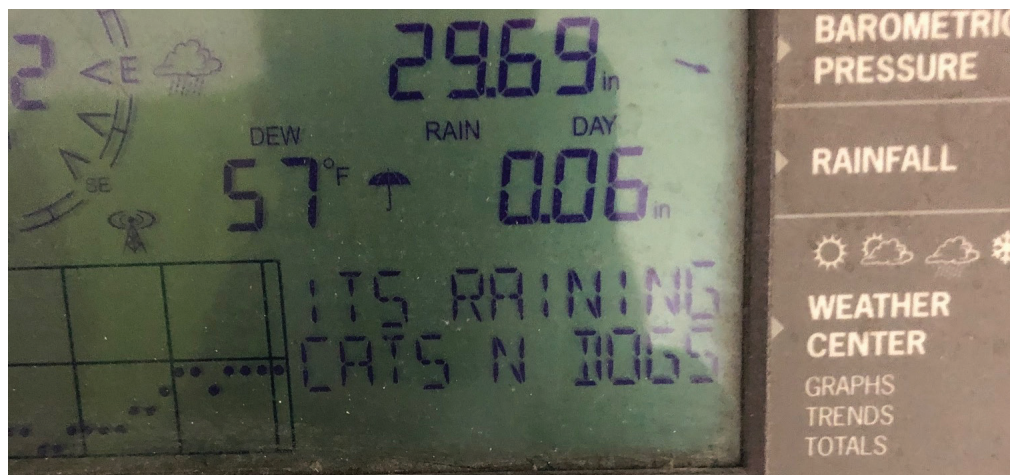


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Someone had a sense of humor when they developed the weather station module.

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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Unwanted tree trimmer roars through the area

A storm system roared through the area last night, leaving in its path destruction from power poles to trees on homes and twigs all over the place.



Sheets of rain fell in a short period of time along with wind in excess of 60 mph. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This tree was snapped off at the base south of the Groton Community Center. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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This house at First Street and Second Avenue received substantial damage when this tree landed on the roof. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Eleven transmission poles were snapped off at the base about another 10 were leaning from the strong wind that roared through the area last night. Ice is seen piled up along the edge of the road from the hail that fell. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



#102 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Today, things are holding, for the most part.

We're at 1,880,500 cases in the US. New case numbers are slightly increased from yesterday. NY leads with 379,977 cases, about the same as yesterday. NJ has 162,530 cases, also about the same as yesterday and below 500 for the first time since I started tracking. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: IL – 125,114, CA – 122,591, MA – 102,063, PA – 78,428, TX – 71,104, FL – 60,176, MI – 59,215, and MD – 56,490. 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, 7 more states have over 20,000 cases, 9 more have over 10,000, 6 more + DC over 5000, 7 more + PR and GU over 1000, 4 more over 100, and VI + MP under 100.

I have a little more complete picture of trends in new case reporting today, one that includes every state; trends here are based on new case reports in the past week compared with the previous week. For the record, the trends I generally share here are based on 14-day reporting, so they're a little less affected by short-term fluctuations. We have 7 states with 50% or greater increase in new case reports: OR, ID, MT, AZ, AK, HI, TX. There are 11 states showing 10-50% increase: WA, CA, UT, NE, MO, AR, KY, TN, MS, SC, MA. 16 states are holding steady: CO, NM, KS, IA, WI, MI, IN, VT, NH, NJ, WV, VA, MD, NC, AL, FL. 16 states show 10-50% decrease in new case reports: NV, WY, ND, SD, MN, OK, IL, LA, GA, OH, PA, NY, ME, DE, CT, RI. There are no states currently showing 50% or more decrease in new cases.

There have been 108,117 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths increased slightly. NY has 30,011, NJ has 11,970, MA has 7201, PA has 5862, IL has 5772, MI has 5604, CA has 4480, and CT has 4007. Three of these states 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.

The first randomized clinical trial of prophylactic use of hydroxychloroquine was conducted at the University of Minnesota Medical School, which published results in the New England Journal of Medicine yesterday. As usual, I had difficulty accessing an NEJM paper, so I'm working from a summary. The study involved more than 800 individuals who'd been exposed to the infection. The study was the full deal: randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blinded. While side effects were not a significant issue (40% of participants developed side effects, but no serious ones), the drug's still not looking good; these researchers' conclusion was that the drug was no more effective than a placebo.

There's been a lot of angst about swimming pools this summer as cities have had to decide whether to open public pools. So how safe is swimming? There's good news and bad news. The good news is that there is no evidence Covid-19 can be spread via recreational waters—lakes, oceans, pools, water parks. The bad news is there are other ways to transmit it while swimming—close contact with other swimmers, for example. That means there must still be social distancing at the pool or on the beach. Of course, if you admit only a fraction of the usual crowd to a pool, it's going to be difficult to pay the bills, which has some cities calling the whole thing off due to budget constraints. Additionally, it is recommended you wear a mask except when you're actually in the water. There is also the issue of all those frequently-touched surfaces and objects plus restrooms—many opportunities for spread.

There's some work being done to determine whether some folks are genetically more susceptible than others to serious disease from this virus. I've had a look at the paper in pre-print (not yet peer-reviewed). This collaboration among researchers in Germany, Italy, and Spain collected DNA samples from some 1600 patients who were severely ill (needing oxygen and/or ventilation) and did something called a genetic survey, then compared these with the results of the same technique carried out on 2200 blood donors showing no evidence of disease. They were looking for loci (stretches of DNA) where the patients had common gene variants that were different from those seen in the healthy donors. They found two such loci.

The first locus contains the gene for your ABO blood type, and it appears having type A blood may be a risk factor. This is supported by clinical findings from China which indicated that people with type A blood were more likely (50% more likely, to be precise) to become seriously ill. Why is that? Good question, one

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to which no one seems to have an answer yet. It is interesting that the locus with the blood-type gene also contains a on-off switch for a gene involved in triggering strong immune responses. Maybe there's a link here to the cytokine storms that can do so much damage in some patients; but it's far too early to know.

The other locus shows a stronger association to serious disease than the blood-type locus. Again, the details are still a bit mysterious; but there are six genes in that locus, so each will have to be examined to tease out what might be going on there. One of the genes is associated with ACE2, the receptor on cells where the virus binds, so maybe there's something there. Another gene is associated with immune signaling, so that might play into the cytokine storm thing too.

There is much work left to be done, and to facilitate that, a website has been set up for those doing this sort of research to share data as they go. This international project involving a thousand researchers in 46 countries is called the Covid-19 Host Genetics Initiative. We can hope they'll be able to spot exactly which gene in each locus is having the effect and how. The fact that these associations popped up when studying such a relatively small sample points up how strong the associations may be; so it's worth further study.

I read a piece in *Ars Technica* reporting on a new US-based analysis of a collection of viral genomes. Scientists have discovered strong evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is a result of recombination, likely between a coronavirus from bats and another from pangolins. This explains some things that have been puzzling folks.

Recombination is a natural phenomenon that can occur between two organisms with similar genetics. In RNA viruses like the Covid-19 virus, what you likely have is two viruses infecting the same cell. During the viral assembly process, pieces of RNA from one virus get attached to pieces of RNA from the other virus to give something new, a sort of hybrid between the two with properties from each. Recombination is frequent for influenza virus because its RNA is contained in several separate molecules within the virus particle. It is less likely in the coronaviruses because their RNA is in a single molecule, but it can happen due to copying errors as new RNA is produced prior to assembling new virus particles.

This research team looked at 43 different coronaviruses from different hosts, humans, bats, and pangolins among them. What they found was a genome consisting of RNA from several bat viruses; this is sort of expected since you can imagine two different bat viruses might end up infecting the same cell in a particular bat. But the interesting thing about this virus is that there's a piece of RNA from a pangolin virus recombined into the genome too. This particular piece is an important stretch of the code for the spike protein we've talked about; spike protein is especially interesting because that protein plays a key role in invading the host cell in the first place.

They were also able to determine that the virus is unable to tolerate changes in this stretch of the genome; this becomes apparent when you see that almost none of the individual SARS-CoV-2 genomes showed any changes in this region. If they were able to tolerate changes, more with such a change would have showed up. Guessing those with a mutation here were unable to go on to invade new human hosts. The fact that they didn't is a sign that this particular protein has an essential function, that it is critical to the virus's ability to infect human cells at all.

This helps us to understand the virus and also to recognize the sort of threat coronaviruses pose in the future. There are apparently a lot of coronaviruses exchanging genetic information, and when those recombination events occur between viruses that infect different species, the possibility exists of hopping to new hosts (humans, for example). This is not great news. As the article says, "All of which suggests that additional pandemics are a question of when, rather than if. But, of course, that had already been suggested in the aftermath of MERS and the original SARS, and the world as a whole did remarkably little to study the risk, work toward treatments, or plan for the pandemic's arrival. We can only hope that the more obvious example of COVID-19 will change that." Hope seems weak. Seems like we need clear-eyed policy.

We're hearing a lot about UV light as a disinfecting agent these days, especially as summer comes on and people start being outdoors. So what's the story? Turns out it's complicated.

Sunlight contains UV (ultraviolet—wavelengths shorter than visible light) in three types, UVA, UVB, and UVC. UVA is most of the UV radiation that reaches us. It is capable of penetrating deep into skin and causing the visible signs of skin aging like sun spots and wrinkles. We fairly recently learned it also can damage the DNA in our cells, which can and frequently does lead to skin cancer. UVB causes sunburn

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and has long been known to damage DNA and cause skin cancer in the same way. (For the record, quality sunscreen blocks both UVA and UVB, and you should be using it.) UVC is a shorter-wavelength light, which means it has more energy. It is also most damaging to nucleic acid because of that high energy. We don't receive UVC from sunlight because ozone in the atmosphere filters it out, which is a good thing: UVC seriously damages the skin in seconds.

So how good a disinfectant is sunlight? It does kill microorganisms the same way it damages your cells—by disrupting their nucleic acids. It's not very reliable and it's slow, and we're not sure just how slow it is on this novel virus. Those studies remain to be done. We do know that the virus is inactivated faster in sunlight than indoors; so there is an effect. We just don't know how big an effect—no peer-reviewed studies have been published on the point. From studies on other viruses, we can make some inferences. SARS virus was not impacted by 15 minutes exposure to UVA, but we don't have data on UVB, which is generally more damaging. Influenza virus suspended in the air is inactivated in sunlight; the more intense the light, the faster it works. We do not have data on virus dried onto objects. So bottom line is sunlight works, but no one really know how long it takes or how strong the sunlight needs to be. And because the amount of UV light that reaches us varies with time of day, weather, season, and latitude, results in one location on a given day are not necessarily generalizable to other places or different days in the same place.

Now there are UV lamps used in health care to sterilize contaminated objects. These are mercury gas lamps, expensive and bulky. This virus appears to be fairly resistant to UV light, but it is neutralized with enough intensity and time. We just haven't established the parameters of effectiveness yet. We are hearing of UVC lamps in use to disinfect buses in China, floors in hospitals, even in banks to disinfect money. It is important to note that UVC, with its high levels of nucleic acid-disrupting energy, is very dangerous to all kinds of living things, including people. It damages eyes and skin, so people using it require special training and equipment.

There is one form of UVC that appears to be less dangerous to handle while still killing pathogens. It's called far-UVC, and it has a shorter wavelength than regular UVC. Theoretically, it is supposed to be absorbed by clothing and the superficial layers of skin and cornea (in the eye); these layers are dead cells, so they would shield the living cells underneath from harm. Since viruses floating in the air don't have that sort of protective layer, these wavelengths would penetrate the viral particle and disrupt its nucleic acids, rendering it noninfectious. Effectiveness has been demonstrated on some bacteria and H1N1 influenza virus, but not yet on SARS-CoV-2. We also don't yet have research on what happens to humans who spend much time under one of these lights, and we really should have that before we start going around exposing ourselves to it. While it appears to be safe, we need hard data.

A new thing is a "portal," a far UVC light at the entrance to a place of business that is supposed to disinfect people as they walk in. Sounds like a good idea, right? Except we have no evidence a quick walk-through provides sufficient time to kill any virus on you. Also, if you're infected, you're going to go on into the store and continue to breathe coronavirus particles all over the place while you're shopping. A quick once-over at the door doesn't do anything to protect against that. So these appear to be pretty much useless in that usage. Ed Nardell, an infectious disease researcher at Harvard Medical School, said, "There's no other word for it—stupid."

You can purchase lamps that purport to produce far UVC light. I might keep my money in my pocket for now. You would want to be sure that's really what you're buying, and you would also want more assurance it is safe, not to mention some guidelines for use that provide assurance it is effective. The time may come that this makes sense, but that time probably is not now.

70 years ago this month, the Korean conflict started, and it went on for three years during which some members of the Navajo Nation were pressed into service, just as Navajos had served during WW II, as code talkers. Around 800 members of the tribe helped with communication between American military and our allies from South Korea; remarkably, around 130 of these men are still alive today. They are in danger now, though, as Covid-19 rages through Navajo populations in the American Southwest. South Korea has largely brought its outbreak under control, and so when its government realized the Navajo

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had enormous infection rates, it decided to help, shipping masks and other PPE to the Navajo Nation to repay the service Koreans had received all those years ago.

The statement from Kim Eun-gi, who chaired the committee involved, said, "We hope our small gifts will console the veterans in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. The government remembers those who made a noble sacrifice to defend a strange country 70 years ago, and we hope they will proudly tell their posterity about the choice they made so many years ago."

A good deed has long arms, and gratitude can last for decades. This is a good time to contemplate what you want your posterity to know about choices you are making today. Be sure you have something to tell them.

And keep yourself well. We'll talk again way to test whether the vaccine prevents infection—no one's getting the infection anyhow. The solution 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	June 5
Minnesota	25,508	25,870	26,273
Nebraska	14,611	14,866	15,117
Montana	523	525	539
Colorado	26,788	27,060	27,360
Wyoming	701	703	709
North Dakota	2646	2679	2706
South Dakota	5067	5162	5247
United States	1,831,821	1,851,520	1,872,660
US Deaths	106,181	107,175	108,211

Minnesota	+300	+362	+403
Nebraska	+266	+255	+251
Montana	+4	+2	+14
Colorado	+211	+272	+300
Wyoming	+1	+2	+6
North Dakota	+21	+33	+27
South Dakota	+33	+95	+85
United States	+20,451	+19,699	+21,140
US Deaths	+1,016	+994	+1,036

	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 4th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Two deaths were recorded in South Dakota - one in Minnehaha County and one in Pennington County. One was in the 60-69 age group and the other in the over 80 age group. One was male and the other female.

Our perfect county list dwindled by another county as Custer gained its first positive case. Falling off the fully recovered list was Hamlin and Ziebach while Douglas is back on that list.

Brown County:

Active Cases: 0 (62)
Recovered: +4 (227)
Total Positive: +4 (290)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (13)
Deaths: 1
Negative Tests: +99 (1695)
Percent Recovered: 78.3% (0.3 increase)

South Dakota:

Positive: +85 (5247 total)
Negative: +3874 (47374 total)
Hospitalized: +8 (464 total) - 86 currently hospitalized (1 less than yesterday)
Deaths: +2 (64 total)
Recovered: +79 (4163 total)
Active Cases: +4 (1020)
Percent Recovered: 79.3% up 0.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Custer): Bennett +5 (123), Butte +6 (225), Campbell +1 (40), Dewey (408) Haakon +23 (60), Harding 30, Jones +1 (15), Mellette 74, Perkins +1 (23), Potter +8 (135), unassigned +2794 (7551).

Aurora: +2 recovered (17 of 27 recovered)
Beadle: +33 positive, +16 recovered (128 of 341 recovered)
Brown: +4 positive, +4 recovered)
Buffalo: -1 positive, +1 recovered (5 of 21 recovered)
Clay: +3 positive (13 of 18 recovered)
Codington: +1 positive, +1 recovered (39 of 30 recovered)
Custer: First positive case
Day: +1 positive (12 of 14 recovered)
Douglas: +1 recovered (3 of 3 recovered)
Hamlin: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)
Hughes: +1 recovered (16 of 19 recovered)
Jerauld: +1 positive, +1 recovered (26 of 39 recovered)
Lake: +2 positive (7 of 12 recovered)
Lincoln: +3 positive, +5 recovered (221 of 243 recovered)
Lyman: +1 positive (10 of 16 recovered)
Marshall: +1 recovered (3 of 4 recovered)
Meade: +2 positive, +1 recovered (9 of 24 recovered)
Minnehaha: +8 positive, +25 recovered (2998 of 3385 recovered)

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Moody: +1 recovered (16 of 19 recovered)
Oglala Lakota: +2 positive, +1 recovered (11 of 34 recovered)
Pennington: +18 positive, +15 recovered (95 of 275 recovered)
Roberts: +1 positive (31 of 37 recovered)
Sanborn: +1 recovered (10 of 13 recovered)
Todd: +2 positive (19 of 31 recovered)
Turner: +1 recovered (22 of 25 recovered)
Union: +1 positive, +2 recovered (73 of 93 recovered)
Yankton: +1 recovered (44 of 51 recovered)
Ziebach: +1 positive (1 of 2 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Douglas, Lost Hamlin and Ziebach): Clark 4-4, Deuel 1-1, Douglas 3-3, Faulk 1-1, Hyde 1-1, McPherson 1-1, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1, Tripp 6-6, Walworth 5-5.

The NDDoH & private labs report 3,569 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 27 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,706.

State & private labs have reported 104,888 total completed tests.
2,209 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	607	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	918	17%
Hispanic	924	18%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	560	11%
Other	621	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1617	31%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	5
Brown	1
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	50
Pennington	5
Todd	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	27	17	152
Beadle	341	128	560
Bennett	0	0	123
Bon Homme	8	6	396
Brookings	20	16	869
Brown	290	227	1695
Brule	2	1	264
Buffalo	21	5	261
Butte	0	0	225
Campbell	0	0	40
Charles Mix	18	11	317
Clark	4	4	139
Clay	18	13	611
Codington	39	30	1157
Corson	4	3	69
Custer	1	0	183
Davison	20	10	849
Day	14	12	205
Deuel	1	1	220
Dewey	0	0	408
Douglas	3	3	165
Edmunds	3	0	164
Fall River	6	3	296
Faulk	1	1	57
Grant	13	10	151
Gregory	1	0	150
Haakon	0	0	60
Hamlin	5	4	167
Hand	3	1	107
Hanson	1	0	80
Harding	0	0	30
Hughes	19	16	662
Hutchinson	6	3	422

Hyde	1	1	41
Jackson	4	0	40
Jerauld	39	26	163
Jones	0	0	15
Kingsbury	3	1	226
Lake	12	7	303
Lawrence	11	9	612
Lincoln	243	221	2800
Lyman	16	10	288
Marshall	4	3	114
McCook	6	4	293
McPherson	1	1	107
Meade	24	9	697
Mellette	0	0	74
Miner	2	1	117
Minnehaha	3385	2998	14215
Moody	19	16	241
Oglala Lakota	34	11	418
Pennington	275	95	3753
Perkins	0	0	23
Potter	0	0	135
Roberts	37	31	667
Sanborn	13	10	136
Spink	5	5	394
Stanley	10	8	92
Sully	1	1	35
Todd	31	19	519
Tripp	6	6	201
Turner	25	22	402
Union	93	73	659
Walworth	5	5	246
Yankton	51	44	1484
Ziebach	2	1	60
Unassigned****	0	0	6551

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

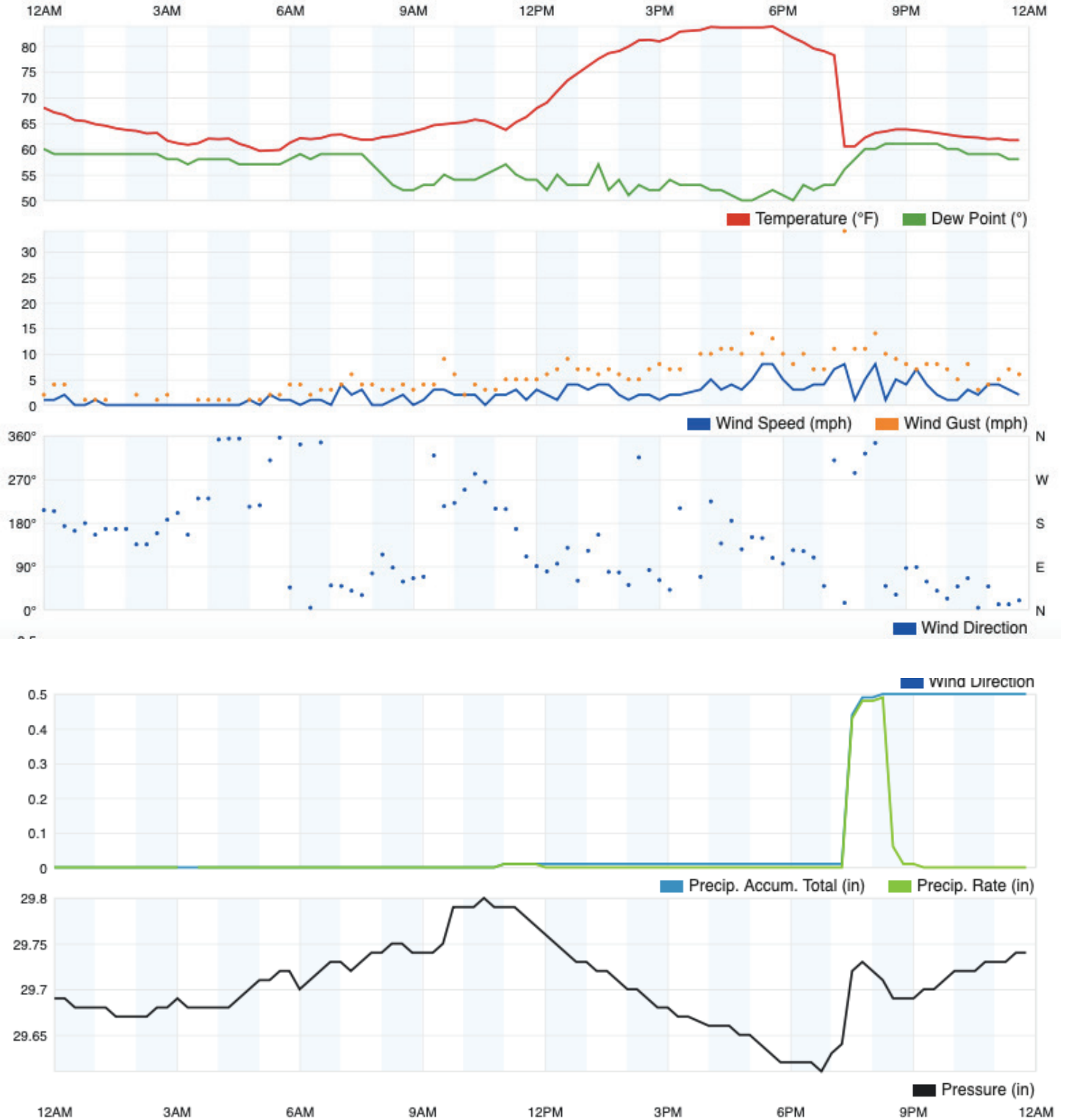
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2488	36
Male	2759	28

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	520	0
20-29 years	1020	1
30-39 years	1174	3
40-49 years	905	4
50-59 years	856	8
60-69 years	481	11
70-79 years	146	6
80+ years	145	31

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 80 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 57 °F

Saturday



40%

Chance
T-storms and
Breezy

High: 80 °F

Saturday
Night



60%

T-storms
Likely and
Breezy

Low: 68 °F

Sunday



20%

Breezy.
Partly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 93 °F

Storm Threat Late Saturday & Early Sunday

ISSUED: 4:18 AM - Friday, June 05, 2020

WHAT

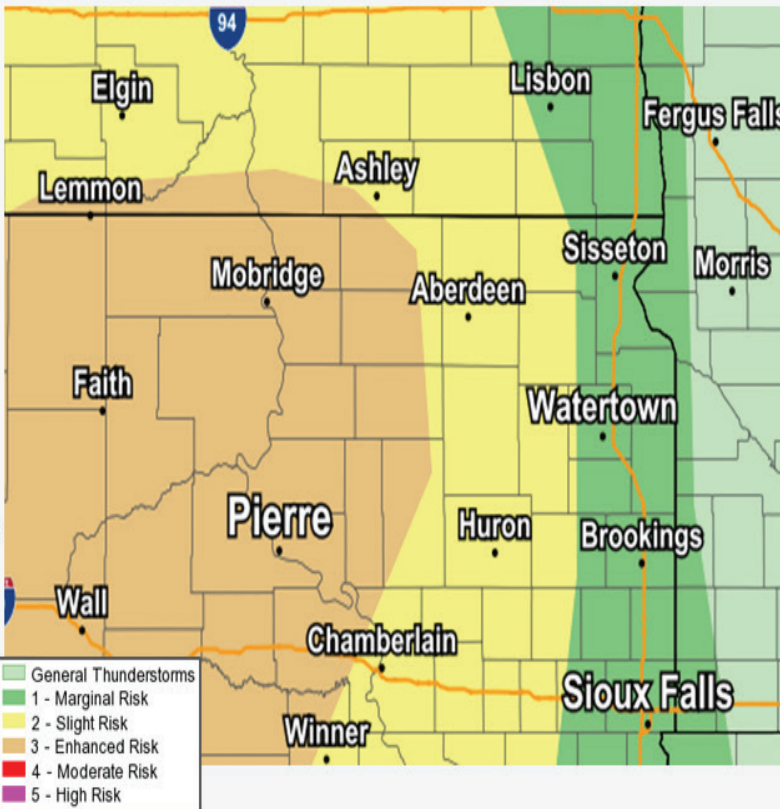
Risk for severe thunderstorms with the threat of **damaging wind gusts** and **large hail**. A **tornado** or two is not out of the question.

