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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.

“OUT OF PAIN AND  
PROBLEMS HAVE  
COME THE  
SWEETEST SONGS  
AND THE MOST  
GRIPPING  
STORIES.”

-BILLY GRAHAM



## Brief Power Outage This Morning

Parts of Groton experienced a brief power outage early this morning. A regulator in the south substation malfunctioned and was causing an issue with the sewer lift station at the park. The regulator had to be taken offline but in order to do that, the power to the substation had to be interrupted.



The Aberdeen Aquatics Team will be using the Groton Swimming Pool for training as no facilities are available in Aberdeen.

## **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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#103 in a series

## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are not great today. I wouldn't say disastrous, but things are going the wrong way.

We're at 1,911,400 cases in the US. New case numbers are well up, over 30,000, and I don't think we can attribute this to a weekend reporting lag as we tentatively did the spike on Monday. This is worrisome coming on the heels of Monday's terrible numbers. I'll continue to keep a close watch for another week. NY leads with 381,019 cases, holding steady, still just over 1000. NJ has 163,336 cases, an increase, but still below 1000. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 126,496 (in third place for the first time since April 2, a big concern since this is our most populous state), IL – 126,281, MA – 102,557, PA – 78,908, TX – 73,324, MI – 63,744, FL – 61,480, and MD – 57,407. 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.

Here's the latest on movement in new case reports. Those states with substantial numbers of cases which are not showing much change include MA, OH, VA, CO, GA, IA, LA, and WI. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, TN, TX, AZ, FL, WA, NC, and MS. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MI, NJ, MD, IL, CT, PA, and IN. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

While raw case numbers are highest in states with big urban centers because that's where the population is, in fact, per capita, the most cases are seen now in small cities and rural communities in the Midwest and the South. This represents a shift, one that bears watching.

There have been 109,299 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths is pretty steady, still over 1000. NY has 30,066, NJ has 12,049, MA has 7235, PA has 5952, MI has 5854, IL has 5834, CA has 4550, and CT has 4038. One state (MI) reported over 200 new deaths today, and the rest are reporting fewer than 100. There are 6 more states over 2000 deaths, 7 more states over 1000 deaths, 7 more over 500, 12 more + DC and PR over 100, and 10 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

Here's something new, at least to me. FSD Pharma, a cannabis company, has received FDA approval for a Phase 2a proof of concept study for its drug FSD-201 (ultramicrosized palmitoethanolamide, PEA) to treat Covid-19. This drug was developed for its anti-inflammatory properties, so it may be useful in treating a cytokine storm because it reduces the production of cytokines. It appears the study will be a randomized, controlled, double-blind study looking at a 14-day course of two different dosages of the drug against the standard of care. Researchers are hoping to establish whether it shortens the course of the disease. There is a fair amount of evidence that the drug works as an immune modulator and as to its mechanism of action, as well as a history of such use. There is a Phase 1 safety and tolerability trial underway now. Another tool is another tool.

We're still seeing ships stranded at sea for extended periods of time due to the pandemic. Currently, about 150,000 merchant seafarers are stranded on ships, overdue for crew changes. There is a movement afoot to push countries to recognize these people as essential workers who should be free to travel and make crew changes. Officers typically serve three to four months at a time and other crew members seven months; many are months overdue for relief, but blocked from replacement. There is real concern

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that, as crews become exhausted, the risk of accidents increases. It has also been difficult to get medical help for crew members who fall ill because ports are locked down.

And while we're on the subject of ships, there is news from the USS Theodore Roosevelt. You will recall this aircraft carrier was struck in March with Covid-19 among crew, giving rise to the tenth largest outbreak to date in the US with 969 cases and one death out of the 4800 crew members. Docked on Guam, the ship was evacuated while sailors were treated. The ship had left Guam in May, leaving behind crew who were still ill, but has now returned to pick up those individuals and resume normal operations.

The news from Latin America is not great. We were hoping they wouldn't be hard hit because of their younger population and the extended time they have had to prepare; but infections are over one million, and tens of thousands have died. If you were still wondering about seasonality—warm weather slowing the virus down—this should put paid to that idea; it's warm in these places, and the infection has rampaged across the region. Brazil is second only to the US in cases and has lost 31,000 lives; Peru has had twice as many infections as China had; Mexico has lost more than 10,000 people; and the hospital system in Chile is on the edge of collapse. Widespread poverty is contributing to the problem, as are corruption and other social problems. Despite some mitigation measures, case numbers have soared, and now people have lost faith in the governments and are returning to normal life while the disease is still spreading. Projections are for calamitous outcomes.

I read an interesting paper in pre-print (not yet peer-reviewed) studying cases in Hong Kong where contact-tracing has been very thorough so that local clusters of infection are identifiable. The conclusions drawn are that superspreading "has overwhelmingly contributed" to transmission. Of 349 local cases identified, 196 were linked to six superspreading events. One person infected 73 others on a night out at bars. Other clusters involved temples, dinners, weddings, and parties. 20% of cases accounted for 80% of transmissions, and another 10% accounted for the rest. This means 70% of cases did not transmit the infection to anyone. That is an interesting number. It would be good to track down what operates there.

This does not appear to be a finding limited to Hong Kong. A study published in *The Lancet* of cases in Shenzhen, China, found that 80% of transmissions were caused by 8-9% of cases. Similar findings were cited in a *New York Times* article by the authors of the Hong Kong study for cases in a call center in South Korea and in Israel—large numbers of transmissions from relatively few sources. It helps at this point to remember that  $R_e$  (the number of people to whom one infected case transmits the virus) is an average; and it appears a few folks drive that average up by a lot.

According to these authors, there have been no studies that have identified individual characteristics that might make a particular person a superspreader. While there may be some, we don't know what those would be. We do know, though, that you are most infectious within a few days before symptoms show up and that your infectiousness decreases with time after that. Other factors that play a role in superspreading events are the proximity of contact, the length of exposure, and the setting. So crowds are more dangerous for transmission than small groups, and repeated or extensive contact will result in more transmission. Indoor gatherings are more dangerous than outdoor ones. Ventilation is a big help. And reducing the time you're in contact with someone limits transmission. Most of this isn't news; we just need to figure out how the superspreaders figure into this picture.

Japan's strategies to limit spread have been aimed at limiting what Tohoku University researchers called the "three Cs," closed spaces, crowds, and close contacts. Adding testing and contact-tracing makes control more likely. (And tell me which of these comes as a surprise, given what we've been talking about all along.) If superspreading events are driving this pandemic, then we may have a path forward as we ease general restrictions.

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We had a wild storm rage through our area last night. A broad swath across the area lost electrical power as lines went down in ferocious winds; in fact, I typed much of last night's update by the light of a battery-powered lantern, squinting at my figures on the page (old fashioned—still look at printout) as I worked. When the storm had passed, we went out to survey the damage and were relieved to see that, other than trees, not much was hurt—although my garden suffered something of a setback from the wind and hail. We said to one another, "Well, it could have been worse." Turns out it was worse—much worse—for some of our neighbors, and yet one of them took the time to make a call to this old couple to make sure we were OK. This was a neighbor who was dealing with the loss of two buildings on their place, so really did have better things to do. I am heartened by the goodness of people, even when they're amidst their own problems.

Tonight, that is what I wish for you, that someone takes time away from their own troubles to offer a little kindness to you, and that you will then pause in contemplation of your problems to pass the kindness on. This stuff is contagious, and that's the kind of epidemic we all need right now. Please be a superspreader; it will make the world a better place just when it matters most.

Stay well, and we'll talk again.

## Happy 605 Day, Tourism Friends!

Here is the COVID-19 Weekly Update. We are once again seeing some positive trends that indicate a slow but steady rebound for the travel industry.

A few things worth noting this week:

\* The most common responses for activities travelers would find most relaxing in the next twelve months would be spending time with friends and relatives (43%), taking a road trip (35%), staying at a beach resort (34%) and visiting a national park (24%).

\* The number of Americans who plan to take a road trip in the next three months increased significantly while those who plan to travel later this year and into 2021 dropped since last week.

\* Average hotel occupancy across the US reached 36.6% last week. A 43% decrease from the prior year.

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

A few other items we want you to be aware of:

\* We have announced more details about the July 3 Mount Rushmore Fireworks Celebration. You can find information about the event and FAQs here. A REMINDER that one must have a ticket to be a part of the 2020 celebration. You can enter the lottery to receive a ticket at Recreation.gov. Here is the link for entering the lottery.

\* Now more than ever, our industry members must be working diligently to ensure that our businesses are safe and healthy for employees and visitors. Visitors are looking for lodging, restaurants, attractions, etc. that have very visible health and hygiene protocols in place. You can find health, safety and hygiene resources for your business here.

We hope you are all doing well. Things are getting better! This may not be the summer we were hoping for, but rest assured your team in the Department of Tourism is working as hard as we can to make this the very best summer and fall possible. Let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any help. THANKS for all you are doing!

All our very best,  
Jim & Team

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
Minnesota	25,508	25,870	26,273	26,980
Nebraska	14,611	14,866	15,117	15,379
Montana	523	525	539	541
Colorado	26,788	27,060	27,360	27,615
Wyoming	701	703	709	721
North Dakota	2646	2679	2706	2745
South Dakota	5067	5162	5247	5277
United States	1,831,821	1,851,520	1,872,660	1,898,401
US Deaths	106,181	107,175	108,211	109,137

Minnesota	+300	+362	+403	+707
Nebraska	+266	+255	+251	+262
Montana	+4	+2	+14	+2
Colorado	+211	+272	+300	+255
Wyoming	+1	+2	+6	+12
North Dakota	+21	+33	+27	+39
South Dakota	+33	+95	+85	+30
United States	+20,451	+19,699	+21,140	+25,741
US Deaths	+1,016	+994	+1,036	+926

	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 5th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

A Meade County resident has died from COVID-19. He was in the 59-59 age group. North Dakota has recorded five new deaths. In North Dakota, 71 have died. In South Dakota, 65 have died.

Only 13 counties have reported a change since yesterday. If you don't see your county listed, it is because there was no change from yesterday.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: -3 (59)  
Recovered: +4 (231)  
Total Positive: +1 (291)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (13)  
Deaths: 1  
Negative Tests: +21 (1716)  
Percent Recovered: 79.4% (1.1 increase)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +30 (5277 total)  
Negative: +712 (48086 total)  
Hospitalized: +3 (467 total) - 83 currently hospitalized (3 less than yesterday)  
Deaths: +1 (65 total)  
Recovered: +16 (4179 total)  
Active Cases: +13 (1033)  
Percent Recovered: 79.2% down 0.1

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +4 (127), Butte +3 (228), Campbell 40, Dewey + 16 (424) Haakon +2 (62), Harding 30, Jones 15, Mellette +1 (75), Perkins +1 (24), Potter 135, unassigned -718 (6833).

Beadle: +2 positive, +3 recovered (131 of 343 recovered)  
Brown: +1 positive, +4 recovered)  
Buffalo: +1 positive (5 of 22 recovered)  
Clay: +1 positive (13 of 19 recovered)  
Davison: +4 positive (10 of 24 recovered)  
Edmunds: +1 recovered (1 of 3 recovered)  
Lawrence: +1 positive (9 of 12 recovered)  
Lincoln: +3 positive, +1 recovered (222 of 246 recovered)  
Minnehaha: +2 positive, +6 recovered (3004 of 3387 recovered)  
Oglala Lakota: +1 positive, -1 recovered (10 of 35 recovered)  
Pennington: +9 positive, +1 recovered (96 of 284 recovered)  
Todd: +2 positive, +1 recovered (20 of 33 recovered)  
Yankton: +1 positive (44 of 52 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases: 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 2,624 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 40 new positive cases,

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bringing the statewide total to 2,745. NDDoH also reports five new deaths.  
State & private labs have reported 107,509 total completed tests.  
2,242 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	616	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	920	17%
Hispanic	930	18%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	568	11%
Other	608	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1635	31%

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

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	27	17	165
Beadle	343	131	566
Bennett	0	0	127
Bon Homme	8	6	397
Brookings	20	16	880
Brown	291	231	1716
Brule	2	1	271
Buffalo	22	5	260
Butte	0	0	228
Campbell	0	0	40
Charles Mix	18	11	322
Clark	4	4	146
Clay	19	13	612
Codington	39	30	1161
Corson	4	3	71
Custer	1	0	185
Davison	24	10	864
Day	14	12	205
Deuel	1	1	220
Dewey	0	0	424
Douglas	3	3	166
Edmunds	3	1	167
Fall River	6	3	298
Faulk	1	1	57
Grant	13	10	166
Gregory	1	0	150
Haakon	0	0	62
Hamlin	5	4	167
Hand	4	1	107
Hanson	2	0	82
Harding	0	0	30
Hughes	19	16	678
Hutchinson	6	3	426

Hyde	1	1	44
Jackson	4	0	40
Jerauld	39	26	164
Jones	0	0	15
Kingsbury	3	1	232
Lake	12	7	304
Lawrence	12	9	615
Lincoln	246	222	2824
Lyman	16	10	287
Marshall	4	3	117
McCook	6	4	301
McPherson	1	1	107
Meade	24	9	703
Mellette	0	0	75
Miner	2	1	117
Minnehaha	3387	3004	14314
Moody	19	16	242
Oglala Lakota	35	10	434
Pennington	284	96	3790
Perkins	0	0	24
Potter	0	0	135
Roberts	37	31	673
Sanborn	13	10	136
Spink	5	5	400
Stanley	10	8	93
Sully	1	1	35
Todd	33	20	524
Tripp	6	6	204
Turner	25	22	405
Union	93	73	666
Walworth	5	5	246
Yankton	52	44	1506
Ziebach	2	1	65
Unassigned****	0	0	6833

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2502	36
Male	2775	29

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	522	0
20-29 years	1026	1
30-39 years	1178	3
40-49 years	911	4
50-59 years	861	9
60-69 years	482	11
70-79 years	148	6
80+ years	149	31



## Severe Storms This Evening/Overnight

ISSUED: 4:49 AM - Saturday, June 06, 2020

### WHAT

Scattered morning storms - severe weather unlikely. Severe thunderstorms possible this evening/overnight. Threats include **damaging winds, large hail**, cant rule out a **tornado** or two.

### WHERE/WHEN

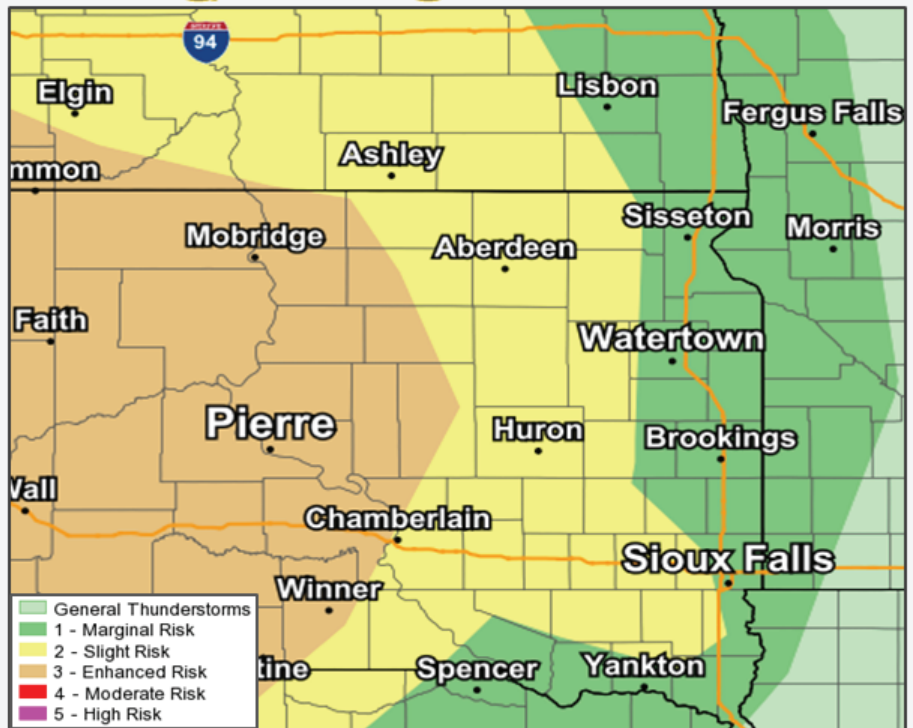
West River this afternoon  
Central/North Central South Dakota this evening, rest of state overnight.

### CONFIDENCE

Moderate. Storm coverage is uncertain tonight.

### ADDITIONAL WEATHER INFO

A stiff southeast wind is expected today. Winds will be strongest in north central SD - around 20 to 30mph with gusts upwards of 45mph.

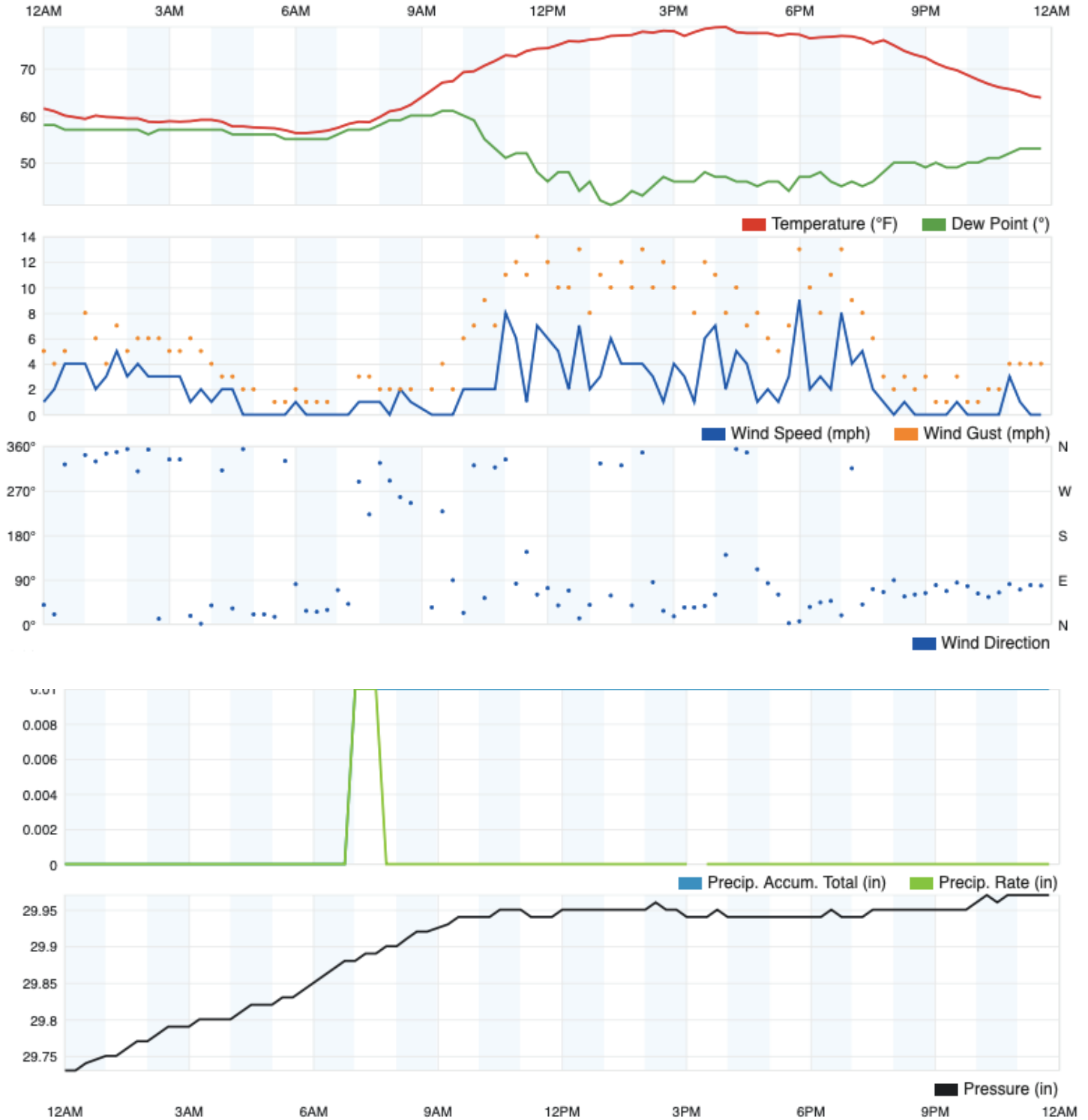


Weak storms will move across the region this morning into mid-day. Stronger storms will form west river this afternoon, moving into central South Dakota this evening. Storms will continue east overnight. The main threat will be high winds and hail. Another bout of storms is expected Sunday afternoon for northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Chance  
T-storms and  
Breezy

High: 79 °F

Tonight



T-storms  
Likely and  
Breezy

Low: 68 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

High: 93 °F

Sunday  
Night



T-storms  
Likely

Low: 70 °F

Monday



Sunny then  
Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 84 °F

## Stormy Weekend Weather



**Strong to Severe Storms Possible  
Late this Afternoon/Tonight, and again  
Sunday afternoon & Sunday Night**

Today



Showers and Storms  
possible. A few could  
become strong or  
severe this afternoon.

Tonight



Showers and  
Thunderstorms.  
Strong to severe  
thunderstorms likely.

Sunday



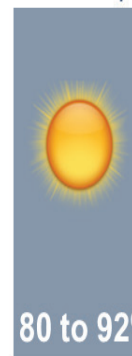
Hot. Afternoon  
Showers and  
Thunderstorms.  
Strong to severe  
thunderstorms likely.

