outbreak has claimed at least 27,000 lives and infected just over 240,000 people in Spain.

JOHANNESBURG — Testing materials remain in short supply across Africa, but the head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a new platform to pool the continent's purchasing powers has obtained about 15 million coronavirus testing kits for the next six months.

John Nkengasong said Africa's 54 countries are still far behind the goal of conducting at least 10,000 tests per 1 million people. He said just about 1,700 tests are being carried out per million compared to about 37,000 per million in Italy and 30,000 per million in the UK.

Nkengasong said 3.4 million tests have been conducted so far across Africa, which has a population of 1.3 billion people, and testing capacity is "increasing very, very rapidly." Africa's numbers are rising steadily as testing improves, with a 31% increase in new confirmed cases since last week. The continent's confirmed cases are now above 162,000, representing less than 3% of the global cases.

MOSCOW -- The United States has delivered another batch of ventilators to Russia as part of a \$5.6 million humanitarian donation to help the country cope with the pandemic.

The U.S. Embassy said the second shipment of U.S.-manufactured breathing machines arrived in Moscow on Thursday, following a batch delivered last month.

Russia has reported more than 441,000 coronavirus infections, including 5,384 deaths. Officials have scrambled to secure ventilators and other essential supplies.

Russia sent a planeload of medical supplies, including ventilators, to the U.S. in April. Russia's state investment fund said this week it fully funded the delivery.

MEXICO CITY -- The coronavirus toll in Mexico has soared to a new daily high, with the health department reporting 1,092 deaths. That is more than double the previous one-day record and in line with numbers in the United States and Brazil.

Wednesday's report was an embarrassment for officials, who have consistently predicted that cases in Mexico were about to start leveling off.

Officials rushed to say many of the new confirmed deaths had occurred days or even weeks ago and were being announced now because of delays in processing tests or other reasons. But such delays have presumably been a constant reflected in every previous daily tally.

Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell did not cite any specific clearing of testing backlogs.

GENEVA — The top U.N. human rights official is urging some Asia-Pacific governments to be proportionate in their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation about the coronavirus outbreak and warning of a "clampdown" against freedom of expression in the region.

The office of Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, cited a "further tightening of censorship in several countries" and the arbitrary arrest and detention of people who had either criticized their governments or shared information about the pandemic.

Her office said arrests for expressing discontent or allegedly spreading false information had been re-



ported in a dozen countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

It cited information from China about more than a dozen cases of medical workers, academics and other citizens who "appear to have been detained, and in some cases charged" for publishing their views on the outbreak or airing criticism of the government's response.

## **McCann family seeks closure as Germany presumes girl is dead**

**By DANICA KIRKA and DAVID RISING Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Madeleine McCann's family is hoping for closure in the case after a key suspect was identified in Germany and as authorities there say they believe the missing British girl is dead.

McCann was 3 at the time of her disappearance while she was on vacation with her family in Portugal in 2007.

U.K. and German authorities haven't named the suspect but said he is 43 and was in and around the Praia da Luz resort area on the Algarve coast at the time Madeleine McCann disappeared on May 3, 2007. Though numerous suspects have come to light in the case previously, family spokesman Clarence Mitchell said that it seems as if there is something different this time.

"In more than 13 years of working with the family I can't recall the police being so specific about an individual," Mitchell told Sky News. "He is not being named and the police are quite adamant they are not going to do that, certainly not yet, but they want very specific details around his movement in 2007, even down to phone calls he received the night before Madeleine went missing and the fact he changed the registration of his car the day after."

Hans Christian Wolters, a prosecutor in Braunschweig, Germany, told reporters investigators are operating on the assumption that McCann is dead.

"In connection with the disappearance of the then 3-year-old British girl Madeleine Beth McCann on the May 3, 2007 from an apartment complex in Praia da Luz in Portugal, Braunschweig prosecutors are investigating a 43-year-old German citizen on suspicion of murder," he told reporters.

"You can infer from that we assume the girl is dead."

The long-running case of McCann, who vanished shortly before her fourth birthday, has mesmerized Britain for years. Her parents say Madeleine disappeared after they had left her and her twin siblings asleep in their holiday complex while they had dinner with friends at a nearby restaurant.

More than 600 people had been identified as being potentially significant, but officers were tipped off about the German suspect following a 2017 appeal, 10 years after the girl went missing.

Police said the suspect, described as white with short, blond hair and a slim build, was linked to a camper van seen in the Algarve in 2007 and was believed to be in the resort area in the days before and after May 3 that year.

Christian Hoppe of Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office told German public broadcaster ZDF that the suspect, a German citizen, is currently imprisoned in Germany for a sexual crime. He spent numerous years in Portugal and has two previous convictions for "sexual contact with girls."

Hoppe said German police aren't ruling out a sexual motive. They said whoever abducted the girl may have broken into the holiday apartment and then spontaneously committed the kidnapping.

The suspect is being investigated on suspicion of murder by prosecutors in the German city of Braunschweig, where he was last registered before moving abroad.

Wolters would not give any other details of the suspect's identity so as not to jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

Police from Britain, Germany and Portugal launched a new joint appeal for information in the case Wednesday. They asked for anyone to come forward if they had seen two vehicles linked to the suspect — a Volkswagen camper van and a Jaguar. They also sought information on two Portuguese phone numbers, including one believed to have been used by the suspect on the day of Madeleine's disappearance.

The family, as ever, as searching for answers.

"They do remain hopeful that she could still be found alive," Mitchell said. "They've never given up on that hope, nor will they, until they are presented with any incontrovertible evidence to the contrary. But they say that despite all that, whatever the outcome of this particular line of enquiry might be, they need to know as they need to find peace."

David Rising reported from Berlin.

## Focus shifts to Hong Kong's fate on Tiananmen anniversary

By ZEN SOO and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — As China tightens its control over Hong Kong, activists in the city defied a police ban and broke through barricades Thursday evening to mark the 31st anniversary of the crushing of a democracy movement centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

With democracy all but snuffed out in mainland China, the focus has shifted increasingly to semi-autonomous Hong Kong, where authorities for the first time banned an annual candlelight vigil marking the anniversary of the 1989 crackdown.

Police cited the need for social distancing during the coronavirus outbreak and barricaded sprawling Victoria Park to prevent people from gathering there. Beijing is taking a tougher stance following months of anti-government protests last year, in what activists see as an accelerating erosion of the city's rights and liberties.

"We all know the Hong Kong government and the Chinese government really don't want to see the candle lights in Victoria Park," said Wu'er Kaixi, a former student leader who was No. 2 on the government's most-wanted list following the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Hundreds and possibly thousands of people were killed when tanks and troops moved in on the night of June 3-4, 1989, to break up weeks of student-led protests that had spread to other cities and were seen as a threat to Communist Party rule.

"The Chinese Communists want us all to forget about what happened 31 years ago," Wu'er told the AP in Taiwan, where he lives. "But it is the Chinese government themselves reminding the whole world that they are the same government ... doing the same in Hong Kong."

China did not intervene directly in last year's protests, despite speculation it might deploy troops, but backed the tough response of the Hong Kong police and government. It then announced last month at the annual meeting of its ceremonial legislature that it would impose national security laws on Hong Kong, circumventing the city's legislature and shocking many of its 7.5 million residents.

Beijing's Tiananmen Square, where thousands of students had gathered in 1989, was quiet and largely empty on Thursday. Police and armored vehicles stood guard on the vast space. Few pedestrians lined up at security checkpoints where they must show IDs to be allowed through as part of mass surveillance nationwide to prevent any commemoration of the event.

As has become customary, many dissidents were placed under house arrest and their communications with the outside world cut off, according to rights groups.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson offered the government's standard defense of the 1989 crackdown.

"The Chinese government has made a clear conclusion about the political disturbance that occurred in the late 1980s," Zhao Lijian said. "The great achievements that we have achieved ... have fully demonstrated that the development path China has chosen is completely correct, which conforms to China's national conditions and has won the sincere support of the Chinese people."

Despite the ban on the candlelight vigil, Hong Kong was bracing for possible "pop-up" protests of the type that raged around the city last year and often led to violent confrontations between police and demonstrators.

Thousands have been arrested in the demonstrations, which were sparked by proposed legislation that could have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial.

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The Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic and Democratic Movements of China that organizes the annual vigil called on people to light candles at 8 p.m. (1200 GMT) and planned to livestream the commemorations on its website.

Alliance Chairman Lee Cheuk-yan and several other members of the Hong Kong Alliance gathered at Victoria Park at 6:30 p.m. (1030 GMT, 6:30 a.m. EDT), dressed in black shirts with the Chinese characters for "truth" emblazoned on the front. They lit candles and urged the public to do the same later on to mourn victims of the massacre and show their support for the democratic cause in China.

Lee then led the group of about 15 members in a candlelit procession around the park, shouting slogans including, "Stand with Hong Kong."

"We have been doing this for 30 years, we have the right to do this, this is a peaceful procession," he said, stating that it would be "absurd" if this behavior is criminalized.

The group later removed one of the barricades surrounding the park, and entered it to continue their procession.

On Thursday, the Hong Kong legislature passed a law making it a crime to disrespect China's national anthem. The pro-democracy opposition, which sees the law as an infringement of freedom of expression, boycotted the vote.

"The Hong Kong government tried to please or show loyalty to Beijing and ban our gathering even before the national security law comes in. But we are determined," Lee said at a kiosk set up by the group to distribute flyers in the busy Causeway Bay shopping district near the park.

"The ban comes amid an alarming acceleration of attacks on the autonomy of Hong Kong and the undermining of the rights and freedoms of the Hong Kong people guaranteed under Hong Kong and international law," Sharon Hom, executive director of Human Rights in China, said in a statement.

Other vigils, virtual and otherwise, were planned elsewhere, including in Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy whose government called again this year for Beijing to own up to the facts of the crackdown.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted criticism of China and Hong Kong for banning the vigil earlier this week before meeting with a group of TiananOn Tiananmen anniversary, Hong Kong bans insults to anthem

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's legislature approved a contentious bill Thursday that makes it illegal to insult the Chinese national anthem.

The legislation was approved after pro-democracy opposition lawmakers tried to disrupt the vote. It passed with 41 lawmakers voting for it and just one voting against. Most of the pro-democracy lawmakers boycotted the vote out of protest.

The pro-democracy camp sees the anthem law as an infringement of freedom of expression and of the greater rights that residents of the semi-autonomous city have compared to mainland China.

The pro-Beijing majority in the legislature said the law is necessary for Hong Kong citizens to show appropriate respect for the anthem.

Those found guilty of intentionally abusing the "March of the Volunteers" face up to three years in prison and a fine of up to 50,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$6,450).

Thursday's vote coincided with the 31st anniversary of China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Before debate began, pro-democracy lawmakers stood in silence to mark the anniversary and put signs on their desks saying, "Do not forget June 4, the hearts of the people will not die."

Debate over the legislative was later suspended after pro-democracy lawmakers staged a protest, with one dropping a pot of pungent liquid in the chamber.

Raising a sign that said "A murderous regime stinks for ten thousand years," lawmaker Ray Chan walked to the front with the pot hidden inside a Chinese paper lantern. When security guards tried to stop him, he dropped the lantern and the pot, and was ejected from the meeting. Another lawmaker who accompanied him was also ejected.

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The chamber was evacuated and police and firemen were called in to investigate the incident.

When the meeting resumed, pro-democracy lawmaker Ted Hui again splashed some liquid at the front of the meeting room and was escorted out.

The president of Hong Kong's legislature, Andrew Leung, called such behavior irresponsible and childish. He cut short the debate because of the suspension and called for the vote. Critics said the shortened debate allowed the bill to be pushed through.

"I have not cut short the meeting, I have not pushed through the bill," Leung said afterward. "I have told members that I have scheduled 30 hours (to debate the bill) so we just work according to the schedule."

The contentious debate over the bill comes after China's ceremonial national legislature formally approved a decision last week to enact a national security law for Hong Kong that could see Chinese security agents posted in the city.

The national security law is aimed at curbing subversive activity, with Beijing pushing for it after a monthslong pro-democracy protest movement at times saw violent clashes between police and protesters.

Opponents of the anthem law and national security law see them as signs of Beijing's tightening control over the territory.

While experts have warned that the security law could imperil Hong Kong's status as one of the world's best places to do business, at least two banks with a strong Asian presence have publicly backed the decision.

HSBC said in a Chinese social media post that it "respects and supports all laws that stabilize Hong Kong's social order," while Standard Chartered said it believed the national security law would "help maintain the long-term economic and social stability of Hong Kong."

Beijing began pushing for the anthem law after Hong Kong soccer fans jeered the national anthem at international matches in 2015. As anti-government protests engulfed Hong Kong last year, thousands of fans booed loudly and turned their backs when the anthem was played at a World Cup qualifier match against Iran in September. FIFA later fined the Hong Kong Football Association over the incident.

## Protests turn subdued after new charges in Floyd case

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT, AMY FORLITI and TIM SULLIVAN** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Demonstrations in cities across the U.S. to condemn racism and police abuses remained large but turned notably more subdued on the eve of a Thursday memorial service for George Floyd that kicks off a series of events to mourn the man whose death empowered a national movement.

The calmer protests came on the same day that prosecutors charged three more police officers and filed a new, tougher charge against the officer at the center of the case.

The most serious new charge Wednesday was an accusation of second-degree murder against Derek Chauvin, who was caught on video pressing his knee to Floyd's neck. The three other officers at the scene were charged for the first time with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

If convicted, they could be sentenced to up to four decades in prison.

The move by prosecutors punctuated an unprecedented week in modern American history, in which largely peaceful protests took place in communities of all sizes but were rocked by bouts of violence, including deadly attacks on officers, rampant thefts and arson in some places.

Nationwide, more than 10,000 people have been arrested in connection with unrest, an Associated Press tally shows. More than a dozen deaths have been reported, though the circumstances in many cases are still being sorted out.

Floyd's name has become a rallying cry in other countries, too, unleashing protests against police violence and racial injustice.

In the U.S., protests were still big, but largely peaceful in California, where NBA stars Steph Curry and Klay Thompson marched with protesters in Oakland.

Some demonstrators lay down to represent the amount of time a white police officer pressed a knee



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into Floyd's neck while he pleaded for air. But police kept a mainly hands-off policy during the day even after curfews took effect.

The first of three memorial gatherings for the man whose name has been chanted by hundreds of thousands of people was planned Thursday afternoon in Minneapolis at a service where the Rev. Al Sharpton, the civil rights leader, and family attorney Ben Crump will speak.

Floyd's body will then travel to Raeford, North Carolina, where he was born 46 years ago, for a public viewing and private family service Saturday.