WHERE/WHEN

Western South Dakota in the afternoon.
Central and Eastern South Dakota in the evening/overnight hours

CONFIDENCE

Moderate confidence on storm timing, threats and coverage.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

High pressure overhead will be responsible for pleasant conditions today, however as this system moves east we will see an increase in southerly winds which will draw hot and humid air into the region for Saturday. Storm development is expected in the afternoon west river where the risk for severe weather is greatest, with the threat area shifting as storms spread east in the evening and overnight.

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Today in Weather History

June 5, 1925: A severe thunderstorm that probably produced multiple numbers of small tornadoes moved northwest from Presho, in Jones County. There were large gaps of about 15 miles at times between tornadoes. One of these tornadoes passed 10 miles north of Ree Heights and ended north of Miller. Half dozen barns were destroyed west and north of Ree Heights. The strongest of the tornadoes was estimated as having F2 strength. Also on this date, a tornado moved from the southern edge of Fargo, North Dakota and on into Moorhead Minnesota. There were no injuries reported from this storm.

June 5, 1996: Hail, between a golf ball and tennis ball size, broke many windshields and dented vehicles in Watertown. Some houses in Watertown had their windows broken out because of the large hail. Golf ball sized hail also covered most of the ground at the Watertown Airport.

June 5, 1999: Winds gusting to 74 mph knocked down several trees throughout Groton. One tree took out a major transmission line and ripped the electrical service line off of a house. Power was out for parts of Groton for several hours. The high winds shattered the windows at a store on Main Street and tore a standing board on a sign loose which damaged five new vehicles at a dealership in Groton. The high winds also destroyed a small service building and the surrounding fence at the main juncture of natural gas pipelines at Groton. Winds to 70 mph brought several trees and many large tree branches down in Henry. Winds gusting to 80 mph snapped off several trees, blew a garage down, and brought power lines down in Hazel. In Watertown winds gusted to over 70 mph, blowing a portion of a roof off a house and destroyed the attached garage on another house. Near Watertown, a pole barn was destroyed, a hay bale was blown into a basement window of a house, and part of their deck was torn away. Near Florence, winds up to 80 mph tipped over and damaged a small shed, destroyed another storage shed, and also completely demolished a three stall garage.

June 5, 2008: Very heavy rains of 3 to 7 inches caused extensive flooding throughout Dewey County. Many roads, bridges, dams, culverts, along with some buildings were damaged or destroyed by the flooding. One man, west of Promise, used a boat to get back and forth from his ranch. A federal disaster declaration was issued for Dewey County and the Cheyenne River Reservation.

1976: When water began leaking from Idaho's new Teton Dam, there seemed to be no cause for alarm. On this date, warnings were frantic that the dam was about to break. As workers tried to shore up the crumbling dam, it crumbled shortly after 11 AM, sending 180 billion gallons of water pouring through Teton Canyon. 11 people lost their lives, but the toll would have been much higher if the dam had failed at night and residents had been asleep.

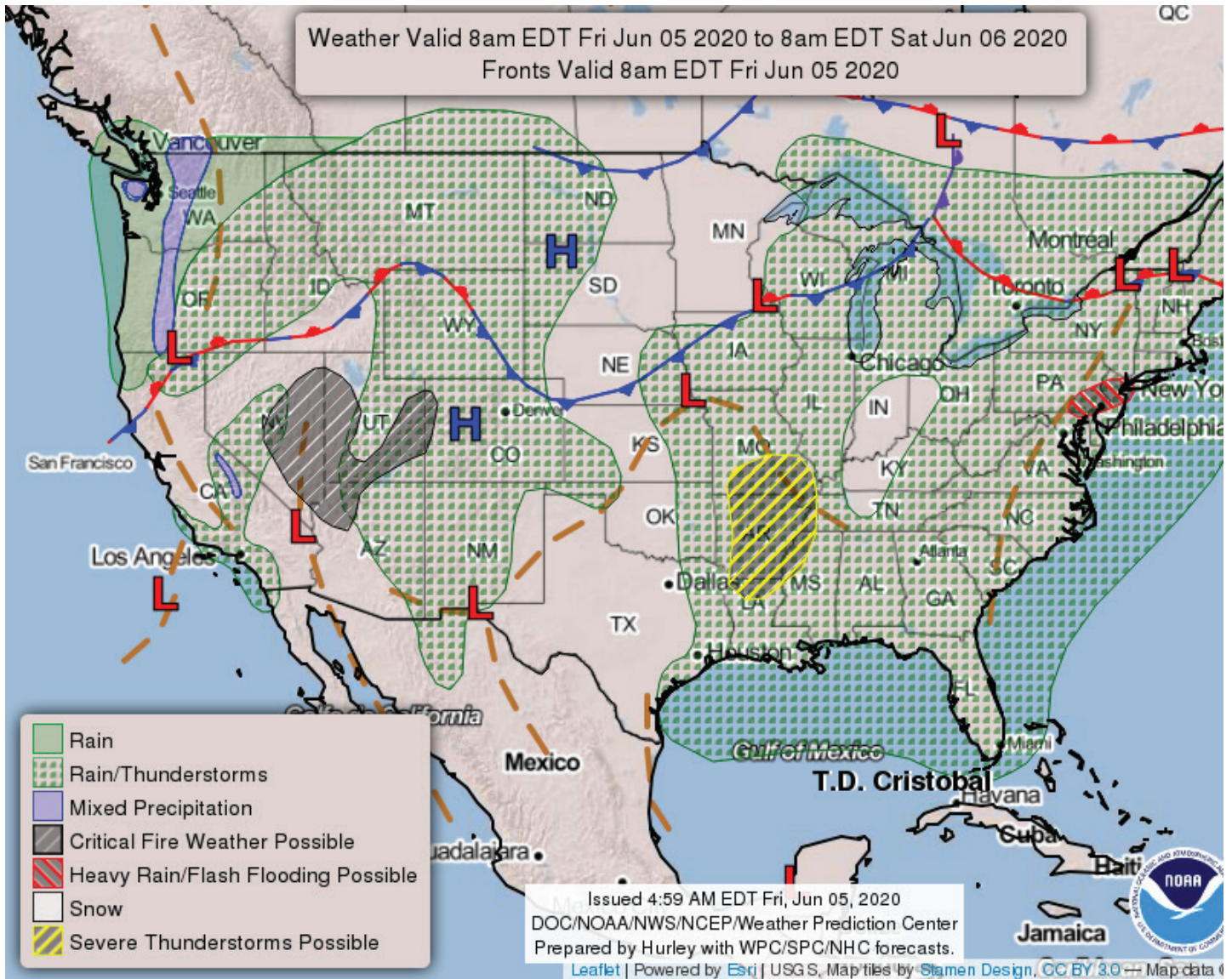
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 84 °F at 5:37 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 5:17 AM
Wind: 34 mph at 7:23 PM
Precip: .50

Record High: 103° in 1933
Record Low: 37° in 1907
Average High: 74°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in June.: .46
Precip to date in June.: 0.50
Average Precip to date: 7.60
Precip Year to Date: 5.13
Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



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WHEN WE NEED REST

It only lasted fifteen seconds.

But the 1906 earthquake that leveled most of San Francisco caused 375 deaths and left over 300,000 people homeless. Destruction and devastation were everywhere.

Tragedies occur every day - some much more significant and severe than others. But the significance of any tragedy is always personal - What impact does this particular tragedy have on me, my family, or my friends.

God is so good to us and does so much for us without our even asking or noticing, that we rarely prepare for the unwelcomed, unwanted, or unanticipated events in our lives. His gifts usually come unannounced or when we least expect them. For example - when we receive an encouraging word or are blessed with a gracious smile or compliment, it "makes our day!"

But what happens when life falls apart? What impact do "bad things" or hardships have on us or the way we feel or think when things "blow-up? What do we do or where can we turn?

Fortunately, for the Christian, there is always the Lord. And, we can turn to Him.

Jesus said, "Come unto me all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest!" He offers His love when we feel abandoned, He provides His strength when we are weak, He offers His peace when we are troubled, and His forgiveness when we sin.

Prayer: How marvelous are Your gifts, Father. We are blest to know that we can come to You when any need arises and know, without any doubt that You are waiting. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

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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

Judge refuses to dismiss lawsuit over Iowa girl's drowning

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday refused to dismiss a lawsuit against the city of Sioux Falls over the drowning of a 5-year-old Iowa girl who fell into Big Sioux River at Falls Park two years ago.

Attorneys representing the city asked the court last year to dismiss the lawsuit. The suit was brought by Courtney Jayne, the mother of Maggie Zaiger, who fell into the river from river bank rocks on March 18, 2018, during a family trip to the park.

Jayne alleges the city is responsible because of a lack of signs and safety fencing in the park. Attorneys representing the city contend that officials responsible for park safety did not breach their duty.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier's ruling will let a jury decide if safety precautions in place at Falls Park at the time of Zaiger's death were enough, the Argus Leader reported.

"We look forward to the trial, obtaining justice for Courtney, and seeing changes made by the city of Sioux Falls to prevent this tragedy from happening to any more families in our community," attorney Brendan Johnson, representing Jayne, said in a statement after the ruling.

The Sioux Falls City Attorney's and mayor's offices did not immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday.

South Dakota woman arrested in death of 2-year-old girl

CASTLEWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A 30-year-old woman from Castlewood has been arrested in the death of a 2-year-old girl, South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg said Thursday.

Authorities were called Tuesday morning about an unresponsive girl at a home in Castlewood. The girl was taken to a Watertown hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

An initial investigation found evidence of child abuse. The manner of death is pending results of an autopsy.

The state attorney general's office said the woman was arrested on a charge of felony child abuse, and additional charges are pending.

The case is being prosecuted by the Hamlin County state's attorney, and the investigation continues.

The name of the girl and her relationship to the woman were not disclosed.

Noem: Current budget will be OK, but future uncertain

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The current year's South Dakota state budget will not need to be overhauled because state revenues haven't dropped as dramatically as had been feared due to the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Kristi Noem said Thursday.

"We're in pretty good shape as of today," Noem said. "But we're not out of the woods yet."

The Republican governor said legislators won't need to meet in a special session to adjust the budget before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. But she gave little assurance beyond that date, saying the long-term economic impact of the pandemic is yet to be seen.

Revenue is \$5.6 million below what legislators predicted in February, and the state should be able to find wiggle room for that shortfall. But Noem said a cash squeeze could be felt for up to a year if the pandemic leads to the closure of more businesses and if there is a prolonged downturn in the economy.

The Department of Labor and Regulation on Thursday reported 1,435 new claims for unemployment benefits in the week ending May 30, a sharp drop from the 3,471 claims filed the previous week. According to the latest figures from May 23, 4.7% of all eligible employees in the state are on unemployment.

Noem is also sitting on \$1.25 billion in federal relief funds to tackle the coronavirus. She has said she's awaiting guidance from the federal government on how it can be spent, but that she would rather use it

to make up lost revenue than create more government programs.

Meanwhile, health authorities reported two new deaths from COVID-19, bringing the state's death toll to 64. One person who died was in their 60s, and the other was over the age of 80.

The state also reported 85 new cases of the virus and has recorded 5,247 cases so far. About 80% of those have recovered, but 86 people are currently hospitalized.

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.

Social distancing not required at Trump Mount Rushmore event

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Organizers have scrapped plans to mandate social distancing during President Donald Trump's appearance at a July 3 Mount Rushmore fireworks display and won't limit the crowd due to coronavirus concerns, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said Thursday.

The Republican governor said the National Park Service is doling out 7,500 tickets via lottery for the event, which marks the first time in a decade that fireworks will be set off at the memorial in recognition of Independence Day.

"There will be no better place to celebrate our independence," Noem said. "We are excited that President Trump will be joining us for this event."

Event organizers did not reduce the number of tickets due to the coronavirus pandemic, and Noem said she isn't concerned an influx of tourists would heighten the risk. Coronavirus infections are on a downward trend in the state and hospitals are prepared to handle more infections if needed, she said.

People who don't get tickets to the event will be able to gather outside the monument grounds to watch the fireworks, Noem said.

Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen said there will be fewer tickets offered than in previous years, but that was already in the works to help with crowd control.

The state is actively marketing itself as a summer tourism destination, but Hagen said he expects more people are interested in road trips rather than flying. South Dakota is focused on markets within driving distance, he said.

NYC calmer as Buffalo police draw ire for protester injury

By JAKE SEINER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest night of protests in New York City sparked by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police was markedly calmer, while video of a police officer appearing to shove an elderly protester who falls and cracks his head in Buffalo drew widespread condemnation.

Video from WFBO showed a Buffalo police officer appearing to push the 75-year-old man who walked up to police clearing Niagara Square around the 8 p.m. curfew Thursday. The man falls straight backward and hits his head on the pavement, with blood leaking out as officers walk past.

The video quickly went viral on social media, spurring outrage. Buffalo police initially said in a statement that a person "was injured when he tripped & fell," WIVB-TV reported, but Capt. Jeff Rinaldo later told the TV station that an internal affairs investigation was opened. The police commissioner subsequently suspended two police officers without pay, Mayor Byron Brown said in a statement.

The mayor of the western New York city, who expressed he was "deeply disturbed" by the video, said the unidentified man was in "stable but serious" condition at a hospital.

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz tweeted Friday morning that a hospital official said the man was "alert and oriented."

"Let's hope he fully recovers," Poloncarz added.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo endorsed the officers' suspensions, tweeting that what was seen on video was "wholly unjustified and utterly disgraceful." The office of State Attorney General Letitia James tweeted that they were aware of the video. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer called for an investigation, according to a

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statement reported by WIVB-TV.

"The casual cruelty demonstrated by Buffalo police officers tonight is gut-wrenching and unacceptable," John Curr, the Buffalo chapter director for the New York Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement, adding that it should be a "wake-up call" for city leaders to address police violence.

Calls and emails to Buffalo police from The Associated Press seeking comment Thursday night hadn't been returned by Friday morning.

Meanwhile in New York City, protesters again stayed on the streets past 8 p.m., in defiance of the city-wide curfew that's set to remain in effect through at least Sunday. Nationwide, the tenor of the protests set off by the death of Floyd, a black man who died Memorial Day after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck, moved from explosive anger to a quiet yet forceful call for more to be done to address racial injustice.

The switch was largely mirrored in New York, which saw fewer violent clashes than in days past. But several videos posted to Twitter on Thursday night showed police aggressively confronting peaceful protesters — often resulting in arrest — in the Bronx and elsewhere. In other places, police watched but didn't immediately move in, or made orderly arrests without the batons and riot gear of previous nights.

Miguel Fernandes said there were "a lot more nights to go" of marching.

"We're still waiting for a conviction. We still haven't gotten it," Fernandes said. "All they're doing is putting in charges. The system is not doing anything to make these guys pay for what they did."

Earlier Thursday, a memorial service featuring Floyd's brother Terrence Floyd was held at Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza, where the night before police had used batons and pepper spray on protesters who remained after curfew, videos show.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Cuomo, both Democrats, said they hadn't seen the widely shared videos, but Cuomo later tweeted that he was asking James to investigate as part of her ongoing look into police tactics during the protests.

NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea has defended his officers and the department's overall use of force.

De Blasio was booed and heckled at Floyd's memorial, where even some speakers took shots at the mayor, criticizing his management of the NYPD and response to the coronavirus pandemic. The mayor had previously praised the police for using "a lot of restraint" overall, but added that "if there's anything that needs to be reviewed, it will be."

Shortly after midnight, the mayor tweeted that he had spoken to Shea after seeing a video of a delivery worker arrested. Food delivery is essential work, de Blasio said, adding in a second tweet that journalists covering protests, too, were essential workers.

De Blasio had previously condemned police for roughing up journalists, including two from the AP who were shoved, cursed at and told to go home by officers Tuesday night.

"Will get NYPD to fix this immediately," he tweeted Thursday.

Both Cuomo and de Blasio have said protesters should abide by the curfew to deter the violence, vandalism and destruction that followed protests Sunday and Monday nights. But as darkness fell Thursday, cries of "George Floyd" and "No justice, no peace" continued to ring out from crowds, even as they shrank.

"It's energetic," Kenya Taylor said. "It's great to be alive, it's history right now."

AP journalists Jim Mustian, Jennifer Peltz, Michael R. Sisak, Karen Matthews, Deepti Hajela and Brian Mahoney in New York City and Marina Villeneuve in Albany contributed to this report.

Court rules against planned Sydney protest due to virus fear

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian court sided with police in ruling Friday that a Black Lives Matter protest planned for Sydney poses too much risk for spreading the coronavirus and cannot be held.

Thousands of people were expected to rally in Australia's largest city on Saturday afternoon to honor George Floyd and to protest against the deaths of indigenous Australians in custody.

But New South Wales state Supreme Court Justice Des Fagan ruled the rally was not an authorized

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public assembly. Fagan said he understood the rally was designed to coincide with similar events in other countries.

"I don't diminish the importance of the issues and no one would deny them in normal circumstances," he said. "No one denies them that but we're talking about a situation of a health crisis."

In Sydney, outdoor gatherings are restricted to 10 people, while up to 50 people can go to funerals, places of worship, restaurants, pubs and cafes.

State Premier Gladys Berejiklian said organizers initially proposed a protest far smaller rally. She said protesters could not guarantee social distancing protocols would be followed.

"All of us have given up so much and worked so hard to make sure we get on top of the virus," Berejiklian told reporters.

Earlier Friday, demonstrators in the capital reminded the country that racial inequality is not a U.S. issue alone.

Organizers of the Canberra rally that attracted about 2,000 demonstrators handed out masks and hand sanitizer. Most protesters kept a recommended social distance but drew closer to hear speeches. Public gatherings are limited to 20 in Canberra, but police did not intervene.

School teacher Wendy Brookman, a member of the Butchulla indigenous people, said Australia should not accept that more than 430 indigenous Australians have died in police custody or prison in the past three decades.

"We're not here to jump on the bandwagon of what's happened in the United States," Brookman said. "We're here to voice what's happening to our indigenous people."

One of the protesters' signs read "I can't breathe" and drew a parallel between Floyd's death in the U.S. on May 25 and the Australian indigenous experience. Those words were among the last spoken by Floyd and an indigenous Australian, David Dungay, who died in a prison hospital in 2015 while being restrained by five guards.

In South Korea, dozens gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy to condemn what they described as police brutality toward protesters in the U.S. They called for South Korea's government to speak against the "racial discrimination and state violence" of its ally and pushed for an anti-discrimination law to improve the lives of migrant workers, undocumented foreigners and other minorities.

"As the U.S. civil society empowered and stood in solidarity with Korean pro-democracy activists in the past, we will now stand in solidarity with citizens in the United States," said activist Lee Sang-hyun, referring to South Koreans' bloody struggles against military dictatorships that ruled the country until the late 1980s.

Holding a banner that read "Justice for Floyd," most of the protesters wore black and some brought flowers in honor of Floyd, who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his neck with a knee for several minutes while he pleaded for air.

Larger marches are planned in Seoul on Saturday to protest Floyd's death.

The Latest: Paris police ban protest due to virus concerns

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Paris police ban George Floyd anti-racism protest on Saturday.
- Twitter blocks Trump campaign video featuring George Floyd.
- Islamic State group says protests, pandemic will weaken the West
- South Africa's ruling party launches Black Friday campaign.
- NFL stars send a passionate video about racial inequality.

PARIS — Police have banned a planned protest against police violence in Paris on Saturday because of health measures restricting gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic.

A protest decrying systemic racism and calling for justice for Floyd and other victims of police brutality was planned to take place outside the U.S. Embassy.

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But on Friday, Police Prefect Didier Lallement said such protests "are not authorized" because virus safety measures "prohibit any gathering, in the public space, of more than 10 people." He issued an order banning the Floyd demonstration and another protest planned for the same day.

Lallement said "in addition to the disturbances to public order that these rallies can generate ... the health risks they could cause remain significant."

France has had over 29,000 people die in the pandemic.

BEIRUT — The Islamic State group says protests across the United States and the repercussions of the coronavirus on Western countries will weaken these nations and divert their attention from Muslim countries.

The comments published Friday in an editorial in the extremist group's online weekly newspaper al-Nabaa were its first on protests in America after last week's death of African American George Floyd while a policeman put a knee to his neck.

Al-Nabaa said protests have been occurring in the U.S. since it was founded, but this year "coincide with the negative effects of the pandemic on the country's economy." Al-Nabaa said the pandemic will weaken "infidel states."

In recent weeks, the militants have taken advantage of the pandemic to launch deadly attacks in their former self-declared caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria.

The group that once controlled large parts of Iraq and Syria used these territories to launch attacks worldwide that killed hundreds of people since declaring their so-called caliphate in 2014.

Twitter has blocked a Trump campaign video tribute to George Floyd over a copyright claim, in a move that adds to tensions between the social media platform and the U.S. president, one of its most widely followed users.

The company put a label on a video posted by the @TeamTrump account that said, "This media has been disabled in response to a claim by the copyright owner." The video was still up on President Donald Trump's YouTube channel and includes pictures of Floyd, whose death sparked widespread protests, at the start.

"Per our copyright policy, we respond to valid copyright complaints sent to us by a copyright owner or their authorized representatives," Twitter said in a statement.

The three minute and 45 second clip is a montage of photos and videos of peaceful marches and police officers hugging protesters interspersed with some scenes of burning buildings and vandalism, set to gentle piano music and Trump speaking.

It's the latest action that Twitter has taken against Trump, who has threatened to retaliate against social media companies.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A member of Finland's populist party has been expelled from the its parliamentary group in response to a series of racist social media posts by the lawmaker — the latest one was on George Floyd.

The opposition Finns Party decided Thursday to expel Anu Turtiainen from the group. He has since conceded it was racist, deleted the tweet and apologized to the party that was formerly known as the True Finns, according to Finnish broadcaster YLE.

"This time that was not enough. The decision was unanimous," spokesman Ville Tavio said of the apology and the decision to expel Turtiainen, according to YLE.

Parliament speaker Matti Vanhanen described the tweet, showing a doctored image of Floyd being arrested with a pink head and the words "Pink Floyd," as "shocking and simply wrong from the standpoint from universal human values."

Turtiainen's exit means meant the Finns Party is no longer the largest group in the country's parliament.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South Africa's ruling party says it is launching a "Black Friday" campaign in response to the "heinous murder" of George Floyd and "institutionalized racism" in the U.S., at home,

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in China and "wherever it rears its ugly head."

A statement by the African National Congress says President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday evening will address the launch of the campaign that calls on people to wear black on Fridays in solidarity.

The campaign is also meant to highlight "deaths by citizens at the hands of security forces" in South Africa, which remains one of the world's most unequal countries a quarter-century after the end of the racist system of apartheid.

"The demon of racism remains a blight on the soul of our nation," the ANC statement says.

SYDNEY — Thousands gathered in Australia's capital on Friday to remind Australians that the racial inequality underscored by George Floyd's death was not unique to the United States.

The Canberra rally that attracted 2,000 demonstrators comes before larger rallies are planned for Australia's most populous cities on Saturday, with authorities concerned about maintaining social distancing.

Police were on Friday seeking a court order banning a rally in Australia's largest city, Sydney, because of the pandemic risk. A state government leader urged demonstrators not to attend a rally in Melbourne, the country's second-largest city.

Matilda House, an elder of the Ngambri-Ngunnawal family group who are the traditional owners of the Canberra region, said: "Australians have to understand that what's been going on the United States has been happening here for a long time."

Australia had to move beyond a colonial attitude "that blacks are only here to be walked on, trodden on and murdered," House said in the first speech of the rally.

NEW YORK — Patrick Mahomes, Saquon Barkley and Michael Thomas are among more than a dozen NFL stars who united to send a passionate video message to the league about racial inequality.

The 70-second video was released on social media platforms Thursday night and includes Odell Beckham Jr., Deshaun Watson, Ezekiel Elliott, Jamal Adams, Stephon Gilmore and DeAndre Hopkins, among others.

Thomas, the New Orleans Saints wide receiver who has led the league in receptions the past two seasons, opens the video with the statement: "It's been 10 days since George Floyd was brutally murdered." The players then take turns asking the question, "What if I was George Floyd?"

The players then name several of the black men and women who have recently been killed, including Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Eric Garner.

The video closes with the players insisting they "will not be silenced." They also demand the NFL state that it condemns "racism and the systemic oppression of black people. ... We, the National Football League, admit wrong in silencing our players from peacefully protesting. ... We, the National Football League, believe black lives matter."

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A police commissioner has suspended two officers following video that shows a Buffalo officer appearing to shove a man who walked up to police.

Video from WBFO shows the man appearing to hit his head on the pavement, with blood leaking out as officers walk past to clear Niagara Square on Thursday night.

The station reports two medics treated the unidentified man. Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz tweeted that the man was hospitalized and stable, but his exact condition wasn't immediately known.

WIVB-TV reports that Buffalo police initially said in a statement a person "was injured when he tripped & fell." But Capt. Jeff Rinaldo later told the TV station that an internal affairs investigation was opened. Later Thursday, news outlets reported that Police Commissioner Byron Lockwood suspended two officers without pay.

New York Attorney General Letitia James's office has tweeted that they're aware of the video.

NEW YORK -- Protesters stayed on the streets of New York City after curfew for another day Thursday, spurred by the death of George Floyd.

Actions by the protesters included gathering at Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza, the site where police used

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batons against demonstrators who were out past the city-imposed curfew a night earlier.