Sunday Night



Showers and  
Thunderstorms  
likely.

Monday



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## Today in Weather History

June 6, 1895: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles west of Summit, passing 3 miles northwest of Summit. Buildings were damaged on eight farms.

June 6, 1897: Light to heavy frost, and in some localities, killing frost occurred on the 6th and 7th. These cold temperatures along with last season frost in May and wet conditions several hampered the planting season. Luckily growing conditions changed towards the middle and end of the month. Some low temperatures on the 6th include 26 degrees in Castlewood and Watertown, 29 in Mellette, 30 in Aberdeen and Milbank, and 32 in Highmore. Some low temperatures on the 7th include; 24 degrees in Castlewood, 25 in Watertown, and 30 degrees in Milbank.

June 6, 1999: Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches caused flash flooding on a creek feeding into the Grand River. At a ranch southwest of Bullhead, a bunkhouse wall moved off the foundation by a wall of water coming down the creek. All of the contents in the bunkhouse were destroyed. A machine shop was washed away along with several pieces of equipment and many tools. Some tools and equipment were found more than a mile down the creek. A pump house and a grain bin were also destroyed. A pickup was washed down the stream, and a propane tank near home was rolled over. A colt was picked up by the water but managed to escape. The powerful flow of water took out several dead trees and washed them downstream. Finally, a road and a culvert were washed out by the flash flood.

1816: The temperature reached 92 degrees at Salem, Massachusetts during an early heat wave, but then plunged 49 degrees in 24 hours to commence the famous "year without a summer." Snow fell near Quebec City, Quebec Canada from the 6th through the 10th and accumulated up to a foot with "drifts reaching the axle trees of carriages."

1894: One of the greatest floods in U.S. history occurred as the Willamette River overflowed to inundate half of the business district of Portland, Oregon. The river crested at 33.5 feet, the worst flood ever recorded in the city.

1975 - A tornado, reportedly spinning backwards (spinning clockwise), was sighted near Alva, OK. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Severe thunderstorms with large hail and winds to 100 mph caused one million dollars damage around Norfolk, VA. A forty-two foot fishing boat capsized near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel drowning 13 of the 27 persons on board. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern California produced one inch hail at Mount Pinos, and marble size hail at Palmdale. Thunderstorms in southeastern Arizona produced heavy rain leaving some washes under four feet of water. Six cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the upper 90s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Seventeen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 65 mph which damaged two mobile homes northwest of Melbourne injuring six people. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the late morning hours produced severe weather through the afternoon and night. Thunderstorms spawned 13 tornadoes, and there were 154 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado injured six persons at Lorenzo, TX, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph killed one person at Glasscock City, TX. Softball size hail was reported at Lipscomb and Glen Cove TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

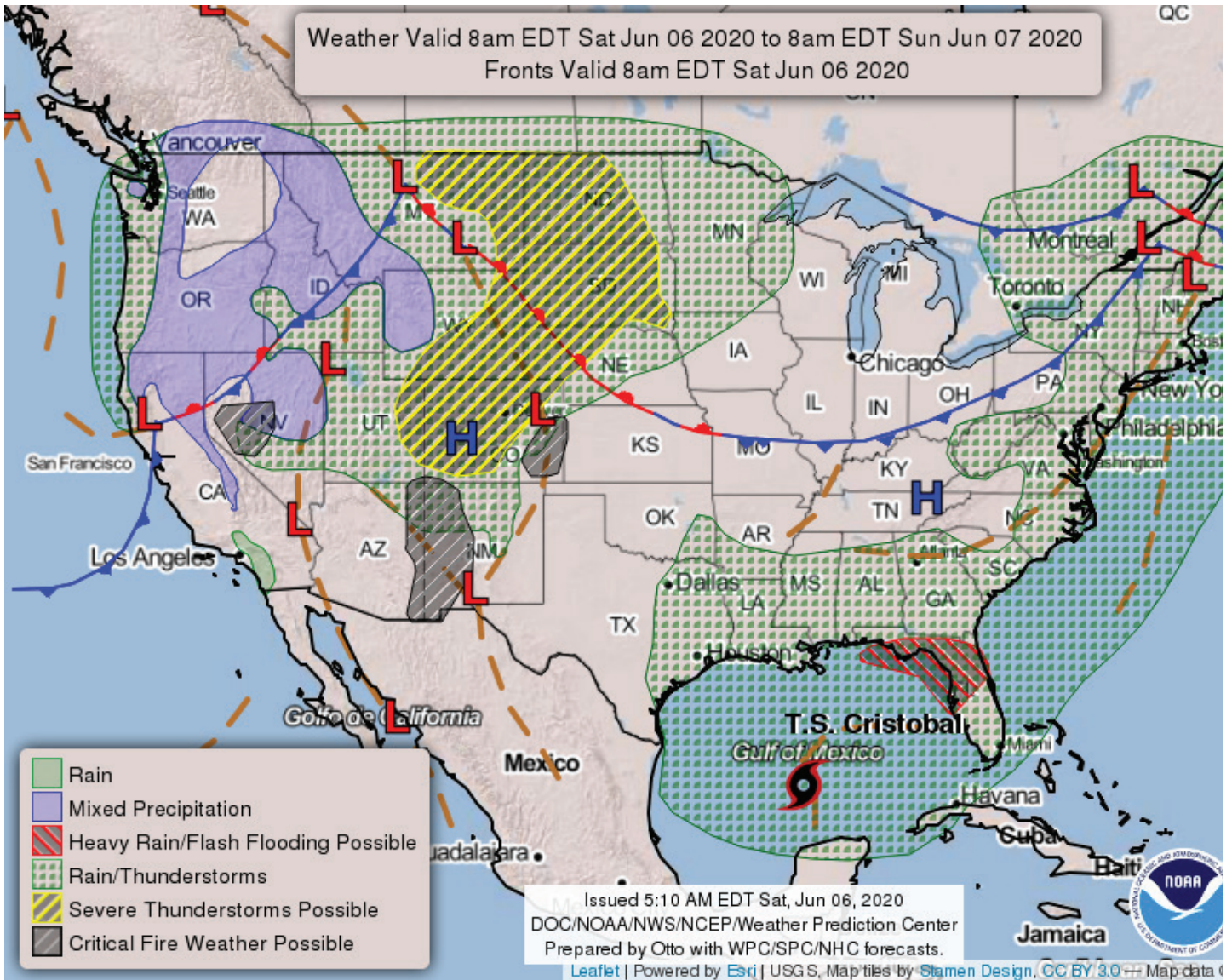
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 79 °F at 3:53 PM**  
**Low Temp: 56 °F at 6:04 AM**  
**Wind: 14 mph at 11:38 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 99° in 1950**  
**Record Low: 30° in 1897**  
**Average High: 74°F**  
**Average Low: 51°F**  
**Average Precip in June.: .58**  
**Precip to date in June.: 0.50**  
**Average Precip to date: 7.72**  
**Precip Year to Date: 5.13**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.**



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## UNLIMITED!

George was well known and highly esteemed by the members of his church. By the world's definition of success, he would be considered one who "had it made." He had a comfortable life, his children settled into good careers, and was always available to serve the Lord whenever someone called upon him. He was well known for his faithfulness and fruitfulness.

Once he was asked, "What's the source of your energy? How can you do so much for so many and never seem to tire?"

After thinking for a moment he replied, "It's this - with Christ within me, and working through me, I refuse to accept any human limitations others may try to put on me."

Paul once said, "I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be." What a goal for each of us to adopt: being what Jesus saved us for and wants us to be! And, if it is in His plan for us, He can accomplish it through us!

When we fully realize and accept all that He has called us to be and to do, our lives will have no "human limitations." Often when an opportunity to serve Him comes our way, our first response is to question our abilities or availability. But, He never calls us to do anything that is beyond our potential. If He asks us to do "it" He will empower us to accomplish "it!" Trust Him.

Prayer: Lord, may we have an unlimited view of what You would have us to be and do. Free us of self-imposed limitations that cause fear and failure. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:12-14

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

• **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)

• **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion

• **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)

• **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip

• **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.

• **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)

• **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course

• 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services

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

• 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS

• 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course

• 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show

• 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney

• **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton

• 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course

• 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)

• 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic

• 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)

• 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)

• 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat

• 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat

• 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

• 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center

• 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party

• 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

• 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

32-35-37-47-55, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 3

(thirty-two, thirty-five, thirty-seven, forty-seven, fifty-five; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$378 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

### The Latest: China orders pangolin protection amid pandemic

By The Associated Press undefined

BEIJING — China is ordering its highest level of protection for the armadillo-like pangolin as part of its crackdown on the wildlife trade following the global coronavirus pandemic.

While the virus is believed to have originated in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, most scientists say it was most likely transmitted from bats to humans via an intermediary animal such as the pangolin.

The order Friday from the National Forestry and Grassland Administration does not explicitly mention the virus outbreak as a reason for the measure, but the timing appears to indicate that was a consideration.

Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy by some Chinese and its scales are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Other animals protected at China's top level include giant pandas, Tibetan antelopes and red-crowned cranes.

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

- U.S. unemployment makes a surprise 13.3% drop amid the pandemic.
- The U.K. became the second country after the United States with more than 40,000 virus deaths.
- WHO widens recommendations for use of masks.
- The coronavirus pandemic has forced missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to do their outreach online. The church hastily brought home more than 26,000 young people from overseas missions aimed at recruiting new members. Many are taking their work to social media in their own countries.
- Saturday's D-Day anniversary will be one of the loneliest remembrances ever for the June 6, 1944 landings in Normandy. The coronavirus pandemic is keeping almost everyone away — from world leaders to frail veterans who might not get another chance for a final farewell to their comrades.
- Japan has kept its deaths from the new coronavirus low despite a series of missteps that beg the question of whether it can prevent future waves of infections. Authorities have conducted only a fraction of the tests needed to find and isolate patients.

Go to <https://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> for updates throughout the day.

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

BEIJING — China's capital is lowering its emergency response level to the second-lowest starting Saturday for the coronavirus pandemic.

That will lift most restrictions on people traveling from Wuhan and the surrounding province of Hubei, where the virus first appeared late last year. They will no longer face 14-day mandatory quarantines and



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other forms of monitoring, and those currently in such situations will be allowed to return to their normal lives.

Beijing residential compounds will not be required to conduct temperature checks and masks no longer must be worn for outdoor activities. Kindergartens will reopen and other grades still suspended will restart classes.

Beijing has reported no new cases of local transmission in at least 50 days and as many as 90 days in some districts.

**SANTA FE, N.M.** — The New Mexico Supreme Court is temporarily suspending consumer debt collection such as garnishing wages and seizing assets in response to the coronavirus pandemic and its related economic downturn.

The court on Friday ordered the temporary suspension in a new effort to alleviate economic hardship amid a surge in unemployment and uncertainties.

The decision comes as a virus outbreak continues to race through privately run prison facilities for state and federal inmates in Otero County. There have been 583 positive tests among inmates there.

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The president of the University of Minnesota is recommending the school resume in-person classes this fall after shifting to online offerings during the coronavirus pandemic.

President Joan Gabel also will recommend to the Board of Regents next week that the university reopen residence halls in the fall.

The Star Tribune reports Gabel announced her recommendations Friday after weeks of deliberations with university leaders and public health experts.

Gabel also will suggest each campus adjust its academic calendars to conclude in-person instruction by Thanksgiving, or earlier if state health officials deem it necessary.

Her plan must be approved by regents.

**HARRISBURG, Pa.** — Gov. Tom Wolf will allow 12 more counties that are home to 1.3 million people to join the nearly 4 million who are now in the least-restrictive phase of his three-step pandemic reopening plan, even as he warned Friday of an outbreak in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Wolf said that the 12 counties can join the "green" phase of his stoplight-colored reopening plan next Friday. Sixteen more counties entered the "green" phase Friday, joining 18 others.

At that level, gyms, barbers and hair salons can reopen as can indoor dining at restaurants and bars. Overnight camps and organized youth sports can begin and gatherings of up to 250 people are allowed.

Wolf adds that while Pennsylvania's total count of new coronavirus cases has declined recently, Erie County in the state's northwest and home to the state's fourth-most populous city is seeing a rise in cases.

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has announced that a gradual reopening will begin Wednesday for indoor dining, gyms and entertainment venues during the coronavirus pandemic.

Walz said Friday that despite the easing, customers and employees still will be either strongly recommended or required to wear masks to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Restaurants can offer indoor dining while maintaining social distancing, requiring reservations and seating no more than 50% occupancy. Gyms, yoga studios, theaters, concert halls, bowling alleys and museums may open at 25% occupancy. Places of worship can increase their occupancy to 50%.

Minnesota Chamber President Doug Loon welcomes the move, but he is urging the Democratic governor to accelerate the process and reopen all Minnesota businesses by June 19.

**ISLAMABAD**-- Pakistan's prime minister has told his country's people that he does not want to reimpose a lockdown that was eased last month, saying the nation cannot afford to because of its ailing economy.

In a televised speech Friday, Prime Minister Imran Khan urged Pakistanis to adhere to social-distancing guidelines, saying it was the only way to slow the spread of virus.

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His comments came hours after Pakistan reported 68 virus-related deaths in the previous 24 hours, raising its death toll in the pandemic to 1,838.

Another 4,896 new confirmed cases of the virus also were reported Friday, Pakistan's highest number in a single day.

**NEW ORLEANS** -- Some Louisiana businesses have been slammed after reopening for the first time in 2 1/2 months while others are waiting for customers or taking another week to emerge from a nationwide virus lockdown.

Bars, massage facilities, bowling alleys, swimming pools and tattoo shops in Louisiana were allowed to reopen Friday under an order signed by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

At Bodyworks Massage And Spa in Monroe, owner Donna Laseter had no time to give an interview, saying. "We've got everybody coming in and our phone's ringing off the hooks."

New Orleans, the state's original outbreak hot spot, isn't participating in the wider reopening. City officials said more time and data is needed to decide when that is safe.

Lake Charles bowling alley supervisor Ashley Gunderson said nobody had shown up during Friday's first hour at Petro Bowl, but several people had called to say they would be coming.

**LANSING, Mich.** — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer says barbershops and other personal-care businesses can reopen across the state on June 15.

Those businesses and places like gyms and movie theaters that were shut down to curb the coronavirus are being allowed to restart in northern Michigan next week, with restrictions. The governor is expected to move the rest of the state's more populated areas to that stage in coming weeks.

In 32 northern counties, indoor social gatherings and organized events of up to 50 people will be permissible, subject to distancing and other safety rules. Outdoor gatherings of up to 250 will be allowed.

Indoor facilities such as bowling alleys, cinemas, convention centers and sports arenas will open at 25% capacity or hold up to 250 people, whatever is smaller.

Michigan has the sixth-most COVID-19 deaths in the U.S., and the Detroit area was once considered a national hot spot.

**LONDON** — The U.K. has become the second country to officially record more than 40,000 coronavirus-related deaths as more than 100 scientists wrote to the British government to urge it to reconsider lifting virus lockdown restrictions.

The government said Friday that another 357 people who had tested positive for the virus have died in the U.K. across all settings, including hospitals and care homes. That takes the total to 40,261, the world's second-highest pandemic death toll behind the United States.

The U.K.'s actual COVID-19 death toll is widely considered to be higher as the total only includes those who have tested positive for the virus.

In an open letter, the scientists urged the government to postpone further easing of the lockdown given the still-high level of daily virus-related deaths and new infections.

"Despite a two-month lockdown, we are still experiencing unacceptable daily numbers of deaths, still in the hundreds, and an estimated 8,000 new infections a day in England alone," they wrote.

**PHOENIX** -- Arizona has reported a new daily high for confirmed coronavirus cases as the number of virus-related deaths in the state topped 1,000.

The state Department of Health Services on Friday reported 16 new deaths, bringing Arizona's total to 1,012. The department said 1,578 new cases were tallied, by far the highest daily count since the outbreak began.

The number of people confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 in Arizona is now at 24,332. The surge in cases began about 10 days. Gov. Doug Ducey lifted his stay-at-home order on May 15.

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**SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — South Dakota has dropped plans to test an anti-malaria drug to prevent COVID-19, the partners in the study announced Friday.

The statewide tests were called off after a University of Minnesota study found that the drug hydroxychloroquine had no benefit over a placebo as a way to prevent COVID-19 in people exposed to the coronavirus.

Hydroxychloroquine has attracted controversy after U.S. President Donald Trump promoted it as an antidote to COVID-19, but the drug was shown in studies not to help in some studies even to be harmful to people hospitalized with the virus.

Sanford Health, Avera Health and Monument Health were collaborating on the tests, which were sponsored by the state of South Dakota. The South Dakota trial was in the early stages and had just recently opened for enrollment.

**MADRID** — Spain's top government virus expert says that fear of being infected with the coronavirus may have played a role in the huge spike in deaths that has yet to be explained.

Spain's Health Ministry reports just over 27,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths. They were people who tested positive for the virus before they died.

But Carlos III University, which runs the nation's mortality observatory, has registered more than 43,000 deaths since March beyond the number expected based on the rates in recent years.

Coordination Center for Health Alerts and Emergencies Director Fernando Simón said Friday that the discrepancies between the Health Ministry's number and the mortality figures could be due to other factors indirectly related to the virus.

He said one could be "those people with chronic illnesses who were too scared or waited too long to go to the hospital" when they needed care at the height of the outbreak in Spain.

Simón acknowledged that Spain's actual COVID-19 death toll could be higher than the current official count. Spain, like most hard-hit countries, had enormous difficulties in providing virus tests to all the sick at the start of its outbreak.

**MILAN** — No deaths were recorded in nine Italian regions on Friday as the coronavirus's grip on Italy continues to ease. The number of deaths nationwide grew by 85 in 24 hours, in line with recent days, for a total of 33,774.

New data from the civil protection agency showed a sharp increase in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases — with 518 new positives, more than double a day earlier, bringing Italy's total to date to 234,531.

The increase was attributed to huge jump in the number of tests in Lombardy to more than 19,000 in one day, up from just over 3,400 a day earlier. That revealed more than 400 new positives in the region that has borne the brunt of Italy's epidemic.

Pressure on hospitals continued to ease with 200 fewer people hospitalized and 22 fewer people in intensive care. Officials say most intensive-care patients are long-standing cases that have proven hard to treat.

**SKOPJE, North Macedonia** — North Macedonia has registered a new record number of daily coronavirus infections for the third consecutive day, with more than half the country's 2.1 million people under an 80-hour near-total lockdown.

Health Minister Venko Filipce announced that 180 newly infected people and two deaths were recorded over the past 24 hours, a new record since the first case was registered in late February. The total confirmed cases in the country now stand at 2,790, and 149 people have died.

Filipce said about 90% of newly infected people are members and relatives of 15 families, and that the second wave of the epidemic in North Macedonia was the result of people ignoring the ban on mass gatherings. More than a half of the new cases are from the capital, Skopje.

North Macedonia's government has imposed almost a near-complete curfew in four regions that started at 9 p.m. Thursday and will end at 5 a.m. Monday. People can only leave their houses to go to a hospital

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or pharmacy. Supermarkets and food stores are closed.

Filipce said he is confident that the new spike in infections is under control and announced that authorities would discuss on Sunday the next steps for dealing with the epidemic.

**LONDON** — The World Health Organization is changing its recommendations for the use of masks during the coronavirus pandemic and is now recommending that in areas where there is widespread transmission, people should wear masks when social distancing is not possible, such as on public transport and in shops.

In a press briefing on Friday, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said people over age 60 or those with underlying medical conditions should wear a medical mask in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. WHO has previously only recommended that health care workers, those sickened by COVID-19 and their care givers wear masks.

Tedros emphasized that "masks on their own will not protect you from COVID-19" and emphasized the importance of hand-washing, social distancing and other measures. He added that health workers in areas with widespread transmission should now wear medical masks in all areas of health facilities and not just those with confirmed COVID-19 patients, saying that doctors working in cardiology or other wards, for example, should continue to wear a medical mask even if there are no known coronavirus patients.

**BAGHDAD** — The number of confirmed coronavirus cases reported daily in Iraq has reached 1,000 for the first time and the country has seen its cases more than triple in the last two weeks due to increased testing.

A Health Ministry statement issued on Friday said at least 1,006 new coronavirus cases had been reported in the previous 24 hours, bringing the nationwide total to 9,846. Ministry figures showed the death toll remained at 285.

Health Ministry teams have been doing random virus tests of the population, and Iraqi officials have said that is why confirmed cases are spiking. Iraq has conducted nearly 10,000 tests per day in recent days.

But the rising numbers are concerning for health workers who cite a scarcity of medical supplies and trained staff. Officials have said a flareup in the number of cases could be catastrophic for the country's floundering health sector.

Doctors have told patients who have tested positive to stay at home unless their symptoms worsen.

**BERLIN** — Switzerland says it plans to lift restrictions on travel from European Union countries and Britain on June 15.

The Swiss government previously had announced that it would completely reopen the country's borders with three of its neighbors -- Austria, Germany and France -- in mid-June.

On Friday, a government statement said "in view of the current epidemiological situation" it can now expand that to all countries in the EU and the European Free Trade Association, as well as Britain.

Switzerland is not a member of the EU but is part of Europe's usually passport check-free Schengen travel area.

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Malaysia's government has announced a 35 billion ringgit (\$8.2 billion) stimulus to bolster short-term economic recovery as the country emerges from more than two months of virus lockdown.