There will be a large service Monday in Houston, where Floyd spent most of his life, and will include addresses from Sharpton, Crump, and the Rev. Remus E. Wright, the family pastor. Former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, may attend. A private burial will follow.

Crump called the additional charges against the officers "a bittersweet moment" and "a significant step forward on the road to justice."

After the new charges were announced, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, said the state and nation need to "seize the moment" and use the wrenching events of the past week to confront the effects of racism, including unequal educational and economic opportunities.

"I think this is probably our last shot, as a state and as a nation, to fix this systemic issue," he said.

Hundreds of protesters were in New York City's Washington Square Park when the charges were announced.

"It's not enough," protester Jonathan Roldan said, insisting all four officers should have been charged from the start. "Right now, we're still marching because it's not enough that they got arrested. There needs to be systematic change."

But the mood in New York turned somber later in the day after a police officer on an anti-looting patrol was ambushed by a man who walked up behind him and stabbed him in the neck. That set off a struggle in which two other officers suffered gunshot injuries to their hands.

Chauvin was initially charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter, counts that still stand.

The new second-degree murder charge alleges that Chauvin caused Floyd's death without intent while committing another felony, namely third-degree assault. It carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, compared with a maximum of 25 years for third-degree murder.

The other officers — Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao — face the same maximum penalties for aiding and abetting. All three men were in custody by Wednesday evening.

The multiple charges against each officer would offer a jury more options to find them guilty.

Also Wednesday, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office released the full autopsy report on Floyd, which noted he had previously tested positive for COVID-19 but was apparently asymptomatic. The report was released with the family's permission after summary findings Monday that said he had a heart attack while being restrained by officers.

President Donald Trump has pushed the nation's governors to take a hard line against the violence. He again tweeted Wednesday: "LAW & ORDER!"

An overpowering security force — including officers from the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, the Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Prisons and, according to a senior defense official, at least 2,200 National Guard soldiers — was out in force Wednesday as thousands of peaceful protesters demonstrated in the nation's capital.

Military vehicles were parked on streets near the White House. An FBI plane, an Army surveillance plane and a Park Police helicopter circled overhead.

At one point near the White House, protesters began singing "Amazing Grace" as they knelt in view of officers in riot gear. "We are not going anywhere!" they chanted. There were no signs of confrontations.

Protester Jade Jones, 30, said the demonstrations would continue despite the new charges.

"That's the least they could do," Jones said. "It's not going to wipe away 400 years of pain."

In New York City, where high-end stores were looted in earlier days, some retailers fortified their property.

At the luxury department store Saks Fifth Avenue, windows were boarded up, then covered in chain-link fencing and razor wire. The front of the store was guarded by a line of tattooed men with dogs.

The protests also taken root internationally as Floyd's name has quickly become familiar around the world.

When other black men were killed at the hands of U.S. police in recent years, the news reached global headlines, but not the streets. This time is different.

Silent protesters in front of the U.S. Embassy in Paris carried signs reading "We are all George Floyd" - in French. Protesters waved banners bearing his name from Johannesburg to London, Tel Aviv and Sydney, and seized the moment to call attention to police violence, racial injustice or other problems closer to home.

"It's a solidarity question. We stand with our brothers, internationally, our sisters as well, but the same thing is happening here. It's no different," Isaak Kabenge said Wednesday while a protest in Stockholm.

Nomaan Merchant reported from Houston. Associated Press journalists across the U.S. and the world contributed to this report.

## Protests eclipse pandemic, but White House fears resurgence

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For weeks, President Donald Trump has been eager to publicly turn the page on the coronavirus pandemic. Now fears are growing within the White House that the very thing that finally shoved the virus from center stage — mass protests over the death of George Floyd — may bring about its resurgence.

Trump this week has eagerly pronounced himself the "president of law and order" in response to the racial unrest that has swept across the nation, overshadowing the pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than 105,000 Americans and imperiled his reelection prospects.

But political dangers for the president remain.

Thousands of Americans — many without protective face masks — have jammed the nation's streets over the past week in defiance of social distancing guidelines from governors and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The White House coronavirus task force, which has dramatically scaled back its operations as states reopen their economies, is scrambling to track the potential impact on infection rates.

Any uptick in cases in the weeks ahead could slow the economic rebirth that Trump's advisers believe he needs before he faces voters again in five months.

"A second wave, whether now or in September, would obviously be a setback to the economic recovery and Trump's reelection hopes," said Republican strategist Alex Conant. "What Trump needs more than anything is a resurgence of consumer and business confidence. A second wave or prolonged civil unrest will undermine that."

It could take weeks to judge the impact of the nationwide protests on the spread of COVID-19, which had been dramatically ebbing across most of the country before the killing of Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

Those infected with the virus sometimes take several days to display symptoms, creating a lag in the data. And many protesters were masked and skewed younger — a population that is less affected by the virus but may also have greater numbers of asymptomatic spreaders — complicating predictions.

Dr. Deborah Birx, the administration's coronavirus coordinator, has been monitoring the protests since they began, looking for indicators of potential resurgence in cases, a White House official said. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters, said Birx was expected to present the task force with early impressions this week but the fuller picture likely won't be known for some time.

Questions are swirling about whether the White House is prepared to handle a possible resurgence after deliberately placing the government's public health response on the back burner to put more focus on restarting state economies.

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The task force received a stay of execution last month when Trump decided not to dissolve it. The group now has a smaller portfolio as the federal priority shifts to helping states safely reopen and the race for a vaccine has been put under the separate auspices of "Operation Warp Speed."

The task force is still collecting data, coordinating the distribution of supplies and test kits, and serving as a sounding board for states, but officials said there's less to do now that critical supply shortages have been largely eliminated and tests are more broadly available. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, told CNN this week that he had not spoken to Trump in half a month.

White House officials are warily watching metropolitan areas where the protests have ignited, hoping the outdoor settings reduce the risk. The administration will also encourage governors to reestablish testing sites that were destroyed or shut down due to the protests.

"President Trump continues to lead the nation through this unprecedented pandemic, including expedited vaccine development and responsibly reopening our economy, while also taking decisive action to restore law and order to our streets and ensure justice," said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

Soon after the coronavirus reached American shores, the president expressed frustration at how quickly the pandemic crippled the economy, depriving Trump of his best argument for reelection. Trump also had hoped to revive his 2016 playbook to tarnish Democratic rival Joe Biden as an ineffective and corrupt Washington insider, only to have the pandemic all but suspend the campaign.

Desperate to change the subject, Trump labeled the Obama administration's use of a routine intelligence procedure known as unmasking as "the biggest political crime in history" to slam Biden and promoted an unfounded murder conspiracy theory against MSNBC host Joe Scarborough, a frequent Trump critic.

The president has spoken about the coronavirus only sparingly over the last week, mostly to level broadsides against China and the World Health Organization for what he sees as a failure to adequately warn the world about the threat of the virus. Aides have been encouraged by the lack of a significant spike in cases after Memorial Day and some states' reopening.

Trump is slated Friday to visit a factory in Maine that makes swabs used to test for the coronavirus, his first pandemic-themed travel in more than two weeks. The event has a 2020 backdrop: Maine divides its electoral votes, and the event will be held in the state's 2nd Congressional District, which Trump won four years ago and is banking on again this November.

All of Trump's recent official travel has been to electoral battleground states, including Florida, Pennsylvania and Arizona, as advisers nervously track his standing in polls. His campaign has welcomed the recent shift to law-and-order themes, believing the president's combative rhetoric and talk about sending the military into cities will reassure voters concerned about lawlessness, including senior citizens and suburban women.

But, just as with the pandemic, the Biden campaign sees Trump's handling of the protests after Floyd's death as fresh proof for the former vice president's argument Trump is dangerously unfit for the presidency. Its pitch is that Biden has the experience and temperament to clean up the mess and "restore the soul of the nation."

"The American people are crying out for leadership," said Biden spokesman Andrew Bates. "Narcissism, fear, and smallness will never meet this moment, but Trump doesn't know how to offer anything else."

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Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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Follow Lemire on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Miller at <https://twitter.com/@zekejmilller>.

## 5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. PROTESTS FOR GEORGE FLOYD CALMER Demonstrations across America remain large but notably more subdued while prosecutors charged three more Minneapolis police officers and filed a new, tougher charge against Derek Chauvin.

2. HONG KONG OUTLAWS INSULTING CHINA'S ANTHEM Pro-democracy lawmakers see the bill as an infringement of freedom of expression and the greater rights that residents of the semi-autonomous city have compared to mainland China.

3. NEW YORK CITY BISHOP ACCUSED OF SEX ABUSE Roman Catholic Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn has been accused by a second man of abuse in the 1970s, when the bishop was a parish priest in New Jersey.

4. TRUMP CHALLENGED BY SHIFTING CRISES The White House fears that the very thing that finally shoved the coronavirus off centerstage — mass protests over the death of George Floyd — may bring about its resurgence.

5. DREW BREES FACING FLAG COMMENTS BACKLASH The Saints quarterback was sharply criticized by fellow high-profile athletes, including some teammates, after reiterated his opposition to kneeling during the national anthem.

## **Pandemic hits poorest hardest as India, Pakistan cases jump**

**By EDITH LEDERER and ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press**

The United Nations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are urging that governments and others unite in developing a "people's vaccine" to protect everyone against the coronavirus.

Their appeal came ahead of a vaccine summit in London organized by the Global Vaccine Alliance that is seeking to mobilize billions of dollars of funding for a COVID-19 vaccine.

The "people's vaccine" should protect the affluent, the poor, the old and young, said a statement by the U.N. and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. That is a "moral imperative that brings us all together in our shared humanity," it said.

It said the pandemic is also raising risks of other diseases as it disrupts childhood immunization programs, leaving at least 80 million children under the age of one at risk of diseases like measles, diphtheria and polio.

The urgency of finding a way to stem outbreaks was evident as India on Thursday reported yet another record number of new infections, at 9,304, with 260 deaths in the previous 24 hours.

India's tally of COVID-19 fatalities surpassed 6,000 and its number of infections has risen to nearly 217,000, the Health Ministry said. That makes India the seventh worst hit by the pandemic.

Neighboring Pakistan reported over 4,000 new cases and said 82 more people had died, raising its death toll to 1,770. On Thursday, as many as 901 COVID-19 patients were listed in critical condition in Pakistan hospitals.

The spike in infections comes weeks after Prime Minister Imran Khan overrode warnings from experts and eased a lockdown. Officials have blamed the public for not adhering to social distancing regulations.

As countries such as New Zealand and Australia mark progress in containing the pandemic and work on plans to resume some international air travel, others are having to step up precautions.

North Macedonia reintroduced stringent restrictions on movement in its capital, Skopje, and three other areas after confirming 101 new infections as of Thursday.

In the U.S., where a wave of protests is adding to concerns over possible additional outbreaks, new cases of the coronavirus have been surging just weeks after many businesses were allowed to reopen.

Arizona officials reported nearly 1,000 new cases Wednesday amid a surge in hospitalizations, a little over two weeks after Gov. Doug Ducey ended his stay-at-home order. The state has now tallied more than 22,000 cases and 981 deaths.

Utah's state epidemiologist issued a renewed plea Wednesday for people to maintain social distancing and exercise caution after state figures showed an average of about 200 new cases a day last week, the highest weekly average by far since the pandemic began.

South Carolina has logged its three highest daily case counts in the past week. The two highest death counts have occurred in the last week — 20 deaths on May 27 and 17 deaths on Wednesday.

The percentage of positive tests averaged over 14 days and 28 days are both rising, which health officials use to determine if the spread of the virus is under control.



As of Thursday, more than 6.5 million people worldwide have been confirmed infected with the coronavirus and more than 386,000 have died, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The actual number of infections is thought to be much higher, due to limits on testing and many asymptomatic cases.

Both in the U.S. and around the world, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who have been the hardest hit, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a video message.

The millions of people on the move including those forced to flee their homes because of violence or disaster and migrants "face three crises rolled into one," he said.

A health crisis in conditions where social distancing is "an impossible luxury" and health care, water and sanitation are often hard to find is made worse by their economic plight and by pandemic-related restrictions on movement, he said.

Fear of COVID-19 has also led to "skyrocketing xenophobia, racism and stigmatization" and greater risk of gender-based violence, Guterres said.

He urged governments "to remove unwarranted barriers" for people on the move and ensure that they are given COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines because "no one is safe until everyone is safe."

## Brooklyn bishop accused by 2nd man of sex abuse in the 1970s

By MICHAEL REZENDES Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Roman Catholic bishop of Brooklyn, already under a church investigation for alleged sex abuse, has been accused by a second man of abuse in the 1970s, when the bishop was a parish priest in New Jersey.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio "repeatedly sexually abused" Samier Tadros starting when he was about 6 years old, according to a March 9 letter that Tadros' lawyer sent to the attorney representing the Archdiocese of Newark. The letter alleges the abuse happened in Holy Rosary Church in Jersey City.

DiMarzio has previously denied the accusations made by the first accuser. In a statement to The Associated Press, he also denied the accusation leveled by Tadros. "There is absolutely no truth to this allegation," he said. "This is clearly another attempt to destroy my name and discredit what I have accomplished in my service to God and His people."

Joseph Hayden, DiMarzio's attorney, said in an email to the AP, "We have uncovered conclusive evidence of Bishop DiMarzio's innocence." Hayden declined to share the evidence with the AP.

DiMarzio's case has drawn interest because it is among the first conducted according to procedures Pope Francis issued under a new church law that went into effect last June.

The procedures — known in Latin as Vos Estis Lux Mundi, or You are the Light of the World — were issued in an apostolic letter that addresses how the church will handle claims against bishops and other ranking church officials accused of abuse or covering it up. The rules direct archbishops to lead the investigation of an accused bishop in his jurisdiction. In this case the archbishop of New York is Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney for both of DiMarzio's accusers, told the AP that Tadros stepped forward after hearing from a family member that another man, 57-year-old Mark Matzek, had accused DiMarzio. Matzek also accused the late Rev. Albert Mark of sexually abusing him in the mid-1970s, when both priests were assigned to St. Nicholas Church, also in Jersey City.

The two men live in different states, Garabedian said, and have never met. "We have two separate, discreet claims," he said.

Tadros, now 46, has demanded \$20 million in compensation. Hayden said, "Bishop DiMarzio will never agree to a settlement of these claims."

Last November, the AP reported that Garabedian planned to file suit on Matzek's behalf in New Jersey. But he said he put the plan on hold after the Archdiocese of New York asked whether Matzek would cooperate with Dolan's investigation. Garabedian said both men, as well as a family member of Tadros, are prepared to answer questions from Dolan's investigators.