Protesters continued past the 8 p.m. curfew Thursday, even after Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio sought to deflect criticism over harsh tactics from police enforcing it.

Thousands of protesters were out after curfew, and so were police.

At some locations, officials watched, but didn't immediately move in. At other spots, they made orderly arrests without the batons and riot gear, like a night earlier.

Follow more AP stories on the George Floyd protests and reaction at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

Navy carrier sidelined by virus is back operating in Pacific

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten long weeks after a massive coronavirus outbreak sidelined one of the Navy's signature warships, the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt has returned to sea and is conducting military operations in the Pacific region.

Lining the flight deck in their dress white uniforms, sailors wearing white face masks stood a virus-safe 10 feet (3 meters) apart in a final, formal thank you as the ship sailed out of port in Guam on Thursday and headed into the Philippine Sea.

"We manned the rail, which we don't normally do. There was a lot of symbolism in that," Navy Capt. Carlos Sardiello told The Associated Press in an interview from the ship Thursday. "They're excited. They're fired up to be back at sea doing the mission."

The Roosevelt pulled into Guam on March 27, with a rapidly escalating number of sailors testing positive for the virus. Over time, more than 1,000 were infected with COVID-19, setting off a lengthy and systematic process to move about 4,000 sailors ashore for quarantine and treatment, while about 800 remained aboard to protect and run the high-tech systems, including the nuclear reactors that run the vessel.

Slowly, sailors were methodically brought back on board, while the others who had remained went ashore for their mandated two-week quarantine. And in late March, the ship with only about 3,000 crew aboard went out to sea for roughly two weeks of training, including the recertification of the flight deck and fighter squadron, such as takeoffs and landings on the carrier.

Earlier this week, the Roosevelt wrapped up training and returned to Guam to pick up nearly 1,000 sailors who had been left there to either complete their quarantine or to manage and work with those still on the island. As the ship sailed into the port, it was flying a flag with the words "Don't Give Up the Ship," a famous Navy battle cry from the War of 1812.

"Our sailors didn't give up the ship. They fought and got it back. So I thought it was appropriate," said Sardiello, who asked one of the other Navy ships to borrow their flag. "The ship was clean and the ship was healthy with no COVID cases. So I said, OK, we're going to fly that one time on the way into Guam as a symbol to bolster their morale."

RS1 Katie VanDrimmen was one of the sailors left ashore during the two-week training. She had tested positive for the virus and was in quarantine for about five weeks. Walking back onto the ship, she said, was like being welcomed home from a deployment.

"It was amazing," said VanDrimmen, of Ogden, Utah. "It was very comforting to be back in our normal atmosphere. Everybody was happy."

Sardiello said that watching the sailors board the ship was a great feeling, But he knows he's not done yet. There are still about 350 sailors on Guam who are either in isolation or are there as support staff.

"More and more of those sailors are meeting the return-to-work criteria, and we're flying them on board every single day. So we're whittling down that number day by day," said Sardiello. "But I really want those 350 remaining back. And we're working hard on that."

He said that any sailors who don't recover in time will be transported back to the U.S. The ship is expected to continue operations in the Pacific, and then would likely head home to San Diego later this summer.

The Roosevelt has been at the center of a still unresolved controversy that led to the firing of the ship's

previous captain, the resignation of the Navy secretary and an expanded investigation into what triggered the outbreak and how well top naval commanders handled it.

Sardiello, had previously captained the Roosevelt but was abruptly sent back to the ship in early April to take command after Capt. Brett Crozier was fired for urging his commanders to take faster action to stem the virus outbreak onboard.

After a preliminary review last month, Adm. Mike Gilday, the Navy's top officer, recommended that Crozier be reinstated as ship captain. But the Navy decided to conduct the broader investigation.

That review, which effectively delays a decision on Crozier's reinstatement, was finished and submitted to Gilday at the end of March and he is still reviewing the extensive report, which includes several hundred pages of interviews, documents and recommendations.

Cmdr. Nate Christensen, spokesman for Gilday, said it will take time for the admiral to finish his review and make any decisions.

Trump heads to rural Maine but won't escape demonstrators

By **PATRICK WHITTLE** and **JILL COLVIN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maine's Democratic governor is urging President Donald Trump to watch his tone during a visit to the state Friday to showcase a company that makes specialized swabs for coronavirus testing.

And the sheriff in the state's most rural county is urging those expected to protest Trump's visit — and those who support him — to behave themselves as demonstrations continue around the country over the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis.

Trump has drawn criticism for urging governors to "dominate" protesters and toss perpetrators of violence in prison and for his administration's move earlier this week to forcibly clear out peaceful protesters near the White House so the president could walk to a nearby church to pose for photos holding up a Bible.

Gov. Janet Mills this week urged the Republican president to "check the rhetoric at the door and abandon the divisive words" during his visit.

"I hope he will heed this call and appeal to the best in all people and lead us with courage and compassion through this difficult time," she said Thursday.

During a call earlier this week with governors, Mills told the president she was concerned about "security problems for our state" if Trump visited because of his harsh remarks about handling demonstrators. The president said her remarks only made him more determined to come, adding, "she just doesn't understand me very well." Mills has said she will be working during Trump's visit.

Trump's first visit to Maine since taking office will take him to Guilford, population 1,500, home to Puritan Medical Products, one of only two major companies producing a special type of swab needed to ramp up coronavirus testing. The other is in Italy.

More than 350 workers in Guilford have been working long hours since the coronavirus pandemic began.

"There is pressure. There's always not enough. There's always not enough. You're always working to provide the extra capacity that's needed," co-owner Timothy Templet told The Associated Press. "We're doing our best to supply the needs. It's critical that our country is taken care of."

The Trump administration is providing \$75.5 million through the Defense Production Act for Puritan to double production to 40 million swabs a month, and the company plans to open a second production site by July 1.

Trump is also scheduled to meet with members of the commercial fishing industry in Maine earlier in the day. He's set to fly into Bangor, where a group of demonstrators has pledged to have a presence, in the afternoon.

"It's not the right time for him to be coming to our state," said Marie Follayttar, director of Mainers for Accountable Leadership, which is helping organize the demonstration.

Normally, Friday's events would make for a friendly visit for Trump in a congressional district that awarded him an electoral vote in the 2016 election.

But it comes against the backdrop of demonstrations across Maine and the nation following Floyd's death after being detained by police. Video showed a white police officer pressing his knee on the neck of Floyd, who was black, while Floyd was handcuffed on the ground and pleading that he couldn't breathe.

In Maine, the nation's whitest state, there were four consecutive days of demonstrations. Earlier in the week, more than 1,000 people gathered in Portland, stopping traffic, setting trash cans afire and pelting police with objects. More than 30 people have been arrested.

All four members of Maine's congressional delegation, including Republican Sen. Susan Collins, have been critical of Trump's actions this week.

Piscataquis County Sheriff Robert Young said he's spoken to organizers of a planned demonstration during Trump's visit and said their "motives and intent are good."

"They want to speak for social change and are heart-broken by what they see happening to their country," he said.

Whittle reported from Portland, Maine. AP writer David Sharp contributed to this report from Portland.

Protests shift to memorializing Floyd amid push for change

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and BRIAN MAHONEY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The tenor of the protests set off by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police has taken a turn from the explosive anger that has fueled the setting of fires, breaking of windows and other violence to a quiet, yet more forceful, grassroots call for more to be done to address racial injustice.

Many of the protests were more subdued for a second night as marches Thursday turned into memorials for Floyd, who was the focus of a heartfelt tribute Thursday in Minneapolis that drew family members, celebrities, politicians and civil rights advocates. At his service, strong calls were made for meaningful changes in policing and the criminal justice system.

At demonstration sites around the country, protesters said the quieter mood is the result of several factors: the new and upgraded criminal charges against the police officers involved in Floyd's arrest; a more conciliatory approach by police who have marched with them or taken a knee to recognize their message; and the realization that the burst of rage after Floyd's death is not sustainable.

"Personally, I think you can't riot everyday for almost a week," said Costa Smith, 26, who was protesting in downtown Atlanta.

Despite the shift in tone, protesters have shown no sign that they are going away and, if anything, are emboldened to stay on the streets to push for police reforms.

In New York City, Miguel Fernandes said there were "a lot more nights to go" of marching because protesters hadn't got what they wanted. And Floyd's brother Terrence appeared in Brooklyn to carry on the fight for change, declaring "power to the people, all of us."

At the first in a series of memorials for Floyd, The Rev. Al Sharpton urged those gathered Thursday "to stand up in George's name and say, 'Get your knee off our necks!'" Those at the Minneapolis tribute stood in silence for 8 minutes, 46 seconds — the amount of time Floyd was alleged to be on the ground under the control of police.

Floyd's golden casket was covered in red roses, and an image was projected above the pulpit of a mural of Floyd painted at the street corner where he was arrested by police on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store. The message on the mural: "I can breathe now."

Sharpton vowed that this will become a movement to "change the whole system of justice."

As the protests have taken root over the past week, they have become communities unto themselves.

In New York, where residents have been stuck at home for nearly three months because of the coronavirus pandemic, residents who can't go to a restaurant are happy to be able to go a protest. People bring their dogs and share snacks and water bottles. They have been heartened by police who have joined them.

"It's great to be alive, it's history right now," said protester Kenya Taylor.

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In Atlanta, protester Nate Saint carried a sign that encouraged people to vote. He attributed the reduction in violence in part to police.

"Cops are recognizing that the more passive they become, the more receptive, the more they listen, the less the protesters are going to react," he said.

A group of protesters stood near a line of police and National Guard troops. Some cursed officers. Others were seen talking to the officers. It was a different scene from last Friday, when the city experienced widespread vandalism and looting following a peaceful demonstration.

Protester Hilliard Jones, 24, sat on a barricade in downtown Atlanta near police. He's been attending the protests for nearly a week. The violence early on reflected centuries of injustice against blacks, he said.

"If you've been oppressed like we have for so long, eventually it's going to explode," Jones said.

There were still skirmishes in the Bronx and elsewhere. In Buffalo, a police commissioner suspended two officers after video from WBFO showed a man being shoved after walking up to police as they were enforcing a curfew Thursday night. The man appeared to hit his head on the pavement and blood leaked out as officers walk past. The man was hospitalized.

But in Texas, protesters cheered as Fort Worth officers joined the front of a march. Police in Austin also walked with dozens of members of the University of Texas football team as they made their way from campus to the state Capitol to honor Floyd's memory. Once there, the group and police officers took a knee for nine minutes.

"This protest won't just stop here," junior safety Caden Sterns said. "To the white community ... if you want change like you say you do, you must change. What I mean is, you must realize, and the oppressor must realize, you are oppressing."

Wednesday marked the first peaceful night of protests in Seattle since demonstrations began there last week. The mayor and police chief there were hoping for more peace after meeting with community members. They promised Thursday that officers would display their badge numbers, following complaints by protesters about the black bands police had placed on their badges to honor colleagues killed while on duty.

"For those peacefully demonstrating tonight, please know you can continue to demonstrate. We want you to continue making your voice heard," Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said on Twitter.

The calm in Seattle followed a weekend of chaos that saw police vehicles burned and stores looted, and officers on Monday and Tuesday nights used pepper spray, tear gas, flash bangs and rubber bullets to disperse crowds.

Protesters in some cities feel support from both police and white people is growing. There have been instances of police kneeling and earlier this week in New York City, the crowd chanted for the officers who were standing in the distance to join them. One eventually did and told them they have support if they remain peaceful.

In Atlanta on Thursday, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms walked with protesters downtown and told the crowd through a megaphone that "there is something better on the other side of this."

"We are in the midst of a movement in this country," she said. "But it's going to be incumbent upon all of us to be able to get together and articulate more than our anger. We got to be able to articulate what we want as our solutions."

Mahoney reported from New York. AP journalists contributed reporting from around the United States.

George Floyd's death an American tragedy with global echoes

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — When black men died at the hands of U.S. police in recent years, the news made international headlines. The name of George Floyd has reached the world's streets.

Since his death while being detained by Minneapolis police last week, Floyd's face has been painted on walls from Nairobi, Kenya to Idlib, Syria. His name has been inked on the shirts of professional soccer players and chanted by crowds from London to Cape Town to Tel Aviv to Sydney.

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The outpouring of outrage and support reflects the power and reach of the United States, a country whose best and worst facets fascinate the world. It also reflects that deep-seated racial inequalities are not just an American phenomenon.

"This happened in the United States, but it happens in France, it happens everywhere," said Xavier Dintimille, who attended a thousands-strong Paris protest to show solidarity with U.S. demonstrators and anger over a death closer to home.

The Paris demonstrators declared "We are all George Floyd," but also invoked the name of Adama Traore, a 24-year-old Frenchman of Malian origin who died in police custody in 2016. The circumstances are still under investigation by justice authorities.

The world is used to watching American stories on TV and movie screens, and intrigued by a country founded on principles of equality and liberty but scarred by a tortured racial history of slavery and segregation. Viewed from abroad, images of U.S. violence and racial divisions can sometimes seem like part of a uniquely American malaise.

Not this time. When people around the world watched Floyd struggling for breath as a white police officer knelt on his neck, many saw reflections of violence and injustice in their own cities and towns. They heard echoes of their own experiences or those of family members, neighbors or friends.

"The same thing is happening here. It's no different," said Isaak Kabenge, who joined more than 1,000 other people at a protest in Sweden's capital, Stockholm. "I got stopped (by police) two weeks ago. It happens all the time."

In London, thousands of people chanted "Say his name - George Floyd!" as they marched through the city. But they also invoked names from nearby, including Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old black Londoner stabbed to death in 1993 as he waited for a bus. A bungled police investigation triggered a public inquiry, which concluded that the London police force was "institutionally racist."

London-born "Star Wars" actor John Boyega, who was 1-year-old when Stephen Lawrence died, linked Lawrence, Floyd and other black victims of violence in a passionate speech to the crowd.

"Black lives have always mattered," Boyega said. "We have always been important. We have always meant something."

More than 160 people in Britain have died while in police custody in the past decade, and figures show that black people are twice as likely as white people to die under such circumstances.

In the London suburb of Croydon, hundreds of protesters gathered this week —standing the required coronavirus social distance of 2 meters (6½ feet) apart —and took a knee in memory both of Floyd and of Olaseni Lewis. The local man died in 2010 while being restrained by police at a psychiatric hospital.

Lewis' mother, Ajibola Lewis, has campaigned to tighten the rules on the use of restraint by police. She said she couldn't bear to watch the widely circulated footage of Floyd's death.

"Many other families, we have heard our loved ones say 'I can't breathe,'" she told the BBC. "People think it's only happening in America. It's not. It's happening here."

Floyd's death is another shocking turn for a technology-fueled world unsettled by disease, coronavirus lockdowns and massive unemployment.

The speed of social media helped Floyd's final moments in Minneapolis spread around the world, and amplified the shock, anguish and anger they evoked.

Floyd's death also dropped a spark into cities already smoldering from the coronavirus pandemic. In many countries, lockdowns imposed to slow the spread of the virus confined young people indoors for weeks. Their pent-up energy has been released into the streets as diverse, youthful crowds protest Floyd's treatment, often in defiance of bans on mass gatherings.

In many places, protesters have tried to practice social distancing, but the attempts often fell apart in the heat of the moment. Some demonstrators wore face masks to guard against the virus — a practical health measure made poignant by the addition of Floyd's dying words, "I can't breathe," written across the front.

The new virus has sent economies around the world into nosedives, throwing millions out of work. It has also exposed social inequalities, both in the United States — where cities with large black populations

have been among the hardest hit — and elsewhere.

In Britain, black and ethnic minority people are at greater risk of dying with COVID-19, and have also been levied a disproportionate number of the fines and arrests for breaking lockdown rules, according to official statistics.

In London, some demonstrators called out the name of Belly Mujinga, a railway ticket-seller who died of coronavirus in April, weeks after she was spat at by a man claiming to have COVID-19. Police said they found no evidence to support charges in her death.

Thousands more plan to take to the streets of cities around the world this weekend, mourning a man whose death they hope will bring permanent change, and looking to the United States as both an inspiration and a warning.

"Here I think it's systematic, and we need to start doing something starting from small to make change," said musician Jayda Makwana, who joined thousands of others at a protest in London's Hyde Park. "I think the U.K. could learn so much from the U.S., because we don't want it to get to the point that it is at in the U.S."

Angela Charlton in Paris, David Keyton in Stockholm and Associated Press reporters around the world contributed to this story.

Follow more AP stories on the George Floyd protests and reaction at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

Despite reopening, some jobs lost to virus are gone for good

By ANGELA CHARLTON and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Factories and stores are reopening, economies are reawakening – but many jobs just aren't coming back.

That's the harsh truth facing workers laid off around the U.S. and the world, from restaurants in Thailand to car factories in France, whose livelihoods fell victim to a virus-driven recession that's accelerating decline in struggling industries and upheaval across the global workforce.

New U.S. jobless figures to be released Friday are expected to show millions more people's wages are disappearing, which in turn means less money spent in surviving stores, restaurants and travel businesses, with repercussions across economies rich and poor.

"My boss feared that since we come from Kibera (an impoverished slum), we might infect them with COVID-19, and so he let us go," said Margaret Awino, a cleaning worker in a Nairobi charity. "I don't know how I can go on."

As the virus and now protests across the U.S. have shed new light on economic inequalities, some experts say it's time to rethink work, wages and health benefits altogether, especially as automation escalates and traditional trades vanish.

THAI CHEF

When Wannapa Kotabin got a job as an assistant chef in the kitchen of one of Bangkok's longest-established Italian restaurants, she thought her career was set.

But five years on, she's in line with more than 100 other jobless Thais outside an unemployment office.

The government ordered all restaurants closed in March to combat the coronavirus, and 38-year-old Wannapa has been spending her savings on food and shelter.

When restaurants were allowed to re-open in May, Wannapa's restaurant told staff its closure was permanent.

"I never thought this would happen," she said. "It's like my heart got broken twice."

Around the world, new virus safety rules mean restaurants and stores can't hold as many people as they used to, so they can't afford as much staff. Many can't afford to reopen at all.

Bangkok's restaurants are firing, not hiring, she said.

"I will have to go on and keep fighting," she declared. "If there is any job that I can do, I will do it."

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Wannapa's unemployment benefit can only tide her over for so long. She said if she can't find work, she'll have to return to her family's rubber plantation to start life all over again.

ISRAELI PROGRAMMER

When the coronavirus first broke out, Israeli software developer Itamar Lev was told to work from home. Then the online advertising company he worked for slashed his salary 20%. Finally, just as restrictions started to ease, he was fired.

Lev, 44, is among hundreds of thousands of Israelis out of a job as a result of the pandemic, more than 25% of the workforce.

"It was sudden. I wasn't ready for it," he said.

Tied to the American market, Lev's company's advertising revenue dried up and they had to make cut-backs. Lev said he was treated respectfully, and sees himself as simply a victim of the times.

He is already preparing for interviews and confident he will find a new position soon. In a country versed in disruptions from wars and security threats, he said Israelis have built up a certain resilience to upheaval.

Still, he said this time feels different. His wife, a self-employed dance instructor, has also seen her income temporarily evaporate, forcing the couple to dig into their savings.

"The 'comeback' is going to take longer," said Lev, father of a 5-year-old girl. "It's a difficult period. We're just going to have to take a deep breath and get through it."

KENYAN CLEANER

Perhaps hardest-hit by virus job losses are low-paid service workers like 54-year-old Awino, who lost her job after 15 years as a cleaner at one of Mother Teresa's charities in Nairobi.

Awino shares a shack with her four daughters, including one who has epilepsy and requires costly medical care, and they share a communal toilet nearby. She hasn't seen her husband in nine years.

Without her regular \$150 monthly salary, she now buys raw chicken and fries it on the streets for sale.

"Ever since I was fired because of COVID-19, I put all my efforts into my business," she said.

Some days she earns more than what she was making at her old job, but it's hard work, and unpredictable. City council and health inspectors are known to raid informal street vendors, who are often arrested and have their goods confiscated.

Awino has no choice but to take the risk, and she's not alone: Hundreds of thousands of Kenyans have also lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

CLOUDY SKIES

On a global scale, the industry perhaps most vulnerable is aviation.

Germany's Lufthansa is losing a million euros an hour, and its CEO estimates that when the pandemic is over it will need 10,000 fewer workers than it does now. Emirates President Tim Clark signaled it could take the Dubai-based airline four years to return to its full network of routes.

The ripple effect on jobs in tourism and hospitality sectors is massive.

Countries like the United Arab Emirates are home to millions of foreigners who far outnumber the local population – many of whom have lost their jobs. Their families in countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal and the Philippines rely on their monthly remittances for survival.

Egyptian hotel chef Ramadan el-Sayed is among thousands sent home in March as the pandemic began to decimate Dubai's tourism industry. He returned to his wife and three kids in the city of Sohag, about 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of Cairo. He has not been paid since April.

"There's no work here at all," he said. "Even tourism here is operating at 25% so who's going to hire here?"

He sits idle, relying on his brother and father for support. He is hopeful the Marriott hotel where he worked will bring him back at the end of the summer when they plan to re-open.

"We are waiting, God willing," el-Sayed said.

LONG ROAD AHEAD

So why are jobs still disappearing, if economies are reopening?

Some companies that came into the recession in bad shape can no longer put off tough decisions.

Meanwhile, even though reopened cities are filling anew with shoppers and commuters, many consumers remain wary about returning to old habits for fear of the virus.

"Some firms that were healthy before governments imposed shutdowns will go bankrupt, and it could take a long time for them to be replaced by new businesses," Capital Economics said in a research note. "Other firms will delay or cancel investment."

It estimates that a third of U.S. workers made jobless by the pandemic won't find work within six months. And some European workers on generous government-subsidized furlough programs could get laid off when they expire, as companies like French carmaker Renault and plane maker Airbus face up to a bleaker future.

Holger Schmieding Holger at Berenberg Economics warned: "The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing mega-recession may shape political debates and choices for a long time."

Charlton reported from Paris. Aya Batrawy in Dubai, Khaled Kazzuha in Nairobi, Aron Heller in Kfar Saba, Israel, David Biller in Rio de Janeiro and Dave McHugh in Frankfurt contributed.

Surgical or homemade, masks mark a major shift in thinking

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Think about Hannibal Lecter, the psychopathic cannibal in the "Silence of The Lambs." Or Jason Voorhees, the hockey mask-wearing murderer in the "Friday the 13th" slasher film series.

Before the coronavirus outbreak abruptly disrupted the livelihoods of millions of people, the sight of masks worn in public spaces in the Western world conjured up images of malevolent clowns and terrifying fictional villains.

Even worse, in the streets of Paris, London or Brussels, mask-wearing — a long-accepted measure in some Asian cities — would often trigger unease and angst related to real-life traumatic bloodshed orchestrated by balaclava-led commandos from extremist groups.

France banned the wearing of full veils in public places back in 2011 in part because the government said the face covering violated the nation's secular values, well before the COVID-19 pandemic took shape.

But in the space of just a few weeks this spring, this narrative has been turned upside down. Masks are everywhere and carry a new, positive meaning.

"The mask, at first, is anxiety-inducing," Franck Cochoy, a professor of sociology at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaures, said in a phone interview. "When people saw them in the street, it felt like they were faced with the threat of the disease. Today, what people find scary is not having masks. Masks have become soothing objects."

After discouraging citizens from wearing face covers during the early stages of the pandemic, most governments now recommend, or even make their use mandatory, as they try to slow the spread of the virus.

Cochoy is stunned by how quickly people have adopted masks. With a team of researchers, he has surveyed their use during the health crisis, scrutinizing more than a thousand testimonies.

He said masks have created a new kind of social inequality, "a social division between those who have masks, and those who don't."

"People who don't have masks feel naked," he said.

At the start of the pandemic, the lack of masks led many people to resort to homemade solutions. Although medical professionals say the protection they offer is not ideal, hand-crafted masks have become a hit and the small pieces of fabric covering the nose and mouth are now a social marker like any other piece of clothing.

On the glitzy Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris, when shoppers were allowed back in the streets after two months of a stringent lockdown, a woman sported a black mask with a white Chanel inscription.

In Brussels, inside a small shop selling organic fruit and vegetables popular with the so-called "bohemian-bourgeois" urbanites, hand-crafted masks come in a myriad of designs and a rainbow of colors. A few hundreds meters down the road, people running errands at a big-chain supermarket mostly wear the surgical, disposable version of the mask — the one available for less than one euro in pharmacies — with

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no aesthetic airs at all.

Vanessa Colignon, a textile and fashion designer based in Brussels, has been engaged for years in zero-waste projects, using natural or recycled materials from sustainable local producers. It's the daily sight of cheap disposable gloves and masks thrown away in the streets of her neighborhood that convinced her to start producing her own during the health crisis.

"I expected the government to develop reusable masks and gloves," she said, disappointed by a perceived lack of commitment for sustainable mask production from Belgian authorities.

"The priority should have been to say: 'We don't make disposable masks anymore,'" she added.

Cochoy thinks the dichotomy between the hand-crafted and surgical masks offers a preview of the trend that will shape life after COVID-19, supporters of sustainable development facing off against "growth at all costs" strategies.

"It's fascinating. These two types of masks are carrying voices for the post-coronavirus world," he said. "On one hand, the surgical masks embody the modern, globalized world, where everything is standardized, with all its advantages and inconveniences. Their filtration power is high, measurable, and certified, but they come from abroad in containers, are carbon-charged, disposable. With the homemade version, we return to a form of less efficient, but also non-market, sustainable economy."

Follow AP news coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>.

On sad anniversary, few to mourn the D-Day dead in Normandy

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France (AP) — At least the dead will always be there.