The package, which is in addition to a \$60 billion stimulus announced earlier, centers on increasing employment, wooing foreign investment and revitalizing key sectors of the economy.

Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said Friday it included 10 billion ringgits (\$2.3 billion) in wage subsidies, training programs and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. Tax breaks and rebates have been given to bolster the manufacturing, real estate, auto, palm oil, airline and tourism sectors.

He said this includes a zero tax rate for up to 15 years for foreigners investing more than 500 million ringgits (\$117 million) in manufacturing and fixed property sector. Malaysia, which has nearly 8,300 infections and 116 deaths, eased virus restrictions last month.

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

## South Dakota couple accused of using cattle prod on kids

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota couple is accused of giving four children illegal drugs and of zapping them with a cattle prod to get them to comply with orders.

Investigators have recommended charging Lance Long, 36, and Crystallynn Long, 40, of Sioux Falls, with aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon, abuse or cruelty to a minor and numerous other counts.

The Longs are jailed on a warrant of giving a controlled drug to a minor. Bond was set at \$50,000 for Lance Long, the children's stepfather, and \$15,000 for Crystallynn Long during a court appearance Thursday in Sioux Falls.

The Longs' public defender did not immediately return a call for comment on their behalf.

Minnehaha County sheriff's Capt. Josh Phillips said the abuse had been going on for several years and involves boys ages 17, 13 and 11, as well as a 15-year-old girl. The children are related and some are half-siblings, the Argus Leader reported.

The couple gave the children methamphetamine and marijuana and shocked them with a cattle prod "to get the children to obey commands or if they weren't listening," Phillips said.

Authorities received a child abuse complaint May 13 from someone connected to the couple, Phillips said. The children were interviewed and the Longs were arrested after fleeing to Oklahoma.

The children are in the custody of the Department of Social Services.

## Court allows amusement park death lawsuit to move forward

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The wife of a central Iowa amusement park employee killed in an accident at the park in 2016 can proceed with a federal lawsuit and the park's insurance company may have to pay damages, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled Friday.

The court had to consider whether the insurance company for Adventureland Park in Altoona could be held responsible for damages for the death of the worker.

Gladys Booher of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, filed a lawsuit against Stuart Glen, an employee who ran Adventureland's Raging River ride. Booher's husband, Stephen Booher was working as a ride assistant at the park in the summer of 2016. He seated guests into the cars that look like large rubber tubes floating on a river.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Iowa, claims that Glen started the ride before the ride assistants gave the all-clear on June 7, 2016. As a result, Booher and another assistant were thrown from their platform into the conveyor belt that drives the ride's cars. The other worker managed to escape but Booher was pulled into the vortex between the ride's cars and a concrete wall. He died four days later from head injuries.

Booher is seeking damages including loss of future earnings, physical and mental pain and suffering, burial expenses and punitive damages.

Adventureland's insurer, Florida-based T.H.E. Insurance Co., challenged the lawsuit in Iowa state court claiming it had no duty to defend or pay claims for Glen. The company said Booher's claim of gross negligence was not covered under the policy because it wasn't an accident as defined in the policy language.

A district court judge agreed and found there was no coverage under the insurance policy. Booher appealed.

The Iowa Supreme Court concluded that Booher's lawsuit presents enough of a question for a jury to decide. The ruling allows the federal lawsuit to move forward.

Booher's attorney, Fred Dorr said the ruling establishes that the insurer has an obligation to defend and potentially pay damages if a jury finds Glen was negligent. Iowa law defines gross negligence as a wanton, willful disregard or neglect of the safety of another person.

Glen's attorney it was an unfortunate accident caused by a mistake.

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"He's heartbroken about what happened. He wishes it hadn't happened and says he made a mistake, that it was an accident but an accident is not gross negligence," said attorney Guy Cook. No park guests were ever in danger, Cook said.

An attorney for the insurance company did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

## South Dakota drops drug tests to prevent COVID-19

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has dropped plans to test an anti-malaria drug to prevent COVID-19, the partners in the study said Friday.

The statewide tests were called off after a University of Minnesota study found that the drug hydroxychloroquine had no benefit over a placebo as a way to prevent COVID-19 in people exposed to the coronavirus. The drug hydroxychloroquine has attracted controversy after President Donald Trump promoted it as an antidote to COVID-19, but was shown in studies not to help, and even to be harmful, to people hospitalized by the virus.

Sanford Health, Avera Health and Monument Health were collaborating on the tests, which were sponsored by the state of South Dakota. Gov. Kristi Noem said last month the state was going ahead with plans to test small amounts of the drug.

"After closely reviewing the new research, our clinical trial team determined that the South Dakota study is unlikely to see different results," said Dr. Susan Hoover, Sanford Health infectious disease doctor and principal investigator of the study.

The South Dakota trial was in the early stages and had just recently opened for enrollment.

Noem said in a statement that the state "will continue to invest our resources into the most promising approaches to preventing and treating COVID-19."

The partners are continuing to evaluate options for collaborating on statewide COVID-19 research.

## South Dakota small businesses receive \$1.6 billion in loans

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lenders have made \$1.6 billion in U.S. Small Business Administration loans as economic fallout from the coronavirus outbreak takes its toll.

The lenders approved more than 21,000 Paycheck Protection Program loans. The program was created by the CARES Act and began approving forgivable loans on April 3 to small businesses affected by the pandemic so they could keep their employees on the payroll and cover operational costs.

The Rapid City Journal reports the volume of loans approved over nine weeks is equal to 18 years of annual SBA loan approvals in South Dakota that would have been made in normal circumstances.

Last fiscal year, South Dakota lenders made about \$90 million in SBA-guaranteed loans.

The current Paycheck Protection Program loans are available to South Dakota's small businesses through local community lenders until June 30.

## Virus exposes sharp economic divide: College vs. non-college

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — For an American workforce under continuing threat from the coronavirus, the best protection might just be a college degree.

Friday's jobs report for May delivered a major pleasant surprise, with lower unemployment and 2.5 million added jobs, instead of the darkening picture that had been widely expected.

Yet the damage inflicted on the job market since February has highlighted a widening line of inequality based on education. In a nation in which a majority of workers lack a degree, college graduates are far more likely to be inoculated from the pain.

In May, the overall unemployment rate was 13.3%, down from 14.7% in April. For workers with only a high school diploma, the jobless rate was 15.3%. For college graduates, it was just 7.4%.

Fewer than half of high school graduates are now working. Two-thirds of college graduates are.

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The roughly 20 million jobs lost in the aftermath of the coronavirus are amplifying the economic inequalities between college graduates and other workers that have been evident for years, said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, who has long studied the topic.

"It's laying bare the class and racial differences in America," Carnevale said. "It's very plain to see because it all shows up in the data."

At a time when advanced education has become increasingly vital to household prosperity, nearly two-thirds of Americans lack a college degree.

About 90% of the jobs that were added during the first three years of the Trump presidency went to college graduates. Census Bureau figures show that the average college graduate's income is twice as high as high school-only workers.

And at a moment when the country is confronting the challenges of racism and police abuses, the preference for college degrees is widening the racial wealth gap: 78% of college graduates are white.

Workers with the least education are typically the first to be let go, Carnevale noted, and frequently the last to be rehired. College graduates who lose jobs are, on average, more likely than non-college grads to be hired at the start of a recovery.

The pattern is somewhat different this time. In the past, unemployed workers could typically return to school to acquire new hands-on skills or earn a degree. This opportunity often paved a way for high school graduates to return to the workforce.

Yet it's a path that the coronavirus has obstructed, with college campuses closed and classes shifting online, where hands-on training and education are more difficult. For the unemployed, it has left the benefits of a degree less certain just as so many are struggling financially and are less able to pay for further education.

"One of the safe havens is no longer available for a lot of people," Carnevale said.

Those who already have degrees, by contrast, are generally faring better.

Josh Kampman, 32, lost his job in mid-March with a San Diego e-commerce company that laid off about one-third of its staff because of the pandemic. A graduate of the College of Charleston, Kampman was unemployed for only a couple of weeks before landing a position with a political data company that enables him to work from home.

The new position doesn't pay as much. But it strikes Kampman as about as stable as can be expected during such a severe economic downturn.

"For the most part, I feel pretty secure," he said. "But if you'd have asked me in February, I'd have said no way I'm getting laid off. I'm not back to that level. Maybe 75 percent as secure as I was before."

For many workers without a college degree, the coronavirus has forced a painful choice: Unemployment or working a job that risks exposure to the disease because of frequent face-to-face contact with groups of customers.

Only 20% of high school-only graduates are working from home and can minimize outside contact, according to a Federal Reserve survey. By contrast, 63% of college graduates have been able to continue working their jobs safely at home.

The Census Bureau reported this week that 51% of high school graduates had lost work income because of the outbreak, compared with 39% of college graduates.

Still, some college graduates might also feel a squeeze soon. Since the pandemic struck, fewer postings require a college degree, said Julia Pollak, a labor economist for the jobs marketplace ZipRecruiter. The postings tend to be clustered at the low or high ends of the pay scale, a trend that could worsen economic inequality: Workers can either earn little money at, say, warehouses or command generous pay in tech or other jobs that require specialized knowledge.

"What we are likely to see is increased occupational polarization," Pollak said. "We could see the hollowing out of the middle."

That hollowing out would coincide with a time when many workers need greater financial security to handle the consequences of emergencies such as COVID-19. The pandemic has shown that lower-wage

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workers typically lack the savings to manage such a threat without government support.

Consider Asefash Mekonnen, who lost her job directing air passengers to their gates at Reagan National Airport on March 20.

Mekonnen, 45, who graduated from high school in Ethiopia, arrived in the United States in 1996. Her former job paid \$24,000 annually, with no health care benefits but enough money for her to share a rented room in Alexandria, Virginia, with a cousin and to send some cash home.

Mekonnen said her employer, Eulen America, a contractor for Delta Air Lines, has told her that dismissed employees must re-apply for their jobs. She worries about being penalized for pushing for unionization.

"Just a paycheck-to-paycheck life," she said. "I have to save some money because the (pandemic) has shown how hard it is to live."

AP writer John Flesher contributed to this report from Traverse City, Michigan.

## **Biden formally clinches Democratic presidential nomination**

**By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden has formally clinched the Democratic presidential nomination, setting him up for a bruising challenge to President Donald Trump that will play out against the unprecedented backdrop of a pandemic, economic collapse and civil unrest.

"It was an honor to compete alongside one of the most talented groups of candidates the Democratic party has ever fielded," Biden said in a statement Friday night, "and I am proud to say that we are going into this general election a united party."

The former vice president has effectively been his party's leader since his last challenger in the Democratic primary, Bernie Sanders, ended his campaign in April. But Biden pulled together the 1,991 delegates needed to become the nominee Friday after seven states and the District of Columbia held presidential primaries Tuesday.

Biden reached the threshold three days after the primaries because several states, overwhelmed by huge increases in mail ballots, took days to tabulate results. A team of analysts at The Associated Press then parsed the votes into individual congressional districts. Democrats award most delegates to the party's national convention based on results in individual congressional districts.

Biden now has 2,000 delegates, with contests still to come in eight states and two U.S. territories.

The moment was met with little of the traditional fanfare as the nation confronts overlapping crises. While Biden has started to venture out more this week, the coronavirus pandemic has largely confined him to his Wilmington, Delaware, home for much of the past three months.

The country faces the worst rate of unemployment since the Great Depression. And civil unrest that harkens back to the 1960s has erupted in dozens of cities following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died when a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

It's a confluence of events that no U.S. leader has faced in modern times, made all the more complicated by a president who has at times antagonized the protesters and is eager to take the fight to Biden.

"This is a difficult time in America's history," Biden said Friday night. "And Donald Trump's angry, divisive politics is no answer. The country is crying out for leadership. Leadership that can unite us. Leadership that can bring us together."

Biden spent 36 years in the Senate before becoming Barack Obama's vice president. This is 77-year-old Biden's third bid for the presidency and his success in capturing the Democratic nomination was driven by strong support from black voters.

He finished an embarrassing fourth place in the overwhelmingly white Iowa caucuses that kicked off the nomination process in February. Biden fared little better in the New Hampshire primary, where his standing was so low that he left the state before polls closed on election night to instead rally black vot-



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ers in South Carolina.

His rebound began in the more diverse caucuses in Nevada but solidified in South Carolina, where Biden stomped Sanders, his nearest rival, by nearly 29 points. He followed that with a dominant showing three days later during the Super Tuesday contests, taking 10 of the 14 states.

Biden's strong showing in states such as North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Texas reinforced his status as the preferred Democratic candidate of African American voters — but the relationship has not been without its strained moments. After a tense exchange with an influential black radio host, Biden took sharp criticism for suggesting that African American voters still deciding between him and Trump "ain't black."

That comment, and protests that have spread nationwide, have increased pressure on Biden to pick an African American running mate. He has already committed to picking a woman as a vice presidential candidate.

Black voters are unlikely to back Trump over Biden by a wide margin. A recent Fox News poll shows just 14% of African Americans who are registered to vote have a favorable opinion of the president compared with 75% who favorably view Biden.

But Biden must ensure that black voters are motivated to show up to the polls in November, especially in critical swing states that narrowly went for Trump in 2016.

At one point, the Democratic primary included dozens of candidates of different races, genders and generations and an openly gay man. The contest was dominated by debate over unapologetically progressive ideas, including fully government-funded health care under "Medicare for All" and a sweeping proposal to combat climate change known as the "Green New Deal."

Biden prevailed by mostly offering more moderate approaches that he argued would make him more electable against Trump.

He refused to budge on his rejection of universal health care and some of the Green New Deal's most ambitious provisions to combat climate change.

Since clinching the nomination, however, Biden has worked to build his appeal among progressives, forming joint task forces with Sanders' campaign to find common ground on key issues like health care, the economy and the environment. Biden has also embraced a plan to forgive millions of Americans' student debt, meaning that he clinches the nomination as easily the most liberal standard bearer the Democratic Party has ever had.

Biden's embrace of his party's left flank could help him consolidate a Democratic base that remained deeply divided after the 2016 primary and ultimately hurt Hillary Clinton in her defeat to Trump. But it could also undermine Biden's attempts to rebuild the Obama coalition, which is often loosely defined as minorities and young people, as well as educated Americans and some working-class voters.

The former vice president has sought, since announcing his candidacy, to cast the election as a battle "for the soul of the nation," and promised to restore order and dignity to the White House while rehabilitating the U.S. image on the world stage. Such an approach, though, necessarily focuses on being more of an alternative to Trump than offering radically new political ideas. And that further underscores Biden's difficult task of trying to unite his party's base while appealing to voters from far beyond it.

"I am going to spend every day between now and November 3rd fighting to earn the votes of Americans all across this great country," Biden promised Friday, "so that, together, we can win the battle for the soul of this nation, and make sure that as we rebuild our economy, everyone comes along."

## The Latest: Italy protests peaceful in solidarity with Floyd

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Thousands in London protest police violence, racial injustice.
- DC officials expect city's largest protest against police brutality since Floyd's death
- DC rally for Aug. 28 anniversary of MLK's "I Have A Dream" speech.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul curfew ends; troopers, National Guard sent home.

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**R**OME — Several hundred people protested peacefully in front of the U.S. consulate in Naples, shouting “I can’t breathe” to denounce the police killing of George Floyd.

In English and Italian, protesters chanted “Freedom!” and “No Justice, No Peace” and carried handmade signs. It’s one of the first protests in Italy in solidarity with Floyd and anti-racism efforts.

Police in riot gear enforced the perimeter around the protest, which was held along the seafront promenade opposite the U.S. consulate. There were no immediate signs of clashes. Most protesters wore facemasks and organizers urged them to keep their distance from each other because of the coronavirus.

There’s been an influx of migrants from Africa in recent years and racial incidents have been on the rise in Italy. Derogatory slurs directed at black soccer players make headlines, resulting in fines and sanctions for clubs.

More protests are planned this weekend in other cities.

**P**ARIS — French security forces have sealed off the U.S. Embassy in Paris and the surrounding streets to prevent a banned protest against police abuses in France and the United States.

The demonstration planned for Saturday and others this week in the French capital were in support of U.S. protests following the death of George Floyd. Police banned protests in Paris, citing the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus and concerns about public unrest.

Organizers of the weekend protest were among those turned around by riot police as they tried to gather in front of the embassy. Police stopped Egountchi Behanzin, a founder of the Black African Defense League, before he got close to the diplomatic building. Officers checked his papers and sent him away.

Behanzin told the officers: “You can fine me 10,000 or 20,000 times, the revolt will happen anyway. ... It is because of you that we are here.”

**B**ERLIN — Thousands of mostly young people, many dressed in black and wearing face masks, joined a Black Lives Matter protest in Berlin’s Alexander Square.

Some held up placards with slogans such as “Be the change,” “I can’t breathe” and “Germany is not innocent.”

Amina Koss of Berlin says she’d taken part in Black Lives Matters protests before George Floyd’s death. She says she’s concerned some politicians, including in Germany, are making racism acceptable again.

Koss says, “we as a society don’t tolerate racism.”

**L**ONDON — Thousands of demonstrators protested in rainy central London against police violence and racial injustice following the killing of George Floyd.

Gathering in Parliament Square, a traditional venue for protests, the demonstrators “took the knee” in silence and then chanted Floyd’s name before applauding his memory.

The demonstrators have ignored advice from the government and police to avoid attending because of the coronavirus. In England, gatherings are limited to groups of six, provided people observe the social distancing guidelines to remain 2 meters (6.5 feet) apart.

Though social distancing was not possible given the numbers attending, many protesters wore face coverings.

Many held banners aloft, including one that read “Racism is a Pandemic.”

Demonstrations supporting the Black Lives Matter movement also are taking place in Manchester, Cardiff in Wales and other U.K. cities. A rally is scheduled for Sunday in front of the U.S. Embassy in London.

**P**ARIS — Police have banned a third protest in Paris that had been planned for Saturday to condemn alleged police abuses in the wake of George Floyd’s death.

Police cited a risk of spreading COVID-19 and fears of public unrest. The police decree noted that social distancing regulations ban gatherings of more than 10 people.

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Online posts called for people to gather Saturday afternoon in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. Paris police had previously also banned two other planned gatherings Saturday outside the US Embassy.

WASHINGTON -- Authorities in the nation's capital are expecting Saturday to be the largest demonstration against police brutality in the city since the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Washington has featured daily protests for the past week and they have largely been peaceful, with people marching back and forth from the White House to the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial.

Those numbers are expected to swell. Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told reporters Friday that local officials were projecting between 100,000 and 200,000 protesters.

Metropolitan Police Department Chief Peter Newsham wouldn't commit to a number but predicted it would be smaller than the 1 million people who attended the Women's March in 2017.

It comes as authorities have sought to reduce tensions by having National Guard troops not carry weapons.

There were zero arrests during demonstrations on Thursday and Friday and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser canceled the curfew that had been in place since Monday. She said she will decide on Saturday morning if it will be reinstated.

A number of D.C. churches and theaters have said they will open their lobbies so people can cool off.

Rev. Al Sharpton said the Washington rally he announced this week was being planned for Aug. 28, the anniversary of the day MLK gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

He said the August event would be a way of maintaining momentum as the legal process against the men charged in Floyd's death is underway.

"It's going to be months, if not a year before you even go to trial. So you can't let this peter out ... otherwise you'll end up in a year and people will go on to another story, and you will not have the public notice and pressure that you need."

And from August, he said, "It gives you a push into November, not in a partisan way, in a protecting the vote, because we've got to educate people on mail-in voting. We've got to educate people in terms of turnout."

He said, "One of the things King's dream was about was voting rights and gives us like 90 days before the election and a great emphasis on that, which you're going to, in order to change laws, you've got to impact lawmakers and they get elected in November. ... Otherwise it's for nothing."

MINNEAPOLIS — Residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul were no longer under a curfew Friday night and the state is planning to start sending state troopers and National Guard members back home.

Minneapolis and St. Paul saw violent protests and store break-ins late last week following George Floyd's death after being arrested by Minneapolis police. The city has seen peaceful protests for nearly a week, including some 1,000 protesters in St. Paul on Friday and hundreds more near U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Gov. Tim Walz credited peaceful protests for helping achieve rapid change on Minneapolis Police Department policy. On Friday, the city agreed to ban chokeholds and neck restraints as a civil rights investigation of the department begins.

Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after a white police officer pressed his knee against his neck, ignoring his "I can't breathe" cries even after Floyd eventually grew still. Bystander video sparked outrage over Floyd's death and protests, some violent, that spread across the U.S. and beyond.

PHOENIX -- The family of an unarmed man shot and killed by an Arizona state trooper the same day George Floyd died want a federal investigation.

Dion Johnson's mother, Erma, said Friday she has not heard from Phoenix Police, who are overseeing the investigation of the Memorial Day shooting. Family members expressed growing frustration that the

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trooper, who is on paid administrative leave, has not been identified to them.

Democratic state Rep. Reginald Bolding said he has sent a letter requesting the U.S. Justice Department review the case for possible civil rights violations.

The family is particularly bothered that Johnson, 28, was deprived of emergency medical aid for several minutes after he was shot and cuffed.

SEATTLE — Seattle's mayor has banned the police use of one type of tear gas as protests continue over the killing of George Floyd.

Mayor Jenny Durkan said at a news conference Friday that the ban on CS gas would last for 30 days.