Dolan has retained New York attorney John O'Donnell and the law firm of Herbert Smith Freehills to conduct the investigation. The firm in turn has hired a risk management company founded by former

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FBI director Louis Freeh to assist in the inquiry. Freeh was named in 2011 to lead an investigation into Pennsylvania State University and its handling of sex abuse claims against former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, which led to a report critical of university officials.

Under the church's new procedures, O'Donnell said, Dolan's investigation will be submitted to the Vatican, which will review the evidence and make a recommendation to Pope Francis.

Although Dolan will not personally conduct the investigation, he is to submit the investigation along with his "votum," or vote, according to the new procedures.

Another provision says that the archbishop "is required to act impartially and free of conflicts of interest."

But Garabedian and advocates for clergy abuse survivors have questioned Dolan's ability to remain neutral, citing comments he made during a Jan. 21 episode of his weekly "Conversation with Cardinal Dolan" podcast.

"Bishop DiMarzio, I mean, I love the guy. He's a good friend," Dolan said. "He's never had an accusation against him in his whole life. But in November, somebody made an accusation from way, way, way, way, way, way back, 48 years or so ago. And as much as Bishop DiMarzio said, 'This is preposterous, this is ridiculous, this is unjust,' darn it, we have to take it seriously."

Garabedian said Dolan's neutrality also is undermined by a decision to allow DiMarzio to remain in office during the investigation. In other instances of alleged clergy sexual abuse, some priests have been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of a review of the accusations against them.

"It's very difficult for my clients to believe Cardinal Dolan could be neutral in this matter, after the public statement Cardinal Dolan made about his good friend Bishop DiMarzio," Garabedian said.

Nicholas Cafardi, a canon lawyer and former chair of the U.S. bishops' National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People, said he believes that because Dolan has retained outside professionals to conduct the investigation, impartiality is assured.

"The fact that it's going to be based on what the professionals find means the requirement for impartiality has been met," he said.

And O'Donnell, the attorney retained to conduct Dolan's investigation, noted in an email that "while Cardinal Dolan is to oversee the investigation, he is not the one to adjudicate the matter."

In addition, O'Donnell said that because DiMarzio is a bishop, the decision to allow him to remain in office, or place him on administrative leave, rests with the Pope.

Earlier this year, the National Catholic Reporter, an independent Catholic newspaper, faulted the Vos Estis procedures for establishing a system of "bishops investigating fellow bishops." The newspaper suggested that the new law be amended to require that accused bishops are investigated by archbishops from other parts of the country.

Anne Barrett Doyle, co-director of BishopAccountability.org, a group that catalogs information about clergy sex abuse, said Dolan's remarks and the decision to allow DiMarzio to remain in office during the investigation send a discouraging message to abuse survivors.

"How can Cardinal Dolan expect that any witnesses or whistleblowers will want to come forward under these conditions?" she said.

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AP investigative researcher Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

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Contact AP's global investigative team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org).

## Coronavirus strands merchant ship crews at sea for months

By ELENA BECATOROS and THEODORA TONGAS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — For nearly four months, Capt. Andrei Kogankov and his oil tanker crew haven't set foot on dry land. With global travel at a virtual standstill due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Russian captain was forced to extend his normal contract. He still doesn't know when he'll be able to go home.

Countries across the world have imposed lockdowns, shut borders and suspended international flights to

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curb the spread of the new coronavirus. The move was deemed essential to prevent rampaging contagion, but merchant ship crews have become unintended collateral damage.

With more than 80% of global trade by volume transported by sea, the world's more than 2 million merchant seafarers play a vital role.

"In some ways, they've been the forgotten army of people," said Guy Platten, secretary general of the ICS. "They're out of sight and out of mind, and yet they're absolutely essential for moving the fuel, the food, the medical supplies and all the other vital goods to feed world trade."

About 150,000 seafarers are stranded at sea in need of crew changes, according to the International Chamber of Shipping. Roughly another 150,000 are stuck on shore, waiting to get back to work.

"It's not a tenable position to keep on indefinitely. You can't just keep extending people," said Platten.

International shipping organizations, trade unions and shipping companies are urging countries to recognize merchant crews as essential workers and allow them to travel and carry out crew changes.

"Our challenge now is to get a very strong message to governments. You can't expect people to move (personal protective equipment), drugs and all the issues that we need to respond to COVID, and keep cities and countries that are in lockdown fed, if you don't move cargo on ships," said Steve Cotton, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation, or ITF. "They've got to recognize the sacrifice seafarers are making for our global society."

Kogankov is seven months into a four-month contract and was supposed to be replaced in mid-March in Qatar. But a few days before he arrived, Qatar imposed a lockdown and banned international flights.

From there to South Korea, Japan, South Korea again and on to Singapore and Thailand, each time the same story: Lockdown. No flights. No going home.

The uncertainty and open-ended extension of his contract — and with it the responsibility for his 21-man crew and a ship carrying flammable cargo — is taking its toll.

"When you are seven months on board, you are becoming physically and mentally exhausted," Kogankov said by satellite phone from Thailand. "We are working 24/7. We don't have, let's say, Friday night or Saturday night or weekends. No, the vessel is running all the time."

Officers sign on for three to four months, the rest of the crew for around seven months. But they always have an end date. Take that away, and suddenly the prospect of endless workdays becomes a strain.

"We're gravely worried that there could be a higher increase of incidents and accidents. But we also are seeing a high level of what I would describe as anxiety and frustration," Cotton said. "If you don't know when you're going to get off a ship, that adds to a high level of anxiety that really is quite demoralizing."

Unless governments facilitate crew changes, Cotton warned, "it's difficult for us to convince the seafarers not to take more dramatic action, and ... stop working."

It's not just crew changes that are problematic during the pandemic. Getting medical help for seafarers has also become difficult, as Capt. Stephan Berger discovered when one of his crew fell ill — not with coronavirus.

Lockdowns in successive ports made visiting a doctor impossible. It took multiple phone calls and the combined efforts of a Dubai paramedic, Berger and the German ship-owning company to eventually get the necessary care for the crewmember, who was hospitalized for three weeks.

Of the 23 people aboard Berger's Berlin Express, 18 were due for a crew change when it moored in Valencia, Spain, in late May. The officers had extended what were normally three-month contracts to four and five months, while the mostly Filipino crew had been on board for eight or nine months, instead of three or four.

Despite this, morale has been good, Berger said.

Nobody is particularly happy with the contract extensions, "but we have to take it as it is," he said. "It feels sometimes like a prison."

Ship-owning company Hapag-Lloyd was doing everything it could to arrange crew changes and managed to arrange for the seven European crew members to sign off in Barcelona on May 30, Berger said. But there are still no flights home for the Filipino crew.

"We are very much hidden. We are on board our vessels, and the people might see the big ships coming

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in and out of the ports, but very seldom they see the people who are operating the ships," Berger said. "We hope that people would recognize it a little bit more now."

On another Hapag-Lloyd container ship, apprentice Hannah Gerlach was to sign off in mid-March in Singapore. But even as her vessel headed to Asia, it was clear that wouldn't happen. Gerlach packed her bags for an earlier departure from Sri Lanka, but by the time she arrived, so had the lockdown.

"I definitely miss my family very much. ... And I miss just these moments of a normal life, to have the possibility to go out for a walk, to the forest, to ride the bicycle," Gerlach said. "You don't know any more when your contract will end, when you have the chance to see your family again."

David Hammond, founder of the Human Rights at Sea organization, said many seafarers "have really been at the end of their tether" due to contract extensions. "The reality is that until there is global cooperation among states and shipping entities .... then crew change is going to be very problematic."

o, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said, "We urge the U.S. to abandon ideological prejudice, correct mistakes and stop interfering in China's internal affairs in any form."

China has released the last of those arrested for directly taking part in the Tiananmen demonstrations, but others who seek to commemorate them have been rearrested for continuing their activism.

They include Huang Qi, founder of the website 64 Tianwang that sought to expose official wrongdoing. Reportedly in failing health, he is serving a 12-year sentence after being convicted of leaking state secrets abroad.

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Moritsugu reported from Beijing. Associated Press videojournalist Taijing Wu in Taipei, Taiwan, contributed.

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Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic and Democratic Movements of China: [www.64live.org](http://www.64live.org)

## **Police: NYPD officer ambushed, man who stabbed him shot**

**By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police officer on an anti-looting patrol was ambushed Wednesday in Brooklyn by a man who walked up behind him and stabbed him in the neck, police said, setting off a struggle in which the assailant was shot and two other officers suffered gunshot injuries to their hands.

The bloodshed happened just before midnight in the hours after an 8 p.m. curfew that was intended to quell days of unrest over the death of George Floyd in Minnesota.

All three injured officers were expected to recover. The man who attacked them was shot multiple times and was hospitalized in critical condition, said Police Commissioner Dermot Shea.

"What we know at this point and time is that it appears to be a completely, cowardly, despicable, unprovoked attack on a defenseless police officer and thank God we aren't planning a funeral right now," Shea said.

He noted that it was one of several attacks on police officers in recent days, including one in which a driver plowed into a police sergeant who was trying to stop looting in the Bronx and a lieutenant who was struck in the helmet by a brick during a brawl with protesters in Manhattan.

New York City has been roiled by days of protests over police brutality, and the spot in Brooklyn where Wednesday night's attack took place is just a block away from where demonstrators and police engaged days ago in an hours-long standoff, during which a police car was burned and protesters beaten with batons.

There were peaceful marches and protests throughout the day Wednesday, but police moved in to break them up when the city's curfew took effect at 8 p.m.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, who appeared with Shea outside the hospital where the officers were being treated, called it a "very tough night" and lauded the officers for their bravery.

Some details of how the attack unfolded were still unclear, but Shea said the man casually approached two officers stationed in the area to prevent looting at around 11:45 a.m. and stabbed one of them.

Officers a short distance away heard gunshots, rushed to the scene and saw the man with a gun in his hand, believed to have been taken from one of the officers, Shea said. The responding officers then



opened fire.

The commissioner said 22 shell casings were recovered. He didn't say whether the officers' hand wounds came from the guns of fellow officers.

Shea didn't speculate on the motive of the stabber, who was not identified, but Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch blamed anti-police rhetoric during the protests.

"Are we surprised? Are we surprised we're here in the hospital again. Did we doubt because of the rhetoric we're hearing, the anti-police rhetoric that's storming our streets, are we surprised that we got this call? I'm not. We said it's going to happen," he said.

## Seoul vows to stop border protests after Pyongyang's threat

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea said Thursday it planned to push new laws to ban activists from flying anti-Pyongyang leaflets over the border after North Korea threatened to end an inter-Korean military agreement reached in 2018 to reduce tensions if Seoul fails to prevent the protests.

The South's desperate attempt to keep alive a faltering diplomacy will almost certainly trigger debates over freedom of speech in one of Asia's most vibrant democracies.

Sending balloons across the border has been a common activist tactic for years, but North Korea considers it an attack on its government. Defectors and other activists in recent weeks have used balloons to fly leaflets criticizing the North's authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un over his nuclear ambitions and dismal human rights record.

While Seoul has sometimes sent police officers to block such activities during sensitive times, it had resisted the North's calls to fully ban them, saying the activists were exercising their freedoms.

The shift followed remarks earlier in the morning from Kim's powerful sister, who threatened to end the military agreement and said the North could permanently shut a liaison office and an inter-Korean factory park that have been major symbols of reconciliation.

In her statement released through state media, Kim Yo Jong called the defectors involved in the balloon launches "human scum" and "mongrel dogs" who betrayed their homeland and said it was "time to bring their owners to account," referring to the government in Seoul.

Yoh Sang-key, spokesman of South Korea's Unification Ministry, said the balloon campaigns were threatening the safety of residents living in the border area and that his government will push for legal changes to "fundamentally resolve tension-creating activities."

When asked whether the ministry would specifically express regret over the North's threat to abandon inter-Korean agreements, Yoh said: "we will substitute our evaluation (of the North Korean) statement with the announcement of the government position (on the issue)."

South Korea's ruling liberal party and its satellite party have 180 seats in the 300-seat National Assembly after winning April's elections, giving it a solid majority to win approval for the proposal in parliament.

An official from Seoul's presidential office, who asked not to be named during a background briefing, said the balloon launches do "all harm, no good" and that the government will "sternly respond" to activities threatening security.

In 2014, soldiers exchanged fire after South Korean activists released propaganda balloons across the Demilitarized Zone, but no casualties were reported.

Activists in recent months have stopped releasing protest plans in advance to prevent police from stopping them.

North Korea's latest denouncement of the balloon protests follows months of frustration over the South's unwillingness to defy U.S.-led international sanctions against the North.

Kim Yo Jong took a higher profile in North Korean affairs as part of her brother's diplomatic efforts in 2018 and has been issuing her first public statements as that diplomacy has slowed in recent months. State media has carried her comments ridiculing Seoul for protesting a North Korean military drill but praising President Donald Trump for offering to help the North with anti-virus efforts.

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"(South Korean) authorities will be forced to pay a dear price if they let this situation go on while making sort of excuses," she said in advocating South Korea outlaw the balloon protests.

"If they fail to take corresponding steps for the senseless act against the fellow countrymen, they had better get themselves ready for possibility of the complete withdrawal of the already desolate Kaesong Industrial Park following the stop to tour of (Diamond Mountain), or shutdown of the (North-South) joint liaison office whose existence only adds to trouble, or the scrapping of the (North-South) agreement in military field which is hardly of any value."

In a separate statement, the international affairs department of the North's ruling Workers' Party accused U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of spewing "rubbish" over his critical comments toward Beijing, which is Pyongyang's biggest ally.

In a Fox News interview on Sunday, Pompeo said the Chinese Communist Party was putting Americans at risk because it has come to "view itself as intent upon the destruction of Western ideas, Western democracies, Western values."

The department's unidentified spokesman also commented on the intensifying protests in the United States over the death of George Floyd, saying that the unrest exposes harsh realities in America.

"Demonstrators enraged by the extreme racists throng even to the White House. This is the reality in the U.S. today. American liberalism and democracy put the cap of leftist on the demonstrators and threaten to unleash even dogs for suppression."

Seoul has touted the military agreement, reached during the third summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, as a major step in the peace process.

The Koreas had agreed to jointly search for human remains from the 1950-53 Korean War and take steps to reduce conventional military threats, such as establishing buffer and no-fly zones. They also removed some front-line guard posts and jointly surveyed a waterway near their western border to allow freer civilian navigation.

However, the North has been less enthusiastic about upholding inter-Korean agreements as the larger nuclear talks with the U.S. stalemate. North Korea has suspended virtually all cooperation with the South, while also pressuring Seoul to break away from Washington and restart the joint economic projects, which would breathe life into the North's broken economy.