All too many have been, for 76 years since that fateful June 6 on France's Normandy beaches, when allied troops in 1944 turned the course of World War II and went on to defeat fascism in Europe in one of the most remarkable feats in military history.

Forgotten they will never be. Revered, yes. But Saturday's anniversary will be one of the loneliest remembrances ever, as the coronavirus pandemic is keeping almost everyone away — from government leaders to frail veterans who might not get another chance for a final farewell to their unlucky comrades.

Rain and wind are also forecast, after weeks of warm, sunny weather.

"The sadness is almost too much, because there is no one," said local guide Adeline James. "Plus you have their stories. The history is sad and it's even more overwhelming now between the weather, the (virus) situation and, and, and."

The locals in this northwestern part of France have come out year after year to show their gratitude for the soldiers from the United States, Britain, Canada and other countries who liberated them from Adolf Hitler's Nazi forces.

Despite the lack of international crowds, David Pottier still went out to raise American flags in the Calvados village of Mosles, population 356, which was liberated by allied troops the day after the landing on five Normandy beachheads.

In a forlorn scene, a gardener tended to the parched grass around the small monument for the war dead, while Pottier, the local mayor, was getting the French tricolor to flutter next to the Stars and Stripes.

"We have to recognize that they came to die in a foreign land," Pottier said. "We miss the GIs," he said of the U.S. soldiers.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc across the world, infecting 6.6 million people, killing over 391,000 and devastating economies. It poses a particular threat to the elderly — like the surviving D-Day veterans who are in their late nineties or older.

It has also affected the younger generations who turn out every year to mark the occasion. Most have been barred from traveling to the windswept coasts of Normandy.

Some 160,000 soldiers made the perilous crossing from England that day in atrocious conditions, storm-

ing dunes which they knew were heavily defended by German troops determined to hold their positions. Somehow, they succeeded. Yet they left a trail of thousands of casualties who have been mourned for generations since.

Last year stood out, with U.S. President Donald Trump joining his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron at the American cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach. A smattering of veterans were honored with the highest accolades. All across the beaches of Normandy tens of thousands came from across the globe to pay their respects to the dead and laud the surviving soldiers.

The acrid smell of wartime-era jeep exhaust fumes and the rumble of old tanks filled the air as parades of vintage vehicles went from village to village. The tiny roads between the dunes, hedges and apple orchards were clogged for hours, if not days.

Heading into the D-Day remembrance weekend this year, only the salty brine coming off the ocean on Omaha Beach hits the nostrils, the shrieks of seagulls pierce the ears and a sense of desolation hangs across the region's country roads.

"Last year this place was full with jeeps, trucks, people dressed up as soldiers," said Eric Angely, who sat on a seawall, dressed in a World War II uniform after taking his restored U.S. Army jeep out for a ride.

"This year, there is nothing. It's just me now, my dog and my jeep," the local Frenchman said.

Three quarters of a century and the horrific wartime slaughter of D-Day help put things in perspective. Someday the COVID-19 pandemic, too, will pass, and people will turn out to remember both events that shook the world.

"We don't have a short memory around here," Pottier said with a wistful smile.

Virginia Mayo contributed.

Follow AP pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

Sri Lankan cafe owner feeds and shelters stranded tourists

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The tourists came to see the magical waterfalls and mountain views of the lowland jungle and rainforest. But then the pandemic hit, and they were stranded in Sri Lanka.

When flights were canceled and the airports shut down, Darshana Ratnayake came to the rescue.

Ratnayake, a cafe owner in Ella, a former colonial hill station in Sri Lankan tea country, organized free food and shelter for dozens of stranded tourists.

"We were totally blown away," said Alex Degmetich, a 31-year-old American cruise line entertainment director.

"It's pretty remarkable," he said. "Coming from Western society, where nothing is really given to us and we have to pay for everything which is fine. But here, locals providing us — tourists — free food and accommodation, is really humbling."

The Sri Lankan government imposed a nationwide curfew on March 20 to curb the spread of the virus, sealing off entire regions of the Indian Ocean island nation. Degmetich was among 40 tourists from 11 countries stranded in Ella, 200 kilometers (120 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

Ella's famous treks tend to draw a young backpacker crowd, and Darshana knew they'd soon be out of money, and the small bed-and-breakfast lodges out of food.

He was right: Many of the tourists had just enough money to pay for the trip, and broken supply chains meant the lodges were running low on provisions.

Darshana established his Chill Cafe as a juice bar with two tables 13 years ago. The business has grown to a full restaurant and boutique hotel with 72 employees.

Just after the curfew was imposed, Darshana prepared a list of those staying in lodges and began boxed dinner deliveries. And he convinced lodge owners to let their guests stay on for free.

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"Our livelihood depends on tourism. We must help tourists when they are in trouble. Money isn't everything. We must help and share at difficult times like this," he said.

He said he also donated 5 million Sri Lankan rupees (\$27,000) to tour guides who lost their income when tourism came to a standstill.

Darshana said Sri Lanka's bloody, decades-long civil war had a huge impact on tourism in Ella. Any time a bomb went off in the country, he said, tourist arrivals fell sharply. For 25 years, separatists from the minority Tamil community fought for a separate state. By the time government forces crushed the rebellion in 2009, U.N. estimates say some 100,000 people had been killed.

With the war's end, Ella's visitor numbers rose sharply, averaging a thousand people a day, he said.

Darshana has expanded his support to both lunch and dinner each day — without, he insists, sacrificing on quality or customer service.

Rebecca Curwood-Moss, a tourist from England, felt hopeless when Sri Lanka's curfew was imposed. She said Darshana's meals have done more than fill empty stomachs.

"In the box, we didn't just find the delicious homemade rice and curry, but we found hope," she said.

While nonstop news about the effects of the coronavirus has become commonplace, so, too, have tales of kindness. "One Good Thing" is a series of AP stories focusing on glimmers of joy and benevolence in a dark time. Read the series here: <https://apnews.com/OneGoodThing>

Analysis: Trump emulates strongman tactics, tests his limits

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — A phalanx of law enforcement officers and soldiers is positioned on the streets of the nation's capital to keep protesters at bay. Helicopters circle overhead, sometimes dipping low to buzz the crowd. The country's leader warns that he's willing to go further to "dominate" the streets.

In words and in actions, President Donald Trump is increasingly emulating the strongman leaders he has long admired as he seeks to tamp down protests over police brutality that are roiling the United States. In doing so, he is stretching the powers of the American presidency in ways rarely seen, and testing the willingness of the Pentagon to follow along.

His actions have forced a public reckoning among both current and former military leaders, as well as a handful of Republican politicians. Some of their concerns center not only on the actions Trump has already taken, but also on how far he may be willing to go in an election year, particularly if the political winds appear to be moving against him.

"Perhaps we're getting to the point where we can be more honest with the concerns that we might hold internally and have the courage of our own convictions to speak up," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a moderate Republican from Alaska. She added that she was unsure whether she could continue to support the president in November.

The president's face-off against Democrat Joe Biden will be the ultimate inflection point, a moment when the nation decides whether to shift course or press forward with Trump at the helm for four more years.

The choice between the two men has become increasingly stark as the nation confronts a confluence of public health, economic and civil rights crises, with Trump aggressively embracing the mantle of a "law and order" president in an attempt to project strength in uncertain times. Biden, for his part, has called the election a moral test and a "battle for the soul" of the nation.

Trump made a similar appeal to voters in 2016 and drew support from disaffected, largely white Americans. As commander in chief, he has the extraordinary power of the federal government and military at his disposal to back up tough talk with action.

His willingness to do so has become apparent during the protests that followed the death of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis. The demonstrations across the country have been largely peaceful but marred by outbursts of violence.

On Monday night, the president warned in a Rose Garden address that he would deploy active-duty

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soldiers to the states if local law enforcement and National Guard members couldn't get control of the protests. As he spoke, officers outside the White House aggressively dispersed a crowd using smoke canisters and pepper balls so the president could walk to a nearby church and pose with a Bible. He was flanked by Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley, who was dressed in combat fatigues.

The stunning scene played out on live television and drew comparisons to crackdowns in authoritarian countries. Trump has long praised the broad powers of leaders in those countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines.

Former Pentagon official Kori Schake said Trump's threats to use the military to crack down on American protesters was unsurprising given his past rhetoric and actions.

"The military is just the latest American governmental institution to have the president try and erode the democratic norms and crush the institutional independence of the organization," said Schake, now at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

Still, Trump's words and actions Monday night became a breaking point for some.

"Never did I dream that troops ... would be ordered under any circumstance to violate the Constitutional rights of their fellow citizens — much less to provide a bizarre photo op for the elected commander-in-chief, with military leadership standing alongside," Gen. Jim Mattis, Trump's first defense secretary, wrote in a statement published by The Atlantic. Mattis' comments were all the more extraordinary given that he has resisted criticizing the president since announcing his resignation in 2018.

It's unclear whether the warnings this week from Mattis, Murkowski and others carry any sway with voters or signal any broader shift within the Republican Party. Trump faced a similar insurrection among members of the so-called establishment before the 2016 election and ultimately prevailed with a comfortable Electoral College victory. His grip on the GOP has tightened during his more than three years in office given the loyalty of his core backers.

Some of those supporters have publicly closed ranks around the president during the protests, applauding his administration's heavy-handed response and urging him to take more aggressive actions to quell demonstrations that get out of hand.

"These conditions can shift rapidly in any city across the country and the president needs to have the tools and the equipment and the information needed to move quickly to protect our citizens if that's what's necessary," said Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.

Yet it's clear that the crises battering the nation have shifted the ground beneath Trump. His response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been uneven, and the resulting financial slowdown has upended his plans to run for reelection on the back of a strong economy.

His embrace of a strongman strategy may well be a way to rally his most ardent supporters, appeal to a sense of uncertainty many Americans are feeling and lock down a narrow path to victory in November. Yet it has also left his critics anxious about the steps he may be willing to take between now and then.

"It's hard to envision any line that Donald Trump won't cross or anything he won't do," said Peter Wehner, a veteran of three Republican administrations and an ardent critic of the president. "The question is whether the system of government, and the people who make up government and the court would be able to check him."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

The Latest: Protesters take to NYC streets after curfew

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:

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- Protesters take to New York City streets after curfew, again.
- Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms tells protesters they “matter,” urges COVID-19 tests.
- Heavy rain brings an end to Washington protests before dark.

NEW YORK -- Protesters stayed on the streets of New York City after curfew for another day Thursday, spurred by the death of George Floyd.

Actions by the protesters included gathering at Brooklyn’s Cadman Plaza, the site where police used batons against demonstrators who were out past the city-imposed curfew a night earlier.

Protesters continued past the 8 p.m. curfew Thursday, even after Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio sought to deflect criticism over harsh tactics from police enforcing it.

Thousands of protesters were out after curfew, and so were police.

At some locations, officials watched, but didn’t immediately move in. At other spots, they made orderly arrests without the batons and riot gear, like a night earlier.

ATLANTA -- Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms walked with protesters in downtown Atlanta on Thursday and told the crowd through a megaphone that “there is something better on the other side of this.”

“We are in the midst of a movement in this country,” she said. “But it’s going to be incumbent upon all of us to be able to get together and articulate more than our anger. We got to be able to articulate what we want as our solutions.”

The mayor’s appearance came on the seventh straight night of protests in the city following the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota. Police Chief Erika Shields also attended the protest.

When the first night of protests on Friday turned violent, an impassioned Bottoms held a news conference and urged the protesters to go home, saying those who were looting and vandalizing businesses were disgracing the city and Floyd’s life.

She told the crowd on Thursday that they “matter” to her, and before she left, she encouraged them to get tested for COVID-19.

WASHINGTON — Protests in the nation’s capital over George Floyd’s death broke up before dark Thursday as a heavy rain began to fall.

The law enforcement presence at the Lincoln Memorial, where protesters gathered, was much smaller than it had been near the White House during the previous nights’ demonstrations.

Tomora Wright, 29, of Washington, said her parents were concerned that she was coming down to protest but she wasn’t worried. “I know that my people are peaceful and I’m not scared to be around people who believe in the same thing, the same cause. I definitely felt the need to come down here and protest in solidarity.”

She wants to see the killers of George Floyd brought to justice but also reopening of past cases such as Sandra Bland in Texas. “These are unimaginable times. ”

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A police commissioner has suspended two officers following video that shows a Buffalo officer appearing to shove a man who walked up to police.

Video from WBFO shows the man appearing to hit his head on the pavement, with blood leaking out as officers walk past to clear Niagara Square on Thursday night.

The station reports two medics treated the unidentified man. Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz tweeted that the man was hospitalized and stable, but his exact condition wasn’t immediately known.

WIVB-TV reports that Buffalo police initially said in a statement a person “was injured when he tripped & fell.” But Capt. Jeff Rinaldo later told the TV station that an internal affairs investigation was opened. Later Thursday, news outlets reported that Police Commissioner Byron Lockwood suspended two officers without pay.

New York Attorney General Letitia James’s office has tweeted that they’re aware of the video.

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WASHINGTON — The American Civil Liberties Union and others have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, alleging officials violated the civil rights of protesters who were forcefully removed from a park near the White House by police using chemical agents before President Donald Trump walked to a nearby church to take a photo.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in federal court in Washington. It argues that Trump, Attorney General William Barr and other officials “unlawfully conspired to violate” the protesters’ rights when clearing Lafayette Park on Monday.

Shortly before 6:30 p.m. on Monday, law enforcement officers began aggressively forcing back the peaceful protesters, firing smoke bombs and pepper balls into the crowd to disperse them from the park.

The ACLU called it a “coordinated and unprovoked charge into the crowd of demonstrators.”

Barr said Thursday that he ordered the protesters to be dispersed because officials were supposed to extend a security perimeter around the White House earlier in the day. He said he arrived there later in the afternoon and discovered it hadn’t been done.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the group Black Lives Matter D.C., and individual protesters who were in Lafayette Park on Monday evening.

MINNEAPOLIS — Defense attorneys said Thursday that two of three Minneapolis police officers accused of aiding and abetting in the death of George Floyd were rookies barely off probation when a more senior white officer ignored the black man’s cries for help and pressed a knee into his neck.

Earl Gray said his client, former Officer Thomas Lane had no choice but to follow the instructions of Derek Chauvin, who has since been charged with second-degree murder in Floyd’s May 25 death. Gray called the case against his client “extremely weak.”

A judge set bail at \$750,000 apiece for Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao, when they made their first appearances in Hennepin County District Court on Thursday.

The Minneapolis Police Department fired all four officers last week and charged Chauvin. On Wednesday, the three other officers were charged.

AUSTIN, Texas — Dozens of members of the University of Texas football team marched with Austin police officers from campus to the state Capitol to honor the memory of George Floyd.

Many of the players locked arms on the two-mile walk that stopped on the north side of the Capitol, the opposite side of the building from where protesters have gathered for several days.

Once there, the group and police officers took a knee for nine minutes to symbolize the amount of time Floyd was detained on the ground by Minneapolis police before he died.

The players were also joined by head coach Tom Herman, his wife, and several assistant coaches.

“I’m so proud,” Herman told the players, urging them to “be agents of change.”

SALT LAKE CITY -- A man captured on video aiming a bow and arrow at protesters in Salt Lake City over the weekend was charged Thursday with assault and weapon possession.

Brandon McCormick was charged with possession of a dangerous weapon by a restricted person, as well as aggravated assault and threatening or using a dangerous weapon in a fight or quarrel.

He was reportedly pushed to the ground on Saturday after pointing the bow and arrow at people protesting the death of George Floyd at the hands of police. People then flipped over his car and set it on fire.

No attorney was listed in court records.

NEW YORK — The Queens district attorney says a man seen on video charging protesters in New York while wearing a glove with four long, serrated-edge blades has surrendered to authorities.

A release from the office of District Attorney Melinda Katz says 54-year-old Frank Cavalluzzi jumped out of a vehicle Tuesday afternoon, shouting “I will kill you,” and chasing protesters who were gathered

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peacefully on an overpass.

The release says he got back into his vehicle and drove on a sidewalk, nearly running over the demonstrators. Cavalluzzi turned himself in Thursday and was arraigned on multiple charges, including second-degree attempted murder. He faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

It wasn't immediately clear whether he had retained an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

SAN ANTONIO -- The GOP chairwoman of one of Texas' largest counties faced widespread pressure from her party to resign Thursday over a conspiracy theory on social media suggesting that George Floyd's death was staged.

Cynthia Brehm is head of the Bexar County Republican Party in San Antonio. She also drew attention and condemnation last month for suggesting the coronavirus pandemic was a hoax intended to hurt President Donald Trump.

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called on her to step down after a San Antonio Express-News columnist Wednesday tweeted an image of Brehm suggesting in a Facebook post that Floyd's death was staged. The post is no longer on Brehm's page. She has not publicly addressed calls for her resignation and did not respond to requests for comment Thursday.

"The comments are disgusting and have no place in the Republican Party or in public discourse," Abbott spokesman said John Wittman said.

Both Sen. John Cornyn and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas also called on her to resign, as did Texas Republican Party Chairman James Dickey.

Floyd, a 46-year-old African American, died after a white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, put his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes as he lay handcuffed on the pavement, gasping that he couldn't breathe. Floyd's funeral will be held next week in Houston, where he grew up.

BARCELONA, Spain — More than a thousand people gathered in a central square in Barcelona, Spain, to protest against the death of American George Floyd and police brutality against African Americans.

The protesters held a minute of silence at the candlelight vigil on Thursday. A recording of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream speech" was played and people set up a shrine in memory of Floyd.

"I am hopeful that people are standing up now and they've said 'enough is enough,'" said Jonathan Courtney, a 31-year-old American resident who organized the event. "If you go back in history when people did make change, they did go to the streets."

FARGO, N.D. — Black leaders in North Dakota's largest city pleaded for calm in the face of violent threats to disrupt a gathering in memory of George Floyd. They advertised the event as a celebration and not a protest.

The OneFargo event is scheduled Friday afternoon at a downtown Fargo park. Organizers had planned to march from the park to City Hall for a sit-in. They have scrapped that idea after social media threats surfaced to burn down the city offices and commit other violent acts.

Organizer Wess Philome says anyone who is looking to destroy the "positive energy" from Friday's event should stay home.

The pledge to tone down the dissent comes after a violent protest in downtown Fargo last weekend resulted in damaged property, a dozen arrests and minor injuries to four police officers.

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Police say well-coordinated criminals are capitalizing on the chaos around protests to stage widespread store thefts.

They travel by caravan and use messaging apps or social media to communicate or distract and throw police off their trail.

The wave of crime that has followed largely peaceful demonstrations over the police killing of George Floyd has happened in big and small cities and in rural areas. Thieves have targeted high-value goods as officers are assigned to prevent protests from becoming unruly and enforce curfews. In the San Francisco

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Bay Area, a band of thieves stole nearly 75 vehicles from a dealership.

MINNEAPOLIS — Mourners at George Floyd's memorial service are standing for 8 minutes, 46 seconds, a span that has become a potent symbol of police brutality.

The Rev. Al Sharpton exhorted Floyd's family, civil rights leaders, politicians, athletes and celebrities at the service Thursday to stand as a commitment to justice in Floyd's name. Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, who died in police custody in New York City in 2014, stood on stage with Sharpton and comedian Tiffany Haddish.

Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died on May 25 as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck, ignoring his cries and bystander shouts until Floyd eventually stopped moving.

In the days since his death, protesters have seized on 8 minutes, 46 seconds — the time given in a criminal complaint that the officer held his knee on Floyd's neck — as a way to honor Floyd.

Sharpton says Floyd's story has been the story of black people in America, and that he died not from common health conditions, but from a malfunction of the criminal justice system.

Sharpton says the reason black people couldn't be who they dreamed of being is because "you had your knee on our necks." He added: "Get your knee off of our necks!"

He also commented about the protests that have occurred across the country and the world since Floyd's death, saying that this time is different. Sharpton said he saw white people outnumbering black people in some marches and calling for justice.

Sharpton also called out President Donald Trump for walking from the White House across the street as protests were going on in Washington so he could pose with a bible.

"We cannot use bibles as a prop," Sharpton said. "For those that have agendas that are not about justice, this family will not let you use George as a prop."

VIENNA — Thousands of people have participated in an anti-racism demonstration in Vienna.

The Austria Press Agency reported police said about 50,000 people gathered in downtown Vienna.

Protesters carrying signs with the Black Lives Matter slogan marched to the Karlsplatz square. Many argued racism is just as present in Austria as the United States.

Diedo Ladstaetter, a 27-year-old student from Vienna, says his dark-skinned Latino friend "is affected by everyday racism. And therefore, I don't see why it would be somehow different in Austria compared to America. You have to protest here, too."

Some protesters also carried Antifa signs and were heard shouting "fight the police."

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland Public Schools will discontinue use of school resource officers from the Portland Police Bureau. Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero says Oregon's largest school district needed to "re-examine our relationship" with the police after the nationwide upheaval over the death of George Floyd.

The news came after thousands of protesters gathered Wednesday for the sixth consecutive night in Portland and remained peaceful. Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday ordered all flags flown at half-staff to honor Floyd.

LOS ANGELES — The mayor of Los Angeles says he will end the curfew starting Thursday night.

Mayor Eric Garcetti made the announcement after the curfews were put in place since last week as a precaution against looting and violence.

Earlier, the Los Angeles County sheriff said he will not enforce a curfew in areas his deputies patrol. Curfews also ended in San Francisco and San Jose. The decisions follow generally peaceful demonstrations.

Oakland and Sacramento plan to maintain curfews for now.

LOCUST GROVE, Va. — Deputies in Virginia say a white man who called to report an assault turned out to be the aggressor and has been charged with attacking three African Americans because of their race.

Authorities responding to a call from Edward Halstead in Locust Grove on Tuesday night "interviewed

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several people and determined that the caller was in fact the perpetrator of assault and battery on three individuals," the Orange County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

Halstead, 53, was charged with attempted strangulation and three counts of felonious assault and battery due to the victim's race.

It was not immediately clear if Halstead had a lawyer who could comment on his behalf.

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel says U.S. society is "very polarized" while sidestepping questions whether President Donald Trump bears a share of the responsibility.

Merkel told ZDF television the killing of George Floyd "is something really, really terrible, racism is something terrible and society in the United States is very polarized."

Merkel say her approach to politics is always to try to bring people together. She deflected questions about Trump's role, saying she hopes the U.S. will unify and she's "happy that many are making their contribution to that."

Pressed again about Trump, she replied: "I think the political style is a very controversial one, that is clear."

Regarding racism, she says "unfortunately we have it here, too. So let's put our own house in order and hope there are also enough people in the United States who carry forward peaceful demonstrations."

ROME — The highest-ranking American at the Vatican will lead a prayer service on Friday in Rome to pray for "peaceful coexistence" following the death of George Floyd and protests that erupted across the U.S.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, an Irish-born naturalized U.S. citizen, is the prefect of the Vatican's family and laity office.

The Sant'Egidio Community, a Catholic charity close to Pope Francis, is organizing the evening prayer at its Santa Maria in Trastevere church. Francis this week decried Floyd's death and the "sin of racism" while denouncing violence as "self-destructive and self-defeating." He's appealed for national reconciliation and peace.

Farrell was bishop in Dallas, Texas, and an auxiliary bishop of Washington D.C. before taking his current job in 2016.

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Ministry urged the U.S. authorities to respect Americans' right for peaceful protest amid the wave of demonstrations sparked by George Floyd's death.

The ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, says Moscow has taken note of the use of tear gas to disperse rallies and massive arrests of protesters in the U.S. She also pointed out numerous journalists, including Russian reporters, were hurt while covering the protests.

Moscow long has bristled at Washington's criticism of its human rights record amid Russia-U.S. tensions. Zakharova sought to turn the tables on the U.S. by pointing to the authorities forceful response to protests.

She says "it's time for the U.S. to drop the mentor's tone and look in the mirror," challenging the U.S. authorities to "start respecting peoples' rights and observing democratic standards at home."

WARSAW, Poland — A large crowd gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw with signs reading "Black Lives Matter," in Poland's second anti-racist protest in two days in response to the death of George Floyd

Some laid face down on the ground in solidarity with the handcuffed Floyd, who was pleading for air as a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes.

U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Georgette Mosbacher, says the violent scenes of protest in the U.S. are an "anomaly" and not a true picture of the Americans.

"We can and will heal and learn from this tragedy — and justice will prevail," Mosbacher's statement said.

A small protest march was held Wednesday in Poland's western city of Poznan.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Gov. Tim Walz is sending Minnesota National Guard troops to state's western border

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because of what he says are credible threats of violence during demonstrations planned in neighboring North Dakota.

The city of Moorhead, Minnesota, lies just across the border from Fargo, North Dakota.

Walz's order didn't say how many guard members are being deployed in Clay County. The governor didn't provide details on what he perceives is a credible threat.

"The Minnesota National Guard stands ready to provide protection for all Minnesotans," said Walz in a statement. "While Minnesotans turn their attention to rebuilding our communities and re-examining racial inequities in the wake of George Floyd's death, our administration is committed to providing protection for our neighborhoods, businesses, and families in order for those meaningful conversations to happen."

The National Guard adjutant general will work with local government agencies to provide personnel, equipment and facilities as needed, Walz said.

SARASOTA, Fla. — A bystander video showing a Sarasota police officer pressing his knee into the neck of a handcuffed black man a week before the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has prompted an investigation and promises of transparency.

Two Sarasota officers are seen on video holding down Patrick Carroll, 27, during a domestic violence call on May 18. A third officer was standing nearby.

The department told news outlets it wasn't aware the officer placed a knee on Carroll's neck until it was tagged in the video on social media on Monday.