The move came hours after three civilian police watchdog groups urged city leaders to do so. Police Chief Carmen Best says officials will review police crowd control policies.

Local health officials had also expressed concerns over the use of the gas and other respiratory irritants based on the potential to increase spread of the coronavirus.

The groups said the move would build public trust and should remain in place until the department adopts policies and training for use of the chemical agent.

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

## Amid virus, US students look to colleges closer to home

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

As students make college plans for the fall, some U.S. universities are seeing surging interest from in-state residents who are looking to stay closer to home amid the coronavirus pandemic.

At the University of Texas at Arlington, commitments from state residents are up 26% over last year. Ohio State and Western Kentucky universities are both up about 20%. Deposits paid to attend Michigan State University are up 15% among state residents, while deposits from others are down 15%.

Colleges and admissions counselors credit the uptick to a range of factors tied to the pandemic. Students want to be closer to home in case an outbreak again forces classes online. Some are choosing nearby schools where they're charged lower rates as state residents. And amid uncertainty around the fall term, some are paying deposits at multiple schools to keep their options open.

At the same time, scores of universities are bracing for sharp downturns in international enrollments amid visa issues and travel concerns. The result, some schools say, is that campuses will have a more local feel if they're allowed to reopen this fall.

"We are going to be a more regional and local university," Bob McMaster, vice provost of the University of Minnesota, told the school's board of regents at a May meeting. "The spheres of geography have certainly changed this year."

Universities across the U.S. have ramped up recruiting efforts amid fears that the pandemic would spur students to rethink their plans. Schools have accepted more students and reached far deeper into wait lists than in the past. Some have increased financial aid. And some have focused on recruiting students in their own backyards.

At the University of Minnesota, recruiters shifted attention away from bigger cities to focus on Minnesota, Wisconsin and other nearby states, McMaster said. In May, New Jersey launched a campaign urging students who had left to "come home" for college.

Lisa Gelman, a private admissions counselor with Apt Tutoring in Massachusetts, said many students are rethinking earlier decisions to study far away or in cities that have become virus hot spots, including New York.

For years, Lizzie Quinlivan dreamed of leaving her home in Massachusetts to study at the University of Southern California. In March, she got in. But by then, the virus was spreading across the U.S.

"Anything that required a flight was suddenly off my list," said Quinlivan, of Hingham. "I completely crossed off all California schools and even Midwest schools because of the pandemic."

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Instead, she took an offer from Georgetown University in Washington. The risk of another virus outbreak still worries her, Quinlivan said, but she can get home by car or train if students are forced to leave campus like they were in the spring.

For other students, the pandemic opened unexpected opportunities. Before the virus spread, Jessica Moskowitz had been placed on wait lists by some of her top schools. But as colleges scrambled to offset projected enrollment losses, she got offers from New York University, Emory University and Claremont McKenna College.

If Moskowitz, of Salt Lake City, had been admitted to Emory under normal circumstances, she thinks she would have accepted. Instead she's enrolling at the University of California, Santa Barbara, partly to stay closer to home but also because she was accepted there before the pandemic.

"They wanted me from the beginning, and it never feels good to be second fiddle, to be someone's second choice," Moskowitz said. "Although these are amazing colleges and I was so lucky to be offered admission to them, it feels like maybe they're just using me to fill seats in the fall."

Amid uncertainty over the course of the outbreak, more than 400 colleges extended commitment deadlines from May 1 to June 1. Scores of universities have announced plans to offer in-person instruction in the fall, but most also are preparing plans to keep classes online if needed.

Among 20 public colleges that provided preliminary data to The Associated Press, roughly half reported increases in total freshman confirmations, reaching as high as 30%. The other half saw decreases of up to 15%. Some saw ebbing interest from students in other states, while others held even.

Offsetting some increases in in-state students are plunging numbers for international students. At the University of Florida, new international confirmations are down 50%, the school's data show. The University of Minnesota is down 28%, while Ohio State reported a 21% drop.

It's still unclear, though, how many will end up enrolling. Even during normal years, some students who pay deposits don't show up in the fall. That "summer melt" is expected to be far higher this year as more students keep their options open.

As an extra complication, colleges are playing by new admissions rules this year. In the past, schools agreed to stop recruiting freshmen after May 1, but a December antitrust case from the Justice Department brought an end to that limit and others that authorities say stymied competition. As a result, colleges expect their competitors to continue making offers to students through the summer.

At some public colleges, officials say the numbers are better than they would have imagined in March, when some were predicting precipitous drops in enrollment.

At Western Kentucky, freshmen commitments are up 11% compared to last year. But students have told officials that, if classes stay online, they plan to take a year off or enroll elsewhere. Jace Lux, the school's enrollment director, worries that the situation could "change on a dime."

"A picture that looks good today can look really bad tomorrow," Lux said. "Enrollment across the country is precarious right now, and if this thing takes a turn that we weren't expecting, then all bets are off."

## Prosecutors seek right mix of charges in George Floyd case

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — As damning as video evidence in the George Floyd case appears to be, prosecutors know they must bring the right charges underpinned by sound legal logic if they hope to convict a Minnesota officer in Floyd's May 25 death.

Exhibit No. 1 at trial is likely to be bystander video showing Officer Derek Chauvin pressing his knee into the back of Floyd's neck as the handcuffed Floyd says he can't breathe. Chauvin held his knee there even after the 46-year-old black man stopped moving.

But strong video evidence doesn't mean a conviction will be easy. When it comes to police officers charged with crimes in the line of duty, it never is.

"This is not a shoo-in," said Mike Brandt, a Minnesota defense attorney. "There are lots of lines prosecutors have to connect. If you raise questions about even one, you could raise reasonable doubts."

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Here's a look at some questions and answers about the charges against Chauvin and three other officers:

Q: WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

A: Prosecutors this week added a new charge against the 44-year-old Chauvin: unintentional second-degree murder. Initial charges of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter remain.

Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

A conviction of second-degree murder carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison; third-degree murder carries up to 25 years; and manslaughter up to 10.

Potential sentences for the other officers depend on a conviction of Chauvin. If he's convicted of second-degree murder, they could face the same 40-year maximum.

Q: WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF SECOND-DEGREE MURDER?

A: Under Minnesota law, unintentional second-degree murder involves causing "the death of a human being, without intent ... while committing or attempting to commit a felony offense."

The second part of that clause is crucial. Prosecutors say Chauvin killed Floyd while committing felony assault on Floyd.

For third-degree murder, prosecutors must demonstrate Chauvin caused Floyd's death by actions "eminently dangerous to others and evincing a depraved mind, without regard for human life."

The complex and some argue poorly defined concept of "evincing a depraved mind" has been the subject of courtroom debate, so it's potentially harder to prove.

"The second-degree murder charge is far more appropriate," Brandt said. "It's spot-on."

Q: COULD FIRST-DEGREE MURDER CHARGES BE ADDED?

A: It's possible, and it's something Floyd's family wants. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who is leading the prosecution team, said he's leaving open the possibility of new charges.

But first-degree murder would require a whole new level of evidence. Prosecutors would have to prove premeditation and intent. It would also require a motive.

Brandt said it would be a stretch, adding, "I think it is out of the question."

Q: ARE THERE RISKS OF OVERCHARGING?

A: Yes, especially in cases in which prosecutors face intense public pressure. Jurors may be more likely to acquit or become hopelessly deadlocked in chases where prosecutors bring charges they can't prove.

Q: SO WHAT'S THE CHARGING STRATEGY?

A: Bringing multiple charges against the officers is a way to give jurors a choice. It boosts the chances of a conviction on at least one charge.

Prosecutors know jurors are often torn. They often want to satisfy relatives' desire for justice with a conviction, while also showing some leniency to defendants.

If jurors struggle for a consensus, multiple charges allow for a compromise verdict, with convictions on some charges and acquittals on others.

Q: DID FLOYD POSE A THREAT?

A: A central issue in cases alleging excessive force by police is whether a suspect posed a threat.

The Supreme Court offered guidance in a 1989 ruling, saying an officer's fear is relevant to guilt and that officers "are often forced to make split-second judgments." The reasonableness of an officer's use of force, it said, should be judged "from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight."

It will be hard for Chauvin's lawyers to argue their client felt threatened or was forced to make a split-second decision with Floyd handcuffed behind his back, his face pressed into the pavement. In the video, Chauvin appears almost nonchalant, calmly slipping his hand in his pocket at times.

Q: WHAT MIGHT DEFENSE LAWYERS ARGUE?

A: Chauvin's attorneys could try to zero in on the cause of Floyd's death, blaming existing health problems, said Brandt.

They may point to the Hennepin County autopsy, which said Floyd died of "cardiopulmonary arrest,

complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." It also noted fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use, as well as signs of heart disease and hypertension, without listing any of those factors as a cause of death.

A separate autopsy commissioned by Floyd's family concluded he died of asphyxiation due to neck and back compression.

Either way, prosecutors will argue the ultimate cause was Chauvin's actions.

Lawyers for Chauvin and the other officers also are likely to argue that nationwide outrage and protests triggered a rush to judgment.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER OFFICERS?

A: Proving charges against them could pose the greater challenge, especially with Thao.

Lane and Kueng allegedly held Floyd's legs as Chauvin pushed on his neck. That could convince jurors they actively contributed to Floyd's death.

Thao, though, was standing several feet away, sometimes with his back turned to his colleagues.

"The mere presence at the scene does not constitute aiding and abetting," said Brandt.

Attorneys for Kueng and Lane have highlighted their clients' status as far junior to Chauvin.

Defense attorney Earl Gray said Lane asked Chauvin, a training officer, if they should turn Floyd over. According to the criminal complaints, Chauvin said no.

Gray said at an initial hearing Wednesday: "What is my client supposed to do other than follow what the training officer said?"

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mtarm>

## Protesters support Floyd, Black Lives Matter on 3 continents

By RICK RYCROFT and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Thousands of people rallied in Australia and Europe to honor George Floyd and to voice support Saturday for what is becoming an international Black Lives Matter movement, as a worldwide wave of solidarity with protests over the death of a black man in Minneapolis highlights racial discrimination outside the United States.

Demonstrators in Paris tried to gather in front of the U.S. Embassy in Paris, defying restrictions imposed by authorities because of the coronavirus pandemic. They were met by riot police who turned people on their way to the embassy, which French security forces sealed off behind an imposing ring of metal barriers and road blocks.

"You can fine me 10,000 or 20,000 times, the revolt will happen anyway," Egountchi Behanzin, a founder of the Black African Defense League, told officers who stopped him to check his ID documents before he got close to the diplomatic building. "It is because of you that we are here."

Pamela Carper, who joined an afternoon protest at London's Parliament Square that headed towards the U.K. Home Office, which oversees the country's police, said she was demonstrating to show "solidarity for the people of America who have suffered for too long."

The British government urged people not to gather in large numbers and police have warned that mass demonstrations could be unlawful. In England, for example, gatherings of more than six people are not permitted.

Carper said the coronavirus had "no relevance" to her attendance and noted that she had a mask on.

"I am showing the government that I am heeding to their rules and everybody is staying away," Carper said. "But I need to be here because the government is the problem. The government needs to change."

In Sydney, protesters won a last-minute appeal against a Friday ruling declaring their rally unauthorized. The New South Wales Court of Appeal gave the green light just 12 minutes before the rally was scheduled to start, meaning those taking part could not be arrested.

Up to 1,000 protesters had already gathered in the Town Hall area of downtown Sydney ahead of the decision.

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Floyd, a black man, died in handcuffs on May 25 while a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck even after he pleaded for air and stopped moving.

His death has struck a chord with minorities protesting discrimination elsewhere, including deaths of indigenous Australians in custody.

In Sydney, there was one early scuffle when police removed a man who appeared to be a counter protester carrying a sign reading, "White Lives, Black Lives, All Lives Matter."

The rally appeared orderly as police handed out masks to protesters and other officials provided hand sanitizer.

"If we don't die from the (coronavirus) pandemic, then we will die from police brutality," Sadique, who has a West African background and said he goes by only one name, said in Sydney.

Bob Jones, 75, said it was worth the risk to rally for change despite the state's chief health officer saying the event could help spread the coronavirus.

"If a society is not worth preserving, then what are you doing? You're perpetuating a nonsense," Jones said.

In Brisbane, the Queensland state capital, organizers said about 30,000 people gathered, forcing police to shut down some major downtown streets. The protesters demanded to have Australia's Indigenous flag raised at the police station.

State Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch encouraged Queenslanders to speak out.

"Whether you're talking about the U.S. or right here in Australia, black lives matter," she said. "Black lives matter today. Black lives matter every day."

Indigenous Australians make up 2% of the the country's adult population, but 27% of the prison population. They are also the most disadvantaged ethnic minority in Australia and have higher-than-average rates of infant mortality and poor health, as well as shorter life expectancies and lower levels of education and employment than other Australians.

In South Korea's capital, Seoul, protesters gathered for a second straight day to denounce Floyd's death.

Wearing masks and black shirts, dozens of demonstrators marched through a commercial district amid a police escort, carrying signs such as "George Floyd Rest in Peace" and "Koreans for Black Lives Matter."

"I urge the U.S. government to stop the violent suppression of (U.S.) protesters and listen to their voices," said Jihoon Shim, one of the rally's organizers. "I also want to urge the South Korean government to show its support for their fight (against racism)."

In Tokyo, dozens of people gathered in a peaceful protest.

"Even if we are far apart, we learn of everything instantly on social media,"

"Can we really dismiss it all as irrelevant?" Taichi Hirano, one of the organizers, shouted to the crowd gathered outside Tokyo's Shibuya train station. He stressed that Japanese are joining others raising their voices against what he called "systematic discrimination."

In Berlin, thousands of mostly young people, many dressed in black and wearing face masks, joined a Black Lives Matter protest in Berlin's Alexanderplatz, or Alexander Square, on Saturday.

Some held up placards with slogans such as "Be the change," "I can't breath" and "Germany is not innocent."

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Rycroft reported from Sydney. Associated Press journalists Dennis Passa and John Pye in Brisbane, Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, John Leicester in Paris, Pan Pylas in London and Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## Mexican families struggle to send virus victims back home

By **CLAUDIA TORRENS, GISELA SALOMON and PETER PRENGAMAN** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Crescencio Flores died of coronavirus in New York, his parents back in Mexico asked for one thing: that their son be sent home for burial.

The 56-year-old construction worker had been in the United States for 20 years, regularly sending money



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to his parents but never going home. Since he died in April, Flores' brother has been working with American and Mexican authorities to have the body transported to the town of Huehuetlaxtla in the state of Puebla.

So far, his efforts have been in vain. His brother's embalmed remains are still in a U.S. funeral home.

"I am trying to do this because my parents, 85 and 87 years old, live there," Francisco Flores said. "They are rooted in their customs. They want a Christian burial for the remains of their son."

The family's situation is common. More than a thousand Mexican immigrants have died of the virus in the U.S., according to the Mexican government, and many of their families are struggling to bring dead loved ones home.

Returning a body to another country is never easy, but the coronavirus has added extra bureaucracy and costs, all at a time when many Mexicans have lost jobs in construction, retail and restaurants.

For grieving loved ones on both sides of the border, the challenges are many: overwhelmed funeral homes, delays in paperwork because government offices are not working at full capacity and limited flights.

The process has become so difficult that the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles is encouraging cremation instead of repatriation and burial, said Felipe Carrera, a consular official.

"In a situation like this, we are encouraging our community to have an open mind," Carrera said, explaining that cremation allows a loved one to return to Mexico in a week or 10 days. He declined to say how long it takes to return bodies. Family members who have opted for cremation say sending ashes home takes several weeks to months.

Cremation is a hard sell for many Mexicans, who are by far the largest immigrant group in America and deeply rooted in Catholicism. They are fiercely proud of their homeland despite problems that pushed them to emigrate, and they carry with them a constant hope to return one day, at the very least upon death.

And because many of them — particularly those who are in the U.S. illegally — have not been home in decades, returning in death is that much more important to their families.

For Mexican Catholics, having the body of a deceased relative is essential to giving them a "good death," said Dr. Kristin Norget, an anthropology professor at McGill University in Montreal.

"Wakes are really important events in which the person is there, the casket is open, people go and bid that person farewell. They touch them. They kiss them," Norget said. "It's that tactile relationship with the body, representing the person."

For over a month, the family of Javier Morales, 48, and brother Martin Morales, 39, who both died in New Jersey during the first week of April, tried to send the bodies to Santa Catarina Yosonotú, a village in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. The brothers had both left the village as teenagers, and family wanted to bury them there.

But after complying with U.S. and Mexican regulations, relatives said they hit roadblocks with health officials in Oaxaca. They eventually gave up and had the brothers cremated. Now they are working to have the ashes sent back, a process they estimate will take several weeks.

Between the lengthy stay in a funeral home and cremation, the family spent more than \$12,000.

"It's really sad," said Rogelio Martin, a cousin who was close to the brothers. "We wanted to send them home, but it wasn't possible."

Felix Pinzón's family went through a similar process. Pinzón wanted to send the body of his half-brother, 45-year-old Basilio Juarez, a construction worker, back to Cuautla, a city in the state of Morelos. The consulate warned him that the effort would be fraught, he said.

Juarez's wife and two children back in Mexico "wanted to see the body," Pinzón said. "They asked me to bring it back. At first, my niece did not understand that it was not possible. She did not want to accept it."

Even though he chose cremation, Pinzón won't be able to send the ashes back any time soon. The cremation cost \$2,100, which he had to put on a credit card because as a construction worker he has been out of a job for more than two months.

When Marta Ramos, 63, died in New York, daughter Juanita Ramos, who lives in Bakersfield, California, hoped to fulfill her mom's last wish, to be buried in Mexico. Since returning her mom's body would be difficult, Ramos looked into cremation, figuring she could at least send the remains home quickly and have them buried there.

But the funeral home told her that a backlog of bodies meant that her mom would not be cremated for a month. Feeling that was too long to wait, and worried that her mom's body could be lost, Ramos decided to have her mother buried at a cemetery in New York. Her aunt, Agustina Ramos, 55, died just ahead of her mother and had already been buried there.

For the Flores family, the long wait for Crescencio's body has been painful, said Gerardo Flores, his oldest brother, who is in Mexico. But relatives feel strongly about bringing him home.

"We believe that in the moment my brother is buried, even as painful as it will be, in this sad moment, it will be the last chapter. We will turn the page. My parents will know where their son is," he said.

Torrens reported from New York, Salomon from Miami and Pregelman from Phoenix.

## Coronavirus disrupts global fight to save endangered species

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Biologist Carlos Ruiz has spent a quarter-century working to save golden lion tamarins, the charismatic long-maned monkeys native to Brazil's Atlantic Forest.

Thanks to painstaking reforestation efforts, the population of these endangered monkeys was steadily growing until an outbreak of yellow fever hit Brazil in 2018, wiping out a third of the tamarins. Undeterred, Ruiz's team devised an ambitious new experiment: This spring, they would start vaccinating many of the remaining wild monkeys.

Enter the coronavirus, which is now hampering critical work to protect threatened species and habitats worldwide.

First, members of Ruiz's team exposed to the virus had to be quarantined. Then the government closed national parks and protected areas to both the public and researchers in mid-April, effectively barring scientists from the reserves where tamarins live.

"We are worried about missing the window of opportunity to save the species," said Ruiz, the president of the nonprofit Golden Lion Tamarin Association. "We hope that we ... can still do our work before a second wave of yellow fever hits."

While the scientists follow government guidelines, they know that people intent on illegally exploiting the rainforests are still entering the parks, because several motion-activated research cameras have been smashed.

Around the world, government resources diverted to pandemic efforts have opened opportunities for illegal land clearing and poaching. Lockdowns also have derailed the eco-tourism that funds many environmental projects, from South America's rainforests to Africa's savannahs.

"Scientists and conservationists have faced interruptions from big global disasters before, like an earthquake or a coup in one country," said Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm, founder of the nonprofit Saving Species. "But I can't think of another time when almost every country on the planet has faced the impacts of the same big disaster at once."

In Guatemala, indigenous communities that monitor rainforests are struggling to contain one of the worst fire seasons in two decades, as government firefighting resources are devoted to the pandemic.

"Ninety-nine percent of these fires are started by people, and it's mostly done deliberately to open space for illegal cattle ranching," said Erick Cuellar, deputy director of an alliance of community organizations within Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve called Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén.

Indigenous people are stepping up as volunteer firefighters, but they are now doubly strained: Closed borders have shriveled their income from sustainably harvested forest exports, such as palm fronds sold for flower arrangements.

"Tropical forests are rich in biodiversity, so we're losing rare flora and fauna," said Jeremy Radachowsky, director for Mesoamerica at the nonprofit Wildlife Conservation Society. "The situation is different in every country, but reduced enforcement of environmental laws is a common concern."

In Nepal, forest-related crimes like illegal logging have more than doubled since lockdowns began, includ-

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ing in five parks with endangered Bengal tigers, according to the government and World Wildlife Fund.

In many African countries, wildlife tourism provides significant income to maintain parks where vulnerable species such as elephants, lions, rhinos and giraffes live.

But after the coronavirus struck, "the entire international tourism sector basically closed down overnight in March," said Peter Fearnhead, the CEO of nonprofit African Parks, which manages 17 national parks and protected areas in 11 countries.

"We saw that \$7.5 million was suddenly wiped off our income statement for the year," he said, adding that ecotourism next year may recover to only about half of previous levels.