"If they truly value the (North-South) agreements and have a will to thoroughly implement them, they should clear their house of rubbish," said Kim Yo Jong, who's considered her brother's closest confidant.

The liaison office in Kaesong has been closed since late January after the Koreas agreed to temporarily shut down until the coronavirus outbreak is controlled.

The North has also postponed plans to tear down South Korean-made hotels and other facilities at the North's Diamond Mountain resort as part of its virus-prevention efforts. It has said there hasn't been a single case of COVID-19 on its territory, a claim widely disbelieved.

## Syria's Assad seeks to control economy, goes after cousin

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — On a summer day last year, presidential guards drove out of the charity organization founded by Syria's wealthiest businessman and a close cousin of President Bashar Assad, carting away boxes of documents and computers. At the same time, the charity's director was being questioned at the palace on suspicion of corruption.

The confiscated data included names of thousands of militia fighters who have supported the government in the 9-year-old civil war, including salaries they received from Al-Bustan, the charity group founded by Rami Makhlouf.

The incident last August was the opening salvo in a crackdown on Makhlouf's power, signaling the beginning of the end of his role as the Assad family's top financier.

The unprecedented crackdown burst into the public with a series of Facebook videos Makhlouf posted

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contesting the measures. It revealed a new fragility of the embattled president — and gave a rare glimpse into the intrigues of an opaque inner circle involving a powerful first lady and business rivalries.

Assad, who marks 20 years in power this month, has survived nearly a decade of war with the backing of Russia and Iran and a loyal class of businessmen. A number of those businessmen helped protect the state and economic interests by also forming their own militias.

Now the war-ravaged country faces a new level of hardship.

The Syrian pound has fallen to 1,800 to the dollar, from 50 before the war. Prices have soared, and electricity and fuel shortages are recurrent. More than 80% of the population lives in poverty. Once an oil exporter, Syria now lives on a credit line from Iran, which faces its own economic troubles.

Sanctions in place before the war mean Syria can hardly export anything, and new U.S. sanctions threaten to further choke the country.

With the crackdown, Assad seems set on bringing the economy more firmly under his control and bolstering the state's empty coffers.

"Rami's potential demise is mostly a reflection of a change at the helm of the regime" — in players, not policy, said Jihad Yazigi, editor-in-chief of the Syria Report.

New actors are competing with traditional powers within the family over the shrinking resources, he said.

For instance, first lady Asmaa Assad has increasingly sought to centralize all charity work under her aegis. She heads the Syria Trust for Development, where most foreign aid for post-war reconstruction is channeled.

The Makhloufs have been the Assad family's longtime partners. Makhlouf's father, Mohammad, was the brother-in-law of Assad's father Hafez and a mentor to the younger Assad. Notably, he too now appears to have been sidelined.

Rami Makhlouf rose alongside Bashar Assad, who succeeded his father in 2000. Benefiting economic liberalization, Makhlouf became an overwhelming figure in Syrian business, most importantly controlling the largest telecommunications company, Syriatel.

His name became synonymous with Assad's power. Early in the conflict, protesters torched his companies — and Makhlouf moved out of the public eye.

Some Syria watchers compare the current crackdown to Saudi Arabia's Ritz-Carlton moment. Seeking to consolidate power, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman arrested dozens of royals and key business figures, locking many in the five-star hotel, in a 2017 anti-corruption campaign.

Signs of cracks emerged last year. Last spring, a paper owned by Makhlouf criticized a rival businessman, Samer Foz, considered close to the first lady.

Soon after, an audit was launched against Makhlouf's Al-Bustan charity — with the raid on its offices and interrogation of its staff, details of which were reported in Arab media and confirmed by an emigre Syrian businessman, Firas Tlass.

Tlass said the crackdown was driven by the first lady.

A career investment banker, Asmaa Assad is trying to secure her three children's future, fearing consolidation of the family wealth in the hands of Makhlouf and his sons, who live in Dubai, said Tlass. He estimates Makhlouf's fortune at \$13 billion.

The audit was the final rupture between Makhlouf and Assad, said Tlass.

After it, Al-Bustan's director and accountant were replaced by figures close to the palace, and the affiliated militia was integrated into the armed forces. This year, Makhlouf's assets were temporarily seized and he was banned from travel.

Makhlouf, who almost never makes public comments, responded with his Facebook videos, which shocked the country, turning the family dispute into a serialized drama.

He appeared to be banking on support from the Alawite community, from which he and the president hail, and which make the bulk of the pro-government militias he has long supported.

"It is the weakness of the regime that made it possible for such divisions to be aired in public," said Tlass, who is the son of a former defense minister and lives in exile but keeps ties with Syria.

By year's end, the government openly named Makhlouf and other businessmen or officials in a campaign

against corruption. State media, which once called them the “nationalist business class,” now branded them “war profiteers.” Officials spoke of billions of Syrian pounds embezzled. The government said Makhlouf owed it \$180 million.

Assets were temporarily seized from Ayman Jaber, a steel and oil trader married to an Assad cousin. Also hit was Hossam Qaterji, a powerful oil trader, who facilitated oil smuggling from eastern Syria and has a militia. The first lady’s uncle, Tarif al-Akhras, a food trader, was also named.

Reports suggest most of those businessmen settled with the government and paid their dues.

Meanwhile, Russia, keen on translating its military role in Syria into economic and political gains, appears to be losing patience with the chaotic, corruption-ridden state.

So it would welcome Damascus moves to tighten control on the economy, said Vitaly Naumkin, a prominent Moscow-based Middle East expert.

Kirill Semyonov, a Syria expert with the Russian International Affairs Council, described the crackdown as a re-distribution of assets among the Assad entourage’s “military-criminal economy.”

“Makhlouf has become a weak link in the chain,” he told Russia’s leading business daily Kommersant. “Assad needs funds or his regime will crumble, so why not take the money from someone who can pay.”

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Associated Press writer Vladimir Isachenkov contributed to this report from Moscow.

## **The Latest: Seattle ends city-wide curfew ahead of schedule**

**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:

- Seattle ends city-wide curfew ahead of schedule.
- Demonstrators march to U.S. Capitol during peaceful protests in Washington amid show of force from federal law enforcement agencies.
- Autopsy reveals George Floyd tested positive for COVID-19 in April.
- Civil rights organizations call for resignation of Kansas City police chief.
- Suspect fatally shot by officers in San Francisco Bay area.

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SEATTLE — Leaders in Seattle seeking to address concerns raised by protesters have abruptly ended a city-wide curfew in place for days amid massive demonstrations against the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minnesota.

Mayor Jenny Durkan said Wednesday evening on Twitter that she was ending the curfew, which had been scheduled to last until Saturday, after she and Police Chief Carmen Best met with community members.

“Chief Best believes we can balance public safety and ensure peaceful protests can continue without a curfew,” Durkan said. “For those peacefully demonstrating tonight, please know you can continue to demonstrate. We want you to continue making your voice heard.”

Thousands of protesters remained in the city’s Capitol Hill neighborhood well after the abolished 9 p.m. curfew Wednesday. Demonstrators carried “Black Lives Matter” signs, called for cutting the police department’s budget and shifting the money to social programs, and chanted for officers to remove their riot gear.

Washington Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib tweeted that he was pleased Seattle had listened and reversed course.

“Preemptive curfews were only making things worse. Other cities should do likewise,” he posted.

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WASHINGTON — Demonstrators marched to the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday night, protesting the death of George Floyd in Minnesota and demanding that laws be changed to prevent more like it.

Along their route from near the White House, there were troops in fatigues and officers from federal agencies keeping watch on the crowd. Barricades were put up around the Capitol, and the Capitol Police stood guard behind them.



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"We came here because they make laws here and we want the laws to change," said Mohammed Wagdy, 26, of nearby Prince George's County.

As an 11 p.m. curfew in Washington neared, community activists urged the demonstrators to head home. Some did, but others said they were returning to the White House.

**MINNEAPOLIS** — A full autopsy of George Floyd, the handcuffed black man who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police, provides several clinical details — including that Floyd had tested positive for COVID-19.

The 20-page report released Wednesday by the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office came with the family's permission and after the coroner's office released summary findings Monday that Floyd had a heart attack while being restrained by officers, and classified his May 25 death as a homicide.

The report by Chief Medical Examiner Andrew Baker spelled out clinical details, including that Floyd tested positive for COVID-19 on April 3 but appeared asymptomatic. The report also noted Floyd's lungs appeared healthy but he had some narrowing of arteries in the heart.

The county's earlier summary report listed fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use under "other significant conditions" but not under "cause of death." The full report's footnotes noted that signs of fentanyl toxicity can include "severe respiratory depression" and seizures.

**WASHINGTON** — As the National Guard and law enforcement officers stood guard near the White House, surveillance planes kept watch on protesters in the nation's capital from the air.

At one point Wednesday night, an FBI plane, an Army surveillance plane and a Park Police helicopter were circling overhead.

The demonstrators broke up into two groups; one stayed at the White House, the other marched to the Capitol. Protesters held signs and chanted, but there were no indications of any confrontations with law enforcement.

Hundreds of protesters stood face to face with military and federal officers who had formed a perimeter around Lafayette Park across from the White House. Military vehicles were parked on nearby streets, also blocking access.

The demonstration was held to protest the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minnesota.

Military police and law enforcement officers from a variety of federal agencies were out in force. A senior Defense official said at least 2,200 Guard members would be on the streets Wednesday.

The South Carolina and Utah National Guards had forces in place. Bureau of Prisons personnel wore blue uniforms. There were also agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency, the FBI hostage rescue team and the Secret Service.

Washington's mayor set an 11 p.m. curfew in the city after earlier restrictions the previous two nights.

**LIBERTY, Mo.** — Civil rights organizations on Wednesday called for the resignation of Kansas City Police Chief Rick Smith, hours after a group of mostly black pastors demanded changes to improve relations between police and the city's minority community.

The Urban League of Greater Kansas City, the NAACP's Kansas City, Missouri branch, and More2 said in a statement that Smith should resign because of his handling of excessive force complaints and officer-involved shootings of black men.

"Since November 2019, our Civil Rights organizations, in collaboration with faith and community leaders, have become increasingly appalled and very much concerned about Chief Smith's questionable leadership of the Kansas City Police Department," the coalition said in a statement.

The group also criticized the city's Board of Police Commissioners for allowing Smith to conduct internal investigations of officer-involved shootings and complaints of excessive force rather than calling in independent investigators.

The police department should be under local control, officers must be required to wear body cameras

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and the city must dismantle the Office of Community Complaints, which has been criticized as ineffectual, the coalition said.

A group of mostly black religious leaders made similar demands earlier Wednesday, but without calling for Smith's resignation.

Emanuel Cleaver III, pastor at St. James United Methodist Church, said the pastors believed it was necessary to seek change because: "What happened to George Floyd was nothing new." He said pastors "will take action" if the city doesn't respond, though he declined to elaborate.

Public relations officers for the department did not immediately respond to the demand that Smith resign.

Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker said her office was reviewing video of Kansas City police officers who pepper-sprayed two protesters and arrested one who was yelling at police during protests Monday night.

Mayor Quinton Lucas said Tuesday that he reviewed videos that had been sent to him from people concerned about police actions, and asked the FBI and federal prosecutors to review any that might violate procedures or show misconduct.

Kansas City has endured five days of protests over Floyd's death while in police custody May 25 in Minneapolis. Peaceful daytime demonstrations devolved into violence. Police used tear gas on protesters for the first four nights before relative calm returned Tuesday night.

CANBERRA, Australia — Australia's prime minister has urged Australians involved in George Floyd-related anti-racism protests around the world to be "extremely cautious."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison was commenting Thursday after Australian journalists came under attack while covering protests in Washington and London.

"In terms of some of the violence ... that we're seeing around the world today, for those Australians who find themselves in those situations, I would urge them to show great caution," Morrison told reporters.

"I would urge people to be extremely cautious. These are dangerous situations, people should exercise great care in where they're placing themselves," he added.

Australia's ambassador to the United States has complained about two police officers in riot gear lashing Channel 7 journalist Amelia Brace and camera operator Timothy Meyers with a shield and baton on Monday. The network's news director, Craig McPherson, described the attack as "nothing short of wanton thuggery."

The officers have been placed on administrative leave while their conduct is investigated.

Two Nine Network television crews also came under attack from crowd members while reporting Wednesday on protests in London, the network reported.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The police department in North Carolina's largest city is coming under criticism after a video posted to social media appeared to show officers using chemical agents on demonstrators who were boxed in while protesting the death of George Floyd.

The video was recorded Tuesday night by Justin LaFrancois, co-founder and publisher of the alternative Charlotte newspaper Queen City Nerve. He said officers fired tear gas and flash-bangs from behind the protesters, and in front of them as well. He also said officers perched on top of buildings were firing pepper balls down on the crowd.

"We were completely trapped," LaFrancois said. "There was one way to get out, and half of the group did go out that way through the tear gas and through the pepper balls. But for the rest of us, the only route of escape ... was to pull up a gate on the parking structure that we were pressed up against."

LaFrancois said people tried to squeeze under the 6-inch opening in the gate and find safety. But as those people looked for an exit from the parking deck, he said officers began firing pepper balls after they entered the deck from the other side.

"They were relentless in not allowing us to leave the area that they were trying to get us to leave," LaFrancois said. "It was the most extreme action that I had seen taken. It was the first time that I was actually in fear for my life."

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said on Twitter they are looking into the incident.

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"We are internally reviewing the circumstances that developed this evening on 4th Street to ensure policy and protocol were followed," the police department tweeted Tuesday.

**SAN FRANCISCO** — A man suspected of robbing a pharmacy in the San Francisco Bay area was fatally shot by officers who thought a hammer he was carrying in his waistband was a firearm, police said Wednesday.

Details of the shooting were revealed even as some California counties and cities began plans to end curfews after days of largely peaceful protests over the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

Sean Monterrosa, 22, of San Francisco is the first confirmed death at the hands of law enforcement related to smash-and-grabs and protests in California since Floyd's death. Vallejo Police Chief Shawny Williams said officers were responding to calls of looting at a Walgreens early Tuesday when the shooting occurred.

Officers said Monterrosa began running toward a car when he suddenly stopped, got on his knees and placed his hands above his waist, revealing what appeared to be the butt of a firearm in his waistband. An officer shot five times through a car window, striking him once.

"The intent was to stop the looting and arrest any perpetrators if necessary. The officers reacted to a perceived threat," Williams said.

John Burris, an attorney for the family, said he is appalled police would shoot at a person who was on his knees with his hands raised.