Aerial video posted by the department Tuesday shows the officers speaking with Carroll for several minutes before placing him in handcuffs. He then resists being put in the patrol car, and officers force him to the ground.

Carroll said he was trying to ask officers why he was being detained. He said he has asthma and scoliosis in his back and was having trouble breathing.

The officer who placed his knee on Carroll's neck has been placed on administrative leave, the department said. He hasn't been identified. The two other officers are on "desk duty" while the arrest is being investigated, news outlets reported.

Carroll faces charges of domestic battery, possession of ammunition by a convicted felon and resisting arrest.

Another huge blow to US workers expected in May jobs report

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Reporter**

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's workers likely suffered another devastating blow in May, with millions more jobs lost to the viral pandemic and an unemployment rate near or even above 20% for the first time since the Great Depression.

Economists have forecast that the government will report Friday that employers shed 8.5 million more jobs last month on top of 21.4 million lost in March and April. A figure that large would raise the total losses since the coronavirus intensified nearly three months ago to almost 30 million — more than triple the number of jobs lost during the 2008-2009 Great Recession.

The economy has sunk into what looks like a deep recession, and most economists foresee unemployment remaining above 10% — its peak during the Great Recession — through the November elections and into next year.

A report Thursday on applications for unemployment benefits reinforced the picture of a bleak job market: The number of people seeking jobless aid last week was double the previous record high that prevailed before the viral outbreak occurred.

Still, that report did offer a few glimmers of hope. As restaurants, movie theaters, gyms, hair salons and other retail establishments gradually reopen, job cuts are slowing and employers are recalling some of their laid-off workers. The total number of people receiving unemployment aid rose slightly, the government said, but stayed below a peak of 25 million reached two weeks earlier. And the number of laid-off

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workers applying for aid, while historically high, has declined for nine straight weeks.

The economic shock, like the pandemic itself, has widened economic disparities that have disproportionately hurt minorities and lower-educated workers. More than 55% of African-Americans say they or someone in their household has lost income since mid-March, compared with 43% of whites, according to a weekly survey by the Census Bureau. For Hispanics, the figure is 60%. The pandemic has especially eliminated jobs, at least temporarily, at restaurants, hotels, retail chains and other lower-wage industries.

The street protests over George Floyd's killing that led to some vandalism and looting in dozens of cities won't affect Friday's jobs figures, which were compiled in the middle of May. But business closures related to the unrest could cause job losses that would be reflected in the June jobs report to be issued next month.

A few businesses are reporting signs of progress even in hard-hit industries. American Airlines, for example, said this week that it would fly 55% of its U.S. routes in July, up from just 20% in May.

And the Cheesecake Factory said one-quarter of its nearly 300 restaurants have reopened, though with limited capacity. Sales at those restaurants are at nearly 75% of the levels reached a year ago, the company said. Both companies' share prices rose.

Those limited gains may lead to more rehiring as companies slowly restart shuttered businesses. But economists say the pace of hiring will then likely lag as a severe recession and high unemployment hold back consumer spending, the main driver of the economy.

Erica Groshen, a labor economist at Cornell University and a former commissioner of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said hiring could ramp up relatively quickly in coming months and reduce unemployment to low double-digits by year's end.

"Then my inclination is that it will be a long, slow slog," she said.

Overhanging the jobs picture is widespread uncertainty about how long the unemployed will remain out of work. Most of the layoffs in recent months were a direct result of the sudden shutdowns of businesses in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Though many of the unemployed have said they expect their layoffs to be temporary, many large businesses won't rehire everyone they laid off. And some small employers might not reopen at all if the recession drags on. Until most Americans are confident they can shop, travel, eat out and fully return to their other spending habits without fear of contracting the virus, the economy will likely remain sluggish.

Even if just one-third of the U.S. job losses turn out to be permanent, that would leave roughly 10 million people out of work. That is still more than all the jobs lost in the Great Recession. A hole that size would take years to fill. Oxford Economics estimates that the economy will regain 17 million jobs by year's end, a huge increase by historical standards. But that would make up for barely more than half the losses.

Gwyneth Duesbery, 22, returned this week to her job as a hostess at a steakhouse where she lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the restaurant prepares to reopen. Duesbery said she is grateful for the opportunity, given that she hasn't received unemployment benefits since the restaurant closed in March and has run through her savings.

She will spend this week helping to clean the restaurant and setting tables 6 feet apart. The restaurant will be able to seat only about one-quarter of its usual capacity.

The restaurant, Bowdie's Chop House, has reservations for about 20 people for its opening night Monday and said it has drawn plenty of interest from longtime customers. Still, Duesbery worries about her health.

"I am concerned that it will expose me to potential diseases, and expose others, no matter the precautions that we take," she said. "It's kind of uncharted waters."

'Get your knee off our necks!': Floyd mourned in Minneapolis

By AARON MORRISON and TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Celebrities, musicians and political leaders gathered in front of George Floyd's golden casket Thursday for a fiery memorial service for the man whose death at the hands of police sparked global protests, with a civil rights leader declaring it is time for black people to demand, "Get

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your knee off our necks!”

The service — the first in a series of memorials set for three cities over six days — unfolded in Minneapolis at a sanctuary at North Central University as a judge a few blocks away set bail at \$750,000 each for the three fired police officers charged with aiding and abetting murder in Floyd’s death.

“George Floyd’s story has been the story of black folks. Because ever since 401 years ago, the reason we could never be who we wanted and dreamed to be is you kept your knee on our neck,” the Rev. Al Sharpton said in a fierce eulogy. “It’s time for us to stand up in George’s name and say, ‘Get your knee off our necks!’”

Floyd, a 46-year-old out-of-work bouncer, died May 25 after a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, put his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes as he lay handcuffed on the pavement, gasping that he couldn’t breathe. Chauvin has been charged with murder, and he and the others could get up to 40 years in prison.

From coast to coast, and from Paris and London to Sydney and Rio de Janeiro, the chilling cellphone video of Floyd’s slow death has set off turbulent and sometimes violent demonstrations against police brutality, racism and inequality. Some protests continued Thursday.

Those gathered at the Minneapolis tribute stood in silence for 8 minutes, 46 seconds, the amount of time Floyd was alleged to be on the ground under the control of police.

Sharpton vowed that this will become a movement to “change the whole system of justice.”

“Time is out for not holding you accountable! Time is out for you making excuses! Time is out for you trying to stall! Time is out for empty words and empty promises! Time is out for you filibustering and trying to stall the arm of justice!” he said.

The service drew the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and other members of Congress, including Reps. Ilhan Omar, Sheila Jackson Lee and Ayanna Pressley. Among the celebrities in attendance were T.I., Ludacris, Tyrese Gibson, Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish and Marsai Martin.

“All these people came to see my brother,” Philonise Floyd told the crowd at the memorial in awe as he recounted their childhoods playing catch and eating banana-mayonnaise sandwiches. “That’s amazing to me that he touched so many people’s hearts because he touched our hearts.” He and other family members spoke lovingly of Floyd, who was well over 6 feet tall, which earned him the nickname “Big George.”

The casket was covered in red roses, and a vibrant image was projected above the pulpit of a mural of Floyd painted at the street corner where he was arrested by police on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store. The message on the mural: “I can breathe now.”

The sanctuary normally seats 1,000, but because of the coronavirus outbreak, the capacity was reduced to about 500, and many mourners wore masks, some with “I can’t breathe” on them.

Outside, hundreds chanted Floyd’s name as a hearse prepared to carry him away.

His body goes next to Raeford, North Carolina, near where he was born, for a public viewing and private family service on Saturday. A public viewing will be held Monday in Houston, where he was raised and lived most of his life.

In the U.S., where protests had been marked by bouts of lawlessness since last week, relative quiet prevailed for a third straight night Thursday, a day after prosecutors charged the three other officers at the scene and filed a new, more serious count of murder against Chauvin.

In New York City, a large crowd gathered at Brooklyn’s Cadman Plaza and chanted “You are not alone” in a rally with one of George Floyd’s brothers

“I thank God for you all showing love to my brother,” said an emotional Terrence Floyd.

Peaceful demonstrations continued past the city’s 8 p.m. curfew, even as Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio sought to deflect criticism over harsh tactics from police enforcing the curfew the night before. While there was a heavy police presence on the streets, they did not immediately move in to make arrests.

In Buffalo, video from television station WBFO showed an officer appearing to shove a man who walked up to police while they were enforcing a nightly curfew. The man falls backward, hits his head on the pavement and immediately begins bleeding as officers walk past him. A county official tweeted that the man was hospitalized and stable, but his exact condition was not immediately known.

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News outlets reported that Buffalo Police Commissioner Byron Lockwood suspended two officers late Thursday.

In Washington, the law enforcement presence was much lighter compared to the previous night, and thousands of people marched peacefully from near the White House to the Lincoln Memorial. Police cleared the largely empty streets of cars just ahead of the demonstrators' path. The protests broke up before dark as a heavy rain began.

In Georgia, a white father and son charged in another killing of a black man that has raised racial tensions in the U.S. made a court appearance Thursday via video. A state investigator testified that Travis McMichael was heard uttering a racist slur as he stood over the body of Ahmaud Arbery after killing him with three blasts from a pump-action shotgun.

The new charges in Minneapolis punctuated an unprecedented week in recent American history, in which largely peaceful protests took place in communities of all sizes but were rocked by bursts of violence, including deadly attacks on officers, theft, vandalism and arson. In Minneapolis alone, more than 220 buildings were damaged or burned, with damage topping \$55 million, city officials said.

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

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, alleging officials violated the civil rights of peaceful protesters. The demonstrators were removed from a park Monday near the White House by police firing smoke bombs and pepper balls. After the protesters were cleared, President Donald Trump walked to a nearby church to take a photo.

The ACLU called it a "coordinated and unprovoked charge into the crowd of demonstrators."

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the group Black Lives Matter D.C. and individual protesters who were in the park at the time.

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

UK vaccine summit calls for freely available virus vaccine

By MARIA CHENG and LAURAN NEERGAARD Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A vaccine summit has raised billions of dollars to immunize children in developing countries as experts wrestled with how any potential vaccine against the coronavirus might be distributed globally — and fairly.

The United Nations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have urged that "a people's vaccine" be developed for COVID-19 that would be freely available to everyone, calling it a "moral imperative."

Thursday's event hosted by Britain raised \$8.8 billion, exceeding its target, for the vaccines alliance GAVI, which says the funds will be used to vaccinate about 300 million children in dozens of countries against diseases like malaria, pneumonia and HPV.

GAVI also announced a new "advance market commitment" mechanism to enable developing countries to get any effective COVID-19 vaccine when available. It hopes to raise an additional \$2 billion for that effort, to immunize health care workers as well as high-risk individuals and create a buffer of doses to be used where needed most.

But experts pointed out that the unprecedented pandemic — where arguably every country will be clamoring for a vaccine — may make efforts at fair distribution extremely messy.

The worldwide scramble for masks and ventilators that erupted in the early stages of the outbreak — where France took over the country's mask stocks so they could be given to first responders and others inside the country and the U.S. apparently paid off shippers to redirect ventilators to the U.S. — are not encouraging signs that there will be much global cooperation if and when a coronavirus vaccine is available.

"Rich countries will most likely try to push their way to the front of the queue, leaving poorer countries at the back, and that's a problem," said Jimmy Whitworth, a professor of international public health at the

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London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"I can't imagine any country saying, 'Africa's need is greater than ours, so they can get the vaccine first and we'll remain vulnerable.'"

The urgency of finding a way to stem outbreaks was evident as the worldwide total of reported virus cases reached 130,398 on Wednesday, the highest one-day total so far, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Brazil reported yet another record number of deaths — 1,473 — raising its toll above 34,000, surpassing Italy for the world's third-deadliest outbreak even though it's still considered by experts a significant undercount due to insufficient testing.

India reported a record number of infections — 9,304, with 260 deaths — as its tally of fatalities surpassed 6,000 and its number of infections rose to nearly 217,000, the world's seventh-highest. Neighboring Pakistan reported over 4,000 new cases as its confirmed infections surpassed neighboring China — a spike that came weeks after Prime Minister Imran Khan overrode warnings from experts and eased a lockdown.

Ahead of the vaccine gathering, philanthropist Bill Gates said there were potential solutions to the growing tide of vaccine nationalism — exhibited when the CEO of Sanofi suggested the U.S. had a right to the first doses of any vaccine because of its significant investment.

"The key to that challenge is having scale and having factories all over the world that are making the vaccines," including multiple factories in Asia, the Americas and Europe, Gates said.

Gates acknowledged there could be some benefit to countries that funded vital vaccine research but called for a "system of allocating doses to those most at risk, and making sure that even the countries that can't compete financially for that access, that they're considered — their health workers, their elderly."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he hoped Thursday's gathering would mark "the moment when the world comes together to unite humanity in the fight against disease."

But Michael Head, a senior research fellow in global health at the University of Southampton, noted that in the past such sentiments have not always been backed by action. "In reality, that can be turned on its head in the weeks and months ahead," he said.

About a dozen vaccine candidates are in early stages of testing in thousands of people. There are no guarantees any will work but there's increasing hope that at least some could be ready by the end of the year. Oxford University is beginning an advanced study involving 10,000 volunteers; the U.S. is preparing for even larger studies in July that involve 30,000 people each testing different candidates, including Oxford's and one made by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

Vaccine developers are worried about whether the virus spread is slowing enough in the U.S. and Europe that it will be hard to prove if their candidates really work. So later this month, the Oxford vaccine will be tested on 2,000 Brazilian volunteers in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, according to the U.K. ambassador to Brazil, Vijay Rangarajan. The U.S. government also is considering test sites in other countries.

While Oxford scientists say they are committed to making their shot available to all who need it at a fair price, academic Whitworth noted "that doesn't square with the rhetoric coming from British ministers funding it, saying U.K. citizens will be at the front of the queue."

And the U.S. has signed a contract with AstraZeneca, which makes the Oxford vaccine, for 300 million doses.

Vaccine makers know they'll be judged if rich countries buy up all their supply. Thursday, AstraZeneca said it would provide 300 million doses of the Oxford vaccine to GAVI's new financing mechanism to try to ensure equitable access. The doses will be provided when the vaccine is licensed or pre-qualified by the World Health Organization.

"I'm thinking very carefully what would be the best way to make sure that everybody will get a fair share of the supplies that exist as quickly as possible and that in this fairness we will not forget the unprivileged countries," said Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla. "From the human perspective they have equal rights."

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

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casinos and Universal Orlando were among those welcoming visitors.

More than 6.6 million people have been infected with the virus and more than 389,000 have died from COVID-19, according to the Johns Hopkins count. The true toll is likely much higher, due to limits on testing and many asymptomatic cases.

Neergaard contributed to this report from Alexandria, Virginia. Associated Press reporters around the world also contributed.

New York Times says senator's op-ed didn't meet standards

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In an embarrassing about-face, The New York Times said Thursday that an opinion piece it ran by U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton advocating the use of federal troops to quell nationwide protests about police mistreatment of black Americans did not meet its standards.

Cotton's op-ed, titled "Send in the Troops" and first posted online late Wednesday, caused a revolt among Times journalists, with some saying it endangered black employees. Some staff members called in sick Thursday in protest.

The Times said in a statement that a "rushed editorial process" led to publication of a piece that did not meet its standards.

Cotton taunted the paper on Twitter Thursday night, accusing it of "surrendering to the mindless woke mob."

The Arkansas Republican's piece remained on the Times' website Thursday evening. The Times said it was still determining whether the column will be corrected or what to say in an editor's note attached to it.

Earlier Thursday, Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger and editorial page editor James Bennet defended its publication, saying they believed it was important to discuss controversial ideas in a public forum rather than keep them quiet.

But, the Times reported that later, Bennet revealed that he had not read Cotton's piece prior to its publication.

"As a result, we're planning to examine both short term and long term changes" to its opinion pages including expanding its fact-checking operation and reducing the number of op-eds, which are opinion pieces written by outside contributors that it publishes, the Times said its statement.

Cotton's column supported President Donald Trump's call to bring in federal troops to stop violence associated with protests against police treatment of minorities. He denounced "nihilist criminals" out for loot and "left-wing radicals like antifa infiltrating protest marches to exploit (George) Floyd's death for their own anarchic purposes."

However, it was pointed out online that a Times news story on June 1 said "conservative commentators are asserting with little evidence that antifa, the far-left anti-fascism activist movement coordinates the riots and looting."

Among the Times journalists who had protested publication of Cotton's piece was Nikole Hannah-Jones, who last month won a Pulitzer Prize for her magazine piece, "The 1619 Project," about black Americans since the first arrival of slaves.

"As a black woman, as a journalist, I am deeply ashamed that we ran this," Hannah-Jones tweeted.

Cotton's piece was posted online two days after a peaceful demonstration outside the White House was cleared with tear gas and flash bangs, clearing the way for President Donald Trump to stage a photo-op outside a nearby church.

Bennet had written that he personally disagreed with Cotton and believed troops could lead to innocent people being hurt. The Times' opinion page had published several pieces with that view, he said.

"Readers who might be inclined to oppose Cotton's positions need to be fully aware of it, and reckon with it, if they were to defeat it," Bennet wrote in an essay. "To me, debating influential ideas openly, rather than letting them go unchallenged, is far more likely to help society reach the right answers."

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Still, he said, "I know that my own view might be wrong."

Also Thursday, the Philadelphia Inquirer apologized for a "horribly wrong" decision to use the headline "Buildings Matter, Too" on an article. Some 30 members of its 210-member editorial staff had called in sick Thursday following the mistake, which black staff members angrily condemned.

The twin uprisings illustrated raw feelings unleashed by the video of George Floyd dying last week after a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee against his neck, along with long-time concerns about whether newspaper staffs reflect the makeup of their communities.

The Inquirer headline was over a piece by architecture critic Inga Saffron, who worried that buildings damaged in violence over the past week could "leave a gaping hole in the heart of Philadelphia."

After the initial headline, considered diminishing to the Black Lives Matter movement, the Inquirer whiffed on an online replacement, writing, "Black Lives Matter. Do Buildings?"

Eventually, the newspaper settled on "Damaging buildings disproportionately hurt the people protesters are trying to uplift."

Features reporter Brandon Bell wrote on Twitter that he was calling in "sick and tired" to work. He was among those who distributed an open letter of protest, saying African American journalists were tired of careless mistakes that make it harder to do their jobs and, at worst, put lives at risk.

"We're tired of shouldering the burden of dragging this 200-year-old institution kicking and screaming into a more equitable age," the letter read. "We're tired of being told to show both sides of issues there are no two sides of."

The Inquirer published an apology from top editors. Publisher and CEO Lisa Hughes said in a memo to staff that no one would be charged a sick day for taking Thursday off. She called the headline "offensive and inappropriate" and said the Inquirer needed a more diverse staff.

Business Writer Tali Arbel in New York contributed to this report.

Testimony: Shooter used racist slur as Arbery lay dying

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — A state investigator testified Thursday that a white man was heard saying a racist slur as he stood over Ahmaud Arbery's body, moments after fatally shooting the black man with a pump-action shotgun.

The inflammatory revelation came amid a week of angry nationwide protests over law enforcement biases against black victims that erupted after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

In a hearing to determine whether there was enough evidence to proceed with a murder trial, the lead Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent in the case testified that Travis and Greg McMichael and a third man in another pickup, William "Roddie" Bryan, used their trucks to chase down and box in Arbery, who repeatedly reversed directions and ran into a ditch while trying to escape.

Travis McMichael then got out of his truck and confronted Arbery, later telling police he shot him in self-defense after Arbery refused his order to get on the ground, GBI agent Richard Dial said. He said a close examination of the video of the shooting shows the first shot was to Arbery's chest, the second was to his hand, and the third hit his chest again before he collapsed in the road in a subdivision in the port town of Brunswick.

"Mr. Bryan said that after the shooting took place before police arrival, while Mr. Arbery was on the ground, that he heard Travis McMichael make the statement, 'f - - - ing n - - - er,'" Dial said.

Bryan gave investigators the information roughly a week after the McMichaels' arrest, but there's no indication he told Glynn County investigators before that, Dial added.

Lee Merritt, an attorney for Arbery's family, told reporters outside the courthouse that prosecutors had warned the family before the hearing of the coming testimony about the slur.

"It was still very difficult to hear in the context of a prolonged chase, that after he murdered Ahmaud Arbery and stood over his body, he used that racial epithet," Merritt said. The lawyer said Thursday's

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testimony revealed that "racism was at the heart" of Arbery's slaying.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones called the release of new details in court "very, very heartbreaking." "He was afraid," Cooper-Jones said of her slain son. "Life had placed him in a position where I couldn't protect him, and he wasn't able to protect himself."

At the conclusion of the probable cause hearing Thursday, Magistrate Court Judge Wallace Harrell found that there was enough evidence for the cases against all three defendants to proceed.

"Ahmaud Arbery was chased, hunted down and ultimately executed at the hands of these men," prosecutor Jesse Evans told the judge. "He was on a run on a public road in a public subdivision. He was defenseless and unarmed."

Under questioning by Jason Sheffield, an attorney for Travis McMichael, Dial said Travis told police he raised his shotgun at Arbery from roughly 90 feet (27 meters) away and told him to stop and get on the ground.

That's when Arbery ran around the passenger side of Travis' truck, and the two men met in front of it. Dial said Travis told police Arbery "squared up" like he was going to attack.

"There's a statement that he might have had his hand on his shirt," Dial said. "Travis McMichael said his adrenaline was pumping and it all happened very quickly."

He said Travis then fired the first shot into Arbery's chest.

Sheffield argued that the pursuit began with a legitimate concern about past crimes in the neighborhood that escalated right before the shooting.

"Travis McMichael used self-defense when he was attacked by Mr. Arbery," Sheffield said.

"I don't think it was self-defense by Mr. McMichael," Dial said. "I believe it was self-defense by Mr. Arbery."

The testimony presented Thursday raises questions about the idea that the McMichaels and Bryan were legitimately carrying out a citizens' arrest of a suspected burglar. It also could factor into a federal investigation into whether hate crime charges are warranted.

Dial testified that Greg McMichael told police that "he didn't know if Mr. Arbery had stolen anything or not, but he had a gut feeling" that Arbery had committed prior break-ins in the neighborhood.

The investigator testified that police body camera footage showed a Confederate flag sticker on a toolbox in Travis' truck and that investigators discovered at least two more racial slurs in messages on his phone.

In response to questioning from Bryan's attorney Kevin Gough, Dial testified that he believes Bryan joined the chase because he saw a black man running down the street with a truck following and drew conclusions based on racial bias. There's evidence of Bryan's "racist attitudes in his communications," Dial said, referring to comments found on his cellphone.

The investigator added that several residents of the subdivision where Arbery was killed told investigators they had seen him running in the neighborhood previously.

Dial said the three defendants are the only known witnesses to the shooting and investigators have found no other video of Arbery's final moments other than what Bryan recorded.

Arbery was killed Feb. 23 after Travis McMichael, 34, and his father, Greg McMichael, 64, gave chase when they spotted the 25-year-old black man running in their neighborhood. Bryan said he saw them driving by and joined the chase, Dial said. It wasn't until May 7 — two days after Bryan's cellphone video leaked online and stirred a national outcry — that the defendants were charged.

The McMichaels both wore masks as they sat side-by-side watching the hearing onscreen at the Glynn County jail. The judge rejected defense motions to have them brought to the courtroom, citing emergency precautions because of the coronavirus pandemic. Bryan waived his presence at the hearing.

Following Mattis: More in the GOP frown on Trump's tone

By LAURIE KELLMAN and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's inability to unify the nation at a time of grave unrest is testing his uneasy alliance with mainstream Republicans, some emboldened by Gen. James Mattis' plea for a leader who lives up to the U.S. ideals of a more perfect union.

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Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski on Thursday called the rebuke by Trump's first Pentagon chief "necessary and overdue."

"Perhaps we're getting to the point where we can be more honest with the concerns that we might hold internally, and have the courage of our own convictions to speak up," Murkowski said.

Murkowski's remarks reflected the choice Republicans are forced to make about whether, and for how long, to support Trump when his words and actions so often conflict with their values and goals. Trump has responded to violence accompanying some protests following George Floyd's killing in Minneapolis by calling for more "law and order" to "dominate" even peaceful demonstrations. He has been slower and less forceful in addressing racial injustice and questions of police brutality that lie at the heart of the unrest.

Asked whether she can still support Trump, Murkowski replied: "I am struggling with it. I have struggled with it for a long time."

The nation is on edge, and Election Day looms, with the presidency and control of the House and Senate at stake. Trump has made clear that consequences for what he considers disloyalty can be steep.

Indeed, he promised Thursday to campaign against Murkowski when she is up for reelection in 2022. "Get any candidate ready, good or bad, I don't care, I'm endorsing," Trump tweeted.

Most in the GOP aren't breaking with him. Sen. Mike Braun of Indiana said Mattis' missive was not discussed Thursday at the GOP's lunch.

Asked for his thoughts on Mattis and Murkowski, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell offered no response.

Democratic senators, meanwhile, gathered at the Capitol's Emancipation Hall to bow — some kneeling — in a 8-minute, 46-second moment of silence for Floyd. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent Trump a letter seeking an accounting of the "increased militarization" toward protesters "that may increase chaos."

For Republicans, the challenge peaked this week when federal forces abruptly cleared peaceful protesters from Lafayette Park near the White House so Trump could stage a photo op in front of St. John's, the "church of presidents," holding up a Bible.

Mattis, Trump's defense secretary until December 2018, watched the developments "angry and appalled" and let rip his disapproval Wednesday night in a denunciation that rippled through Republican ranks.

"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 *The Atlantic*, adding that the upheaval is the result of "three years without mature leadership."

"We can unite without him," Mattis wrote.