While keeping up essential maintenance and ranger patrols to dissuade potential poachers, Fearnhead's team is cutting travel costs by holding meetings over Zoom and also reaching out to potential international donors.

"A protected area that is not being actively managed will be lost," he said.

Jennifer Goetz, co-founder of a web site that provides information about ethical travel packages, said many safari operators in Africa hope to sustain some revenue and are urging clients to reschedule their bookings.

In a poll of operators on the Your African Safari site, nearly two-thirds said the majority of their bookings had been postponed, not canceled.

Tropical biologist Patricia Wright notes that conservation isn't work that can be simply dropped for a while and then picked up again "because it depends so much on relationships with people and local communities."

Wright is a primatologist at Stony Brook University who has spent three decades building a program to study and protect Madagascar's lemurs — big-eyed primates that live in the wild only on the island.

Her team expects no tourism revenue — a large chunk of its operating budget — through at least the end of the year, although she's keen to keep her more than 100 staffers employed during difficult times.

For now, the plan is to produce virtual safari and travel videos about Madagascar to sell to tour operators and schools looking for online science content.

"We have to get through this year," she said.

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Associated Press writer Aniruddha Ghosal contributed from New Delhi.

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Follow Christina Larson on twitter: @larsonchristina

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Food, coffee, diapers: Amid pandemic, van delivers donations

By KATHY WILLENS and EMILY LESHNER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — On a recent day, a powder-blue van parked curbside in Brooklyn, one of the hardest-hit communities in America by the coronavirus pandemic, and a group of women wearing protective face masks and gloves set to unloading.

Locals lined up, spaced out next to orange traffic cones on the sidewalk, waiting their turn to pick up much-needed free supplies that help them make it through what are tough times for the borough.

"We go to areas where we're needed most. Today ... we handed out food, all kinds of food, canned food, squash, coffee, crackers, adult and baby diapers," said driver Denise Rodriguez, 26. "We handed out condoms — all essential stuff."

Known as Sistas Van and sponsored by the nonprofit Black Women's Blueprint, in normal times the vehicle serves survivors of sexual trauma and domestic violence. In times of pandemic, its mission has shifted to delivering donated resources in New York to individuals and communities in need.

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Twice a week Rodriguez, a Black Women's Blueprint employee, drives three hours from her home in the Bronx pick up the van in New Jersey before returning to Brooklyn to make the rounds. Three volunteers and an intern — Rodriguez calls them her "dream team" — meet her to help set up the table and hand out goods.

One of them is Brooklyn Clayton, who moved home with family in New York after the coronavirus's economic fallout left her "housing- and food-insecure" where she lived in Philadelphia: "COVID-19 hit Philly in the same ways it hit Brooklyn," she said.

Clayton linked up with Sistas Van just five days after arriving and now volunteers her time "making sure that everybody is receiving the minimum: food, shelter, water and air."

Volunteer Sequaña Williams-Hechavarria, who was laid off from a digital marketing agency in March due to COVID-19 budget cuts, said she has been hurt both financially and emotionally by the pandemic.

"My whole life, the community has always shown up for me regardless of whether I ask for it or not," Williams-Hechavarria said. "Doing stuff like this helps me to feel really great about the communities that have always supported me."

In front of a shuttered sporting goods store at a busy intersection, the women loaded the table with food, diapers, face coverings and other items. It wasn't long before people snapped up nearly everything except some books, condoms and feminine hygiene products.

At a second stop, beneath a bustling transit hub in central Brooklyn, the line was much longer. Lauren Daraio, who is homeless, said the free toiletries and food were most welcome.

"The epidemic is hard," Daraio said. "You've got to figure out where to eat every day and where to sleep. A lot of places aren't taking people."

Several men stuffed packages of Ritz crackers into their pockets, thanked the women and were on their way. The crew scrubbed the table, sprayed everything with a strong disinfectant and broke it all down for reloading into the van.

Rodriguez said the operation is focusing primarily on vulnerable sectors of society: "lower-income, black and brown families, undocumented families, trans-communities," and helps fill the gaps where people are underserved by government.

"We know that they're going through a hard time. I don't want people to feel alone," she said. "So this van is a great way to see people, smile and share time with them, but also give them the things that they need."

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Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's alternate reality in time of anguish

By CALVIN WOODWARD, HOPE YEN and ARIJETA LAJKA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Vicious dogs." "Ominous weapons." Injured police. Gagging protesters. Shattered storefronts. Armed personnel at centers of power and landmarks. Anguish and arson.

Taking the measure of these days in the nation's capital, President Donald Trump exclaimed: "Washington, D.C., was the safest place on earth last night!"

Such alternate realities pervaded the world described by Trump and his team over the past week.

The White House, tweeting as an American institution, not Trump's personal account or campaign, posted social media disinformation to make people think leftists were stockpiling rocks to commit terrorist attacks in the United States.

Trump and aides denied that authorities in Washington used tear gas against protesters, who fled from chemical clouds that looked like tear gas, stung eyes like it and met the dictionary definition of it.

On a week of unrest so remarkable it overshadowed the pandemic and its still-mounting death toll, Trump boasted baselessly about diagnostic testing for the virus and problematically about black economic progress. When "Mad Dog Mattis" snapped at him, Trump falsely claimed to have fired him as defense

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secretary and to have given him that nickname.

A look back:

## CONSPIRACY THEORY

WHITE HOUSE: "Antifa and professional anarchists are invading our communities, staging bricks and weapons to instigate violence. These are acts of domestic terror." — tweet Wednesday, with a video showing collections of bricks and stones as if stockpiled for attacks.

THE FACTS: The tweet's evidence of malfeasance was bogus.

The video contained multiple clips showing brick or stone for construction projects and the like, not for a nefarious plot. One clip captured rocks encased in wire frames. Those are actually a protective barrier outside Chabad of Sherman Oaks, a synagogue on Ventura Boulevard in Los Angeles, to stop vehicles from ramming the building.

"They've been there for about a year," Rabbi Mendel Lipskier of the synagogue told The Associated Press. "THESE ARE SECURITY BARRIERS," the synagogue said in a statement reassuring neighbors and friends.

On Monday, posts had circulated on social media with photos of that gabion wall, falsely describing the stones as being left on Ventura Boulevard "for the next round of Antifa riots" and saying such "drop offs" were being repeated around the country.

That conspiracy theory fed into the White House tweet two days later as Trump and others brushed aside the peaceful nature of most of the protesting, highlighted the violence and portrayed the unrest as overwhelmingly the work of radicals. The White House later deleted the tweet and video without explanation.

## CAPITAL CHAOS

TRUMP: "They didn't use tear gas." — Fox News Radio on Wednesday, referring to the previous night's demonstrations outside the White House.

KAYLEIGH McENANY, White House press secretary: "No tear gas was used. ... no one was tear-gassed. Let me make that clear." — briefing Wednesday.

THE FACTS: People were tear-gassed.

Authorities acknowledged using pepper compound fired in plastic balls. Scientific sources, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, list dispersed pepper as a tear gas. Officers also fired projectiles containing chemicals that likewise meet the common and scientific definitions of tear gas.

People scattered in the stinging fog, coughing and gagging, some with eyes red and streaming.

"Tear gas is anything that makes you cry," said Dr. Lynn Goldman, dean of the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, speaking of chemicals used in crowd dispersal. "Pepper spray is a tear gas. But there are all kinds of other ones, too."

Dr. Sven-Eric Jordt, who researches tear gas agents and chemical exposure injuries at the Duke University School of Medicine, said newer compounds, categorized as OC agents, might or might not fit a traditional scientific definition of tear gas but are as potent and have the same effects. CS and CN are classic categories of tear gasses.

WUSA9, a CBS affiliate in Washington, reported that its journalists found spent OC and CS canisters on the street immediately after authorities cleared the protest; one canister was still warm.

TRUMP: "Washington, D.C., was the safest place on earth last night!" — tweet and Facebook post Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Obviously untrue.

The crackdown on peaceful as well as violent protesters, the injuries to police who were attacked, the fortifications around the White House, the phalanx lining the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and the threat of looting and vandalism in neighborhoods well away from the militarized scene all spoke to the dangers of the night.

More than half a dozen federal agencies joined in the effort to bring order. Among them, the U.S. Park Police said Tuesday that 51 of its members were injured over the previous four days of demonstrations.

During that time, Trump had warned that anyone getting past White House security would face "the most vicious dogs, and the most ominous weapons." At one point early in the confrontations, Secret Service

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agents spirited Trump to a White House bunker.

On Monday night and other nights, Washington was not the safest place on Earth. The White House may have been the safest place in Washington.

## BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT

TRUMP, on the economy before the pandemic: "We had the best numbers for African Americans on employment and unemployment in history ... best everything." — Fox News interview Wednesday

THE FACTS: True on unemployment. Not true by a long shot on "everything" in the economy.

Black unemployment reached a record low during the Trump administration, 5.4% in August, as the longest economic expansion in history pressed ahead.

Most of the progress came when Barack Obama was president: Black unemployment dropped from a recession high of 16.8% in March 2010 to 7.8% in January 2017. Improvement continued under Trump until the pandemic. Black unemployment reached 16.8% in May, compared with 13.3% for the overall population.

Not all economic measures improved for African Americans under Trump before the pandemic. A black household earned median income of \$41,361 in 2018, the latest data available. That's below a 2000 peak of \$43,380, according to the Census Bureau.

More broadly, there were multiple signs before the pandemic that the racial wealth gap had been worsening.

## MAD DOG

TRUMP: "Probably the only thing Barack Obama & I have in common is that we both had the honor of firing Jim Mattis, the world's most overrated General." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: No, what Trump and Obama have in common is that Mattis resigned under them. They did not fire him.

As Obama's head of Central Command and Trump's defense secretary, Mattis disagreed with elements of administration policy. This past week he also voiced anger over what he regards as Trump's divisive, immature leadership.

The retired four-star Marine general announced in December 2018 that he would step down in as defense secretary in two months. "General Jim Mattis will be retiring, with distinction," Trump tweeted then, praising his tenure. Then Trump flipped his tone, cut short Mattis' remaining time and started claiming that he'd fired him.

TRUMP: "His nickname was 'Chaos', which I didn't like, & changed to 'Mad Dog.'" — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: No, he didn't change Mattis' nickname to Mad Dog. Mattis had been called that for more than a decade before joining the Trump administration.

He was also known by his military call sign Chaos when he was a Marine colonel. Mattis joked that it stood for "Colonel Has An Outstanding Solution."

## VIRUS TESTING

TRUMP: "We have incredible testing now. So we've done a great job." — interview Wednesday on Fox's "Brian Kilmeade Show."

TRUMP, on coordination with states: "We jointly developed testing projections and goals for each state for the month of May, altogether totaling 12.9 million tests. Think of that: 12.9 million tests." — news briefing on May 11.

THE FACTS: U.S. testing has been far from "incredible." It was a failure in the crucial early weeks, U.S. officials acknowledged, meaning missed opportunity to limit the spread of the virus before infection and death surged.

Brett Giroir, the lead federal official on testing, said Thursday that the U.S. conducted about 12 million tests in May, falling 900,000 short of the administration's target for the month.

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Trump has repeatedly overstated the availability of U.S. testing, falsely declaring in March, in the midst of dire shortages, "Anybody who wants a test, can get a test."

Now, the availability of tests varies widely. Some governors and local officials say they have more tests available than people who want them. Others say they can't meet the demand. That's the case at the Department of Veterans Affairs, for example.

Lajka reported from New York. Associated Press writers Matthew Perrone, Ashraf Khalil, Lolita Baldor and Robert Burns contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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## One man lays wreaths in Normandy on this unusual D-Day

By **RAF CASERT** and **ALEX TURNBULL** Associated Press

BENOUVILLE, France (AP) — The essence of war remembrance is to make sure the fallen are never forgotten. All it takes is a wreath, a tiny wooden cross, a little token on a faraway grave to show that people still care about their fallen hero, parent or grandparent.

This year, though, the pandemic stepped in, barring all travel for families to visit the World War II graves in France's Normandy, where Saturday marks the 76th anniversary of the epic D-Day battle, when allied troops successfully stormed the beaches and turned the war against the Nazis.

So anguished families turned to the next best thing — an Englishman living on D-day territory, a pensioner with a big heart and a small hole in his agenda.

For years, Steven Oldrid, 66, had helping out with D-Day events around the beaches where British soldiers had landed — and often left their lives behind — be it organizing parking, getting pipers to show or getting sponsors for veterans' dinners.

Laying wreaths though, seemed something special, reserved for families and close friends only.

But in pandemic times, pandemic rules apply. Oldrid was first contacted in March.

"I was actually choked up when I got the first request," Oldrid said. "I'm always on the other side. Always in the background," he said.

"They asked 'Steven, can you lay our wreath? Well, they sent me five, and then another one said, 'Can you lay one for my granddad?' 'Can you lay one for my dad?'"

Before he knew, it in this extraordinary year, he had become the extraordinary wreathlayer — proof that kindness cannot be counted in pounds, euros or dollars, but in time and effort to organize a day around the wishes of others.

As June 6 approached, the boxes of wreaths and grave markers piled up in his garage. And to soothe the nerves of families, he has also been filming live for Facebook several ceremonies and wreathlayings.

Among those struggling with not being able to go to Normandy this year was Jane Barkway-Harney of the British veteran Glider Pilot Regiment Society, whose father participated in the D-day landings.

"It makes me feel physically sick because you feel as though you're letting everybody down," she said. "I feel so strongly that it is our right and our duty to go."

Still, whatever Oldrid is asked "I know he'll say 'yes' because he actually doesn't know the word 'no.' It is not in his vocabulary," said Barkway-Harney.

Through it all, he keeps a smile.

"It's not ever, never will be a burden, he said "It's a pleasure and an honor."

What does he get in return? On the internet it is "Thank you, Steve. A big hearts and thumbs up," he said.

And from his previous work helping out families and friends of veterans, he knows something else is coming too.

"They do actually bring me some English products like teabags and salad cream, baked beans and crisps for the kids."

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>

## No 'silver lining': Trump faces voter backlash amid crises

By STEVE PEOPLES and SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — At the end of one of his most turbulent weeks in office, President Donald Trump was eager on Friday to boast of a better than expected jobs report to argue the country is poised for a booming recovery. Benjamin Lund was not moved.

The 45-year-old Milwaukee man is a longtime Republican who was raised in a conservative family in the political battleground of Wisconsin. At the onset of 2020, he had little doubt that he would support Trump's reelection.

Then the pandemic hit and Lund lost his restaurant job. A processing backlog meant he went two months without unemployment benefits. He later watched with dismay Trump's hard-line response to the police killing of George Floyd and the civil unrest that followed.

Lund, who is white, now plans to vote a straight Democratic ticket and rejects any effort by Trump to put a "silver lining" on the nation's pain.

"The people living the economic reality of what's soon to be a recession, it's a very different set of numbers," Lund said. "It's almost, in a sense, disrespectful to try and put a positive spin on where we are as a nation right now."

That's a stinging warning sign for Trump in a state that's crucial to his bid to keep the White House. Though the president would rather voters focus on an unemployment situation that's less catastrophic than some economists predicted, Trump's whipsaw ways are colliding with a pandemic and civil unrest of a scale the country has not seen since the 1960s.

With five months until the election, Trump has time to solidify his standing. But some Republicans fear voters are simply worn out by Trump.

"People are just so disgusted with how things are," said Republican strategist Terry Sullivan, who managed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "Even the most die-hard Trump supporters are exhausted."

Trump is leading a nation grappling with unemployment rates not seen since the Great Depression. More than 1,000 Americans are still dying each day from COVID-19. Millions have taken to the streets to fight for racial justice. And the National Guard was on the ground this week to help quell the social unrest, rioting and related violence.

Just 21% of voters believe the United States is on the right track, Monmouth University found in a poll released this week that marked a seven-year low.

Trump's defeat is far from certain.

He has repeatedly demonstrated the rules that have long governed presidential politics rarely apply to him. Almost his entire first term has been plagued by scandal, yet his approval numbers have been remarkably consistent, albeit consistently weak. He continues to command extraordinary media attention and, with it, the ability to define the national conversation.

Such skills helped him overcome dire predictions four years ago, when his victory surprised even some of his own advisers.

There is a key difference between 2016 and 2020, however, says conservative attorney George Conway, husband of Trump chief counselor Kellyanne Conway and a fierce Trump critic.

"He's the incumbent this time. He's the one with the record. He's the one being judged here," Conway said in an interview. "Four years ago that wasn't the case. And people could project on him characteristics



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that he didn't have, precisely because he didn't have a record. Now, we know who he is. He can't escape that. And he's going to get worse as he gets more and more desperate."

Still, the president inspires tremendous loyalty among Republican elected officials and many rank-and-file voters, particularly among the white working-class people who fueled his 2016 victory and are convinced Trump is fighting for them. Many are willing to give him the benefit of the doubt at a difficult time.

Steve Beaver, a 56-year-old commercial cable installer from the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, area, said he values Trump's conservatism and handling of the economy. He sees the protests as unrelated to Trump.

"It really has nothing to do with the way the country's being run right now," Beaver said. "It has everything to do with problems with policing right now."

Trump and his team are betting they can shift attention away from his own divisive leadership toward a shrinking minority of violent protesters. The president has advocated sending active-duty troops into American cities despite resistance from the governors involved and his own Cabinet members. Defense Secretary Mark Esper this week shot down Trump's idea to dispatch military forces on American soil. On the same day, his predecessor at the Pentagon, Jim Mattis, chastised Trump for violating protesters' constitutional rights.

The party has struggled with a response.

Many current Republican officeholders declined to defend Trump's actions this week, preferring to say nothing at all.

Former South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford, who ran a short-lived Republican primary campaign against the president, said Trump's willingness to ignore constitutional safeguards "is a threat to our way of life."

The degree to which he doesn't seem to get, like or care for limits on power I think is disturbing," Sanford said.

Trump's loudest defenders this week were those on his payroll.

Campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh noted the president "expressed horror" at Floyd's killing at the hands of police and quickly launched a civil rights investigation. He then shifted his attention to the violent protesters, even as reports of violence across the country begin to subside.

"Rioters have burned businesses to the ground, destroying the life's work of countless people, many of them in minority communities," Murtaugh said. "The president has made a clear, unequivocal stand for law and order, as Americans need to feel safe in their communities to live and return to work."

Questions remain about whether Trump's brazen push to inflame racial tensions will ultimately boost his standing with white voters, particularly those with college degrees. At the same time, Trump's approach is helping to energize African American voters against him.

Detroit resident Richard Grundy said that, just a few weeks ago, he was considering not voting in November for the first time in his life to protest what he saw as a lack of viable presidential candidates.

Grundy, 38, who leads the nonprofit organization JOURNi, supported Elizabeth Warren in the Democratic primary and felt the remaining candidates failed to truly address issues facing black Americans. But after Trump's recent actions, Grundy said he and many other African Americans feel like they have no choice but to vote for presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

"The entire country, the entire world is desperate to get Trump out of office," Grundy said. "Just seeing the reaction of the inaction to everything that's happening, I think we have to vote him out now."

There are also signs of suburban women moving away from Trump.

In Texas, 48-year-old Lisa Gerodimos attended a protest for racial justice this week with dozens of neighbors outside a gated golf community in Round Rock. The Austin suburb is among many shifting left and making the GOP anxious about their grip on the nation's biggest Republican state. Trump won this district by 13 points in 2016. Two years later, Republican Rep. Jon Carter eked out a ninth term by just 3 points.

"This neighborhood? I got tears in my eyes," Gerodimos, a white educational assistant, said of the turnout. She said she wasn't going to support Trump before Floyd's death but is now considering recruiting new Democratic voters.

Republicans on the ballot this year fear that another blue wave could extend the Democrats' House

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majority and help them reclaim the majority in the Senate. Yet the head of House Republicans' campaign organization predicted the protests and Trump's reaction would help GOP congressional candidates.

"The law and order issue is huge," Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., said in an interview. "Whether it's in communities that are getting destroyed every night and that people are watching on TV or in the suburbs. These people want law and order."

Emmer, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said there's a difference between "peaceful protest and thugs and criminals, people who loot." He said "decades of failed liberal policies" were to blame.

But back in Wisconsin, a state Trump narrowly carried four years ago, the restaurant worker Lund isn't so sure.

He said he's been closely following the protests, one of which passed by his house. He and his wife, whose mother is black, have been talking nightly about race issues.

"In typical fashion, the Republicans are focusing on the looting and crime aspect, which has nothing to do with the legitimate political movement in this country," Lund said.

"I was already planning to vote in November," he continued. "Now I would take a day off of work if I had to in order to do it. There's no question the Republicans need voting against."

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Associated Press writers Alan Fram in Washington; Kat Stafford in Detroit; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pa.; Paul Weber in Round Rock, Texas; and Jonathan Cooper in Phoenix contributed to this report.

## By the numbers: Trump reads economic boom into jobs data

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump has always been a big numbers guy.

He's proved adept at taking even the grimmest numbers and giving himself a pat on the back or relying on a creative use of data to make himself look good. But his declaration that an unexpected dip in the unemployment rate marked probably "the greatest comeback in American history" was a remarkable level of hyperbole even for him.

"This is a particularly clear example of his lack of cognitive complexity," said Brian Ott, incoming director of the communication school at Missouri State University and author of "The Twitter Presidency: Donald J. Trump and the Politics of White Rage."