**OGDEN, Utah** — A criminal justice professor who wrote an inflammatory series of tweets during the nationwide protests said Wednesday he has resigned.

Scott Senjo told The Associated Press in an email that he agrees his tweets were "simply wrong" and his resignation from Weber State University would be effective immediately.

Last weekend, he tweeted at a black reporter who said he had been hit by New York City police: "Excellent. If I was the cop, you wouldn't be able to tweet." He also expressed support for damage done to CNN headquarters in Atlanta.

In response to another tweet showing a New York City police car driving into people, Senjo commented: "That's not how I would have driven the car into the crowd."

Senjo said his posts were part of the "oftentimes vulgar, extreme back-and-forth that can occur on Twitter," but he now realizes they were "far beyond the realm of acceptable university policy as well as acceptable social norms."

Weber State University has condemned the messages as "abhorrent" and opened an investigation to determine if other measures would be taken to ensure campus safety. The school had placed him on paid leave Tuesday to conduct a review and did not ask him to resign, officials said in a statement.

Senjo had been a professor at the college in Ogden since 2000.

**CARACAS, Venezuela** — Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro railed against President Donald Trump while expressing solidarity with the family of George Floyd, whose death in Minneapolis has sparked protests and street violence across the United States.

Maduro on Wednesday accused Trump of turning the U.S. military against his own people. He spoke on state TV at a ceremony decorating Venezuelan soldiers credited with fending off a recent attack that the socialist leader blames on Trump.

Maduro also extended Venezuela's solidarity with blacks and young people in the U.S. He says they are taking to the streets demanding an end to racism and police violence.

The White House has launched a campaign to oust Maduro. The U.S. and other nations as well as human rights groups condemn Maduro for employing brutal force and torture to silence Venezuelans who oppose the socialist government.

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has sent a national response team to Minneapolis and St. Paul to help investigate fires set during unrest following the death

of George Floyd.

Local and state authorities requested the team's help in investigating about 100 business fires in Minneapolis and about 35 in St. Paul.

Special Agent in Charge William Henderson of the ATF's St. Paul Field Division said in a statement Wednesday "the cause of these fires is quite obvious. The task at hand now is to determine who is responsible." The team arrived earlier this week.

## Amid virus, those in India's largest slum help one another

By YIRMIYAN ARTHUR Associated Press

KOHIMA, India (AP) — There are no secrets in the tightly packed lanes of Dharavi, India's largest slum. Everyone knows when an alcoholic husband turns violent, when children are scolded, or when a family has its television turned up too loud.

So, news that someone had been hospitalized with the new coronavirus rocketed through the 1 square mile (2.5 square kilometers) that is home to around a million of Mumbai's poorest residents.

Born and bred in Dharavi, Kunal Kanase watched authorities ignore everyday disasters, like overflowing sewers and domestic violence. He knew better than to wait for help.

The 31-year-old student and community activist hounded government helplines trying to get authorities to quarantine the neighbor's family. Unable to get through, he tweeted at the Mumbai police, who quickly came to take the man's family to a quarantine center.

"I used to teach his two children and felt good for the family since they were relatively safer now," he said from the tiny two-room apartment he shares with his parents and younger brother.

Kanase is among many unsung heroes working to protect some of India's most vulnerable people from the ravages of the coronavirus and the economically devastating nationwide lockdown that has left millions unable to feed themselves.

When a woman who lives just two houses — less than 10 feet (3 meters) away — from Kanase became sick with COVID-19, he once again tried to notify authorities. He was unsuccessful and no one ever came to test or isolate the six other members of the woman's household.

Kanase would watch as health workers scrambled to stem the outbreak, suiting up to disinfect the squalid lanes and flying drones over the shantytown to surveil people's movements.

Dharavi has had more than 1,800 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and is among Mumbai's most affected pockets.

The caseload in the city known for Bollywood and the country's most important stock exchange stood at more than 41,000 on Thursday, and has overwhelmed the under-funded health system.

Mumbai and elsewhere in Maharashtra state in central India account for the largest share of the country's more than 210,000 confirmed infections, of which more than 104,000 have recovered. India has recorded about 6,000 deaths.

The rate of infection and the loss of life have been relatively small compared to the United States, United Kingdom and other hard-hit countries. But epidemiologists say India is still weeks away from peak coronavirus transmission.

Dharavi is known to the world as the setting of the 2008 Oscar-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire." Set between busy train tracks and the heavily polluted Mithi River, which separates the slum from Mumbai's modern skyscrapers, the neighborhood is a maze of tiny alleys, each one full of scores of people, many living in tin shacks. Families or groups of migrant workers often pile into a single room. Hardly anyone has a private bathroom.

Without reliable running water, the most worrying concern is sanitation. The neighborhood was able to avoid another disaster this week when it was spared damage from a cyclone that hit the city.

Kiran Dighavkar, a Mumbai official who is overseeing medical workers and volunteers in Dharavi, said his staff is focused on cleaning the neighborhood's 500 toilet complexes. Each is visited by at least 1,000 people a day.



"These people have to come out twice a day, for food and to use the toilets. So you can imagine how tough it is to practice social distancing," Dighavkar said.

Kanase and his team at Dharavi Diary, a group of young leaders who work to improve conditions in the slum, have been working to help those affected by the pandemic, handing out bags of rice, flour, cooking oil and sugar — enough to feed a family for two weeks. But they lack the resources to provide for everyone and often must filter out the needy from the neediest.

Each day the slum's poorest — often migrant workers originally from elsewhere in the country — line the main street waiting for food handouts from Dharavi Diary and other volunteers, groups and government agencies.

India's poor — in Dharavi and the rest of India — have borne the brunt of the nationwide lockdown, which finally began to ease this week. Many migrant workers fled cities for their native villages in the countryside rather than risk starvation, sometimes walking for hundreds of miles (kilometers).

For Kanase, the pandemic has highlighted how even in hardship this tightly knit community can come together to aid each other.

"I live in Dharavi and I am proud of it," he said.

## **8:46: A number becomes a potent symbol of police brutality**

**By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY and STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press Writers**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — All protest movements have slogans. George Floyd's has a number: 8:46. Eight minutes, 46 seconds is the length of time prosecutors say Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was pinned to the ground under a white Minneapolis police officer's knee before he died last week.

In the days since, outraged protesters, allies and sympathetic companies have seized on the detail as a quiet way to honor Floyd at a time of angry and sometimes violent clashes with police. Even as prosecutors have said little about how they arrived at the precise number, it has fast grown into a potent symbol of the suffering Floyd — and many other black men — have experienced at the hands of police.

In Boston and Tacoma, Washington, demonstrators this week lay down on streets staging "die-ins" for precisely 8 minutes, 46 seconds. In Houston, churchgoers held candles and bowed their heads in silence, experiencing the crawl of time.

ViacomCBS, owner of MTV and Nickelodeon, stopped its programming earlier this week to air a silent, somber video honoring Floyd for 8 minutes, 46 seconds.

Google asked employees to pause Wednesday for the nearly 9 minutes of silence "as a visceral reminder of the injustice inflicted on Mr. Floyd and so many others," Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai said in a letter to employees.

"Our black community is hurting, and many of us are searching for ways to stand up for what we believe, and reach out to people we love to show solidarity," he said.

Pausing for a full 8 minutes, 46 seconds helps turn the abstract into a reality, said Monica Cannon-Grant, the founder of Violence in Boston Inc., which organized a Tuesday protest that included the minutes of silence.

"You find that that's an extremely long time to have someone have their knee in the side of your neck," Cannon-Grant said.

As she observed the silence, she said found herself thinking about the safety of her family.

"All kinds of things were going through my head," she said. "Mainly that I was the mom of four black sons and I'm married to a black man."

The source of the number is clear, although the calculation behind it isn't. The criminal complaint charging former Officer Derek Chauvin in Floyd's murder concludes that Chauvin "had his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in total. Two minutes and 53 seconds of this was after Mr. Floyd was non-responsive."

"Police are trained that this type of restraint with a subject in a prone position is inherently dangerous," it reads.

But the timestamps in the document's detailed description of the incident, much of which is caught on video, indicate a different tally. Using those, Chauvin had his knee on Floyd for 7 minutes and 46 seconds, including 1 minute and 53 seconds after Floyd appeared to stop breathing.

Prosecutors involved in the case have not responded to requests about the discrepancy.

In this case, one minute is unlikely to be major legal significance.

"Seven minutes is a long time to have a knee on someone's neck regardless," said Jared Fishman, a former federal civil rights prosecutor. That said, Fishman said it's a detail defense lawyers will scrutinize in court.

For those who hold up the number as part of a peaceful call for change, the precise length of time is beside the point: "It should never have happened to begin with," Cannon-Grant said.

It would not be the first time that a detail takes on a life of its own.

After the 2014 death of Michael Brown, word spread in the community that the black 18-year-old had his hands up in surrender when he was shot by a white police officer. The chant "Hands up. Don't shoot!" quickly became a rallying cry for protesters both in the St. Louis suburb and across the country.

But it never was clear whether Brown actually raised his hands. There were no videos or photos of the shooting. Some witnesses swore to a grand jury that his hands were raised while others swore they were not. Officer Darren Wilson testified to grand jurors that Brown was charging at him, with one hand clenched at his side and the other under his shirt, when Wilson fired the fatal shots.

Several protesters said it didn't matter if Brown's hands literally were raised, because his death remained symbolic of wider racial injustices at the hands of police.

LeBlanc contributed from Boston.

## Police: Well-coordinated thieves capitalize on protest chaos

By DAISY NGUYEN and MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Police in a small San Francisco Bay Area community were about to help authorities in neighboring Oakland keep the peace during a protest when a more pressing crisis hit home: groups of thieves had pillaged malls, set fire to a Walmart and stormed a car dealership.

By the time San Leandro officers arrived at the Dodge dealership, dozens of cars were gone and thieves were peeling out of the lot in \$100,000 Challenger Hellcat muscle cars.

Nearly 75 vehicles were stolen Sunday, including models driven through glass showroom doors to escape. It's one of the most brazen heists law enforcement has seen in a wave of thefts nationwide targeting big box electronics stores, jewelry shops and luxury designers while officers have been busy patrolling protests over the police killing of George Floyd.

"It was very strategic," Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said about the auto thefts and other recent heists.

Many of the smash-and-grab thefts have coincided with or followed protests over the death of Floyd, who struggled to breathe as his neck was pinned down by a white Minneapolis police officer's knee. They have been carried out by caravans of well-coordinated criminals who capitalize on chaos, communicate via messaging apps and use both the protests and other tactics to throw police off their trail. While opportunists have sometimes joined the frenzy, police and experts say there is a sophistication that suggests a level of planning that goes beyond spontaneous acts.

It's hardly the first time legitimate protest has been used as a cover for crime. But crime experts note the scale of the thefts, as they have taken place coast-to-coast, in big and small cities and in suburbs.

"I've been a student of these things. And I have never seen anything like it," said Neil Sullivan, a nationally recognized expert on mass-events security and retired Chicago Police Department commander.

People who stole during civil-rights protests in the 1960s, he said, tended to be individuals who saw crimes of opportunity as demonstrations spun out of control. By contrast, many of the break-ins that have happened the last week appear to be meticulously planned and coordinated, he said.

One of the first of these crimes unfolded Saturday in Emeryville, a tiny city of retail shopping centers

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next to Oakland, when a crowd showed up and broke into stores after an Instagram post said they would "hit" the Target and "break every stores" (sic).

"This wasn't the mafia and organized crime, but this wasn't individuals acting alone," said Mayor Christian Patz. "There definitely was some organization."

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said this week that some people stealing from stores were using encrypted messaging to communicate and posted lookouts to warn if police were coming.

In the Southern California city of Long Beach, groups of thieves hit store after store Sunday as marchers demonstrated nearby. Mayor Robert Garcia said they went "from protest to protest" so they had cover to steal.

Police in Los Angeles, which had widespread burglaries for several days, said the crimes didn't occur until a third night of protests and shifted from thieves on foot to those in cars able to haul more off.

The arrival of more than 1,000 National Guard troops in Los Angeles County to provide security freed up officers to more aggressively try to stop crimes. Sheriff Alex Villanueva said his department was able to thwart "a very significant operation to sack" a large outlet mall in the nearby City of Commerce. Dozens were arrested.

"They were there for only one purpose and that was to loot," he said.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, tweets warning of looting and rioting turned out to be false, though they led some businesses to close and may have been attempts to divert police elsewhere. Richmond police tweeted that a bogus rumor on social media of an officer being shot occurred around the time a pot shop was ransacked.

Groups of thieves struck a series of big box stores on Chicago's South Side on Sunday while periodically calling 911 to falsely report that a mall several miles away was being ransacked, Alderman Ray Lopez said.

By the time police rushed to the mall to find no one there, the thieves had moved on to another large store — and phoned in additional false reports to again shake police off their trail.

"It was a game of whack-a-mole," Lopez said.

In other instances, caravans of 10 or more cars would pull up to a store, smash the windows, then wait nearby to see if police would arrive. If they didn't, some of the same cars would return to load up with goods and speed off.

A reluctance of officers to use force amid intensified scrutiny of police tactics has emboldened would-be thieves, said Eugene O'Donnell, a professor of police studies at New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"All you have to tell police is to do nothing and they will do nothing," he said. "And they are implicitly being told, 'Don't do anything.'"

Some shoplifters displayed surprising brazenness, walking out of stores with stolen goods. TV helicopters captured some people changing into their pilfered attire outside Long Beach shops and a thief struggling to close the trunk of a car stuffed with clothes at a Walnut Creek mall near Oakland.

Kelly, from the Alameda Sheriff's Office, said the county began to get a handle on things after imposing evening curfews on Monday. He noted there was a clear distinction between protesters who got out of hand while demonstrating for social justice and other people who seized on the uprising to steal.

"Some of the burning was done out of anger and that was understandable," he said. "But the strategic looting was definitely for personal gain. It was not to push forward the community concerns around police brutality and reform."

Tarm reported from Chicago. Associated Press reporters Brian Melley and John Antczak in Los Angeles, and Alan Suderman in Richmond, Virginia contributed.

## Obama steps out as nation confronts confluence of crises

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama is taking on an increasingly public role as the nation confronts a confluence of historic crises that has exposed deep racial and socioeconomic inequalities in America and reshaped the November election.

In doing so, Obama is signaling a willingness to sharply critique his successor, President Donald Trump, and fill what many Democrats see as a national leadership void. On Wednesday, he held a virtual town hall event with young people to discuss policing and the civil unrest that has followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Obama rejected a debate he said he'd seen come up in "a little bit of chatter on the internet" about "voting versus protests, politics and participation versus civil disobedience and direct action."