In some respects, the statement read like a suggestion to Republicans as much as to the nation as a whole.

Right up until Mattis released it, saying little or nothing against the loyalty-loving president remained a popular choice for Republican members of Congress.

Earlier in the week, for example, Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio was one of a procession of Republicans who muttered or dodged when asked if Trump's use of the military to suppress protesters was the right thing to do.

"I'm late for lunch," Portman replied Tuesday.

But after Mattis' rebuke, Portman was more willing to discuss Trump's handling of the protests.

He pointed out that Trump in prepared remarks did condemn Floyd's killing and applauded peaceful demonstrations. But "his tone and words kind of in between those more formal presentations have not unified people," Portman said. "It's more about tone. I think he's probably getting that message from a lot of people."

Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, a member of the GOP leadership, did not denounce Mattis, saying Thursday he'd prefer to speak of issues that unify people.

Murkowski, who has her own complicated relationship with Trump, suggested those in the president's mostly white party are looking for the right words and tone. Statements by former President George W. Bush and now Mattis, she said, help point the way.

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"I think right now ... questions about who I'm going to vote for, who I'm not going to vote for, I think, are distracting to the moment," said Murkowski, who said she'd continue to try to work with the Trump administration. "I know people might think that's a dodge," she added, "but I think there are important conversations that we need to have as an American people amongst ourselves about where we are right now."

For his part, Trump dismissed Mattis, who served nearly a half-century in the military, as "the world's most overrated General."

Murkowski and Portman retracted their endorsements of Trump during the 2016 election when he could be heard on the "Access Hollywood" tape bragging about assaulting women. They also voted to acquit him of House abuse and obstruction charges earlier this year after Trump's impeachment trial.

Other Republicans this week needed no help finding the words.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., a frequent Trump critic who is up for reelection, said, "I'm against clearing out a peaceful protest for a photo op that treats the word of God as a political prop."

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of the most vulnerable Senate Republicans seeking reelection, said it was "painful to watch peaceful protesters to be subjected to tear gas in order for the president to go across the street to a church that I believe he's attended only once."

"President Trump's walk to St. John's was confrontational, at the wrong time of day, and it distracted from his important message in the Rose Garden about our national grief, racism, peaceful protests, and lawful assembly," added Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., who is not on the ballot this year. "The President's important message was drowned out by an awkward photo op."

The president noticed, and name-checked the trio.

"You got it wrong! If the protesters were so peaceful, why did they light the Church on fire the night before? People liked my walk to this historic place of worship!" he tweeted Wednesday, suggesting that "Sen. Susan Collins, Sen. James Lankford, Sen. Ben Sasse" read a specific article.

He took no such aim at Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., the only black Republican in the Senate.

"If your question is, should you use tear gas to clear a path so the president can go have a photo op, the answer is no," Scott told Politico.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.Twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

ACLU sues over police force on protesters near White House

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union sued the Trump administration Thursday, alleging officials violated the civil rights of protesters who were forcefully removed from a park near the White House by police using chemical agents before President Donald Trump walked to a nearby church to take a photo.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court on Washington, comes as Attorney General William Barr defended the decision to forcefully remove the peaceful protesters, saying it was necessary to protect officers and federal property.

The suit argues that Trump, Barr and other officials "unlawfully conspired to violate" the protesters' rights when clearing Lafayette Park on Monday. Law enforcement officers aggressively forced the protesters back, firing smoke bombs and pepper balls into the crowd to disperse them from the park.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the group Black Lives Matter D.C. and individual protesters who were present. It is filed by the ACLU of DC, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the law firm of Arnold & Porter.

Barr said he had met with other law enforcement officials earlier Monday and decided they needed to extend a security perimeter around the White House to protect federal agents "who could be reached by projectiles from the street." He expected the perimeter to be moved in the early afternoon, but when he arrived in the evening, shortly before Trump was set to speak at a news conference, he learned it wasn't

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done and ordered law enforcement officials to take action.

After the crowd was dispersed, Trump, followed by an entourage of his most senior aides — including Barr — along with Secret Service agents and reporters, walked over to St. John's Church, the landmark pale-yellow building where every president, including Trump, has prayed, that had been damaged Sunday night in a protest fire. Barr said Trump, as the nation's chief executive, had every right to do so and claimed it wasn't political.

"I don't necessarily view that as a political act. I think it was entirely appropriate for him to do," Barr said.

U.S. Park Police launched an investigation after officers were seen hitting an Australian journalist with a shield as they cleared the protesters.

For days, the federal government has vowed to have an aggressive response in the District of Columbia after nights of violence that led to fires being set, windows shattered, store shelves emptied and dozens of police officers injured. The federal government has deployed law enforcement officials from numerous agencies, and National Guard troops from a number of states have been sent to the District of Columbia.

The Justice Department had deployed agents from every one of its agencies, including the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, an elite tactical unit, and riot teams from the Bureau of Prisons.

The Park Police and Secret Service have had dozens of officers out in riot gear for the last few nights, in addition to the Metropolitan Police Department. U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other Homeland Security agencies were also dispatched.

Members of Congress have raised concerns about a number of federal law enforcement officials in Washington who have refused to identify which agency they work for and stand, armed, without any visible identification or badges. Some lawmakers have vowed to introduce legislation to require federal agents to identify themselves at protests.

"We are concerned about the increased militarization and lack of clarity that may increase chaos," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wrote in a letter to Trump on Thursday.

Some of the officers appeared to be assigned to Bureau of Prisons special response teams, which were dispatched to Washington and Miami. Some of those officers have said they were told to say only that they work for the federal government or the Department of Justice.

But Bureau of Prisons Director Michael Carvajal said that was untrue and no such directive had been given.

"I probably should have done a better job of marking them nationally as the agency, the point is well taken, but I can assure you that no one was specifically told, to my knowledge, not to identify themselves," he said.

Hundreds of other law enforcement officials have also been deployed to the streets of Washington.

They include more than 100 Drug Enforcement Administration agents who have been deployed to work alongside members of the National Guard at checkpoints that have been set up to help slow the numbers of vehicles coming into the area, which investigators suspect may be used to bring in projectiles to be thrown at police. Acting DEA Administrator Timothy Shea said they also serve a vital purpose by helping to relieve the Metropolitan Police Department so it can handle other emergencies.

On Wednesday night, Shea visited a handful of checkpoints throughout downtown Washington.

"They've been verbally assaulted at times. Earlier in the week there were bricks thrown at their vehicles, and they responded with restraint and they respected the rights of protesters but were also able to identify criminal activity that was happening," Shea said of his agents.

Most of the protesters have been peaceful and tried to discourage violence. Trump, Barr and others have tried to blame some of the civil unrest on left-wing extremist groups, including antifa, and other "anarchists." Short for anti-fascists, antifa is an umbrella term for far-left-leaning militant groups that resist neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations.

A senior Justice Department official said intelligence gathered by the FBI shows that antifa and other groups have been involved in some of the protests around the U.S. There have been "multiple instances" in which people who have been arrested have identified themselves to law enforcement as members of antifa, the official said. The official, who could not discuss ongoing investigations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, did not provide specific details about those incidents.

Investigators also believe that groups have been training some demonstrators on techniques to rush officers on the lines of the protests and giving tips on how to avoid being arrested, the official said.

Floyd death pushes military to face 'own demons' on race

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The death of George Floyd in police hands has pushed the U.S. military to search its soul and to admit that, like the rest of America, it has fallen short on racial fairness.

Although the military historically has prided itself on diversity, leaders acknowledge that black troops often are disproportionately subject to military legal punishment and are impeded in promotions.

"I struggle with the Air Force's own demons that include the racial disparities in military justice and discipline among our youngest black male airmen," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, an African American and the service's top enlisted airman, wrote in a social media post this week.

While tensions simmer between the Pentagon and the White House over the proper limits of military involvement in policing protests prompted by the May 25 killing of Floyd in Minneapolis, what goes largely unspoken is that many of the troops being called upon to help keep order are African Americans and other minorities.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said little about the Floyd killing until Wednesday, when he called a news conference and declared the death a police murder. "It is a tragedy that we have seen repeat itself too many times," he said.

Esper, a West Point graduate who served 10 years on active duty in the Army, called the military a leader on the racial front. But he acknowledged it has "much to do" to improve diversity and stop discrimination.

Wright, the chief master sergeant, said his greatest fear is waking up one morning to learn that a black airman has "died at the hands of a white police officer."

On a less drastic, more subtle level, many African Americans who have served say they feel angst.

"I'm black, and when I walk up to somebody and say Hi, unless I have my veteran's sticker on my car or I'm on base, people look at me with a frown or walk away. Tensions are high," said Elvin Carey, a 35-year-old Iraq War veteran who is a civilian employee at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in a San Diego suburb.

Wright was the first senior military leader to speak out after Floyd's death. He was followed by an outpouring of anger and anxiety — some directed at the services' own racial failings — from senior leaders throughout the military. Few concrete proposals for improvement have been offered, though, reflecting the difficulty of rapid change in such a large and tradition-bound institution.

"Over the past week, after we've watched what is going on, we can't be under any illusions about the fact that racism is alive and well in our country. And I can't be under any illusions that we don't have it in our Navy," Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said in a video message to all sailors Wednesday.

Army leaders took a similar tack.

"Though we all aspire to live by the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage, the Army has sometimes fallen short," Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and the Army chief of staff, Gen. James McConville, wrote in a message to the force Wednesday. "Because just as we reflect the best of America, we reflect its imperfections as well."

The military, with African Americans making up a little over 17 percent of its active duty ranks, is more racially diverse than the country, which is 13 percent African American, according to 2019 Census estimates. The Army is the most diverse with more than 21 percent African Americans, while the Marine Corp is the least, with 10 percent. Blacks make up about 17 percent of the Navy and less than 15 percent of the Air Force.

But there is a much greater racial divide within the active duty military based on rank.

Fully 19 percent of active duty enlisted troops are black, but they make up only 9 percent of the officer corps. Of those, there are just 71 who are general or flag officers, wearing one to four stars, including only two who have attained the top four-star rank.

Colin Powell, an Army four-star, was White House national security adviser and then chairman of the

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Joint Chiefs of Staff before President George W. Bush named him secretary of state.

However, none of the military services has ever been led by a black officer, although that is expected to change soon. Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., has been nominated to lead the Air Force, succeeding Gen. David Goldfein.

In a tangible sign of openness to forcing change on the racial front, Goldfein declared in an internal message June 2, "We must look inward at our Air Force." The service's inspector general, he said, will review the Air Force's legal system as well as "racial injustice and opportunities for advancement."

Wright, the senior Air Force enlisted airmen, faulted himself for not doing enough and encouraged all airmen to suggest solutions.

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined the chorus of voices with a message to the force that addressed more broadly the need for troops to stay true to the Constitution.

"We all committed our lives to the idea that is America," he added in a hand-written note beside his signature. "We will stay true to that oath and the American people."

The military has not ignored the race issue entirely. In April, the top Marine, Gen. David Berger, took on the issue of racial tensions within the Corps by banning the display of the Confederate flag and other such symbols.

In a memo to the Corps on April 20, he said, "I am mindful that many people believe that flag to be a symbol of heritage or regional pride. But I am also mindful of the feelings of pain and rejection of those who inherited the cultural memory and present effects of the scourge of slavery in our country."

"Anything that divides us, anything that threatens team cohesion must be addressed head-on," he declared.

AP writer Julie Watson in San Diego contributed.

Emotions run high as anti-lynching bill stalls in Senate

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate impasse over a widely backed bill to designate lynching as a federal hate crime boiled over on Thursday in an emotional debate cast against a backdrop of widespread protests over police treatment of African Americans.

Raw feelings were evident as Sen. Rand Paul — who is single-handedly holding up the bill despite letting it pass last year — sought changes to the legislation as a condition of allowing it to pass.

But the Senate's two black Democrats, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California, protested, saying the measure should pass as is. The debate occurred as a memorial service was taking place for George Floyd, a Minneapolis man who died after a police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes, sparking the protests that have convulsed the nation.

The legislative effort to make lynching a federal hate crime punishable by up to life in prison comes 65 years after 14-year-old Emmett Till was lynched in Mississippi, and follows dozens of failed attempts to pass anti-lynching legislation.

The Senate unanimously passed virtually identical legislation last year. The House then passed it by a sweeping 410-4 vote in February but renamed the legislation for Till — the sole change that returned the measure to the Senate.

"Black lives have not been taken seriously as being fully human and deserving of dignity, and it should not require a maiming or torture in order for us to recognize a lynching when we see it," said Harris.

Paul, who has a history of rankling colleagues by slowing down bills, said the legislation was drafted too broadly and could define minor assaults as lynching. He also noted that murdering someone because of their race is already a hate crime. He said the Senate should make other reforms, such as easing "qualified immunity" rules that shield police officers from being sued.

"Rather than consider a good-intentioned but symbolic bill, the Senate could immediately consider addressing qualified immunity and ending police militarization," Paul said. He sought to offer an amendment

to weaken the measure, and Booker blocked it.

The conflict had been kept relatively quiet as Booker and Paul sought an agreement, but media reports recently pegged Paul as the reason the measure is stalled.

"Tell me another time when 500-plus Congress people, Democrats, Republicans, House members and senators come together in a chorus of conviction and say, 'Now is the time in America that we condemn the dark history of our past and actually pass anti-lynching legislation,'" Booker said.

NBA owners approve 22-team season restart plan

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

The NBA took a major step toward getting back on the court Thursday, with the league's Board of Governors approving a 22-team format for restarting the league season next month at the Disney campus near Orlando, Florida.

The vote was 29-1, with Portland casting the dissenting vote, said a person with knowledge of the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league did not publicly release voting details. The National Basketball Players Association has scheduled a meeting for Friday to vote on the plan.

Teams would arrive at Disney around July 7 and play an eight-game slate of games starting July 31 at the ESPN Wide World Of Sports complex. All teams will stay, practice and play at Disney and the NBA Finals — which would have started Thursday if not for the coronavirus pandemic that caused the NBA to suspend its season on March 11 — will likely stretch into October.

"The Board's approval of the restart format is a necessary step toward resuming the NBA season," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "While the COVID-19 pandemic presents formidable challenges, we are hopeful of finishing the season in a safe and responsible manner based on strict protocols now being finalized with public health officials and medical experts."

The eight-game slate — it's unclear if they will be classified as regular season games — will help determine playoff seeding. From there, the league could have a play-in tournament for the final spot in the Eastern Conference and Western Conference postseason fields.

"While there is still work to be done, we applaud all the effort and collaboration that has gone into finding a safe, competitive format," Orlando Magic CEO Alex Martins said. "It has always been our feeling that sports have the ability to bring people together and we look forward to restarting the NBA season while using that platform to drive meaningful social impact at this period of time."

There are numerous other details to continue working through, including finalizing specifics of what the testing plan at Disney will entail and calculating the financial ramifications of playing fewer games.

Another person, also speaking to AP on condition of anonymity because the details of the ongoing talks have not been publicly released, said the NBPA and the NBA are working on "lengthy" medical protocols. The details will be shared with teams once those discussions are completed, which will be long before they arrive at Disney, the person said.

"The NBA is taking all the appropriate measures, and working tirelessly to provide a safe environment for our team and staff," the Dallas Mavericks said in statement.

While working to finish this season, the league also has made decisions on next season — with the draft lottery rescheduled for Aug. 25, the draft on Oct. 15 and opening night for the 2020-21 campaign is tentatively set for Dec. 1. The G League also announced Thursday that it canceled the remainder of this season.

The 22 Disney-bound clubs would play somewhere between 71 and 75 games before the playoffs begin, down from the customary 82-game slate. The teams who didn't qualify for the restart will see their seasons end after having played somewhere between 64 and 67 games.

Roughly 15% of what would have been the full NBA regular season won't be played, which means players stand to lose around \$600 million in salary. How that process will work is among the issues that the league and union are still working to solve.

But one of the biggest hurdles is now cleared, in an NBA season like none other. The league is planning for the same playoff rules as usual, that being every round utilizing a best-of-seven format.

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The 22-team plan includes all teams that were holding playoff spots when the season was stopped, plus all other clubs within six games of a berth.

Milwaukee, the Los Angeles Lakers, Boston and reigning NBA champion Toronto had already clinched playoff berths. Now with only eight games remaining for each team, it means that eight other clubs — Miami, Indiana, Philadelphia, the Los Angeles Clippers, Denver, Utah, Oklahoma City and Houston — have postseason spots secured, and Dallas virtually has one as well.

That leaves nine teams vying for three remaining playoff berths. In the East, Brooklyn, Orlando and Washington are in the race for two spots. In the West, Memphis, Portland, New Orleans, Sacramento, San Antonio and Phoenix will jostle for one spot.

If the gap between eighth place and ninth place in either conference is four games or less when the eight-game slate ends, those teams will play off for the No. 8 seed. The team in ninth place would have to go 2-0 in a two-game series to advance.

“There is still much work to be done, but we are excited to be able to return to the court,” Wizards general manager Tommy Sheppard said.

For Atlanta, Cleveland, New York, Golden State, Minnesota, Detroit, Chicago and Charlotte, the season is over. The Knicks will miss the playoffs for the seventh consecutive season, the third-longest current drought in the league behind Sacramento and Phoenix — who still have chances of getting into the playoffs this season.

“While we are disappointed for our team and our fans that our season is coming to an end, we understand and accept the league’s plan to move forward with 22 teams,” Timberwolves President Gersson Rosas said. “It is important that we be a good teammate not only to the NBA, but to the other 29 teams to support the efforts to complete this season and prepare for next season in a healthy and safe manner.”

And with the Hawks done, it also means Vince Carter has likely played the final game of his 22-year NBA career — the longest in league history.

Carter, the first player in NBA history to appear in four different decades, plans to retire. He appeared in 1,541 NBA games, behind only Robert Parish (1,611) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,560) on the all-time list.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Immigrants anxious as they await Supreme Court DACA decision

By **ASTRID GALVAN** Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Reyna Montoya’s hands get sweaty and her throat feels like it’s closing just talking about the anxiety of every Monday this spring.

The immigrant rights activist who’s shielded from deportation and allowed to legally work in the U.S. under an Obama-era program sets a 6 a.m. alarm so she’s alert when the latest Supreme Court decision may be posted online about an hour later.

Montoya, like 650,000 others enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, is waiting for the justices to release their decision on President Donald Trump’s attempt to end the protections. The high court heard arguments last fall and typically releases rulings on Mondays in the spring. But it’s unclear exactly when an answer will come because the court sometimes issues decisions on other days as work wraps up for the summer.

“My gut hurts,” said Montoya, 29, who is originally from Mexico but has grown up in the Phoenix area. “It’s this constant level of anxiety.”

Montoya’s advocacy group, Aliento, provides arts and healing workshops for other DACA recipients who struggle with not knowing their fate. She openly talks about going to therapy to quell her anxiety. The toll of the unknown — of who will take care of her financial assets, her mortgage — weighs heavy.

“When you actually pause and think about all the things you need to think about, it’s very daunting,” said Montoya, who sometimes feels guilty because others also have children to worry about.

Under intense pressure from young activists, then-President Barack Obama announced DACA in 2012.

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Commonly known as “Dreamers” after the failed legislation that would have provided a path to citizenship, these immigrants have been in the U.S. since they were children. Recipients went through extensive background screening to get two-year work permits and protection from deportation.

The Trump administration in 2017 announced the end of the program, resulting in legal challenges now in the hands of the Supreme Court. Those already enrolled still have protections and can renew their two-year permits, but nobody new can join.

Like Montoya, Adrián Escárte has woken up early most Mondays this year. The 31-year-old, who’s originally from Chile but has been in the U.S. since he was 3, immediately grabs his phone or computer and starts scrolling a blog that tracks Supreme Court rulings.

Escárte, who’s living in Santa Cruz, California, checks in with friends on a group message and keeps refreshing Twitter and the blog.

“When it hasn’t come down, you kind of breathe a sigh of relief and say, ‘OK, we’re good for this week,’” said Escárte, who’s been part of DACA since 2014 and is a communications coordinator for immigrant rights organization Define American.

Escárte said it’s hard to think about what life will be like if the high court sides with Trump. He’s protected until 2022, and he hopes that if the program does end, the court will allow people to keep their permits until they expire.

It’s not clear how the Trump administration would end the program, but the high court’s conservative majority seems supportive of allowing him to do so.

Immigration authorities have said they would deport any DACA recipients who have an existing immigration court case. At a congressional hearing Tuesday, Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, asked a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official about the potential deportation of DACA recipients if the Supreme Court sides with Trump.

Henry Lucero, head of ICE removal operations, said “there is no plan or current planning for that situation” but that the agency carries out lawful removal orders as directed. That means thousands of previously protected immigrants, including many who work in the health care industry, could be kicked out of the country, possibly during the coronavirus pandemic.

Some households could also lose their sole providers, like Joella Roberts, whose mother doesn’t have legal status and whose grandmother is ill.

The 22-year-old, who lives in Washington, D.C., and is originally from Trinidad and Tobago, just finished college and got her first post-graduation job as a university program coordinator for FWD.us, a bipartisan organization advocating for criminal justice and immigration reform.

Roberts was approved for DACA in 2015, which helped her support her family and pay her way through college.

She says the pandemic and now keeping up with nationwide protests over police brutality and racial injustice have disrupted her sleep, but the nights before Supreme Court decision days are particularly bad. Roberts says she never sleeps Sunday nights and spends Monday mornings waiting for an update.

Many black DACA recipients rely on her for the latest information, she said.

“It’s caused me to lean full fledged into knowledge. However, it does give me an unwanted sense of responsibility because I will in fact have to work, have to be put together,” Roberts said. “You never really know how you’re going to react or how you’re going to feel, and so you just brace yourself for whatever comes.”

Associated Press reporter Ben Fox in Washington contributed to this report.

Study on safety of malaria drugs for coronavirus retracted

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE** AP Chief Medical Writer

Several authors of a large study that raised safety concerns about malaria drugs for coronavirus patients have retracted the report, saying independent reviewers were not able to verify information that’s been

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widely questioned by other scientists.

Thursday's retraction in the journal Lancet involved a May 22 report on hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, drugs long used for preventing or treating malaria but whose safety and effectiveness for COVID-19 are unknown.

The study leaders also retracted an earlier report using the same company's database on blood pressure drugs published by the New England Journal of Medicine. That study suggested that widely used blood pressure medicines were safe for coronavirus patients, a conclusion some other studies and heart doctor groups also have reached.

Even though the Lancet report was not a rigorous test, the observational study had huge impact because of its size, reportedly involving more than 96,000 patients and 671 hospitals on six continents.

Its conclusion that the drugs were tied to a higher risk of death and heart problems in people hospitalized with COVID-19 led the World Health Organization to temporarily stop use of hydroxychloroquine in a study it is leading, and for French officials to stop allowing its use in hospitals there. Earlier this week, WHO said experts who reviewed safety information decided that its study could resume.

"Not only is there no benefit, but we saw a very consistent signal of harm," study leader Dr. Mandeep Mehra of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston told The Associated Press when the work was published.

The drugs have been controversial because President Donald Trump repeatedly promoted their use and took hydroxychloroquine himself to try to prevent infection after some White House staffers tested positive for the virus. The drugs are known to have potential side effects, especially heart rhythm problems.

The Lancet study relied on a database from a Chicago company, Surgisphere. Its founder, Dr. Sapan Desai, is one of the authors.

Dozens of scientists questioned irregularities and improbable findings in the numbers, and the other authors besides Desai said earlier this week that an independent audit would be done. In the retraction notice, those authors say Surgisphere would not give the reviewers the full data, citing confidentiality and client agreements.

"Based on this development, we can no longer vouch for the veracity of the primary data sources" and must retract the report, they wrote.

"I no longer have confidence in the origination and veracity of the data, nor the findings they have led to," Mehra said in a separate statement Thursday.

The Lancet's notice said "there are many outstanding questions about Surgisphere and the data that were allegedly included in this study," and "institutional reviews of Surgisphere's research collaborations are urgently needed."

Desai and Surgisphere did not immediately respond to request for comments sent to phone numbers and email address listed on the company's materials.

All the authors of the study should have had access to the data, said Dr. Steve Nissen of the Cleveland Clinic.

"You really don't know what a study showed unless you have the actual data," Nissen said. "This is unfortunate. Clearly this is a very important topic and we need good answers."

The retraction shows "the system works," said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute. The pace of publishing scientific research has sped up in reaction to the pandemic, Jha said, leading to errors.

As long as errors are acknowledged, the pace seems justifiable because waiting a year or two for results to be published "is way too slow for this pandemic."

"Part of the problem is people are so anxious. They want a definite answer yes or no," Jha said. "We're moving as fast as we can in science, but we can't overreact to any single study."

Associated Press writers Carla K. Johnson and Candice Choi contributed to this report.

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Analysis: Trump emulates strongman tactics, tests his limits

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — A phalanx of law enforcement officers and soldiers is positioned on the streets of the nation's capital to keep protesters at bay. Helicopters circle overhead, sometimes dipping low to buzz the crowd. The country's leader warns that he's willing to go further to "dominate" the streets.

In words and in actions, President Donald Trump is increasingly emulating the strongman leaders he has long admired as he seeks to tamp down protests over police brutality that are roiling the United States. In doing so, he is stretching the powers of the American presidency in ways rarely seen, and testing the willingness of the Pentagon to follow along.

His actions have forced a public reckoning among both current and former military leaders, as well as a handful of Republican politicians. Some of their concerns center not only on the actions Trump has already taken, but also on how far he may be willing to go in an election year, particularly if the political winds appear to be moving against him.