The Labor Department's report on Friday that 2.5 million Americans were added to payrolls in May was clearly good news. In advance, economists had been projecting the loss of 8.3 million jobs, continuing the economic bloodletting caused by the coronavirus pandemic that has spurred the highest unemployment levels since the Great Depression.

But economists say the notion that the coronavirus-battered economy is now on a glide path to recovery glosses over some of the hard truths that American workers will face for months, if not years.

Justin Wolfers, a University of Michigan economist, notes that coronavirus pushed the economy into a massive hole and that it remains in a bad place.

"This month's rise in non-farm payrolls of +2.5 million is (easily!) the largest monthly rise ever recorded," Wolfers tweeted. "But it's still only one-eighth of last month's monstrous decline of -20.7 million. (Also a record.)"

The president's premature claim to economic victory reflects an artful relationship with numbers that Trump has long displayed.

Trump has repeatedly responded to the still-rising American death toll from the coronavirus — exceeding 109,000 — by saying that if not for his decision to restrict travel from China and Europe and other steps, the U.S. could have lost "maybe even 2.5 million or more lives," as he put it Friday.

"Big move closing it up," Trump offered appreciatively.

Earlier this week, Trump took to Twitter to point to a Washington Post-ABC News poll that showed Trump supporters are more enthusiastic about voting for him than are people likely to vote for likely Democratic

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presidential nominee, Joe Biden. Left unsaid was that the same poll showed Biden held a 10 percentage point lead among respondents as their choice in November.

Trump's tendency to get creative with numbers started early.

In his 1987 book about his rise in the New York real estate world, "The Art of the Deal," Trump wrote that a "little hyperbole never hurts." He framed his bankruptcies as smart legal maneuvers.

"People want to believe that something is the biggest and the greatest and the most spectacular. ... It's an innocent form of exaggeration — and a very effective form of promotion," Trump wrote in his book.

As he toyed with making a White House run in 2011, Trump said his reluctance to run was due in part to having the "No. 1 show on NBC." That was a stretch: Trump had been the network's top-rated show the week prior to the interview, but ran third for the network for the entire season.

On his first day in the White House, Trump dispatched his press secretary at the time, Sean Spicer, to inaccurately insist to reporters that Trump had drawn "the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration, period."

The economy is one of Trump's favorite places to spin up a swirl of good numbers attributed to his stewardship.

With 2.5 million workers added to the payroll in May, Trump said, the once-shuttered economy is coming back with "a bang."

But with the unemployment rate still standing at 13.3% — significantly higher than the low point of the Great Recession of 2008 — the president's ebullience doesn't reflect the reality that the climb back will take time and could be bumpy, said Claudia Sahm, director of macroeconomic policy at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

"This was a good day for him," said Sahm, who served as a senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers during the the Obama administration. "But he took what was a good day and made it hyperbolic."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, warned that Trump's disproportionate exuberance could backfire.

"If the White House takes from this and Congress takes from this that we don't need another round of stimulus, that's going to be a problem," Zandi said. "On the other side of Labor Day, the economy is going to go sideways or even go back into recession, because all of the rescue money is going to be spent by Labor Day."

Trump used a Rose Garden event on Friday to showcase the new jobs report and to suggest a stronger economy could contribute to racial equality.

Left unsaid by the president was that African American unemployment inched up to 16.8% last month, the highest it's been in more than a decade. Asian American workers' unemployment rate also rose from 14.5% to 15%. Hispanic unemployment dropped from 18.9% to 17.6%.

Trump scoffed at an African American reporter who noted the disconnect between Trump's comments and what minority workers are enduring.

"You're something else," he retorted.

Biden, for his part, said Trump's trumpeting of the data was tantamount to "hanging a Mission Accomplished banner," a reference to President George W. Bush's premature declaration of victory in the Iraq war less than six weeks into a conflict that would go on for years.

"He's out there spiking the ball, completely oblivious to the tens of millions of people who are facing the greatest struggle of their lives," Biden said of Trump.

Ott, the Missouri State analyst, said that Trump's rosy take on the unemployment situation is part of his broader effort to spin dark numbers into gold.

"If the sun comes up, Trump is responsible, and it's the most beautiful sunrise in the history of the planet," Ott said. "Conversely, when something negative happens, Trump blames others even if he is directly responsible for it."

## The loneliest of D-Day remembrances is hit by pandemic

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France (AP) — At daybreak on Saturday, Charles Shay stood lonesome without any fellow veteran on the very same beach where he waded ashore 76 years ago, part of one of the most epic battles in military history that came to be known as D-Day and turned the tide of World War II.

Compared to last year, when many tens of thousands came to the northern French beaches of Normandy to cheer the dwindling number of veterans and celebrate three-quarters of a century of liberation from Nazi oppression, the coronavirus lockdown turned this year's remembrance into one of the eeriest ever.

"I am very sad now," said Shay, who was a 19-year-old U.S. Army medic when he landed on Omaha Beach under horrific machine-gun fire and shells. "Because of the virus, nobody can be here. I would like to see more of us here," he told The Associated Press.

Normally, 95-year-old Shay would be meeting other survivors of the 1944 battle and celebrating with locals and dignitaries alike, all not far from his home close to the beaches that defined his life.

"This year, I am one of the very few that is probably here," he said, adding that other U.S. veterans could not fly in because of the pandemic.

When a full moon disappeared over land and the sun rose the other side over the English Channel, there was no customary rumble of columns of vintage jeep and trucks to be heard, roads still so deserted here sat alongside them.

Still the French would not let this day slip by unnoticed, such is their attachment to some 160,000 soldiers from the United States, Britain, Canada and other countries who spilled their blood to free foreign beaches and fight on to finally defeat Nazism almost one year later.

"It's a June 6 unlike any other," said Philippe Laillier, the mayor of Saint-Laurent-Sur-Mer, who staged a small remembrance around the Omaha Beach monument. "But still we had to do something. We had to mark it."

The moment the sun broke over the ocean, the Omaha Beach theme from Saving Private Ryan blared across the sand for a few dozen locals and visitors dressed in vintage clothing.

The lack of a big international crowd was palpable, though.

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.

It did not affect Ivan Thierry, 62, a local fisherman who catches sea bass around the wrecks that still litter the seabed nearby. He was holding an American flag in tribute even before dawn.

"There is not nobody here. Even if we are only a dozen, we are here to commemorate," he said.

## Russian Orthodox priest tends to Moscow's COVID-19 patients

By ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Rev. Vasily Gelevan bends over a COVID-19 patient at her apartment to administer Holy Communion and say words of comfort while clad in a hazmat suit.

The bedside ministry is one of many such visits the 45-year old Russian Orthodox priest makes daily as he shuttles across Moscow in a minivan to tend to people fighting the coronavirus at their homes or in hospital rooms.

Gelevan's family at first wasn't happy with his decision to come in close contact with those infected with the virus, but the father of five sees pastoral care as a responsibility he can't refuse, especially during a pandemic.

"I put myself in their place," he said. "For me, the visit of a priest giving Holy Communion would be the most desirable thing. It doesn't matter that I wouldn't see his face. I would hear his voice, he would come and embrace me, show his sympathy and bring me the most precious thing in the world — the

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Holy Communion!"

For several years before the coronavirus outbreak, the priest visited the gravely ill at Moscow hospitals. Then the coronavirus hit the Russian capital.

"They called me and said that there is a lot of work to do, many people are sick, and there are few who are trained to overcome the stress and enter the red zone to offer help," Gelevan said. "I felt that I must answer the call."

Moscow has accounted for about half of the nation's more than 449,000 confirmed cases, the world's third-highest number after the United States and Brazil. Russia reported 5,520 virus-related deaths as of Friday.

Along with needing to reassure his family — "They told me that I was playing a hero," Gelevan said — the priest had to cope with his own fear of exposure as the virus rapidly engulfed Russia.

Gelevan recalled that the first time he went to first visit a COVID-19 patient, he was shocked to see cotton stuffed into the keyhole of the woman's apartment door. He assumed it was put there to protect the neighbors from the virus. It turned out that the woman had blocked the keyhole long before to protect herself from the neighbor's tobacco smoke.

"I often remember that keyhole," the priest said. "I realized that the eyes of fear see danger everywhere."

Gelevan said he wears all the required gear to keep himself from becoming infected and takes other necessary precautions, but won't allow fear to stand in the way of performing his clerical duties.

"You just need to find a middle way without falling into extremes — being panicky or going into COVID-19 denial," he said.

Gelevan serves as a priest at Moscow's Church of the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin in Sokolniki, which was built by the Russian imperial army in 1906. During Soviet times, the church housed a military unit, and after the Russian Orthodox Church reclaimed it in the early 2000s it became the official church of the Russian airborne forces.

The church, like all churches in Russia, has been closed to parishioners since April 13 and is set to re-open on Saturday. In the recent times of illness and disruption, Gelevan sees a message to humankind to abandon its arrogance and correct its mistakes.

"We shall weep and then calm down, raise from our knees and go forward," he said. "We will become simpler and more humane, filled with more love for ourselves and others and also the world around us."

## Turning grief into change, movement targets racial injustice

By **COREY WILLIAMS, DEEPTI HAJELA and AARON MORRISON** Associated Press

Momentum for what many hope is a sustained movement aimed at tackling racial injustice and police reforms promised to grow Saturday as more protesters filled streets around the world and mourners prepared to gather in the U.S. for a second memorial service for George Floyd, who died a dozen days ago at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Formal and impromptu memorials to Floyd over the last several days have stretched from Minneapolis to Paris, Rome and Johannesburg, South Africa. In North Carolina, where he was born, a public viewing and private service for family was planned Saturday. Services were scheduled to culminate in a private burial in the coming days in Texas, where he lived most of his life.

Floyd's final journey was designed with intention, the Rev. Al Sharpton said. Having left Houston for Minneapolis in 2014 in search of a job and a new life, Floyd is retracing that path in death.

Sharpton has plans for a commemorative march on Washington in August on the anniversary of the day Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. He said the event would be a way to engage voters ahead of November's general election and maintain momentum for a movement that has the power to "change the whole system of justice."

"It's going to be months, if not a year, before you even go to trial. So you can't let this peter out," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview late Friday. "Otherwise you'll end up in a year and people will go on to another story, and you will not have the public notice and pressure that you need."

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In Washington, authorities were preparing for what on Saturday was expected to be the largest demonstration against police brutality in the city so far. It comes as authorities have sought to reduce tensions by having National Guard troops not carry weapons.

While demonstrations in the U.S. have shifted to a calmer tenor, protesters stirred by Floyd's death are no less determined to turn an extraordinary outpouring of grief into change.

In Minneapolis, the city agreed to ban police chokeholds and require officers to intervene any time they see unauthorized force by another officer. The changes are part of a stipulation between the city and state officials who launched a civil rights investigation into Floyd's death. The City Council was expected to approve the agreement, which will be enforceable in court.

Banning chokeholds is something Michigan activists want, too. They plan to lobby state lawmakers to take action, said Sam Riddle, political director of Michigan's National Action Network, which has been organizing protests in and around Detroit.

"We get weary, but we are never worn out from seeking justice," Riddle said in an email. "We will keep confronting systemic racism and injustice until perpetrators of the same change policies or we force them out and get policy changes that put people first."

Protests across the country had initially been marred by the setting of fires and smashing of windows, but Friday marked the third day of more subdued demonstrations.

In Washington, city workers and volunteers painted "Black Lives Matter" in enormous yellow letters on the street leading to the White House on Friday in a sign of local leaders' embrace of the protest movement. The mural stretched across 16th Street for two blocks, ending just before the church where President Donald Trump staged a photo-op earlier this week after federal officers forcibly cleared a peaceful demonstration to make way for him.

Meanwhile, in a sign protesters' voices were being heard, more symbols of slavery and the Confederacy came down. Mobile, Alabama, removed a statue of a Confederate naval officer after days of protests there, while Fredericksburg, Virginia, removed a 176-year-old slave auction block after several years of efforts by the NAACP.

Rashad Robinson, president of Color Of Change, said Floyd's final words breathed new life into a movement that has been building for generations.

"These high awareness moments though have the ability move us forward or backwards as a nation," Robinson said. "It's up to us to channel the the energy of the moment into sustainable, collective pressure for justice. To that end, we are working to use the momentum we have gained to create lasting, systemic change that will keep us safe long-term."

Organizers in Florida and Minneapolis were using sign-up sheets to collect the names of those who want to stay involved and were encouraging simple actions such as sending emails or making calls to local elected leaders to demand change.

"We are taking more of the strategy of: 'How do we actually invest people's energy beyond protesting?'" said Tiffany Burks, a community organizer in Florida. "We are thinking long term."

Nakia Wallace, an organizer in Detroit, said people were beginning to understand the movement's power.

"The world is watching," she said, adding: "The main strategy is to get people to collectively come out and make demands until those demands are met."

Joseph Rogers has been out marching in Richmond, Virginia, nearly every night for the past week. As a descendant of slaves, he said he's committed to a new racial justice movement that can spur change in his community and cities around the country. He said although the protests started as a reaction to the killing of Floyd, they are now about many more injustices.

"Every single black person in America has felt the pain of losing someone in the community to police brutality," he said. "It's not just about justice for George Floyd. It's about justice for everyone who's been lost, it's about justice for all."

Williams reported from Detroit, Hajela from New York City and Morrison from Minneapolis. AP journalists

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Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Jeff Baenen and Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina, and reporters around the U.S. contributed.

## Colin Kaepernick has more support now, still long way to go

By **ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer**

When Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem to take a stand against police brutality and racial injustice in 2016, he was mostly alone.

Politicians, team owners and fellow players criticized him, fans burned his jersey, and he was booed even at home. Four years later, his protest is widely viewed as prescient.

Even NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell apologized to players for not listening to them earlier and encouraged them to protest peacefully.

"We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people," Goodell said in a video released Friday. "We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest. We, the National Football League, believe black lives matter. I personally protest with you and want to be part of the much needed change in this country."

Global opinion has shifted so much that more people are now vilifying those who attack Kaepernick or misrepresent his stance.

New Orleans Saints star quarterback Drew Brees issued a public apology Thursday after he was excoriated by teammates, other athletes and fans for saying he "will never agree with anybody disrespecting the flag of the United States."

That sentiment has been voiced loudly by Kaepernick's critics and President Donald Trump reiterated it Friday, saying on Twitter: "I am a big fan of Drew Brees. I think he's truly one of the greatest quarterbacks, but he should not have taken back his original stance on honoring our magnificent American Flag. OLD GLORY is to be revered, cherished, and flown high... We should be standing up straight and tall, ideally with a salute, or a hand on heart. There are other things you can protest, but not our Great American Flag - NO KNEELING!"

Brees responded on social media in a post addressed to the president's Twitter handle.

"Through my ongoing conversations with friends, teammates, and leaders in the black community, I realize this is not an issue about the American flag. It has never been," Brees wrote. "We can no longer use the flag to turn people away or distract them from the real issues that face our black communities.

"We did this back in 2017, and regretfully I brought it back with my comments this week. We must stop talking about the flag and shift our attention to the real issues of systemic racial injustice, economic oppression, police brutality, and judicial & prison reform. We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history! If not now, then when?"

"We as a white community need to listen and learn from the pain and suffering of our black communities. We must acknowledge the problems, identify the solutions, and then put this into action. The black community cannot do it alone. This will require all of us."

George Floyd's death, which ignited nationwide protests over racial injustice and police brutality, awakened many people to the root of the issues that led to Kaepernick's peaceful demonstration — an expression meant to raise awareness of such issues, not demean the flag or the anthem. The 32-year-old Kaepernick hasn't played in the NFL since 2016.

"The protest is really trying to hold us accountable for the things we say we believe in. It's about equality and justice for all," said Houston Texans wide receiver Kenny Stills, who has been taking a knee since Week 1 of the 2016 season.

This week, San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said Kaepernick deserves respect and admiration for starting the protest. Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll praised him for his courage and sacrificing his career. Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy compared Kaepernick to Muhammad Ali.

"There's a lot of parallels between Colin and my father," said Ali's daughter, Khaliah. "He stands 100

percent with integrity no matter the cost. He made an unwavering commitment for the betterment of his people and took an unapologetic stance against injustice. I have had many people attempt to discourage our support of Colin, which is unthinkable to me. He is a friend to our family, he is loved and honored."

The NFL and its teams have voiced their support for equality and called for change. In a video released Thursday night, 2018 NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes and several of his peers asked the league to "condemn racism and the systemic oppression of black people" and "admit wrong in silencing players from peacefully protesting."

Goodell did so in his strongest statement since Kaepernick and other players began their protests.

"Without black players, there would be no National Football League," Goodell said. "And the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of black players, coaches, fans and staff. We are listening. I am listening, and I will be reaching out to players who have raised their voices and others on how we can improve and go forward for a better and more united NFL family."

Kaepernick still wants an opportunity to play. A workout in Atlanta last November that was organized by the NFL turned chaotic and resulted in no job offers.

"Colin is a talented football player," Seahawks star Russell Wilson said this week. "I remember playing against him; the man could play some football. But he stood up for something far more greater than football. And that's people's lives. He was standing up for people that have come and gone and for everyone who is African American and the oppression that has been going on."

AP Pro Football Writer Josh Dubow and AP Sports Writers Tim Booth and Steve Megargee contributed to this report.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Mayor downplays rough police treatment of NYC protesters

By MICHAEL R. SISK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Another day of protests over the death of George Floyd brought more examples of New York City officials downplaying or denying the police department's rough treatment of protesters — even when it was caught on video.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Friday he had personally seen "no use of force around peaceful protests" and cast doubt on people who had, belying social media posts and witness accounts of officers moving on demonstrators without provocation and bashing them with batons.

De Blasio made the comment in response to questions at his morning news briefing about teams of officers aggressively breaking up a rally in the Bronx as the city's 8 p.m. curfew kicked in Thursday, leading to scores of arrests and cries of brutality. He said officers were using "lots of restraint."

"What an absolute disgrace. This is just not true," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer tweeted afterward. "You are gaslighting an entire City."

The department did later announce the suspensions without pay for two officers, in connection to two separate incidents from the early days of protest. In one, on May 29, a video clip showed an officer shoving a woman to the ground. In the second, on May 30, an officer was shown pulling a demonstrator's mask down and spraying pepper spray. Both cases have been referred for disciplinary action.

Protesters marched through the city again Friday by the thousands. About three hundred people gathered in Union Square for a rally organized by medical professionals who have been battling the COVID-19 pandemic at its epicenter for the last three months. One protester held a sign that read, "You Clapped For Us, We Kneel For You," referring to the ritual clapping New Yorkers do each night at 7 p.m. to salute health care workers.

"We want to redirect the respect that was given to us throughout the coronavirus pandemic and give that same respect to members of the community who are on the front lines fighting for social justice,"



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said Hillary Duenas, one of the event organizers who works at Mount Sinai.

On Friday night, demonstrators again remained on city streets hours after the curfew, with police generally allowing them. Crowds dwindled on their own at various locations, though officers in Brooklyn made at least a dozen orderly arrests while dispersing one group.

About an hour earlier and not far away, Randy Williams exchanged a fist bump with officers, who steadily removed one hand from their batons to shake with demonstrators. "I get in their faces every day not with hate, not with anger," he said. "My delivery may be a little rough but the message is the same. I don't dislike cops and I have been to prison. I don't hate cops. I hate bullies"

As another sizable group dispersed on the Upper West Side, some who were walking away bantered about not wanting to get arrested because they wanted to be back on the streets Saturday.

The violent flareups that characterized some demonstrations last weekend have almost entirely given way to peaceful affairs. Looting that occurred on Sunday and Monday also appears to have ceased.

The tension now has occurred around the city's 8 p.m. curfew, with police at some protests using force to enforce the order barring assemblies.

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said by "willfully ignoring the evidence" of bystanders, reporters, observers, and peaceful protesters being brutalized in plain sight, the mayor is emboldening the police.

"I guess at this point the mayor is delusional," Public Advocate Jumaane Williams said.

Despite de Blasio's skepticism, he promised that all police misconduct allegations would be investigated. He also chided officers for mistreating essential workers exempt from the curfew, such as food delivery workers and journalists.

Police Commissioner Dermot Shea, who gave a fiery speech Thursday denouncing a wave of vicious attacks on officers, said "sometimes when you're in the middle of something, you don't get to see the big picture too."

On Friday evening, the department announced an arrest of two people in a June 2 incident where a police officer was hit by a car, sending him flying into the street and leaving him in serious condition.

The police department's treatment of peaceful protesters, amid smash-and-grab sprees and sporadic unrest, has come under fire as demonstrations stretch into a second weekend, spurred by George Floyd's May 25 death in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed a knee into Floyd's neck.

After officers were recorded Wednesday shoving and hitting peaceful protesters as they enforced the curfew, it was Gov. Andrew Cuomo who doubted it happened, telling an Associated Press reporter that her question about the use of force was "a little offensive" and "incendiary rhetoric."

Cuomo backtracked after seeing the video and asked the state's attorney general to probe that incident in her investigation into police misconduct during the protests. In a tweet, he said: "No peaceful protester deserves to be hit with a baton and no self-respecting police officer would defend that."

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Associated Press reporters Karen Matthews and Deepti Hajela, video journalist Robert Bumsted and photographer John Minchillo in New York, and Marina Villeneuve in Albany contributed to this report.

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Follow Michael Sisak on Twitter at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## Demonstrators vow to sustain momentum until change happens

By **BEN FOX, COREY WILLIAMS and JEFF AMY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesters stirred by the death of George Floyd vowed Friday to turn an extraordinary outpouring of grief into a sustained movement as demonstrations shifted to a calmer, but no less determined focus on addressing racial injustice.