"This is not an either-or. This is a both and to bring about real change," he said during the town hall hosted by his foundation's My Brother's Keeper Alliance, which supports young men of color. "We both have to highlight a problem and make people in power uncomfortable, but we also have to translate that into practical solutions and laws that could be implemented and monitored and make sure we're following up on."

Obama called for turning the protests over Floyd's death into policy change to ensure safer policing and increased trust between communities and law enforcement. He urged "every mayor in the country to review your use of force policies" with their communities and "commit to report on planned reforms" before prioritizing their implementation.

"We're in a political season, but our country is also at an inflection point," said Valerie Jarrett, a long-time friend and adviser to Obama. "President Obama is not going to shy away from that dialogue simply because he's not in office anymore."

During the roundtable, Obama drew parallels between the unrest sweeping America currently and protest movements of the 1960s. But he said polls show a majority of Americans supporting today's protesters and forming a "broad coalition" in a way much of the country didn't back then — despite some of the recent protests "having been marred by the actions of a tiny minority that engaged in violence."

Still, he warned, "at some point, attention moves away" and "protests dwindle in size" so "it's important to take that moment that's been created as a society, as a country, and say let's use this to finally have an impact."

Obama was already beginning to emerge from political hibernation to endorse Joe Biden's Democratic presidential bid when the coronavirus pandemic swept across the U.S., killing more than 100,000 people, and the economy began to crater. The crises scrambled the Biden campaign's plans for how to begin deploying Obama as their chief surrogate ahead of the November election, but also gave the former president a clear opening to start publicly arguing what he has signaled to friends and associates privately for the past three years: that he does not believe Trump is up for the job.

Addressing graduates of historically black colleges and universities last month, Obama said the pandemic had "fully, finally torn back the curtain on the idea that so many of the folks in charge know what they're doing." And in a nationally televised broadcast celebrating graduating high school seniors, Obama said many "so-called grown-ups, including some with fancy titles and important jobs," do only what's convenient and feels good.

Floyd's death, however, has drawn a more visceral and personal reaction from the nation's first black president. Floyd, a black man, died after a white police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

In a lengthy written statement last week, Obama said that while he understood that millions of Americans were eager to "just get back to normal" when the pandemic abates, it shouldn't be forgotten that normal life for people of color in the U.S. involves being treated differently on account of their race.

"This shouldn't be 'normal' in 2020 America. It can't be 'normal,'" Obama wrote.

Tensions across the country have escalated further in the days since the former president's statement.



His town hall on Wednesday will mark his first in-person comments since law enforcement officers aggressively cleared peaceful protesters from a park outside the White House so Trump could walk across for a photo opportunity at a nearby church.

Trump has cheered harsh crackdowns on the protests, some of which have turned violent, and threatened to deploy active-duty military to the states if local officials could not get the demonstrations under control. He appeared to be backing down from that position this week, and Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Wednesday that he did not believe such action was warranted.

Biden's campaign welcomed Obama stepping forward during this moment.

"President Obama's voice is a reminder that we used to have a president who sought to bridge our divides, and we can have one again if we elect Joe Biden," said TJ Ducklo, a campaign spokesman.

Obama grappled with police brutality against minorities as president, including in Ferguson, Missouri, where clashes broke out after the death of Michael Brown, a black 18-year-old. After Brown's death, Obama's Justice Department moved to enact broad policing reforms, though most were halted under the Trump administration.

Biden, who served as Obama's vice president, called this week for restoring some of the previous administration's actions in the wake of Floyd's death and the killing of other black Americans. Biden also called for Congress to take immediate steps, including outlawing chokeholds.

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Associated Press writers Will Weissert in Washington and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Floyd memorials will retrace life, push for justice in death

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The memorial services to honor George Floyd are extraordinary: three cities over six days, with a chance for mourners to pay their respects in the communities where he was born, grew up, and died.

But so are the circumstances surrounding them: Since his May 25 death in Minneapolis, Floyd's name has been chanted by hundreds of thousands of people and empowered a movement. Violent encounters between police, protesters, and observers have inflamed a country already reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

The organizers of the memorials want to acknowledge the meaning Floyd had in life to his large family and the broader meaning he has assumed in death, which happened after a white officer pressed a knee into the handcuffed black man's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped moving and pleading for air.

"It would be inadequate if you did not regard the life and love and celebration the family wants," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, the civil rights leader who will eulogize Floyd in two cities. "But it would also be inadequate ... if you acted as though we're at a funeral that happened under natural circumstances."

"The family is not independent of the community," he said. "The family wants to see something happen."

The first service will be Thursday afternoon at North Central University in Minneapolis. Sharpton, founder of the National Action Network, and Floyd family attorney Ben Crump will speak.

Floyd's body will then go to Raeford, North Carolina, where he was born 46 years ago, for a two-hour public viewing and private service for the family on Saturday.

Finally, a public viewing will be held Monday in Houston, where he was raised and lived most of his life. A 500-person service on Tuesday will take place at The Fountain of Praise church and will include addresses from Sharpton, Crump, and the Rev. Remus E. Wright, the family pastor. Former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, may attend, and other political figures and celebrities are expected as well. A private burial will follow.

Both the memorials in Minneapolis and Houston will include personal tributes and eulogies about social justice, Sharpton said.

Due to the coronavirus, Fountain of Praise will be limited to 20% of its capacity and visitors will be re-

quired to wear masks.

Floyd's final journey was designed with intention, Sharpton said. Having left Houston for Minneapolis in 2014 in search of a job and a new life, Floyd will retrace that path.

"They collectively said we need to make the first memorial statement from the city he chose to go to make a living, that ended his life," he said.

Clayborne Carson, director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, said that "for a person who was pretty much unknown to the world until just last week, this is unprecedented."

"This has touched a nerve," Carson said. "It's been building up for all of American history. I think that people who are aware of the history of this country understand that there's a lot to atone for and a lot to celebrate in terms of people who stood up for justice."

The size of Floyd's memorial reflects his impact and the need to recognize the widespread grief his death has caused, said Tashel Bordere, an expert on grief and assistant professor at the University of Missouri. It also reflects a tradition particularly in African American communities that large funerals can provide the recognition that a lost loved one struggled to receive in life.

But, she added, "grief goes far beyond the funeral; healing goes far beyond the funeral. Justice is experienced when people feel safe in their communities and in their lives."

Carson said the impact of Floyd's death would ultimately be measured by changes in how police treat African Americans and the disparate rates at which black men are incarcerated.

"Otherwise, it'll just be the next George Floyd and the one after that," he said.

## Prosecutors charge 3 more officers in George Floyd's death

By **AMY FORLITI, STEVE KARNOWSKI and TIM SULLIVAN** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Prosecutors charged three more police officers Wednesday in the death of George Floyd and filed a new, tougher charge against the officer at the center of the case, delivering a victory to protesters who have filled the streets from coast to coast to fight police brutality and racial injustice.

The most serious charge was filed against Derek Chauvin, who was caught on video pressing his knee to Floyd's neck and now must defend himself against an accusation of second-degree murder. The three other officers at the scene were charged for the first time with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

All four were fired last week. If convicted, they could be sentenced to up to four decades in prison.

Chauvin was initially charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Those charges still stand.

The new second-degree murder charge alleges that Chauvin caused Floyd's death without intent while committing another felony, namely third-degree assault. It carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, compared with a maximum of 25 years for third-degree murder.

The other officers — Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao — face the same maximum penalties for aiding and abetting. All three men were in custody by Wednesday evening. Chauvin was arrested last week and is still being held.

The multiple charges against each officer would offer a jury more options to find them guilty.

The charges were sought by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who called the protests unleashed by the death "dramatic and necessary" and said Floyd "should be here and he is not."

"His life had value, and we will seek justice," said Ellison, who cautioned that winning convictions would be hard and said that public pressure had no bearing on his decisions.

Hundreds of protesters were in New York City's Washington Square Park when the charges were announced.

"It's not enough," protester Jonathan Roldan said, insisting all four officers should have been charged from the start. "Right now, we're still marching because it's not enough that they got arrested. There needs to be systematic change."

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Ben Crump, an attorney for Floyd's family, called it "a bittersweet moment" and "a significant step forward on the road to justice." Crump said Ellison had told the family he would continue his investigation into Floyd's death and upgrade the charge to first-degree murder if warranted.

The move by prosecutors punctuated an unprecedented week in modern American history, in which largely peaceful protests took place in communities of all sizes but were rocked by bouts of violence, including deadly attacks on officers, rampant thefts and arson in some places.

Nationwide, more than 9,000 have been arrested in connection with unrest. At least 12 deaths have been reported, though the circumstances in many cases are still being sorted out.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, speaking after the new charges were announced, said the state and nation need to "seize the moment" and use the wrenching events of the past week to confront the effects of racism, including unequal educational and economic opportunities.

"I think this is probably our last shot, as a state and as a nation, to fix this systemic issue," he said at a news conference.

Also Wednesday, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office released the full autopsy report on Floyd, which noted he had previously tested positive for COVID-19, but was apparently asymptomatic. The report was released with the family's permission after summary findings Monday that said he had a heart attack while being restrained by officers.

President Donald Trump has pushed the nation's governors to take a hard line against the violence. He again tweeted Wednesday: "LAW & ORDER!"

An overpowering security force — including officers from the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, the Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Prisons and, according to a senior defense official, at least 2,200 National Guard soldiers — was out in force Wednesday as thousands of peaceful protesters demonstrated in the nation's capital. Some remained near the White House while others marched toward the Capitol building.

Military vehicles were parked on streets near the White House, and an array of agencies kept watch from the air. An FBI plane, an Army surveillance plane and a Park Police helicopter circled overhead.

At one point near the White House, protesters began singing "Amazing Grace" as they knelt in view of law enforcement officers in riot gear. "We are not going anywhere!" they chanted. There were no signs of confrontations.

Protester Jade Jones, 30, said the demonstrations would continue despite the new charges.

"That's the least they could do," said Jones, who had been attending Washington protests for days. "It's not going to wipe away 400 years of pain."

"We are glad there are additional charges, but that doesn't mean justice has been served," she said.

More than 20,000 National Guard members have been called up in 29 states to deal with the violence.

In New York City, where high-end stores were looted in earlier days, some retailers fortified their property. At the luxury department store Saks Fifth Avenue, windows were boarded up, then covered in chain-link fencing and razor wire. The front of the store was guarded by a line of tattooed men with dogs. There was scuffling in some parts of the city Wednesday night, but no signs of major clashes between protesters and police.

The protests have also taken root overseas.

In Greece, police fired tear gas after young people attacked them Wednesday outside the U.S. Embassy in Athens. Some 4,000 protesters had been peaceful until near the end of the demonstration, when some threw gasoline bombs and stones at police. No injuries or arrests were reported. Other protests were held Wednesday in London, Helsinki, Rotterdam and Bogota, among other cities.

The anger over Floyd's death has spilled into an array of racial issues across the U.S.

In Philadelphia, for example, a statue of former Mayor Frank Rizzo was removed by the city Wednesday after repeatedly being targeted by vandals. Rizzo presided over a police force widely accused of racism and brutality in the 1970s.

In Virginia, Gov. Ralph Northam was expected to announce plans Thursday for the removal of an iconic

statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from Richmond's prominent Monument Avenue, a senior administration official told The Associated Press. The statue in the former Confederate capital has been the target of vandalism during the protests.

Associated Press journalists across the U.S. contributed to this report.

## **Pentagon-Trump clash breaks open over military and protests**

**By ZEKE MILLER and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's Pentagon chief shot down his idea of using troops to quell protests across the United States Wednesday, then reversed course on pulling part of the 82nd Airborne Division off standby in an extraordinary clash between the U.S. military and its commander in chief.

Both Trump and Defense Secretary Mark Esper also drew stinging, rare public criticism from Trump's first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, in the most public pushback of Trump's presidency from the men he put at the helm of the world's most powerful military.

Mattis' rebuke followed Trump's threats to use the military to "dominate" the streets where Americans are demonstrating following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died when a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes. The president had urged governors to call out the National Guard to contain protests that turned violent and warned that he could send in active duty military forces if they did not.

Esper angered Trump early Wednesday when he said he opposed using military troops for law enforcement, seemingly taking the teeth out of the president's threat to use the Insurrection Act. Esper said the 1807 law should be invoked in the United States "only in the most urgent and dire of situations." He added, "We are not in one of those situations now."

After his subsequent visit to the White House, the Pentagon abruptly overturned an earlier decision to send a couple hundred active-duty soldiers home from the Washington, D.C., region, a public sign of the growing tensions with the White House amid mounting criticism that the Pentagon was being politicized in response to the protests.

Former Secretary Mattis, a retired Marine general, lambasted both Trump and Esper in an essay in *The Atlantic* Wednesday for their consideration of using the active-duty military in law enforcement — and for the use of the National Guard in clearing out a largely peaceful protest near the White House on Monday evening.

"We must reject any thinking of our cities as a 'battlespace' that our uniformed military is called upon to 'dominate,'" Mattis wrote, referencing quotes by Esper and Trump respectively. "Militarizing our response, as we witnessed in Washington, D.C., sets up a conflict — a false conflict — between the military and civilian society."

Trump responded on Twitter by calling Mattis "the world's most overrated General," adding: "I didn't like his 'leadership' style or much else about him, and many others agree, Glad he is gone!"

Days ago, Esper had ordered about 1,300 Army personnel to military bases just outside the nation's capital as Trump weighed whether to invoke the Insurrection Act and send active-duty troops into the city, the scene of large protests that devolved into violence and looting over the weekend. But after a night of calm enforced by a large deployment of National Guard troops and heavily armed federal law enforcement agents, defense officials said the troops would begin returning to their home base.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told The Associated Press that the decision was reversed after Esper's visit to the White House. The White House didn't respond to request for comment on whether Trump ordered the change.

The shift added to confusion over the president's threat to invoke the Insurrection Act for protests following Floyd's death in Minneapolis. White House officials had indicated even before Esper's comments that Trump was backing away from invoking the act, though officials said Trump was upset that Esper's statement conveyed "weakness."



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Press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the president was still willing to deploy federal troops despite Esper's comments.

"If needed, he will use it," she told reporters. "But at this time he's relying on surging the streets with National Guard. It's worked with great effect."

Meanwhile, the president was taking credit for the deployment of federal and other law enforcement officers to the nation's capital, saying it offered a model to states on how to stop violence accompanying some protests nationwide.

On Wednesday evening, troops and others were out in force in Washington. A Defense official said at least 2,200 National Guard members would be on the streets.