"Perhaps we're getting to the point where we can be more honest with the concerns that we might hold internally and have the courage of our own convictions to speak up," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a moderate Republican from Alaska. She added that she was unsure whether she could continue to support the president in November.

The president's face-off against Democrat Joe Biden will be the ultimate inflection point, a moment when the nation decides whether to shift course or press forward with Trump at the helm for four more years.

The choice between the two men has become increasingly stark as the nation confronts a confluence of public health, economic and civil rights crises, with Trump aggressively embracing the mantle of a "law and order" president in an attempt to project strength in uncertain times. Biden, for his part, has called the election a moral test and a "battle for the soul" of the nation.

Trump made a similar appeal to voters in 2016 and drew support from disaffected, largely white Americans. As commander in chief, he has the extraordinary power of the federal government and military at his disposal to back up tough talk with action.

His willingness to do so has become apparent during the protests that followed the death of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis. The demonstrations across the country have been largely peaceful but marred by outbursts of violence.

On Monday night, the president warned in a Rose Garden address that he would deploy active-duty soldiers to the states if local law enforcement and National Guard members couldn't get control of the protests. As he spoke, officers outside the White House aggressively dispersed a crowd using smoke canisters and pepper balls so the president could walk to a nearby church and pose with a Bible. He was flanked by Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley, who was dressed in combat fatigues.

The stunning scene played out on live television and drew comparisons to crackdowns in authoritarian countries. Trump has long praised the broad powers of leaders in those countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines.

Former Pentagon official Kori Schake said Trump's threats to use the military to crack down on American protesters was unsurprising given his past rhetoric and actions.

"The military is just the latest American governmental institution to have the president try and erode the democratic norms and crush the institutional independence of the organization," said Schake, now at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

Still, Trump's words and actions Monday night became a breaking point for some.

"Never did I dream that troops ... would be ordered under any circumstance to violate the Constitutional rights of their fellow citizens — much less to provide a bizarre photo op for the elected commander-in-chief, with military leadership standing alongside," Gen. Jim Mattis, Trump's first defense secretary, wrote in a statement published by The Atlantic. Mattis' comments were all the more extraordinary given that he

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has resisted criticizing the president since announcing his resignation in 2018.

It's unclear whether the warnings this week from Mattis, Murkowski and others carry any sway with voters or signal any broader shift within the Republican Party. Trump faced a similar insurrection among members of the so-called establishment before the 2016 election and ultimately prevailed with a comfortable Electoral College victory. His grip on the GOP has tightened during his more than three years in office given the loyalty of his core backers.

Some of those supporters have publicly closed ranks around the president during the protests, applauding his administration's heavy-handed response and urging him to take more aggressive actions to quell demonstrations that get out of hand.

"These conditions can shift rapidly in any city across the country and the president needs to have the tools and the equipment and the information needed to move quickly to protect our citizens if that's what's necessary," said Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.

Yet it's clear that the crises battering the nation have shifted the ground beneath Trump. His response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been uneven, and the resulting financial slowdown has upended his plans to run for reelection on the back of a strong economy.

His embrace of a strongman strategy may well be a way to rally his most ardent supporters, appeal to a sense of uncertainty many Americans are feeling and lock down a narrow path to victory in November. Yet it has also left his critics anxious about the steps he may be willing to take between now and then.

"It's hard to envision any line that Donald Trump won't cross or anything he won't do," said Peter Wehner, a veteran of three Republican administrations and an ardent critic of the president. "The question is whether the system of government, and the people who make up government and the court would be able to check him."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Pentagon-Trump clash breaks open over military and protests

By ZEKE MILLER and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is not only drawing criticism from his usual political foes but also facing backtalk from his defense secretary, his former Pentagon chief and a growing number of fellow Republicans.

A day after Defense Secretary Mark Esper shot down Trump's idea of using active-duty troops to quell protests across the United States, retired four-star Gen. John Allen joined the chorus of former military leaders going after the president. And Republican Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said Esper's remarks were "overdue" and she didn't know if she would support Trump in November.

Although Esper's declaration was followed by the Pentagon reversing course on pulling part of the 82nd Airborne Division off standby outside Washington, the rising criticism underscored an extraordinary clash between the U.S. military and its commander in chief. On Thursday, an official said the troops in question from the 82nd were going home to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, after all.

Both Trump and 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 Wednesday 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. Trump 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 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

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be invoked "only in the most urgent and dire of situations." He added, "We are not in one of those situations now."

After Esper's 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. That reversal was reversed on Thursday.

Former Secretary Mattis, a retired Marine general, lambasted both Trump and Esper in an essay in *The Atlantic* 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!"

Yet another former military leader, retired Marine Corps four-star general Allen, said that events on Monday, the day Trump walked to the church, "may well signal the beginning of the end of the American experiment."

Allen, president of the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution, contrasted the routing of the protesters in Lafayette Park with remarks by Floyd's brother, Terrence Floyd, who denounced looting that he said tarnishes his brother's memory.

Writing in *Foreign Policy*, Allen urged people to make their votes in November for the future of America's democracy. "It will have to come from the bottom up. For at the White House, there is no one home," he wrote.

Then, on Thursday, Alaska Sen. Murkowski said she was "really thankful" for Mattis' comments. She said she thought his "words were true and honest and necessary and overdue."

"I felt like perhaps we're getting to the point where we can be more honest with the concerns that we might hold internally, and have the courage of our own convictions to speak up," she said. Asked if she could support Trump for reelection, she said, "I am struggling with it."

Days ago, Esper had ordered about 1,300 Army personnel to military bases outside the nation's capital as Trump weighed whether to invoke the Insurrection Act and send active-duty troops into the city, where 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."

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.

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 ringed Lafayette Park across from the White House. Military vehicles were parked at intersections, blocking access.

Mattis, in his essay Wednesday, 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.

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

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 acknowledged he visited the bunker but claimed he was only conducting an inspection as protests raged outside.

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

'Strategic' well-orchestrated heists seen amid 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 were pillaging malls, setting fire to a Walmart and storming 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 was very strategic," Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said about the auto thefts and other recent heists.

The brazen heist, carried out by well-coordinated criminals, was one of many thefts nationwide in the last week at big box electronics stores, jewelry shops and luxury designers. Many of the smash-and-grab thefts have happened during or following protests over the death of George Floyd, who struggled to breathe as his neck was pinned down by a white Minneapolis police officer's knee.

Caravans of burglars have capitalized on chaos, communicating with each other via messaging apps during heists and using 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, which 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 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

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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 County 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.

Judge rejects Ponzi king Madoff's bid for early release

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A dying Ponzi king Bernard Madoff lost his bid for early release from prison Thursday when the judge who sentenced him to 150 years behind bars said he intended for him to die there and nothing has happened in the last 11 years to change his mind.

Judge Denny Chin, who now sits on the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, noted the continuing suffering of Madoff's thousands of victims who lost \$17.5 billion when a decades-long scheme that deceived them into thinking their money was invested properly was exposed in December 2008.

"I also believe that Mr. Madoff was never truly remorseful, and that he was only sorry that his life as he knew it was collapsing around him. Even at the end, he was trying to send more millions of his ill-gotten gains to family members, friends, and certain employees," Chin wrote.

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The judge said he'd reviewed public statements made by Madoff, 82, and found they "show that he has never fully accepted responsibility for his actions and that he even faults his victims."

Madoff, housed at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, North Carolina, through his lawyers had requested compassionate release, which lets some prisoners go home if they are likely to die within 18 months.

Attorney Brandon Sample, representing Madoff, said in a statement he was disappointed with the ruling. He said he now hopes President Donald Trump would consider commuting the sentence.

"We implore the President to personally consider Madoff's rapidly declining health," Sample said.

Prison authorities had determined Madoff was likely to die within 18 months of kidney disease. Sample had argued that Madoff was confined to a wheelchair and wanted to contest claims by prosecutors that he has failed to show remorse.

Prosecutors opposed the request, saying 500 victims opposed early release and only 20 letters were written by victims in support of release.

A trustee has recovered roughly \$14 billion for investors, but the damage to victims was worsened because Madoff created fraudulent statements to suggest their investments had grown enormously, authorities said.

The fraud was exposed in December 2008 as the national economy collapsed. Madoff pleaded guilty to fraud charges and was sentenced by Chin in the summer of 2009.

Chin said in his written decision Thursday that in 2009 "it was fully my intent that he live out the rest of his life in prison."

He noted that Madoff's lawyers then had asked for a sentence of as little as a dozen years, hoping their client would again see "the light of day."

"I was not persuaded," Chin said. "I did not believe that Mr. Madoff was deserving of that hope. Nothing has happened in the 11 years since to change my thinking."

As nation confronts old demons, a 1770 slaying is recalled

By WILLIAM J. KOLE Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Like George Floyd, he was black, in his mid-40s, and died at the hands of a white man. And like Floyd, he may have helped touch off a revolution.

Many in the Black Lives Matter movement are invoking Crispus Attucks — an African American gunned down by a British soldier in the Boston Massacre of 1770 — as a symbol of entrenched white-on-black violence and oppression.

Attucks is widely seen as the first casualty of the American Revolution, and 250 years after his death, he's become a rallying figure for a nation battling old demons.

"Crispus Attucks was a black man and the first person killed during the Boston Massacre that started the Revolutionary War," said Jeff Nadeau, 45, a health care industry worker in Los Angeles County.

"George Floyd was another black man killed who started this revolution. History does repeat itself," he said.

To be sure, the circumstances of each man's death are starkly different. Attucks, 47, died in a confrontation with occupying forces. Floyd, 46, died on Memorial Day in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed his knee into the handcuffed man's neck, ignoring cries that he couldn't breathe.

But in memes on social media and in commentary on the airwaves, they've become inextricably linked by those who see troubling parallels in the two and a half centuries that separate them. Poignantly, if somewhat improbably, "Crispus Attucks" was trending on Twitter this week.

Attucks, of African and Native American descent, and four other men died on March 5, 1770, after British soldiers opened fire on an unruly crowd. The victims were posthumously hailed as heroes, with thousands turning out for their funeral procession and their burial together, and their deaths stoked anti-British sentiment throughout the colonies, leading a few years later to the war for independence from Britain.

Two years ago, a grassroots movement was launched to push Boston's leaders to honor Attucks by renaming the city's famed Faneuil Hall — which bears the name of a wealthy 18th-century slave owner — in Attucks' honor. That campaign continues.

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Attucks' story has been retold at critical moments in the nation's history.

In the 1850s, black abolitionists in Boston marked each massacre anniversary as Crispus Attucks Day, using the memory of his sacrifice to mobilize support for efforts to end slavery.

"They presented Attucks as the first martyr of the Revolution who died fighting for liberty. The image resonated powerfully in a nation that placed millions of African Americans in bondage despite its stated ideal of freedom," reads a new exhibit by Revolutionary Spaces, "Reflecting Attucks," in Boston's Old State House.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. mentioned Attucks in his 1964 book, "Why We Can't Wait," noting that "the first American to shed blood in the revolution that freed his country from British oppression was a black seaman."

Adding to the injustice of Attucks' death, founding father John Adams — a lawyer — publicly defended the British soldier who shot him while privately praising Attucks' courage.

"Our country was literally founded on the death of a black man," tweeted Chris Echols, 37, an insurance company employee from Glendale, Arizona.

Miranda Adekoje, a Boston writer who's working on a new play about Attucks, cautions that his indigenous roots — and the parallel suffering of native peoples today — shouldn't be ignored.

"He represented two groups that were incredibly brutalized and still are," she said. "The message of this play will resonate even stronger than it would have had George Floyd's death not happened. These themes are centuries old."

And Adekoje points to one way history isn't repeating itself in 2020:

"The revolution that began with Crispus Attucks' murder had no real regard for the lives of African and indigenous people," she said. "The revolution that has begun as a result of George Floyd's murder is for the sole purpose of making America inhabitable for all people."

Follow AP New England editor Bill Kole on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/billkole>

Killing of Palestinian man with autism draws Floyd parallel

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Eyad Hallaq liked to watch cartoons. He loved dressing up and wearing cologne. He even dreamed of getting married. But his favorite activity was walking to school, where he volunteered in the kitchen, preparing meals for his fellow special-needs students.

Early on Saturday, the 32-year-old Palestinian with severe autism was chased by Israeli border police forces into a nook in Jerusalem's Old City and fatally shot as he cowered next to a garbage bin after apparently being mistaken for an attacker. He was just a few meters (yards) from his beloved Elwyn El Quds school.

The shooting has drawn comparisons to the death of George Floyd in the U.S. and prompted a series of small demonstrations against police violence toward Palestinians. The calls for justice have crossed Jewish-Arab lines, a rarity in this deeply polarized society.

Yet for his devastated family, such gestures have provided little comfort and even less hope that the officers who shot Hallaq will be punished.

"Whenever a person is martyred here, we say that we hope for change," said Hallaq's father, Khiri. "Where is the change?"

Two large photographs of Hallaq sit in the living room of the family's modest home in a Palestinian neighborhood of east Jerusalem. In one photo, wearing an Adidas sweatshirt, Hallaq holds a cactus he planted during the coronavirus lockdown. It was the last photo the family took of him. His tiny bedroom is neatly made up, with a small photo of Hallaq above the pillow, next to his cologne collection.

"He was a gentle soul," his mother, Rana, said as she fought back tears. She described him as intensely shy, afraid of strangers, unable to make eye contact and terrified of loud noises.

"He liked nice clothes, but he had no friends. He didn't talk to others. Only with me would he talk about what had happened that day at school," she said.

What exactly happened on Saturday morning remains unclear. According to the family, Hallaq, wear-

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ing a badge that identified him as having special needs, left home on his daily walk to school, about 10 minutes away.

Police said that officers in the Old City spotted a man carrying a "suspicious object that looked like a pistol." When the man failed to heed calls to stop, police said they opened fire and "neutralized" him after a chase.

Hallaq's teacher, who had accompanied him on that last walk to school, told Israel's Channel 13 TV that she repeatedly cried out to the police that he is "disabled" and tried to stop the shooting. "They didn't listen to me. They didn't want to listen to me," she said.

She told the station they fired three bullets at him. He fell to the ground, asked her for help, then ran for cover in a small area housing a garbage bin. Officers came after him and killed him. At least five bullet holes could be seen in the wall of a small structure at the site.

Hallaq's parents said they rushed to the scene but were not allowed to see him. Police later came to the house, cursing them as they searched for weapons, they said. They said police found nothing in the home.

Israel's Justice Ministry said two officers have been placed under house arrest, but gave no further details. Security camera footage has not been released. Khiri Hallaq said he has heard nothing from investigators.

Even with the world's attention focused on the unrest shaking the U.S., Hallaq's death has reverberated across Israel.

Scores of people, mostly Jewish Israelis, marched through downtown Jerusalem on Saturday night to condemn the shooting. Demonstrations were also held in Arab towns throughout the week. Inspired by the protests in the U.S., demonstrators have held signs that say "Black Lives Matter," "Palestinian Lives Matter," or showed photographs of Floyd and Hallaq.

Hallaq's death is expected to be a theme at a larger demonstration planned by a coalition of Arab and Jewish groups in central Tel Aviv on Saturday.

"Is there anything lonelier than an autistic person cowering and trembling in fear in a garbage shed, not understanding what is going on and why, while policemen empty a magazine of bullets into him," wrote Haaretz columnist Rogel Alpher, a parent of a grown autistic child. "Good God, they executed him. If that happened to my son, I'd find it hard to go on living."

The shooting came two weeks after another fatal shooting of an Arab man outside an Israeli hospital. According to police, the man was shot after stabbing a security guard. Security camera footage showed the man, who reportedly suffered from mental illness, lying on the ground when he was shot multiple times.

For Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and contested east Jerusalem, and members of Israel's Arab minority, these cases reflect what they see as Israeli forces' loose trigger fingers when it comes to dealing with Arab suspects.

"Just as the white police officer easily kills the black citizen he sees as a second-class citizen, here the Jewish police officer easily opens fire on the Arab he sees as second class," said Said Issa, a 46-year-old protester in the Arab town of Jaljuliya.

Israeli leaders typically stand behind the country's security forces and have stopped short of condemning the shooting. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has remained silent. But several top officials, including opposition leader Yair Lapid, whose daughter is autistic, and Defense Minister Benny Gantz have expressed sorrow.

Public Security Minister Amir Ohana, who is close to Netanyahu, said the family "deserves a hug" and vowed to introduce new tactics for police to better identify individuals with disabilities. A stream of Jewish and Arab well-wishers, including a former chief rabbi of Jerusalem, have visited the family.

Hallaq's mother played down the outcry and said nothing will bring back her son. "Sympathy is temporary and then ends," she said. Making things even more painful, the family has little faith in an Israeli justice system they see as hopelessly biased.

"If an Arab killed a Jew, what would have happened?" said the father. "They would demolish his home and arrest all of his family. That is the difference."

According to Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, there have been at least 11 cases over the past two years in which Palestinians who did not pose a threat were killed while fleeing Israeli security forces.

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Amit Galutz, a spokesman for B'Tselem, said no charges have been filed in those cases and he did not expect different results in the Hallaq shooting.

"Existing Israeli law enforcement mechanisms are designed to protect the perpetrators of this violence — not their victims," he said, calling the investigation into Hallaq's killing "the first step of its whitewash."

Israel's border police force declined to comment. But David Tzur, a former top-ranking Israeli police officer who commanded the unit, said policing Arab neighborhoods was difficult and complicated.

He said officers are on heightened alert in places like the Old City because the area has seen numerous Palestinian stabbings and shootings there over the years.

"Subjectively, the police officer feels more threatened. He knows he is entering an area where he could be subjected to violence," Tzur explained.

Hallaq's mother said nothing could justify the death of her son. "We are convinced that those who killed him will not be punished," she said. "Justice does not exist."

Associated Press writer Aron Heller contributed reporting from Jaljuliya, Israel.

Pandemic and racial unrest test black clergy on dual fronts

By DAVID CRARY and MARIAM FAM Associated Press

For black clergy across the United States, the past 10 days have been a tumultuous test of their stamina and their skills.

For weeks, they had been striving to comfort their congregations amid a pandemic taking a disproportionately heavy toll on African-Americans. Then came a coast-to-coast upsurge of racial tension and unrest sparked by the death of George Floyd, the Minneapolis black man who died after a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded for air.

"We've got a coronavirus and a racism virus," said the Rev. Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas.

Here's a look at what McKissic and three other black clergymen have been doing and how they've been coping:

Even without the flare-up of racial unrest, this week would have been challenging for McKissic. After weeks without in-person services due to the pandemic, he's expecting up to 400 worshippers at an evening service on Sunday to start what he calls "The Comeback."

His staff has been brushing up on disinfecting techniques and ordering face masks by the hundreds. Worshipers will be required to wear masks and will be seated in accordance with social-distancing guidelines in a venue that can hold 1,800 people.

"Just trying to pastor effectively in a pandemic world -- that alone has been a full challenge," McKissic said. "Then all these race riots break out, all over the country and right next door to me."

Last weekend, he recorded a fiery, 4-minute statement that he aired on social media, denouncing the police actions that have cost Floyd and other blacks their lives.

"America now has seen exactly what black America has been knowing for a couple of hundred years," he said. "No one can now say that racism is a myth."

He plans to expand on that theme in the sermon he's preparing for Sunday. He's also been conferring with fellow pastors, liaising with local political leaders, and comforting his older congregants.

"This reminds them of the '60s," he said. "They had hoped we were past this kind of incident."

When news of Floyd's death reached Charleston, South Carolina, there was a visceral reaction among congregation members at Emanuel AME Church. That's where avowed white supremacist Dylan Roof killed the pastor and eight worshippers, all of them black, at a Bible study in 2015.

"We are familiar with pain. We are familiar with murder," said the Rev. Eric Manning, the church's pastor since June 2016.

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Last Friday, Manning's daily Bible study — being conducted via conference call during the pandemic — was devoted to the fallout from Floyd's death.

"The whole study was talking about how we are feeling as a race," Manning said. "It's a painful reminder there is so much work still to be done when it comes to race relations."

On Saturday night, Manning and his son headed toward downtown, hearing there was trouble brewing at a protest march. Manning said he got a whiff of tear gas as he tried to reduce tensions between police and youthful black protesters.

Afterward, he updated his Sunday sermon so it would reflect "the reality of the social unrest."

"The things we are seeing are not OK," he said. "It's not OK to see a law enforcement officer lean his knee on the neck of an African-American."

The sermon was delivered online. There's still no timetable for Manning's church to resume in-person services as the denomination's regional leaders weigh various options.

"Every day there's something different," Manning said. "How do you minister to a community in so much need?"

At a recent Minnesota rally, Imam Makram El-Amin joined thousands in chanting George Floyd's name. At another gathering, at Floyd's memorial site, El-Amin addressed a crowd, encouraging them "to use their voice," be peaceful and organize for change.

Over the phone, the imam of Masjid An-Nur in Minneapolis prayed with members of the mosque's congregation.

One such call, he said, was with Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who has been given the lead in prosecutions related to Floyd's death.

"He has a specific burden that he is carrying right now because of the weight of this case," said El-Amin, who has been offering spiritual advice to Ellison.

With the coronavirus outbreak, El-Amin's days already had been hectic as demand for food and other needs increased at Al-Maa'uun, a faith-based nonprofit of which he's the executive director. Then, came Floyd's death and the protests.

"People want justice. People are at their wit's end and the emotions are raw," said El-Amin. "This is something that has been brewing for a long, long time."

At such times, faith leaders need to be "a voice of calm" and justice, he said. "We need to be comforting the afflicted in this moment and also afflicting the comfortable."

He has been talking to law enforcement and elected officials, business owners and other community members, including some "very distraught" young men.

"They were angry," he said. "They have a lot of anxiety, but most and foremost, I registered their fear."

Back in March, the Rev. Horace Sheffield III -- one of Detroit's most prominent pastors -- was stricken by COVID-19, along with his wife. They've both recovered; Sheffield rates his current health at "90 percent" and tries to take a brisk 30-minute walk every day.

His workload, as pastor of New Destiny Christian Fellowship Church, requires energy and multitasking skills.

The church operates a large food distribution program and offers testing for the coronavirus. It is tentatively scheduled to resume in-person services on June 14

Sheffield also has a weekly radio show; last weekend, he used it to discuss the wave of unrest in Detroit and elsewhere sparked by Floyd's death. He's been on the phone conferring with fellow pastors and with his daughter, Mary Sheffield, who is president pro tem of the Detroit City Council.

Sheffield, 65, said he and one of his best friends shared memories last weekend of the turbulent '60s, including anti-war protests and the struggle for civil rights.

"We witnessed that whole whirlwind of upheaval," Sheffield said. "We were both wondering if we're on the edge of another seething cauldron."

Ill-considered posts lead to lost jobs amid protests, crisis

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A writer from a "Law & Order" spin-off and the play-by-play broadcaster for the NBA's Sacramento Kings found themselves out of jobs after making social media posts this week that their bosses found too incendiary or insensitive, highlighting an apparent surge in such firings across many lines of work.

Lost jobs over social media statements that seemed like a good idea at the time have become a common occurrence, but the tense environment of nationwide protests against racism and police brutality with the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic have made Twitter, Instagram and Facebook especially dangerous for those who want to remain among the employed.

With the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, who died after a police officer pinned his knee into his neck, even when he had become unresponsive, and the coronavirus that has killed over 100,000 and left others unemployed and many socially distant, feelings and emotions are strong. It can be difficult to resist the urge to post or tweet, even for people such as police officers, local officials or teachers who are bound to draw scrutiny.

"People when they see a breaking news story they get that rush of wanting to be a part of something," said Danny Deraney, a publicist who often works in crisis management. "There's an adrenaline. They feel like they're saying something so profound. But they need to think before they tweet."

Craig Gore, who has worked on the shows "S.W.A.T." and "Chicago P.D.," was fired Tuesday from the forthcoming "Law & Order: Organized Crime" spin-off because of Facebook posts. One was captioned "Curfew..." in which he's shown holding a rifle on his front porch, and in another full of expletives, he threatens to shoot looters who come near his home.

Given the gravity of the moment, Gore's boss, "Law & Order" franchise creator Dick Wolf, did not warn or suspend him but went straight to firing, saying in a statement, "I will not tolerate this conduct, especially during our hour of national grief."

A lawyer for Gore did not respond to a request for comment.

Grant Napear, longtime TV announcer for the NBA's Sacramento Kings was fired from his talk radio job and subsequently resigned Tuesday from the team's broadcast crew after he tweeted "ALL LIVES MATTER" and more to former Kings player DeMarcus Cousins when asked his opinion on the Black Lives Matter movement.

Bonneville International, owner of the radio station that fired Napear, said in a statement, "The timing of Grant's tweet was particularly insensitive."

Napear later tweeted, "I've been doing more listening than talking the past few days," and "I believe the past few days will change this country for the better!"

And social media-based firings are not just for the prominent.

Many others from public-facing institutions and businesses have been sanctioned, demoted, suspended or fired for impolitic statements online in recent days.

The principal trombonist from the Austin Symphony Orchestra was let go after a string of Facebook comments, including one in which she said black protesters "deserve what they get."

The personal accounts of police are under especially tight scrutiny.

A Denver officer was fired Tuesday for writing "Let's start a riot" as the caption to an Instagram picture of himself and two fellow officers smiling in riot gear. An officer in Fulton, New York, posted an Instagram image that read, "Black lives only matter to black people unless they are killed by a white person" and found himself out of a job.

The poor timing cited by the former bosses Gore and Napear can make posts that might otherwise pass unnoticed have major consequences, especially in a moment marked by a volatile combination of politics and race.

"If you're in a situation like this, you've got to read the room," Deraney said. You've got to get a sense of what's going on. You don't need to always say something. These people who are getting fired or resign-

ing, they're not realizing this."