In Minneapolis, where Floyd died in police custody, the city agreed to ban police chokeholds and require officers to intervene any time they see unauthorized force by another officer. The changes are part of a stipulation between the city and state officials who launched a civil rights investigation into Floyd's death.

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The City Council was expected to approve the agreement, which will be enforceable in court.

The country's most significant demonstrations in a half-century — rivaling those during the civil rights and Vietnam War eras — resumed for an 11th day nationwide with continued momentum as the mood largely shifted from explosive anger to more peaceful calls for change. Formal and impromptu memorials to Floyd stretched from Minneapolis to North Carolina, where family members will gather Saturday to mourn him, and beyond.

Josiah Roebuck, a university student who used social media to help gather 100 people to demonstrate Friday in an Atlanta suburb, is confident the momentum will last.

"Once you start, you're going to see this every day," said Roebuck, who has attended multiple protests. "I just want minorities to be represented properly."

Protests across the country had initially been marred by the setting of fires and smashing of windows, but Friday marked the third day of more subdued demonstrations.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who eulogized Floyd at a heartfelt tribute in Minneapolis on Thursday, said Friday that plans are in the works for a commemorative march on Washington on Aug. 28, the anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Sharpton said the event would be a way to maintain momentum as the legal cases of the four officers charged in Floyd's death move forward.

Floyd's body was being taken to North Carolina, the state where he was born 46 years ago, for a public viewing and private service for family Saturday. Then in Texas, where Floyd lived most of his life, services culminating in a private burial will take place Monday and Tuesday.

In Washington, city workers and volunteers painted "Black Lives Matter" in enormous yellow letters on the street leading to the White House on Friday in a sign of local leaders' embrace of the protest movement. The mural stretched across 16th Street for two blocks, ending just before the church where President Donald Trump staged a photo-op earlier this week after federal officers forcibly cleared a peaceful demonstration to make way for the president and his entourage.

"The section of 16th Street in front of the White House is now officially 'Black Lives Matter Plaza,'" Mayor Muriel Bowser said in a tweet shortly after the mural was completed.

The project follows Bowser's verbal clashes with the Trump administration over the response to protests over Floyd's killing. Still, the local chapter of Black Lives Matter took a swipe at Bowser on Twitter by saying the project distracts from their efforts to shift funds from local police to community investment.

There were zero arrests during demonstrations in the city Thursday and Friday and Bowser canceled the curfew that had been in place since Monday. She said she will decide Saturday morning if it will be reinstated.

Meanwhile, in a sign protesters' voices were being heard, more symbols of slavery and the Confederacy came down. Mobile, Alabama, removed a statue of a Confederate naval officer after days of protests there, while Fredericksburg, Virginia, removed a 176-year-old slave auction block after several years of efforts by the NAACP.

Community activists were working to convert anger and grief into long-term action. Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward circulated a sign-up sheet at a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, protest that drew 1,500 names of people who want to stay involved. The group followed up with each person this week suggesting simple actions such as emailing or calling to demand local change.

"We are taking more of the strategy of: 'How do we actually invest people's energy beyond protesting?'" said Tiffany Burks, a community organizer. "We are thinking long term."

This weekend, they were building a church altar with the names of victims killed by local police and having their family members speak. On Monday, they plan a workshop to help people engage at the local level, including mobilizing in upcoming elections.

"Every single day it's growing from people who want to get more involved, who want to take more actions, so we're going to be mobilizing those folks," Burks said.

In Minneapolis, organizer Sam Martinez said regular meetings and a mailing list of about 5,000 has sustained the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar, formed after the 2015 shooting death of Jamar Clark

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during a struggle with two white officers.

"We meet every week, because we know that's what it takes," Martinez said.

Nakia Wallace, an organizer of protests in Detroit, said people were beginning to understand the movement's power.

"The world is watching," she said, adding: "The main strategy is to get people to collectively come out and make demands until those demands are met."

For the past week in Richmond, Virginia, Austin Carroll, a 28-year-old musician, has spent six hours a day marching or protesting near a soaring statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which the governor agreed this week to remove.

Carroll, a member of Black Lives Matter, has strained his voice from yelling and his 6-year-old son, Levi, has blisters on his feet. But Carroll said they plan to continue to march every day until more changes come, including deescalation training for police.

"I am tired. My voice and legs are gone," Carroll said. "We're resting right now, but we'll be back out here marching tonight."

Amy reported from Atlanta and Williams from Detroit. AP journalists Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Jeff Baenen and Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina, and reporters around the U.S. contributed.

The spelling of Mayor Muriel Bowser's last name has been corrected.

## Buffalo officers suspended in shoving of 75-year-old man

By JOHN WAWROW Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Dozens of Buffalo police officers stepped down from the department's crowd control unit Friday, objecting to the suspensions of two fellow officers in the shoving of a 75-year-old protester who fell and cracked his head.

Prosecutors were investigating the encounter captured by a TV crew Thursday night near the conclusion of protests over the death of George Floyd in Minnesota. The footage shows a man identified as Martin Gugino approaching a line of helmeted officers holding batons as they clear demonstrators from Niagara Square around the time of an 8 p.m. curfew.

Two officers push Gugino backward, and he hits his head on the pavement. Blood spills as officers walk past. One officer leans down to check on the injured man before another officer urges the colleague to keep walking.

"Why? Why was that necessary? Where was the threat?" asked Gov. Andrew Cuomo at his daily briefing Friday. The governor said he spoke to Gugino, who had been hospitalized in serious condition. "It's just fundamentally offensive and frightening. How did we get to this place?"

The police commissioner suspended two police officers without pay Friday, Mayor Byron Brown said.

In response, 57 members of the Buffalo Police Department's emergency response team quit the unit "in disgust because of the treatment of two of their members, who were simply executing orders," said John Evans, Police Benevolent Association president, according to WGRZ.

The resigning officers did not leave their jobs altogether.

Gugino and the officers all appear to be white, but details of their backgrounds were not released.

Late Friday, the New York City Police Department announced the suspension of two other officers, including one seen on video shoving a much smaller, female protester who was hurled back and hit her head on the pavement.

The Buffalo confrontation raised concerns about more possible flare-ups in a city where, earlier this week, two officers enforcing a curfew were injured by an SUV that plowed into a large group of officers who had begun swinging batons and using police dogs to enforce the curfew.

Things looked to have calmed somewhat Friday evening, as a large group of about 300 protesters marched

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uptown peacefully but after the city's 8 p.m. curfew, accompanied by two police cars and a police helicopter. Brown said contingency plans are in place "ensure public safety." Additional state troopers will be in the city through the weekend to assist Buffalo police, according to a state police spokesman. And Brown said they are working with other agencies.

"I want people out in our community to know that people peacefully protesting will be protected," Brown said at a news conference Friday.

Protests are expected to continue nationwide over the death of Floyd — a black man who died after a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck for several minutes.

Gugino was hospitalized and was "alert and oriented," according to a Friday morning tweet by Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

Poloncarz at a briefing later in the day wished Gugino a "speedy recovery" and said the encounter "created a black mark, a stain on the city of Buffalo."

The district attorney's office "continues to investigate the incident," officials said in a news release.

Gugino is a retiree who lives by himself in the area, say friends who describe him as a veteran peace activist driven by his faith and a desire for social justice. He is involved with the Western New York Peace Center and Latin American Solidarity Committee, said Vicki Ross, the center's executive director.

"I can assure you, Martin is a peaceable person," Ross said. "There is no way that he was doing anything to accost or hurt. He made a judgment to stay out after the curfew because he feels that our civil liberties are so in danger, which they most certainly are."

His Twitter timeline includes tweets and retweets supportive of progressive causes and critical of police.

Ross said Gugino has been undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

"It doesn't surprise me that Martin was standing there looking at these young cops in the eye," Mark Colville of the Amistad Catholic Worker said of his longtime friend.

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 an internal investigation was opened. Police later apologized and said they were "working with incomplete details during what was a very fast-moving and fluid situation."

The office of state Attorney General Letitia James tweeted that officials there were aware of the video.

This story has been updated to correct that the source of the video was WBFO, not WFBO. Michael Hill contributed from Albany, N.Y.

## Black cops feel pain of Floyd's death, duty to their uniform

By **CLIFF BRUNT** and **GARY FIELDS** Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Black police officers find themselves torn between two worlds: They feel the pain of seeing yet another black man killed at the hands of fellow officers, yet they must also try to keep the peace during angry protests fueled by that death.

Those feelings, familiar to many blacks in law enforcement for years, have never been more intense than in the days since the death of George Floyd. The 46-year-old black man died in Minneapolis after a white officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped moving and pleading for air as other officers watched.

"My emotion, my fervor is no less than those people on the streets," said New York City police Detective Felicia Richards, who is black. "I stand in this uniform, and I understand what my obligation is to this uniform, but I can't compromise my humanity."

Richards, president of the NYPD Guardians Association, a fraternal organization, said she was horrified by the video that captured Floyd's arrest and final moments. She struggled to understand what could possibly have warranted such "brute force."

Floyd, who was laid off from his job as a bouncer when Minnesota shut down restaurants as part of a stay-at-home order during the coronavirus pandemic, was being arrested May 25. A convenience store worker had accused him of using counterfeit money. Floyd was handcuffed and did not appear to be

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resisting the officers.

Black police officers who saw the footage "let out a sigh of disgust and abandonment right there," Richards said. "When we saw that man was not moving, we have to answer to the community."

Richards, a 34-year veteran of the NYPD, said the toll on officers' mental health runs deep. They cannot grieve with the rest of the black America, and many of them must meet a seething public.

The National Black Police Association was blunt in its assessment of Floyd's death and how law enforcement has historically treated black citizens.

"Let's speak truths: In America, it is clear that the humanity of black people appears invisible to law enforcement," it said in a statement. "What other explanation would there be for (Minneapolis Police Officer Derek) Chauvin to lean on the neck of a handcuffed black man until he dies?"

The group cited recent images of armed white men converging on the Michigan Capitol to protest stay-at-home orders intended to curb spread of the coronavirus.

"Armed white men are allowed to stand on the steps of government buildings and protest that their liberty is being stepped on, unchallenged by law enforcement. But too often, when unarmed black citizens are alleged to have committed minor violations, freedom is no longer at play, and the door opens for death at the very hands of those who should be protecting and serving," the organization said.

Since police killings gave rise to the Black Lives Matter movement, police departments have sought to better diversify their ranks. But minorities remain underrepresented in many agencies. For example, of the 36,000-plus officers in the New York Police Department, 17,000 are white, while 5,500 are black.

Police work in the U.S. has been challenging for black officers since the beginning.

In 1965, sheriff's deputies O'Neal Moore and David Creed Rogers were ambushed in Varnado, Louisiana, while investigating a brush fire. Moore was killed, and Rogers was blinded in his right eye. According to Justice Department files on the attack, the two had been on the job for one year and were the first black deputies in the department. Their hiring infuriated the Ku Klux Klan.

Mike Render, a member of the popular rap duo Run The Jewels and known as Killer Mike, spoke tearfully during a news conference last week in Atlanta about his love for family members in law enforcement. His father was a police officer, as are two cousins.

He recalled that the first eight black officers on the Atlanta department, who joined the force nearly a century ago, had to get dressed at a YMCA because their fellow white officers did not want to be in the same locker room with them.

"I'm mad as hell," he said. "I woke up wanting to see the world burn yesterday, because I'm tired of seeing black men die." He compared Floyd's death under the officer's knee to that of a zebra "in the clutch of a lion's jaw."

Some have sought to bridge the divide between demonstrators and fellow officers. In Florida, Fort Lauderdale officer Krystle Smith was lauded after a video went viral of her chasing and reprimanding a fellow officer after he pushed a protester to the ground who was already kneeling.

Officer Jasmine Nivens spoke with a group of protesters in Charlotte, North Carolina, to ease tensions. She told them that she could not defend the officers in Minneapolis. But when she's on the job, she does her best to hold her fellow officers accountable and has told some of them to "ease up."

"I'm hurt the same way you hurt. ... I understand your pain," said Nivens, part of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's "constructive conversation" team, which makes a point of talking with the public during demonstrations. The unit was created after protests erupted in that city following the 2016 police shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott.

Some officers say they too have experienced racism — on and off the job.

Norman, Oklahoma, officer Ralph Manous recalled an experience while attending Missouri State University. He was walking home from his overnight job when he started to hear honking from a truck in the distance.

"Somebody threw a full beer at my head. And so I instantly took off running. And they chased me, throwing beers, a whole bunch of racial slurs, stuff like that," Manous said. As a former junior college wrestler, he was still athletic enough to escape after jumping some fences and hiding behind a backyard shed.

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Even as an officer, he is leery of other police. When he leaves Norman, he hangs his wallet badge on his rearview mirror to make sure if he is pulled over, officers immediately know he's one of them.

He's been to protests in Norman. He said the response from black people is usually negative when they find out he's an officer.

"They typically start to clam up and get secretive or think that I'm out to get them," he said. "They crack the little sly jokes. I get where they are coming from."

Once, when he was the first officer to show up on a call for a disturbance, the man who answered the door wouldn't speak to him or let him into the house. When his white partner arrived, the man immediately explained everything to the other officer. When it was time to leave, the man shook his partner's hand but turned his back on Manous and walked away.

"I said, 'OK. This is the America we are living in.'"

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Brunt reported from Oklahoma City, and Fields from Silver Spring, Maryland. Associated Press writers Lisa Marie Pane in Boise, Idaho, Ashraf Khalil in Washington and Sophia Tareen in Chicago also contributed.

## Goodell says NFL was wrong for not listening to players

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league was wrong for not listening to players fighting for racial equality and encouraged them to peacefully protest.

One day after 2018 NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes and several of his peers released a video demanding the league condemn racism, Goodell made his strongest statement on the issues many players passionately support.

George Floyd's death has ignited nationwide protests over racial injustice and police brutality, issues former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began speaking out against in 2016 when he started taking a knee during the national anthem.

"It has been a difficult time for our country. In particular, black people in our country," Goodell said in a video released Friday. "First, my condolences to the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all the families who have endured police brutality. We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people. We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest. We, the National Football League, believe Black Lives Matter. I personally protest with you and want to be part of the much needed change in this country.

"Without black players, there would be no National Football League. And the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of black players, coaches, fans and staff. We are listening. I am listening, and I will be reaching out to players who have raised their voices and others on how we can improve and go forward for a better and more united NFL family."

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More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Minneapolis bans police chokeholds in wake of Floyd's death

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minneapolis agreed Friday to ban chokeholds and neck restraints by police and to require officers to try to stop any other officers they see using improper force, in the first concrete steps to remake the city's police force since George Floyd's death.

The changes are part of a stipulation between the city and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, which launched a civil rights investigation this week in response to the death of Floyd. The City Council approved the agreement 12-0.

Human Rights Commissioner Rebecca Lucero said the changes are necessary to stop ongoing harm to people of color "who have suffered generational pain and trauma as a result of systemic and institutional

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racism.”

“This is just a start,” Lucero said. “There is a lot more work to do here, and that work must and will be done with speed and community engagement.”

Floyd’s death is prompting reexamination of police techniques elsewhere. California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday ordered the state’s police training program to stop teaching officers how to use a neck hold that blocks the flow of blood to the brain.

The decision on whether to use the hold is up to each law enforcement agency, and Newsom said he will support legislation to outlaw the method. The San Diego Police Department and San Diego County Sheriff’s Department are among the agencies that announced this week that they would stop using the hold, known as a carotid hold or sleeper hold.

“We train techniques on strangleholds that put people’s lives at risk,” Newsom said. “That has no place any longer in 21st-century practices and policing.”

The Minneapolis agreement requires court approval and would become enforceable in court, unlike the department’s current policies, which already cite the duty of sworn employees to stop or try to stop inappropriate force or force no longer needed. The agreement would also require officers to immediately report to their superiors when they see use of any neck restraint or chokehold.

Floyd died after Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee on the handcuffed black man’s neck, ignoring his “I can’t breathe” cries and bystander shouts even after Floyd stopped moving. His death has set off protests around the world.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder. Three other officers are charged with aiding and abetting. All have been fired.

Lucero said the changes go further than the department’s current policies. Any officer who doesn’t try to stop the improper use of force would face the same discipline as if they had used improper force.

The agreement also would require authorization from the police chief or a deputy chief to use crowd control weapons such as tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades. Such tactics have been used in Minneapolis and other cities in the past week to disperse protesters.

The stipulation also sets a process for the city and state to negotiate longer-term changes, such as changing state laws that make it difficult to fire problem officers.

Minneapolis police Chief Medaria Arradondo said in a statement that he “will continue to work on efforts to improve public trust, public safety and transformational culture change” of the police force.

“I will be bringing forth substantive policy changes,” said Arradondo, whose statement did not provide details.

Meanwhile, a man who was with Floyd on the night he died told The New York Times that his longtime friend didn’t resist arrest and instead tried to defuse the situation before he ended up handcuffed on the ground.

Maurice Lester Hall was a passenger in Floyd’s car when police approached him May 25 as they responded to a call about someone using a forged bill at a shop. Hall told the newspaper that Floyd was trying to show he was not resisting.

“I could hear him pleading, ‘Please, officer, what’s all this for?’” Hall told the Times.

Authorities say Hall, whose name is spelled Morris Lester Hall in court records, is a key witness in the state’s investigation into the four officers who apprehended Floyd. Hall’s identity wasn’t made public until the Times’ report. Bruce Gordon, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said Hall initially gave a false name to officers at the scene.

Hall told ABC’s “Good Morning America” that the situation escalated quickly and police grabbed Floyd, put him in a squad car, dragged him back out and then “jumped on the back of the neck.” He said Floyd was put in an ambulance and that he didn’t know his friend had died until the next day, when he saw bystander video on Facebook.

“I’m going to always remember seeing the fear in Floyd’s face because he’s such a king,” Hall told the Times. “That’s what sticks with me, seeing a grown man cry, before seeing a grown man die.”

Hall’s attorney, Ashlee McFarlane, told The Associated Press that Hall would not be doing any more

interviews. She declined further comment.

Associated Press writer Amy Forliti contributed to this report.

## Trump jabs Maine's Democratic governor; she hits back

By JILL COLVIN and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

GUILFORD, Maine (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday laced into Maine's Democratic governor for not moving quickly enough to reopen the state's economy and urged his supporters to help him win the rest of the state in November if they want to see the country rebound from the coronavirus shutdown.

Referring to Maine's electoral votes, Trump said: "Get that other half to go with Trump." He spoke in the small town of Guilford, home to Puritan Medical Products, one of only two major companies producing a special type of swab needed to ramp up coronavirus testing.

At stops in Guilford and Bangor, Trump used his first visit to the state as president to lob jabs at Gov. Janet Mills for not reopening businesses more quickly. Trump won just one of Maine's four electoral votes in 2016.

"When are you going to open the state up?" Trump demanded as he spoke at Puritan Medical Products. "What's she doing?"

Earlier in Bangor, Trump compared Mills to a "dictator" and said she was preventing her state from reaping money from Maine's busy summer tourist season.

"She's going to destroy your state," he said. "I'm not a fan."

Mills responded with a lengthy rebuttal.

"Yesterday, I asked the president to check his rhetoric at the door and to lead us with courage and compassion through this difficult time," she said. "Sadly, but unsurprisingly, he continues to prove himself incapable of doing so."

"What Maine people heard today was more of the same incendiary rhetoric and insults he uses to try to divide us and to stoke tension and fear. What Maine people heard today was largely devoid of fact and absent of reality. What Maine people saw today was a rambling, confusing, thinly veiled political rally."

She rebuffed Trump's claim that Maine remained shuttered by the virus, saying 13 of Maine's 16 counties have been reopened and that the state was the first in New England to allow indoor dining at restaurants.

Ahead of Trump's visit, Mills had urged him to cancel the trip because of security concerns given the civil unrest over the death of George Floyd and Trump's heavy-handed response to protests.

During Trump's call earlier this week with governors, Mills criticized him for urging governors to "dominate" protesters and toss perpetrators of violence in prison and for his administration's move 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.

Trump's caravan rolled through Guilford during the searing heat of the afternoon, drawing cheers from supporters and "boos" from detractors. The crowd alternated between "Black Lives Matter!" and "We Love Trump!" chants as his limousine approached. There was some shouting back and forth among the factions, but the crowd was peaceful. Trump did not reference Floyd or the protests during his stops in the state.

Supporters heavily outnumbered anti-Trump demonstrators in Guilford. But there were numerous other anti-Trump demonstrations around the state, and some organizers had dissuaded protesters from coming to Guilford.

That didn't stop Pam Chamberlain of Brewer from coming to Guilford with a sign that said "The Bible Is Not A Prop." She said it was important for opponents of Trump and police brutality to have a presence.

"I said, I need to go down there and represent the people who are afraid to be there," she said. "And maybe the people who are afraid to come out of their house right now."

Paul Layman drove more than two hours from the Portland area to support the president and let protesters know what he thinks of them. He said rural Maine supports Trump because of his work on the economy. "I'm just tired of all these losers and their stupidity," Layman said before describing protesters as "imps."



Trump is anxious to get beyond the unrest and the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus and focus on his reelection. His visit to Puritan had the feel of a campaign rally.

The official White House event showcased the fact that his 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.