Helmeted forces formed a ring around Lafayette Park across from the White House. Military vehicles were parked at intersections, also blocking access.

Trump argued that the massive show of force was responsible for protests in Washington and other cities turning more calm in recent days and repeated his criticism of governors who have not deployed their National Guard to the fullest.

"You have to have a dominant force," Trump told Fox News Radio on Wednesday. "We need law and order."

Asked repeatedly if Trump still had confidence in his Pentagon chief, McEnany said, "As of right now, Secretary Esper is still Secretary Esper, and should the president lose faith we will all learn about that in the future."

Esper, in his Pentagon remarks, also strongly criticized the actions of the Minneapolis police for the incident last week that ignited the protests. He called the death of Floyd "murder" and "a horrible crime."

The defense secretary himself has come under fire from critics, including retired senior military officers, for having walked from the White House on Monday evening with Trump and others for a presidential photo opportunity in front of St. John's Episcopal Church, which had previously sustained damage from protesters.

Esper said that while he was aware they were heading to St. John's, he did not know what would happen there.

"I was not aware a photo op was happening," he said, adding that he also did not know that police had forcibly moved peaceful protesters in Lafayette Square to clear the way for Trump and his entourage.

Mattis, in his essay, called the scene an "abuse of executive authority." The retired general quit the Trump administration in December 2018 after months of conflict with the president as Trump announced he was unilaterally withdrawing American troops from Syria.

The White House laid responsibility for Monday's events in Lafayette Park on Attorney General William Barr, saying he gave the order for law enforcement to clear out the protest before Trump's walk to the church ahead of Washington's 7 p.m. curfew. McEnany said the decision was made earlier Monday but had not been executed by the time Barr arrived in the park to survey the scene. He gave the order at that time.

McEnany said law enforcement conducted the operation with appropriate force, which included pepper spray and other chemical agents, and officers on horseback and batons clearing a crowd made up almost entirely of peaceful protesters.

Trump put a political spin on his criticism of states that have seen violence. He said: "You notice that all of these places that have problems, they're not run by Republicans. They're run by liberal Democrats."

Though the crackdown on the Washington demonstrations was praised by some Trump supporters Tuesday, a handful of Republicans expressed concern that law enforcement officers risked violating the protesters' First Amendment rights.

The situation in Washington had escalated Monday, becoming a potent symbol of Trump's policing tactics and a physical manifestation of the rhetorical culture war he has stoked since before he was elected.

The clampdown followed a weekend of demonstrations outside the White House. Trump had been furious about images juxtaposing fires set in the park outside the executive mansion with a darkened White House in the background, according to current and former campaign and administration officials. He was

also angry about the news coverage revealing he had gone to the secure White House bunker during Friday's protests.

Trump on Wednesday acknowledged he visited the bunker Friday but claimed he was only conducting an inspection as protests raged outside the White House gates.

Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division remain on standby at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and Fort Belvoir in Virginia outside Washington.

AP writers Michael Balsamo and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Sarah Blake Morgan in West Jefferson, North Carolina, contributed.

## Autopsy report shows Floyd had tested positive for COVID-19

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A full autopsy of George Floyd, the handcuffed black man who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police, was released Wednesday and provides several clinical details, including that Floyd had previously tested positive for COVID-19.

The 20-page report released by the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office came with the family's permission and after the coroner's office released summary findings Monday that Floyd had a heart attack while being restrained by officers, and classified his May 25 death as a homicide.

Bystander video showing Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin pressing his knee on Floyd's neck, ignoring Floyd's "I can't breathe" cries until he eventually stopped moving, has sparked nationwide protests, some violent.

The report by Chief Medical Examiner Andrew Baker spelled out clinical details, including that Floyd had tested positive for COVID-19 on April 3 but appeared asymptomatic. The report also noted Floyd's lungs appeared healthy but he had some narrowing of arteries in the heart.

The county's earlier summary report had listed fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use under "other significant conditions" but not under "cause of death." The full report's footnotes noted that signs of fentanyl toxicity can include "severe respiratory depression" and seizures.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison on Wednesday upgraded charges against Chauvin to 2nd-degree murder, and also charged the three other officers on the scene with aiding and abetting.

Floyd family attorney, Ben Crump, earlier decried the official autopsy — as described in the original complaint against Chauvin — for ruling out asphyxia. An autopsy commissioned by the Floyd family concluded that he died of asphyxiation due to neck and back compression.

## Ex-defense chief Mattis rips Trump for dividing Americans

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an extraordinary rebuke, former defense secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday denounced President Donald Trump's heavy-handed use of military force to quell protests near the White House and said his former boss was setting up a "false conflict" between the military and civilian society.

"I have watched this week's unfolding events, angry and appalled," Mattis wrote.

The criticism was all the more remarkable because Mattis has generally kept a low profile since retiring as defense secretary in December 2018 to protest Trump's Syria policy. He had declined to speak out against Trump, saying he owed the nation public silence while his former boss remained in office.

But he's speaking out after this past week's protests in response to the death of George Floyd in police custody.

Trump responded on Twitter Wednesday evening by calling Mattis "the world's most overrated General." "I didn't like his 'leadership' style or much else about him, and many others agree," Trump tweeted. "Glad he is gone!"

Mattis had a scathing description of Trump's walk to a historic nearby church Monday to pose with a Bible after law enforcement forcibly cleared Lafayette Square of mostly peaceful protesters.

He said he never dreamed troops "would be ordered under any circumstance to violate the Constitutional

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rights of their fellow citizens — much less to provide a bizarre photo op for the elected commander-in-chief, with military leadership standing alongside.”

“Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people — does not even pretend to try. Instead he tries to divide us,” Mattis wrote in a statement published by The Atlantic. “We are witnessing the consequences of three years of this deliberate effort. We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership.”

Mattis called on Americans to unite without Trump. “This will not be easy, as the past few days have shown, but we owe it to our fellow citizens; to past generations that bled to defend our promise; and to our children,” he wrote.

Mattis said of the protesters that Americans should not be distracted by a small number of lawbreakers. He said they are rightly demanding that the country follow the words of “Equal Justice Under Law” that are on display at the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The protests are defined by tens of thousands of people of conscience who are insisting that we live up to our values — our values as people and our values as a nation,” Mattis said.

Mattis took particular issue with the use of force to move back protesters so Trump could visit St. John’s Church the day after it was damaged by fire during protests. Several different groups, including the National Guard and the U.S. Park Police, were involved.

“We know that we are better than the abuse of executive authority that we witnessed in Lafayette Square. We must reject and hold accountable those in office who would make a mockery of our Constitution,” Mattis said.

One day after Trump announced he was pulling all U.S. troops out of Syria, where they were partnering with local Syrians to fight the Islamic State, Mattis tried but failed to change Trump’s mind. So, he resigned. Trump soon turned on Mattis, calling him a failure. He said falsely that he had fired Mattis.

“What’s he done for me?” Trump said January 2. “How had he done in Afghanistan? Not too good. I’m not happy with what he’s done in Afghanistan, and I shouldn’t be happy.”

## Virginia governor to announce removal of Lee statue

By ALAN SUDERMAN and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam is expected to announce plans Thursday to remove one of the country’s most iconic monuments to the Confederacy, a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee along Richmond’s prominent Monument Avenue, a senior administration official told The Associated Press.

The move would be an extraordinary victory for civil rights activists, whose calls for the removal of that monument and others in this former capital of the Confederacy have been resisted for years.

“That is a symbol for so many people, black and otherwise, of a time gone by of hate and oppression and being made to feel less than,” said Del. Jay Jones, a black lawmaker from Norfolk. He said he was “overcome” by emotion when he learned the statue was to come down.

The Democratic governor will direct the statue to be moved off its massive pedestal and put into storage while his administration seeks input on a new location, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak before the governor’s announcement.

Northam’s decision comes amid turmoil across the nation and around the world over the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a Minneapolis officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for several minutes, even after he stopped moving.

Floyd’s death has sparked outrage over issues of racism and police brutality and prompted a new wave of Confederate memorial removals in which even some of their longtime defenders have relented.

The Lee statue is one of five Confederate monuments along Monument Avenue, a prestigious residential street and National Historic Landmark district. Monuments along the avenue have been rallying points during protests in recent days over Floyd’s death, and they have been tagged with graffiti, including messages that say “end police brutality” and “stop white supremacy.”

It was not immediately clear when the Lee statue would be removed.

Other tragedies in recent years have prompted similar nationwide soul searching over Confederate

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monuments, which some people regard as inappropriate tributes to the South's slave-holding past. Others compare monument removals to erasing history.

Confederate memorials began coming down after a white supremacist killed nine black people at a Bible study in a church in South Carolina in 2015 and then again after a violent rally of white supremacists in Charlottesville in 2017.

Also on Wednesday, Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney announced plans to seek the removal of the other Confederate monuments along Monument Avenue, which include statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Confederate Gens. Stonewall Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart. Those statues sit on city land, unlike the Lee statue, which is on state property.

Stoney said he would introduce an ordinance July 1 to have the statues removed. That's when a new law goes into effect, which was signed earlier this year by Northam, that undoes an existing state law protecting Confederate monuments and instead lets local governments decide their fate.

"I appreciate the recommendations of the Monument Avenue Commission – those were the appropriate recommendations at the time," Stoney said in a statement, referencing a panel he established that studied what should be done with the monuments and recommended the removal of the Davis tribute. "But times have changed, and removing these statues will allow the healing process to begin for so many Black Richmonders and Virginians. Richmond is no longer the Capital of the Confederacy – it is filled with diversity and love for all – and we need to demonstrate that."

Bill Gallasch, president of the Monument Avenue Preservation Society, said he worried the statues' removal would change the "soul" of the street, hurt tourism in historic Richmond and stir up violence between far-right and far-left groups.

The monument-removal plans also drew criticism from the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. And Republican state Sen. Amanda Chase, who is also running for governor, started a petition on her campaign website to save the statues.

"The radical left will not be satisfied until all white people are purged from our history books," Chase's website said.

But Joseph Rogers, a descendant of enslaved people and an organizer with the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality, said he felt like the voices of black people are finally being heard. Rogers spoke from the vicinity of the Lee Monument, where another rally was taking place late Wednesday afternoon and where he described one wave of cheering after another.

"I am proud to be black, proud to be Southern, proud to be here right now," he said.

## **Cop in Floyd case got medals for valor and drew complaints**

**By BERNARD CONDON, TODD RICHMOND and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press**

The Minneapolis police officer who used his knee to pin down George Floyd's neck before his death was the most experienced of the four officers involved in the arrest, with a record that included medals for bravery and 17 complaints against him, including one for pulling a woman out of her car during a speeding stop.

New details about Derek Chauvin and the other now-fired officers emerged Wednesday after prosecutors upgraded Chauvin's charge to second-degree murder and charged the others with aiding and abetting in a case that has convulsed the nation with protests over race and police brutality.

Heavily redacted personnel files show that Chauvin, a 19-year veteran of the force, was initially trained as a cook and served in the Army as a military police officer. Eleven-year veteran and native Hmong speaker Tou Thao began as a community service officer and was the subject of six complaints. The other two officers were relative newcomers to the department, including Thomas Lane, a former juvenile detention guard who did volunteer work with Somali refugees, and J. Alexander Kueng, who got his start in law enforcement by patrolling his college campus and a department store.

The files were notable for what they didn't include. Only one of the 17 complaints against Chauvin was detailed, none of the six against Thao were mentioned and there was no further detail about a 2017 ex-



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cessive force lawsuit against Thao.

Records show that the 44-year-old Chauvin initially studied cooking before taking courses in law enforcement and doing two stints in the Army as a military police officer in the late 1990s, serving at Fort Benning, Georgia, and in Germany.

Chauvin became a Minneapolis police officer in 2001 and the lone reprimand in his file involved a 2007 incident when he was accused of pulling a woman out of her car after stopping her for going 10 mph (16 kph) over the speed limit. Investigators found it was not necessary for Chauvin to remove the woman from the car and noted that his squad car video was turned off during the stop.

But Chauvin was also singled out for bravery. Files show he won two medals of valor, one in 2006 for being part of a group of officers who opened fire on a stabbing suspect who pointed a shotgun at them, and another in 2008 for a domestic violence incident in which Chauvin broke down a bathroom door and shot a suspect in the stomach.

He also won medals of commendation in 2008 after he and his partner tackled a fleeing suspect who had a pistol in his hand, and in 2009 for single-handedly apprehending a group of gang members while working as an off-duty security guard at the El Nuevo Rodeo, a Minneapolis nightclub.

Since his arrest, the former owner of the club, Maya Santamaria, said Chauvin and Floyd both worked there as security guards at various times but that she wasn't sure if they had known one another. She said Chauvin was unnecessarily aggressive on nights when the club had a black clientele, quelling fights by dousing the crowd with pepper spray and calling in several police squad cars as backup, a tactic she called "overkill."

Chauvin's wife, Kellie, a Laotian immigrant who became the first Hmong winner of the Mrs. Minnesota pageant, filed for divorce shortly after his arrest last week.

Before news of the upgraded charges, a lawyer for Chauvin said he was not making any statements. Kueng's lawyer said his client turned himself in. Lane's lawyer said he hadn't seen the complaint or talked to his client. Thao's lawyer didn't return calls.

Cellphone video of Floyd's May 25 arrest showed Chauvin placing his left knee on Floyd's neck with Lane holding Floyd's legs and Kueng holding his back while Thao stood between the officers and onlookers, according to charging documents.

That's when Floyd repeatedly cried out "I can't breathe, "Mama" and "please." At one point, he said "I'm about to die." Nevertheless, Chauvin, Lane and Kueng didn't move, according to the documents.

Moments later, Lane asked: "should we roll him on his side?"

Chauvin replied: "No, staying put where we got him."

Lane said he was worried Floyd would experience excited delirium, a condition that can cause agitation, aggressiveness or sudden death, according to the complaint.

"That's why we have him on his stomach," Chauvin replied.

Despite his concerns, Lane didn't do anything to help Floyd or to reduce the force being used on him, the complaint said. Neither he, Kueng nor Chauvin moved.

Lane joined the police early last year as a 35-year-old cadet — much older than most rookies — and became a full-fledged officer last December. He had no complaints in his file during his short time on the force.

On employment forms, the University of Minnesota graduate said he had done volunteer work tutoring Somali youth and as a mentor helping at-risk elementary school students with reading and homework."

Kueng, at 26 the youngest of the four officers, was also a recent recruit to the police force. He completed his year's probation just three months before the Floyd arrest. His personnel file, which notes that he speaks, reads and writes Russian, did not include any commendations or disciplinary actions during his short time on the force.