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

VIRUS DIARY: When the class hamster came home - and stayed

By JILL BLEED Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — After 60-plus days, I threw in the towel. Mr. Rich had to go.

Mr. Rich is a hamster who most recently served as the classroom pet in my 9-year-old's science class.

In normal times, kids clamor over who gets to be its caretaker over holiday and school breaks. My daughter Claire, shut out over the winter holidays, volunteered in January to take Mr. Rich home over spring break. Then, my biggest worry was how to keep our two pet cats from eating him for a week.

Flash forward to March 12, where the news kept tumbling all afternoon long. Arkansas was shutting down schools in a handful of counties, essentially adding an extra week to spring break. My 5-year-old's preschool was following suit.

As I got ready to pick up my kids, my head swimming with how we would manage childcare while also working, my phone rang. The caller ID showed it was my older daughter's school. As all parents know, that's never good.

"Mom? I'm not in trouble," Claire began, "but is it OK if we bring home Mr. Rich today?"

That's right. The hamster.

We loaded up Claire's backpack with Mr. Rich's food and bedding. Claire marched outside carrying his cage, the envy of all the third-graders. We were lacking a key fact at that moment: We didn't know that we were leaving for the rest of the school year.

At home, the cats never noticed Mr. Rich and he provided a pleasant diversion, something for me to document on social media while I tried not to spin into a pit of anxiety over the impossibility of working from home (and doing it well) and caring for my children (and doing it well.)

At least a dozen friends sent me this meme: "Somewhere out there there's a kid that brought home the class hamster for the weekend. Their parents are not happy!!"

We were happy. For a while. This all felt doable when we naively believed an end was in sight.

But the uncertainty dragged on. K-12 schools in Arkansas shut down for the remainder of the academic year. Our summer plans went poof. My 5-year-old will never return to her preschool.

And the novelty of Mr. Rich faded, much like the chalk rainbows that once brightened our neighborhood back in March.

Now Claire has to be repeatedly reminded to clean Mr. Rich's cage. The fragrance of hamster lingers. The 5-year-old loves on him a little too aggressively. We are tired.

"How long can we keep doing this?" I ask myself. Sometimes I mean socially distanced parenting and homeschooling. Sometimes I mean working from home. Sometimes I mean keeping the kids away from their friends. And yes, sometimes I mean hamster ownership.

I gave up. I emailed Claire's teacher to coordinate a hamster handoff as the school year wrapped up. We bid Mr. Rich a fond farewell, putting at least one tiny bookend on a time that seems unknowable and endless.

We can only hope that this fall, there's a classroom — with schoolchildren in it — to welcome him home.

Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus saga through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Follow Arkansas-based AP journalist Jill Bleed on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jzbleed>

John Lewis says video of George Floyd's killing made him cry

By **DINO HAZELL Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Civil rights icon John Lewis said Thursday that the video of George Floyd's death at the hands of police in Minnesota "made me cry."

"I kept saying to myself: How many more? How many young black men will be murdered?" said Lewis, D-Ga.

"It made me so sad. It was so painful," Lewis told "CBS This Morning." "It made me cry."

Lewis said he was encouraged to see such diverse crowds protesting Floyd's killing, seeking the arrests of the police officers involved and demanding an end to racial injustice.

"It was very moving, very moving to see hundreds and thousands of people from all over America and around the world take to the streets to speak up, to speak out," he said.

Lewis, 80, was a key figure in the civil rights movement and was one of the leaders behind the 1963 March on Washington and the push to end legalized racial segregation. He had his skull fractured by Alabama troopers as marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965.

He urged protesters seeking justice in Floyd's killing to embrace nonviolence and called on President Donald Trump not to crack down on "orderly, peaceful, nonviolent protests."

"You cannot stop the call of history," Lewis said.

Lewis quoted Martin Luther King Jr.: "Hate is too heavy a burden to bear. The way of love is a much better way."

"During the '60s, the great majority of us accepted the way of peace, the way of love, philosophy and discipline of nonviolence as a way of life, as a way of living," he said. "There's something cleansing, something wholesome, about being peaceful and orderly."

"We're one people, we're one family," he said. "We all live in the same house, not just the American house but the world house."

In 2011 Lewis received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama, who marched with Lewis in Selma on the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday attack.

He has served in the House since 1987. In December he announced he was battling Stage IV pancreatic cancer. He appeared gaunt in his television interview but said he's doing better.

"My health is improving," he said. "I have wonderful doctor and nurse. They're taking good care of me. I'm very hopeful and very optimistic. They're trying to get me to eat more. And I'm trying to eat more to regain my weight."

1.9 million seek jobless aid even as reopenings slow layoffs

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 1.9 million people applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, evidence that many employers are still cutting jobs even as the gradual reopening of businesses has slowed the pace of layoffs.

The total number of people who are receiving jobless aid rose slightly to 21.5 million, down from a peak of nearly 25 million two weeks ago but still at a historically high level. It shows that scattered rehiring is offsetting only some of the ongoing layoffs with the economy mired in a recession. Thursday's latest weekly number from the Labor Department is still more than double the record high that prevailed before the viral outbreak.

Still, the number of people who applied for benefits last week marked the ninth straight decline since applications spiked in mid-March. The job market meltdown that was triggered by the coronavirus may have bottomed out as more companies call at least some of their former employees back to work.

Economists said they were disappointed, though, that the number of first-time applications for jobless aid and the total number of people receiving benefits remain so high.

"While the drop in new claims is welcome news and more evidence that the worst of the job losses are

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behind us, the recovery in the labor market is expected to be painfully slow," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "We look for a two-phase recovery, with an initial burst in rehiring followed by a much slower retracement of job losses.

Fewer people sought jobless aid last week in 47 states and in Washington, D.C., while the number rose in just California, Florida and Mississippi. The total number of people receiving aid fell in 37 states and in D.C. and increased in 13 states.

Applications for jobless benefits are falling in states that had reopened their businesses early, such as Georgia and Texas, and are also declining in those that are still early in the reopening process, such as New York and Massachusetts.

Some businesses that have reopened have seen only a limited number of customers so far.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, Nneka Ijeoma lost her job as a bartender at a whiskey bar when it closed in March. Though the bar has reopened, it has rehired only two of its 17 employees. Meanwhile, Ijeoma is receiving \$275 in state unemployment benefits each week, plus \$600 a week in federal benefits

"We were honestly so blessed by that," she said of the federal aid, which will expire at the end of July. "I wouldn't have been able to get by on \$275."

Still, she is eager to return to work and to go back to school in the fall to finish her college degree. Yet she always regarded bartending as a long-term opportunity.

"I always thought I could work in hospitality forever," she said. "I thought it was recession-proof."

In addition to the laid-off employees who applied for benefits last week, 623,000 others sought jobless aid under a new program for self-employed and gig workers, who now qualify for unemployment benefits for the first time. These figures aren't adjusted for seasonal variations, so the government doesn't include them in the overall data. And 15 states still aren't reporting the number of applicants under this program, meaning that the data is incomplete.

The figures come one day before the government's jobs report for May is expected to show that employers slashed 8 million jobs last month and that the unemployment rate jumped from 14.7% to 19.8%. If those forecasts prove accurate, it would mean that nearly 30 million people have lost jobs since the viral outbreak intensified in March and that joblessness has reached its highest point since the Great Depression.

Since mid-March, 42.7 million people have applied for unemployment benefits. Not all of them are still unemployed, though. Some have since been rehired. And some laid-off people likely filed duplicate applications for benefits as they struggled with unresponsive state unemployment systems. Others were unable to file their applications at all until recently.

"The big question is whether millions are still filing for unemployment due to separations that happened awhile ago or because of separations still happening today," said Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Upwork. "The latter is far more problematic" because it would point to ongoing business closures and cutbacks.

Thursday's report wasn't affected by the protests over the killing of George Floyd, which in recent days forced some major retailers and small businesses to close, because it covers claims filed only through May 30. But some economists warn that applications for unemployment aid could rise in next week's report, reflecting business closures amid the protests and scattered vandalism.

"That's going to kick up the claims again," said Jane Oates, a former Labor Department official.

The depth of the job cuts since the virus forced the widespread shutdown of businesses reflects an economy gripped by the worst downturn since the Great Depression. The economy is thought to be shrinking in the April-June quarter at an annual rate approaching 40%. That would be, by far, the worst quarterly contraction on record.

Still, real-time private data on consumer behavior is showing signs that the economy is gradually reviving. Credit and debit card spending tracked by Chase Bank shows that consumer spending, though roughly flat last week, rebounded from its low point in mid-April, when it was 40% below year-ago levels. Now, it is down 20% from a year ago.

Economists caution that most Americans will need to feel more confident about returning to their former habits of shopping, traveling and eating out before the economy can sustain any meaningful recovery.

That will likely require the availability of a vaccine or a significant increase in testing.

“What’s really going to move the needle economically is when consumers and businesses feel comfortable re-engaging with the economy the way they did before COVID-19,” said Adam Kamins, a senior regional economist at Moody’s Analytics.

AP Writer Travis Loller in Nashville contributed to this report.

GOP reckons with polarizing candidates amid civil unrest

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican Party is facing a reckoning over some of its most divisive candidates. So far the results are mixed, and that’s dicey for the GOP as a country shuddering from coast-to-coast civic unrest hurtles toward November elections.

Republican leaders looking to broaden the party’s appeal were buoyed Tuesday when Iowans refused to renominate Rep. Steve King, known for racially incendiary comments.

But Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, their surest bet for derailing a Republican immigration hard-liner who might cost them a Senate seat from deep-red Kansas, definitively skipped that race on Monday.

And most seriously, President Donald Trump has exhibited little empathy as he’s taunted demonstrators as “thugs,” accused governors of being “weak” on protesters and threatened to deploy the military to their states. His tweets like “when the looting starts, the shooting starts” were noteworthy for their pugnacious tone as dozens of cities have been rocked by protests, some violent, over the killing of African Americans by police.

Trump is betting such tactics will make him look strong heading into the election. And Republicans often overlook Trump’s more controversial actions for fear of angering his passionate base. But this time, some worry about having such a polarizing leader atop the ticket during an unprecedented period that includes civil disturbances, the coronavirus pandemic and a collapsed economy.

“He’s driving away moderate Republicans and independents en masse,” former Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who retired last year after clashing with Trump, said in an interview Wednesday. “For Republicans who need to appeal to a broader base, it’s devastating.”

Asked if Trump might alienate such voters, especially the suburban women who have already been abandoning the Trump-led GOP, reelection campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said city and suburban residents “deserve to be able to feel safe.” He said Trump has expressed disgust that George Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died last week in Minneapolis after a white officer held his knee against Floyd’s neck for several minutes.

But, Murtaugh added, “He is going to restore law and order, and all Americans should welcome that.”

The GOP argues that Democrats have polarizing figures of their own and often point to Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., to paint all Democrats as socialists. Democratic voters rejected Sanders this year as their presidential nominee in favor of the more moderate Joe Biden. And while Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez are prominent leaders, their call for “revolution” has often been more rhetorical than literal.

Republican leaders are taking steps to withhold support from candidates with extreme views.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., has pulled his backing for GOP House candidate Ted Howze in central California because of demeaning online posts about Muslims and Hillary Clinton, which Howze said he didn’t write. And leaders have distanced themselves from Oregon Republican Senate candidate Jo Rae Perkins, a supporter of the QAnon conspiracy theory that claims Trump is leading a secret campaign against “deep state” enemies and pedophiles.

With top Republicans laboring to expand the party’s appeal beyond white men, voters in northwestern Iowa removed one major irritant by rejecting King’s bid for a 10th House term. They instead nominated state Sen. Randy Feenstra, who was helped by spending from the establishment-oriented U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Republican Main Street Partnership, likely rescuing the seat for the GOP.

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King was stripped of committee assignments last year by House Republican leaders after he defended white nationalism. Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., who chairs the House GOP's campaign organization, said in a brief statement that Feenstra will "make Iowa proud" in Congress but avoided mentioning King.

In Kansas, Pompeo failed to file this week to become a Senate GOP candidate. That's left Republican leaders figuring out how to keep conservative Kris Kobach, former Kansas secretary of state, from winning that party's Aug. 4 primary. A competitive seat would make it harder for Republicans to defend their 53-47 Senate majority.

Kobach, who backs restrictive immigration and voting laws, lost a 2018 race for governor in the Republican-dominated state. National Republicans have said they believe they can head him off by backing an alternative, perhaps GOP Rep. Roger Marshall.

But they've been nervous that Marshall has raised only modest campaign funds and failed to push other rivals from the field. The Democratic Senate candidate will likely be Barbara Bollier, a state senator and former Republican who's outraised all contenders.

That still leaves Trump.

Emmer, the House GOP campaign chairman, said people are nervous about safety and Trump's stance will prove a winning November message.

"Suburban voters are just like voters in these core cities," Emmer said in an interview. "They want to be protected. And they know that this president is all about making sure he restores law and order."

Biden, meanwhile, is stepping up his attacks on Trump.

"He thinks division helps him," Biden said Tuesday. He conjured Trump's use of police to forcefully clear peaceful demonstrators away from a church near the White House on Monday so he could have his picture taken out front holding a Bible.

"If he opened it instead of brandishing it, he could have learned something," Biden said.

Underscoring the hazards of Trump's strong-armed tactics, several Republicans have criticized him for it. That's rare for a president whom GOP lawmakers usually hesitate crossing for fear of angering his loyal conservative voters.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said he opposed using force for "a photo op that treats the Word of God as a political prop." Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, facing a difficult reelection fight, said Trump "came across as unsympathetic and insensitive."

Stuart Stevens, a Republican political consultant and Trump critic, said Trump's tough-guy approach wouldn't appeal to most voters.

"Let's say there's a fight on the football field," said Stevens. "Do you admire the coach who runs in and starts punching?"

Brees says he 'completely missed the mark' in flag comments

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees apologized Thursday for comments that were "insensitive and completely missed the mark" when he reiterated his opposition to Colin Kaepernick's kneeling during the national anthem in 2016, drawing sharp criticism from fellow high-profile athletes and others in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Los Angeles Lakers great LeBron James, New Orleans Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins and former NFL player Martellus Bennett were just some of the high-profile athletes to criticize Brees on their Twitter feeds.

Brees, a New Orleans Saints quarterback who won the Super Bowl in the 2009 season, was asked Wednesday in an interview with Yahoo to revisit former NFL quarterback Kaepernick's kneeling during the national anthem before games to bring awareness of police brutality and racial injustice.

"I will never agree with anybody disrespecting the flag of the United States," Brees began, adding that the national anthem reminds him of his grandfathers, who served in the armed forces during World War II. "In many cases, it brings me to tears thinking about all that has been sacrificed, and not just in the military, but for that matter, those throughout the civil rights movements of the '60s, and all that has been endured by so many people up until this point."

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Many athletes have repeatedly said the kneeling was not about disrespecting the flag or the military but instead about police brutality.

Derek Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder in the killing of Floyd, a Minneapolis black man who was handcuffed as the officer pressed a knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

In an Instagram post Thursday, Brees said he was apologizing to his friends, teammates, New Orleans, the black community, the NFL community and "anyone I hurt with my comments yesterday."

"In an attempt to talk about respect, unity, and solidarity centered around the American flag and the national anthem, I made comments that were insensitive and completely missed the mark on the issues we are facing right now as a country," he wrote. "They lacked awareness and any type of compassion or empathy. Instead, those words have become divisive and hurtful and have misled people into believing that somehow I am an enemy. This could not be further from the truth, and is not an accurate reflection of my heart or my character."

Kaepernick hasn't yet responded to the initial comments by Brees, but he did retweet a post by Los Angeles Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma before Brees' apology.

"This shows you that there are a lot of people & companies out there right now that will say they stand with us but only do it so they don't get bashed not because they mean it," Kuzma wrote above a photo of Brees kneeling alongside teammates before an NFL game.

Brees has previously said he supports those against police brutality but he does not see the national anthem as the proper forum. In 2017, he participated with teammates who knelt before the national anthem but then stood in unison when the anthem was played.

James, who has been a leader in the social justice movement, said Wednesday he couldn't believe Brees was still confused about what Kaepernick was trying to do.

"WOW MAN!!" James wrote on Twitter. "Is it still surprising at this point. Sure isn't! You literally still don't understand why Kap was kneeling on one knee?? Has absolute nothing to do with the disrespect of (American flag emoji) and our soldiers (men and women) who keep our land free. My father-in-law was one of those."

Bennett, who won a Super Bowl with the New England Patriots and retired in 2018, posted a long thread saying none of the white quarterbacks in the league have spoken out when it wasn't easy to do so.

"And y'all wanna applaud them for these statements, when y'all crucified every athlete that said something by protesting in the beginning," Bennett wrote. "Look (I'm) happy they're saying something.. but when they had a chance to make a big play for their black teammates and colleagues most of em remained silent, showed ignorance or didn't say anything of importance when it was really needed."

Jenkins, who was Brees' teammate when the Saints won the Super Bowl, spent the past six seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles before returning to New Orleans this offseason. He posted a video of himself on Twitter speaking to his teammate.

"Drew Brees, if you don't understand how hurtful, how insensitive your comments are, you are part of the problem," Jenkins said. "To think that because your grandfathers served in this country that you have a great respect for the flag that everybody else should have the same ideals and thoughts that you do is ridiculous."

"And it shows that you don't know history. Because when our grandfathers fought for this country and served, they came back ... they didn't come back to a hero's welcome. They came back and got attacked for wearing their uniforms. They came back to racism. To complete violence."

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Farm-to-table dining takes on new meaning amid pandemic

By LISA RATHKE and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Eric Pray is used to shipping seafood all over the country. But since the coronavirus took hold, he has shifted his focus closer to home — selling lobsters from a homemade tank in

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his garage.

Pray, of Portland, Maine, is one of hundreds of fishermen, farmers and food producers who have shifted to a direct-to-consumer model amid the virus outbreak. The pandemic has stressed and sometimes disrupted supply chains, shuttered restaurants and changed the way consumers buy food, leaving some producers scrambling for a new way to reach their customers.

The farm-to-table movement in the United States has grown in recent years, as consumers have increasingly demanded locally sourced food. But in the past several weeks, the movement has grown out of necessity because some producers can't rely on the complex web of processors, distributors and middlemen to get food to customers.

For some, the challenges have turned into opportunities — and new customers.

"When restaurants reopen, we'll probably keep doing home delivery, because we've got a good base of customers," Pray said.

But it's not good news for many of America's food producers. In late April and early May, U.S. beef and pork processing capacity was down 40% from last year, according to Jayson Lusk, head of the department of agricultural economics at Purdue University. Plants are now mainly back online but at reduced capacity with beef and pork plants running about 10% to 15% below last year, he said.

Some sectors have also suffered reductions in value, in part because the restaurants they normally rely on are closed. Live, 1.25-pound lobsters were worth \$6.74 per pound in the Northeast in April, which was 13% less than a year ago and 37% less than two years ago.

"The two biggest problems are facilitating distribution throughout the supply chain while protecting worker health, and revamping food demand in a way that avoids further disruptions," said LaPorchia Collins, a professor in the Department of Economics at Tulane University.

Before the pandemic hit, Gunthorp Farms in LaGrange, Indiana, had been selling most of its pasture-raised pork and poultry to upscale restaurants, including ones started by famed chef Rick Bayless, as well as to charcuterie shops. Then, practically overnight, restaurants and shops shut down, drying up the farm's business.

The farm has been able to switch to retail packaging and selling the pork and poultry elsewhere but it's been far from easy, coming after endless hours of work by the family and employees, said Greg Gunthorp. That involved changing the labeling, adding bar codes, and cutting and packaging portions rather than selling in bulk.

"It's been way, way too much work, way more changes. We made more changes in the first two weeks than we had planned to make in two years," he said.

Templeton Farm, a small grass-fed beef farm in East Montpelier, Vermont, lost its biggest business — two restaurant accounts — when they had to shut down. But around the same time, the phone starting ringing with people seeking locally raised beef, said farmer Bruce Chapell.

"Since then, our beef sales have been off the charts," he said.

PrairieErth Farm in Atlanta, Illinois, this season doubled its consumer supported agriculture, where customers pay up front for produce throughout the season to 322 members, said Katie Bishop, one of the farmers. And it has about 75 on its waiting list, she said.

However, it's unclear whether this new model will be sustainable once the coronavirus crisis passes.

Food products that are heavily dependent on restaurants, such as seafood, eventually need those customers back, said John Sackton, an industry analyst and publisher of SeafoodNews.com. But for now, selling direct to customers is a way to get a better price for those products than they would typically see, he said.

Pray, a Maine fishermen for three decades, said he's managing to make ends meet so far, but it'll be more of a challenge the longer restaurants and processors remain inaccessible. One of his customers, South Portland anesthesiologist Stephen Harden, said the appeal is as much about helping neighbors as buying great food.

"My wife and I sort of felt it was our duty to support locally as much as possible," he said. "And of course, the food is much better quality."

On 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.

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 months-long 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 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.

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

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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."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, June 5, the 157th day of 2020. There are 209 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 5, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded after claiming victory in California's Democratic presidential primary at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

On this date:

In 1794, Congress passed the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from taking part in any military action against a country that was at peace with the United States.

In 1912, U.S. Marines landed in Cuba at the order of President William Howard Taft to ensure order and protect U.S. interests.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Henderson v. United States*, struck down racially segregated railroad dining cars.

In 1967, war erupted in the Middle East as Israel, anticipating a possible attack by its Arab neighbors, launched a series of pre-emptive airfield strikes that destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian air force; Syria, Jordan and Iraq immediately entered the conflict.

In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control reported that five homosexuals in Los Angeles had come down with a rare kind of pneumonia; they were the first recognized cases of what later became known as AIDS.

In 1999, jazz and pop singer Mel Tormé died in Los Angeles at age 73.

In 2002, 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart was abducted from her Salt Lake City home. (Smart was found alive by police in a Salt Lake suburb in March 2003. One kidnapper, Brian David Mitchell, is serving a prison

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sentence; the other, Wanda Barzee, was released in September, 2018.)

In 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died in Los Angeles at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

In 2006, more than 50 National Guardsmen from Utah became the first unit to work along the U.S.-Mexico border as part of President George W. Bush's crackdown on illegal immigration.

In 2013, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them sleeping women and children, pleaded guilty to murder at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to avoid the death penalty; he was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2018, fashion designer Kate Spade, known for her sleek handbags, was found dead in her Park Avenue apartment in New York in what the medical examiner determined was a suicide by hanging; she was 55.

Ten years ago: Israeli forces seized a Gaza-bound aid vessel, the Rachel Corrie, without meeting resistance days after a similar effort turned bloody. Finance ministers and central bankers from the world's leading economies meeting in Busan, South Korea, agreed on the need to cooperate in fending off financial market turmoil and keeping the world economic recovery on track. Francesca Schiavone beat Samantha Stosur of Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (2), to win the French Open, giving Italy its first female champion at a Grand Slam tournament.

Five years ago: The Social Security Administration's inspector general found that disability beneficiaries had been overpaid by nearly \$17 billion over the previous decade, raising alarms about the massive program. Former Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, 79, died in Nasiriyah of a heart attack while in captivity. A broken bat flew into the stands at Fenway Park during an Oakland Athletics-Boston Red Sox game, seriously injuring fan Tonya Carpenter.

One year ago: An Ohio doctor, William Husel, was charged with murder in the deaths of 25 hospital patients who authorities said had been killed with deliberate overdoses of painkillers, many of them administered by other medical workers on his orders. (Husel has pleaded not guilty.) A court in Germany found Niels Hoegel, a 42-year-old nurse, guilty of murdering 85 patients and sentenced him to life in prison; he admitted causing cardiac arrests in patients by injecting them with overdoses of drugs because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them, but sometimes his efforts failed. (Hoegel had earlier been convicted of two other killings.) The Trump administration said it was ending medical research by government scientists that used human fetal tissue. Officials in Nepal said a government expedition to Mount Everest had removed more than 24,000 pounds of garbage and four dead bodies. Carrie Underwood extended her run as the most decorated act in the history of the CMT awards with her 20th win.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Bill Hayes is 95. Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers is 86. Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 81. Author Dame Margaret Drabble is 81. Country singer Don Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 75. Rock musician Freddie Stone (AKA Freddie Stewart) (Sly and the Family Stone) is 73. Rock singer Laurie Anderson is 73. Country singer Gail Davies is 72. Author Ken Follett is 71. Financial guru Suze Orman is 69. Rock musician Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) is 68. Jazz musician Peter Erskine is 66. Jazz musician Kenny G is 64. Rock singer Richard Butler (Psychedelic Furs) is 64. Actress Beth Hall is 62. Actor Jeff Garlin is 58. Actress Karen Sillas is 57. Actor Ron Livingston is 53. Singer Brian McKnight is 51. Rock musician Claus Norreen (Aqua) is 50. Actor Mark Wahlberg is 49. Actor Chad Allen is 46. Rock musician P-Nut (311) is 46. Actress Navi Rawat (ROH'-waht) is 43. Actress Liza Weil is 43. Rock musician Pete Wentz (Fall Out Boy) is 41. Rock musician Seb Lefebvre (Simple Plan) is 39. Actress Chelsey Crisp is 37. Actress Amanda Crew is 34. Electronic musician Harrison Mills (Odesza) is 31. Musician/songwriter/producer DJ Mustard is 30. Actress Sophie Lowe is 30. Actor Hank Greenspan is ten.

Thought for Today: "What is objectionable, what is dangerous, about extremists is not that they are extreme, but that they are intolerant. The evil is not what they say about their cause, but what they say about their opponents." — Robert F. Kennedy, U.S. senator (1925-1968).

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