Kueng was a 2018 graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he worked part-time as part of the campus security force. He also worked nearly three years as a theft-prevention officer at Macy's.

Thao, 34, joined the police force part-time in 2008 while attending community college. Before that, he

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worked as a security guard, a supermarket stocker and trainer at McDonald's.

City records show six complaints were filed against Thao, but there was no mention of that in the records released Wednesday. There also was no mention of a 2017 federal lawsuit accusing him and another officer of excessive force. According to the lawsuit, Lamar Ferguson claimed that in 2014, Thao and his partner stopped him and beat him up while he was on his way to his girlfriend's house. The lawsuit was settled for \$25,000.

Condon and Sisak reported from New York, Richmond from Madison, Wisconsin. AP writers Amy Forliti in Minneapolis and Scott Bauer in Madison and researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump denies tear gas use despite evidence

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and some of his supporters are claiming authorities did not use tear gas against people in a crackdown outside the White House this week. There's evidence they did.

Law enforcement officials shy away from describing crowd-dispersing chemical tools as tear gas; it evokes police gassing citizens or the horrors of war. But giving those tools a more antiseptic name does not change the reality on the ground.

Federal institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense have listed tear gas as the common term for riot-control agents. Whether the common or formal term is used, the effects on people are the same.

Those effects were well documented when authorities forcefully cleared a crowd from outside the White House before Trump walked to St. John's Church across Lafayette Park on Monday to be photographed holding a Bible.

"They didn't use tear gas," Trump said Wednesday on Fox News Radio. The U.S. Park Police denied using tear gas, yet acknowledged deploying a pepper compound, which the CDC and other scientific organizations list as one form of tear gas.

Authorities, who came from more than a half-dozen agencies besides the Park Police, set loose several wafting compounds, causing people to cough and gag as they scattered, their eyes red and streaming in some cases. They displayed the results of exposure to tear gas — tears, for example.

"Tear gas is anything that makes you cry," said Dr. Lynn Goldman, dean of the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, speaking of chemicals used in crowd dispersal. "Pepper spray is a tear gas. But there are all kinds of other ones, too."

Compounds that are listed as riot-control agents make people temporarily unable to function by irritating their eyes, mouth, throat, lungs and skin, the CDC says. They are "sometimes referred to as 'tear gas,'" says a CDC fact sheet.

The Handbook of Toxicology of Chemical Warfare Agents also uses tear gas as an informal umbrella term for riot-control agents and cites pepper spray as one kind. In the unrest near the White House, officers shot plastic balls with pepper powder from what looked like souped-up paintball guns, and dispersed other compounds in a stinging fog.

The book also says riot-control agents are "popularly referred to as 'tear gas' or 'pepper spray.'" It says they may be combined with an explosive substance in grenades, released in a smoke of particles from handheld devices or sprayed in a solution.

The disabling effects of tear gas are designed to be short-lived, but the CDC says prolonged exposure "may lead to long-term effects such as eye problems including scarring, glaucoma, and cataracts, and may possibly cause breathing problems such as asthma."

An Army research institute paper in 2009 cites riot-control agents and tear gas interchangeably. It says tear gas is something of a misnomer, because the agents tend not to be gaseous and modern compounds can affect a wider variety of organs as well as the eyes, lungs and digestive tract that are historically the

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targets of tear gas.

Dr. Sven-Eric Jordt researches tear gas agents and chemical exposure injuries in his lab at the Duke University School of Medicine's Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program.

He said newer compounds, which may have been used in the "pepper ball" projectiles deployed at the protest, might or might not fit a traditional definition of tear gas but are as potent and come with scant research on their safety. Any difference is semantic, he said.

"There's been very little research on tear gas being done in the United States," he said, and "no research backing up the use levels that are deployed now."

Jordt said the two main categories of crowd-clearing irritants — known as CS and OC — both activate the pain-sensing nervous system sharply, which in turn can make the body more susceptible to a virus. "I'm just very concerned this might increase the likelihood of infection" in the coronavirus pandemic, he said, or trigger more extreme reactions in people who have the virus but are not showing symptoms.

"To use these highly irritating agents on protesters is not a good idea," he said. "It's really shocking that it is used to that extent."

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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## US Legislatures slow to pass laws limiting use of force

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

A wave of police killings of young black men in 2014 prompted 24 states to quickly pass some type of law enforcement reform, but many declined to address the most glaring issue: police use of force. Six years later, only about a third of states have passed laws on the question.

The issue is at the heart of nationwide protests set off by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white police officer in Minneapolis pressed a knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes while he pleaded for air.

Now, some lawmakers and governors are hoping to harness the renewed wave of anger to push through changes on the use of force they couldn't manage after 2014, a year that included the deaths at the hands of police of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Eric Garner in New York and 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland.

"We're absolutely at a point in time where we have to do more," said Maryland state Del. Vanessa Atterbeary, a Democrat who will chair a working group announced this week that will take up use-of-force standards for that state.

Pushback from politically influential law enforcement unions prompted some states' use-of-force proposals to stall, while others have opted for voluntary programs to change policing practices. In some states, lawmakers have even broadened the powers of police, such as increasing penalties for those who attack officers or, as in Tennessee and Utah, limiting the power of independent review boards that investigate police conduct.

As of August 2018, at least 16 states had passed use-of-force laws, according to the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures. A handful of those directly restricted what police could do. In Utah and Missouri, for example, force used by officers must be "reasonable and necessary." Colorado has banned chokeholds, the maneuver used on Garner.

Other laws created task forces to set new standards, boosted training or improved tracking of officers' use of guns and deadly force.

In 2014, Republican-led Wisconsin became the first state in the country to enact a law requiring outside investigations when people die in police custody — a law supported by the state's largest police union.

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This week, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers asked the Legislature, still controlled by Republicans, to go further and pass a bill that would require law enforcement agencies to minimize the use of force and prioritize preserving life. In New Jersey, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy and the attorney general said they will update state guidelines governing police use of force for the first time in two decades.

Democratic lawmakers in at least two states — Arizona and Oregon — said this week they want to reform their states' use-of-force policies in upcoming legislative sessions. A legislative caucus in Oregon representing people of color has asked for a bipartisan effort to recommend changes that can be included in legislation next year.

"The issue is simply two words: accountability and trust," state Sen. Lew Frederick, a Democrat from Portland, said in the group's statement. "Both are broken. It will take a major effort to establish them in our society."

In Colorado, Democratic lawmakers introduced a bill Wednesday that, among other things, would require departments to compile civilian demographic data in use-of-force cases and allow citizens to file lawsuits against police officers for misconduct. Colorado law currently grants them immunity.

Despite the sense in many places that this moment could produce real change, challenges remain.

Police unions have often resisted attempts to restrict officers' use of deadly force and are politically potent in most states.

Paige Fernandez, a policing policy adviser at the ACLU, said many unions "have convinced themselves that police are unable to protect themselves if they value the bodily integrity and personal lives of the people they are supposed to be serving."

The National Fraternal Order of Police issued a statement acknowledging there is "no doubt" Floyd's death has diminished public trust in police.

"Police officers need to treat all of our citizens with respect and understanding and should be held to the very highest standards for their conduct," the organization said.

Since 2016, groups representing police nationwide have contributed \$1.3 million directly to candidates for governor and attorney general and given at least another \$1 million for independent expenditures that advocate for or against candidates for all state-level offices, according to an Associated Press analysis of data collected by the National Institute on Money in Politics.

Much of that money has been spent in California, where unions initially defeated reforms before the state enacted a pair of laws last year. One allows police to use lethal force only when necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious injury to officers or bystanders. The second requires additional officer training.

The California debate was driven in part by the fatal 2018 shooting by Sacramento police of 22-year-old Stephon Clark, who was clutching a cellphone that officers said they mistook for a weapon.

The shooting in Ohio of Rice, whose toy Airsoft gun officers said they mistook for a real one, contributed to then-Gov. John Kasich creating the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.

In 2015, the board adopted statewide standards limiting use of deadly force by police officers to defending themselves or others from serious injury or death. The state's Republican-led Legislature opted against turning those recommendations into law, leaving police agencies to comply voluntarily.

Karhlton Moore, who leads the Ohio Department of Public Safety division that oversees the standards, said roughly three-quarters of Ohio residents now live in areas covered by police agencies that are either certified or in the process of being certified as upholding the standards.

But Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, a Democrat who is black, criticized Republican lawmakers this week for failing to enact laws recommended by Kasich's task force, saying their actions "show us time and time again that black lives do not matter."

Ohio Democrats want immediate reforms addressing racism and inequality.

In Pennsylvania, a package of bills seeking to limit the justifications for the use of deadly force by police has stalled in the state's Republican-controlled Legislature.

But changing the law isn't enough, said Democratic Rep. Summer Lee, a chief sponsor of the bills who represents East Pittsburgh. Police around the nation have condemned the way Floyd was restrained.



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Inherent racism must be dealt with as well, said Lee, who is black.

She said some lawmakers were paying lip service to the necessity of fighting racism — but weren't taking action.

"We have bills — we have tangible things the Legislature can do today," Lee said.

Associated Press writers James Anderson in Denver; Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey; Bob Christie in Phoenix; Kimberlee Kruesi in Nashville, Tennessee; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; David Lieb in Jefferson City, Missouri; Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon; Don Thompson in Sacramento, Calif.; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus; Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City; and Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland, contributed to this report.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 4, the 156th day of 2020. There are 210 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 4, 1998, a federal judge sentenced Terry Nichols to life in prison for his role in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

On this date:

In 1812, the Louisiana Territory was renamed the Missouri Territory, to avoid confusion with the recently admitted state of Louisiana. The U.S. House of Representatives approved, 79-49, a declaration of war against Britain.

In 1919, Congress approved the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing citizens the right to vote regardless of their gender, and sent it to the states for ratification.

In 1939, the German ocean liner MS St. Louis, carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany, was turned away from the Florida coast by U.S. officials.

In 1940, during World War II, the Allied military evacuation of some 338,000 troops from Dunkirk, France, ended. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

In 1942, the World War II Battle of Midway began, resulting in a decisive American victory against Japan and marking the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

In 1944, U-505, a German submarine, was captured by a U.S. Navy task group in the south Atlantic; it was the first such capture of an enemy vessel at sea by the U.S. Navy since the War of 1812. The U.S. Fifth Army began liberating Rome.

In 1972, a jury in San Jose, California, acquitted radical activist Angela Davis of murder and kidnapping for her alleged connection to a deadly courthouse shootout in Marin County in 1970.

In 1985, the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling striking down an Alabama law providing for a daily minute of silence in public schools.

In 1986, Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty in Washington to conspiring to deliver information related to the national defense to Israel. (Pollard, sentenced to life in prison, was released on parole on Nov. 20, 2015.)

In 1989, a gas explosion in the Soviet Union engulfed two passing trains, killing 575.

In 1990, Dr. Jack Kevorkian carried out his first publicly assisted suicide, helping Janet Adkins, a 54-year-old Alzheimer's patient from Portland, Oregon, end her life in Oakland County, Michigan.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton and Russian President Putin (POO'-tihh) ended their summit by conceding differences on missile defense, agreeing to dispose of weapons-grade plutonium and pledging early warning of missile and space launches.

Ten years ago: On his third personal trek to the Gulf disaster, President Barack Obama said that he

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saw some progress in fighting the enormous oil spill but that it was "way too early to be optimistic." The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a voluntary recall of 12 million U.S.-made "Shrek" drinking glasses sold by McDonald's which were found to be tainted with cadmium. Fourteen-year-old Anamika Veeramani (AHN'-uh-MEEK'-ah VEER'-ah-MAHN'-ee) of North Royalton, Ohio, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C., correctly spelling the medical term "stromuhr." Death claimed postmodern author David Markson, 82; legendary basketball coach John Wooden, 99; and Jack Harrison, 97, survivor of the Great Escape plot by Allied prisoners in World War II.

Five years ago: The Department of Homeland Security announced that hackers had broken into the U.S. government personnel office and stolen identifying information of at least 4 million federal workers. (The breach was later said to have totaled 21.5 million current and former federal employees and job applicants; Chinese hackers were suspected of being behind the cyberattack.) Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry opened his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination. A huge explosion at a gas station in Ghana's capital of Accra left at least 160 people dead.

One year ago: Thousands of protesters crowded London's government district while President Donald Trump met Prime Minister Theresa May nearby. The White House instructed former aides Hope Hicks and Annie Donaldson to defy subpoenas and refuse to provide documents to the House Judiciary Committee. Florida deputy Scot Peterson, who knew a gunman was loose at a high school in Parkland in February, 2018, but failed to go inside to confront the assailant, was arrested on 11 criminal charges related to his inaction during the massacre that killed 17 people. The Trump administration ended the most popular forms of U.S. travel to Cuba, banning cruise ships and a heavily-used category of educational travel. New York legislators approved what would be the first statewide ban on the declawing of cats. (Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the measure in July.) The Maine Legislature voted to legalize assisted suicide. (Gov. Janet Mills signed the measure into law the following week.)

Today's Birthdays: Sex therapist and media personality Dr. Ruth Westheimer is 92. Actor Bruce Dern is 84. Musician Roger Ball is 76. Actress-singer Michelle Phillips is 76. Jazz musician Anthony Braxton is 75. Rock musician Danny Brown (The Fixx) is 69. Actor Parker Stevenson is 68. Actor Keith David is 64. Blues singer-musician Tinsley Ellis is 63. Actress Julie Gholson is 62. Actor Eddie Velez is 62. Singer-musician El DeBarge is 59. Actress Julie White is 59. Actress Lindsay Frost is 58. Actor Sean Pertwee is 56. Former tennis player Andrea Jaeger is 55. Opera singer Cecilia Bartoli is 54. Rhythm and blues singer Al B. Sure! is 52. Actor Scott Wolf is 52. Actor-comedian Rob Huebel is 51. Comedian Horatio Sanz is 51. Actor James Callis is 49. Actor Noah Wyle is 49. Rock musician Stefan Lessard (The Dave Matthews Band) is 46. Actor-comedian Russell Brand is 45. Actress Angelina Jolie is 45. Actor Theo Rossi is 45. Alt-country singer Kasey Chambers is 44. Actor Robin Lord Taylor is 42. Rock musician JoJo Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 40. Country musician Dean Berner (Edens Edge) is 39. Model Bar Refaeli (ruh-FEHL'-lee) is 35. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evan Lysacek is 35. Americana singer Shakey Graves is 33. Rock musician Zac Farro is 30.

Thought for Today: "If America forgets where she came from, if the people lose sight of what brought them along, if she listens to the deniers and mockers, then will begin the rot and dissolution." — Carl Sandburg, American writer (1878-1967).

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