More than 350 workers in Guilford have been working long hours since the coronavirus pandemic began. "We're doing our best to supply the needs. It's critical that our country is taken care of," co-owner Timothy Templet told The Associated Press.

In Maine, the nation's whitest state, there have been multiple 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.

Trump began his visit in Bangor, where he met commercial fishermen and signed an order to reopen fishing waters that were closed in 2016 when the Obama administration designated the first and only national marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean.

The president also used the visit to warn the European Union and China that if tariffs aren't cut on Maine lobsters, they'll face retaliatory tariffs equal or higher than those hurting the state's fishermen.

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AP writer David Sharp contributed to this report from Portland.

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This story has been corrected to say Maine has four electoral votes, not three.

## **Barr says he didn't give tactical order to clear protesters**

**By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr says law enforcement officers were already moving to push back protesters from a park in front of the White House when he arrived there Monday evening, and he says he did not give a command to disperse the crowd, though he supported the decision.

Barr's comments in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday were his most detailed explanation yet of what unfolded outside the White House earlier this week. They come after the White House and others said repeatedly that the attorney general ordered officers to clear the park. Shortly after officers aggressively pushed back demonstrators, President Donald Trump — accompanied by Barr, Pentagon leaders and other top advisers — walked through Lafayette Park to pose for a photo at a nearby church that had been damaged during the protests.

The episode played out on live television and prompted an outcry from some Republicans and former military leaders, including Gen. Jim Mattis, Trump's first defense secretary. Barr told the AP that much of the criticism was unwarranted and that Mattis' rebuke was "borne of ignorance of the facts."

Still, administration officials have spent much of the week trying to explain how the situation escalated and why smoke bombs, pepper balls and police on horseback were needed to clear the largely peaceful crowd.

Earlier in the week, White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany told reporters it was Barr who made the decision to push back the security perimeter outside the White House on Monday morning. McEnany said that when Barr arrived at Lafayette Park later that day to survey the security situation, he was surprised to see that action had not yet been taken.

"So he said that we needed to get going with moving that perimeter. He told the officers that out there," McEnany said Wednesday. A person familiar with the matter also said earlier this week that Barr told law enforcement to take action to move the perimeter when he arrived in the park.

On Friday, Barr told the AP that both he and U.S. Park Police were in agreement on the need to push back the security perimeter. He said he attended a meeting around 2 p.m. Monday with several other law enforcement officials, including Metropolitan Police Chief Peter Newsham, where they looked at a map and decided on a dividing line. Under the plan, the protesters would be moved away from Lafayette Park and federal law enforcement officials and members of the National Guard would maintain the perimeter

line, Barr said.

Barr said the plan was supposed to be put into action soon after the meeting, but additional officers and National Guard troops had to be called in because of a high number of officers who had been injured throughout the weekend. It had not yet been implemented when he arrived at the park later in the evening and the crowd had grown much larger than it was in the afternoon, Barr said.

Still, he said he did not give the officers the orders to proceed — they were already in the process of doing so when he showed up.

"They told me they were about to make the announcement and I think they stretched the announcements over 20 minutes. During the time I was there, I would periodically hear announcements," Barr said. "They had the Park Police mounted unit ready, so it was just a matter of execution. So, I didn't just say to them, 'Go.'"

Barr said it was a Park Police tactical commander — an official he never spoke to — who gave the order for the law enforcement agencies to move in and clear the protesters.

"I'm not involved in giving tactical commands like that," he said. "I was frustrated and I was also worried that as the crowd grew, it was going to be harder and harder to do. So my attitude was get it done, but I didn't say, 'Go do it.'"

Barr insisted there was no connection between the heavy-handed crackdown on the protesters and Trump's walk soon after to St. John's Church. The attorney general said he had learned in the afternoon that Trump wanted to go outside, and said that when he went to the White House in the evening, he learned of the president's intended destination.

Several different groups, including the Secret Service and Park Police, were involved in the pushback on the protesters. Members of the National Guard were present but didn't engage with the protesters, Barr said. Trump also threatened that night to deploy active-duty military forces to the states if local and state authorities could not adequately quell the demonstrations, which have occasionally turned violent.

Mattis, who left the administration in 2019, said Wednesday that Trump was setting up a "false conflict" between the military and civilian society, and took particular issue with the show of force outside the White House.

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

## Trump allows commercial fishing in marine conservation area

By **PATRICK WHITTLE** and **ELLEN KNICKMEYER** Associated Press

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — President Donald Trump rolled back protections Friday at a marine conservation area off the New England coast, signing an order to allow commercial fishing in a stretch of water environmentalists say is critical for endangered right whales and other fragile marine life.

"We are reopening the Northeast Canyons to commercial fishing," Trump told a roundtable meeting with fishing industry representatives and Maine officials. "We're opening it today."

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument off the New England coast, created by former President Barack Obama, was the first national marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean, and one of just five marine monuments nationwide.

The conservation area comprises 5,000 square miles (8,000 square kilometers) east of Cape Cod, which contains vulnerable species of marine, such as fragile deep sea corals and endangered right whales, which number only about 400. The whales are susceptible to ship strikes and entanglements in fishing gear.

It's also a place fishermen have long harvested lobsters and crabs, and its creation drew the ire of commercial fishing groups, some of whom sued.

Trump said Obama's establishment of the conservation area and banning fishing "was deeply unfair to Maine lobstermen."

"We want conservation and good environmental practices — that's very important — but we also want

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something that's fair to you," he told the fishermen.

Environmental groups vowed to push back against the president's actions.

Trump's decision will devastate protections for the underwater world along that stretch of New England, and threatens the end for right whales and other endangered marine animals, said Kristen Monsell, a senior attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity environmental group.

"Gutting these safeguards attacks the very idea of marine monuments," she said.

The action comes a day after the equally sweeping rollback and proposed rollback of public health and environment protections by the Trump administration. On Thursday, Trump signed an executive order directing agencies to look for ways to override environmental laws to push big projects like highways and pipelines to completion.

And the Environmental Protection Agency proposed changing the rules for crafting air pollution limits under the Clean Air Act, in a way critics say will make it harder to move against dangerous pollutants in the future.

Trump has made a priority of annulling or weakening public health and environmental regulations — especially ones enacted under Obama — that he sees as overly burdening business.

Conservative groups and lawmakers have urged him to keep up the pace as his first term draws to a close. On Friday, however, Maine Republican Sen. Susan Collins said Trump should be tackling bigger problems for the state's fishing businesses rather than "reopening the debate" on the marine national monument.

Janet Mills, Maine's Democratic governor, dismissed the president's actions, saying it's "not going to help the vast majority of Maine fishermen feed their families. It will not support an industry that is struggling under the massive weight of an unprecedented pandemic and misguided federal policies."

Rolling back protections for the marine monument "is part of the Trump administration's continued assault on environmental protections," Elizabeth Turnbull Henry, president of the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument has already withstood a legal challenge by fishermen who opposed its creation. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit challenging its creation in 2018, and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the decision in December.

The Trump administration has reviewed a number of national monument designations used by Obama to protect land and water. One of them, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, is in Maine.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 lets presidents establish national monuments but doesn't give them power to undo such a designation. Nonetheless, Trump has downsized two national monuments Utah and allowed energy development on some of the land.

Knickmeyer reported from Oklahoma City. Associated Press writer David Sharp in Maine contributed to this report.

## Jordan giving \$100 million for racial equality, justice

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Michael Jordan and the Jordan Brand are giving \$100 million to organizations dedicated to promoting racial equality and social justice.

In a joint statement Friday on social media, Jordan and the Jordan Brand said money will be paid over 10 years with the goal of "ensuring racial equality, social justice and greater access to education."

"Black lives matter," the statement said. "This isn't a controversial statement. Until the ingrained racism that allows our country's institutions to fail is completely eradicated, we will remain committed to protecting and improving the lives of black people."

Jordan, the 57-year-old former Chicago Bulls great, is the owner of the Charlotte Hornets. The Jordan Brand is a subsidiary of Nike, the shoe giant that earlier Friday committed \$40 million over the next four years to support the black community.

Jordan also released a statement Monday on George Floyd and the killings of black people at the hands of police.

"I am deeply saddened, truly pained and plain angry," Jordan said. "I see and feel everyone's pain, outrage and frustration. I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence toward people of color in our country. We have had enough."

Floyd was in handcuffs when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded that he couldn't breathe. Derek Chauvin is charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

## French forces kill al-Qaida's North African commander

By BABA AHMED Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — French forces have killed Abdelmalek Droukdel, the leader of al-Qaida's North Africa affiliate, the France's defense minister announced late Friday, in what would be a major victory for France after years of battling jihadists in the Sahel.

There was no immediate confirmation of his death from al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, known as AQIM, which has made millions of dollars abducting foreigners for ransom over the years and made large swaths of West Africa too dangerous for aid groups to access.

French Defense Minister Florence Parly tweeted that Droukdel and several of his allies were killed Wednesday in northern Mali by French forces and their partners. It was not immediately clear how his identity was confirmed by the French.

Droukdel's reported death comes after French President Emmanuel Macron and the leaders of the G5 Sahel group -- Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad -- launched a new plan in January to fight jihadists in the area. France deployed 600 additional soldiers to its Barkhane force, raising the number of troops there to 5,100.

In a March video released by the extremist monitoring group SITE, Droukdel urged governments of the Sahel region to try to end the French military presence, calling the troops "armies of occupation."

It was not clear how long Droukdel had been in Mali, Algeria's southern neighbor. For years he was thought to be holed up in the Kabyle region east of the capital of his native Algeria, and many people had questioned why he was never captured by Algerian security forces, which had honed their counter-terrorism skills over the decades.

He was widely seen as the symbolic leader of al Qaida's North African branch, whose operational center for attacks shifted to northern Mali over the past decade. That led to the French military invasion of the region in 2013 seeking to counter Islamist extremist designs on southern Mali and the capital, Bamako.

Droukdel made his reputation as a feared extremist leader in Algeria, which beginning in the early 1990s was convulsed by violence in what the nation now calls the "black decade." Droukdel's al Qaida affiliate had claimed responsibility for numerous deadly suicide bombings in Algeria, including targeting a United Nations building in Algiers in 2007, shattered by a vehicle packed with explosives.

Droukdel, also known by the nom de guerre Abu Musab Abdul Wadud, transformed the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, known as the GSPC, into al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, spreading the movement across Africa's Sahel region under the umbrella of the global terror network.

More recently he had been commanding all the al-Qaida groups in North Africa and the Sahel, including the JNIM, which has claimed responsibility for devastating attacks on the Malian military and U.N. peacekeepers trying to stabilize the volatile country.

Parly identified him as a member of al-Qaida's "management committee." Related anti-terrorist operations in the region also led to the arrest May 19 of a major figure in the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, Mohamed el Mrabat, she said.

She said the operations dealt a "severe blow" to terrorist groups in the region that have been operating for years despite the presence of thousands of French, U.N. and other African troops.

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Associated Press writer Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

## Trump evokes Floyd after hailing strong jobs report

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday declared it was “a great day” for George Floyd as he discussed a strong jobs report for the country and efforts to bring about racial equality. Joe Biden, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, said Trump’s comments about Floyd were “despicable.”

Trump’s comments about Floyd came as he shifted from discussing a drop in the unemployment rate to say everyone deserved “equal treatment in every encounter with law enforcement, regardless of race, color, gender or creed.”

“We all saw what happened last week. We can’t let that happen,” Trump said. “Hopefully George is looking down right now and saying this is a great thing that’s happening for our country.”

He added: “This is a great day for him. It’s a great day for everybody. This is a great day for everybody. This is a great, great day in terms of equality.”

Floyd, who was black, died after a white police officer pressed his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes, ignoring Floyd’s cries that he couldn’t breathe and bystander shouts. Floyd’s death set off protests around the world, including outside the White House.

Trump spoke shortly after the government said the unemployment rate had dropped to 13.3%, better than expected but still on par with Great Depression-era levels of joblessness. He offered the data as evidence that the nation had overcome the worst of the coronavirus pandemic and had begun an economic comeback.

Biden panned Trump’s comments during an economic speech in Delaware.

“We’re speaking of a man who was brutally killed by an act of needless violence and by a larger tide of injustice that has metastasized on this president’s watch,” Biden said.

“George Floyd’s last words, ‘I can’t breathe. I can’t breathe,’ have echoed all across this nation and quite frankly around the world,” Biden added. “For the president to try to put any other words in the mouth of George Floyd, I frankly think, is despicable.”

Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said some news outlets had “purposely misreported” the president’s comments to insinuate that Floyd would be pleased about the positive jobs numbers. He said Trump was referencing the “national conversation” that followed Floyd’s death and “Americans coming together on the belief that everyone should be treated equally under the law.”

“The sentences that preceded and followed the president’s sentiments about Mr. Floyd made the context crystal clear,” Murtaugh said. “Media claims that the president said that Mr. Floyd would be praising the economic news are wrong, purposefully misrepresented, and maliciously crafted.”

—  
Associated Press writer Will Weissert in Dover, Delaware, contributed to this report.

## US will allow limited flights by Chinese airlines, not a ban

By **DAVID KOENIG** AP Airlines Writer

The Trump administration said Friday it will let Chinese airlines operate a limited number of flights to the U.S., backing down from a threat to ban the flights.

The decision came one day after China appeared to open the door to U.S. carriers United Airlines and Delta Air Lines resuming one flight per week each into the country.

The Transportation Department said it will let Chinese passenger airlines fly a combined total of two round-trip flights per week between the U.S. and China, which it said would equal the number of flights that China’s aviation authority will allow for U.S. carriers.

Delta praised the U.S. government for trying to “ensure fairness and access to China.” United said it was reviewing the matter. Neither said whether the latest development in the dispute between the two countries would affect their plans. Both had hoped to offer more flights.

The Transportation Department said it might further ease restrictions if China does the same. Officials are concerned, however, about conditions China is imposing that could affect whether U.S. airlines resume

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their flights. Those requirements include taking temperatures of all passengers in mid-flight and suspending an airline's future flights if five or more passengers test positive for the coronavirus after arriving in China.

China's embassy in Washington did not respond to messages seeking comment.

The dispute between Washington and Beijing over airline service has been building for weeks and is part of broader trade and diplomatic tension between the world's two biggest economies.

In early January, there were more than 300 flights per week between the two countries, but international carriers reduced and then stopped flying to China as the coronavirus pandemic devastated demand for air travel. United, Delta and American Airlines suspended flights to China before mid-March.

Chinese airlines reduced but didn't eliminate their flights to the U.S. They ran about 20 flights per week in February, 34 by mid-March. Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines continue flying those routes.

Travel in both China and the U.S. has partly recovered in the past two months, although it remains far below 2019 levels. In May, Chicago-based United and Atlanta-based Delta petitioned China to resume flights there, but received no response.

The Trump administration protested that China's refusal to grant access to U.S. airlines was unfair. The Transportation Department announced Wednesday that it would prohibit all passenger airline flights from China no later than June 16.

On Thursday, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said it would let more foreign airlines fly to China starting next week as anti-coronavirus controls are eased.

The order did not identify airlines, but it appeared to limit United and Delta to one flight per week because they stopped flying to China before mid-March. American, which is based in Fort Worth, Texas, does not plan to return to China before October.

The air-service spat escalated against a backdrop of a long-running trade dispute between the U.S. and China. Washington has also criticized China's handling of the coronavirus outbreak and treatment of Hong Kong. Chinese officials fired back this week by highlighting civil unrest and racial discrimination in the U.S.

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week**

**By ALI SWENSON, AMANDA SEITZ, BEATRICE DUPUY and ARIJETA LAJKA Associated Press**

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

**CLAIM:** Photos show the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., marred by graffiti as a result of riots after the death of George Floyd.

**THE FACTS:** The photos circulating on social media show a Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica in Los Angeles after it was defaced in 2016. Posts featuring the misidentified photo were viewed thousands of times on social media on Wednesday, with comments expressing outrage about the damage. "The Vietnam Memorial defaced by rioters," read one Facebook post with nearly 80,000 views. "Total disrespect! There are just no words to express my outrage. This wall honors those who gave their last measure of devotion." "The Vietnam Memorial?! Really? Are you still for the cause?!" read another. But a reverse image search of the photos being shared online revealed they show a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Venice, Los Angeles. They also aren't current. The graffiti pictured appeared at the Los Angeles site in 2016 and has since been scrubbed off. The Associated Press reported in 2017 on the sentencing of the man who vandalized the Los Angeles replica. He was sentenced to four years in state prison. But other monuments in the nation's capital, including the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II memorial, have been damaged during protests following the death of George Floyd, a black resident of Minneapolis. He died after a white officer held him to the ground with his knee on his neck for several minutes, even as he said he couldn't breathe, during an arrest on May 25.

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**CLAIM:** Photo shows all the exterior and interior lights out at the White House on Sunday night, as President Donald Trump hid in a bunker.

**THE FACTS:** An image shared thousands of times online that appears to show all the lights out in and around the White House was taken before Trump even assumed office. AP photographs taken Sunday night show the front of the White House illuminated by exterior lights and the portico lantern turned on, but the mansion's interior is dark. The viral photo, which has been edited, can be found on Getty Image's stock website, where it was uploaded in December 2015. In the original, the lantern hanging in the White House portico is lit, along with several lights that surround the fountain in the front lawn. The edited version that is being widely shared online has been darkened, and edited to black out the lit lantern. Dozens of social media users shared the edited 2015 photo, claiming it showed the White House on Sunday night. "Lights out at #WhiteHouse is a powerful symbol," one Twitter user wrote. Others claim it showed the White House on Sunday night as Trump took shelter in a bunker. The Associated Press reported that Secret Service agents rushed the president to a White House bunker Friday night, as hundreds of protesters surrounded the executive mansion.

**CLAIM:** MSNBC knowingly used footage from the movie "World War Z" and claimed it showed the current protests, to push a narrative that America is on fire.

**THE FACTS:** MSNBC did not use footage from "World War Z," a 2013 movie about a virus that turns humans into zombies, in a report Sunday. A Twitter user created what was meant to be a spoof video of MSNBC coverage from protests on Sunday using a clip from "World War Z." Alexandra Roberts, director of communications at MSNBC, confirmed in an email to AP that the video was fabricated. Posts circulating online Monday attacked the cable television station, falsely claiming they had used the movie footage to make protests in the U.S. appear worse. The manipulated video took an MSNBC report on protests Sunday and replaced the video with a clip from "World War Z." The report actually showed protests in the U.S., including Atlanta and Philadelphia. The audio from the report and the chyron along the bottom of the report remained the same: "CURFEW IMPOSED ACROSS U.S. AS PROTESTERS HIT THE STREETS," read the caption information under a Breaking News banner. However, on the altered video, "not real" can be found in the corner of the screen, and "bad scooter," is just above the chyron in small font. A Twitter user who goes by Bad Scooter with the handle @OfficialSlop took credit for the video. "And I deeply apologize again, I did not expect what so ever this would spread," the creator tweeted Monday. The altered video was shared online as an actual news report, with some social media users grabbing a photo from the movie to pair with a still photo of the fabricated MSNBC report. "#MSNBC using World War Z movie trailer as "Breaking News" footage of aftermath of riots and looting. Don't believe all you see on TV," said one tweet with more than 2,000 likes showing the side-by-side photos.

**CLAIM:** Photo shows two buses emblazoned with "Soros Riot Dance Squad" at a Milan, Michigan, gas station, offering proof that billionaire philanthropist George Soros and far-left militant groups are transporting out-of-town rioters to protests.

**THE FACTS:** A photo of two unmarked buses was manipulated to add the words "Soros Riot Dance Squad" to the side of each vehicle. The buses are not being used to transport people to protests; they belong to a local transportation company and are providing a local shuttle service. On Tuesday, a photo said to show two "Soros Riot Dance Squad" buses passing through a gas station in a small town near Ann Arbor, Michigan, was circulating widely on social media. Posts and articles claimed the image was proof that Soros, a Democratic donor, and anti-fascist networks were transporting militant rioters to protests from out of town. "Democrats & George Soros are Paying & Busing In White Antifa to Come Into the Communities To Incite Violence & Destruction so that The Focus isn't on Peaceful Protest & Justice For George Floyd," said one tweet using the photo. "It's official, the riots are staged," read the headline of an article about the photo on Intellihub, a website that has frequently spread false conspiracy theories. Sean Duval, the owner of Golden Limousine International, a local transportation company, confirmed the buses belong to his company, but they don't have any writing on them. Duval also provided evidence the photo

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was altered -- a Facebook user who appeared to be from Milan, Michigan, on Friday posted the original version of the gas station photo, which showed they were plain white buses. He said the buses pictured have a contract for a daily shuttle service to Romulus, Michigan, and were not transporting rioters to any protest. "It's frustrating when people from the outside start instigating and try to turn American against American," Duval said. "It is so important to not let these guys win."

**CLAIM:** Photo shows a fire set at the children's hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

**THE FACTS:** The fire in the photo occurred in an empty apartment complex in Columbus on Sunday, May 31, about a mile away from the Nationwide Children's Hospital. Social media posts circulating Sunday claimed the hospital was set alight during weekend protests in Columbus. "CHILDRENS HOSPITAL IN COLUMBUS OHIO SET ON FIRE DURING RIOT MAY 30,2020!" a Twitter user falsely claimed. "Y'all really did this to 'Children Hospital,'" said one early morning Facebook post followed by two emoji broken hearts. "It's Kids in there man.....this is a HOSPITAL." A screenshot of the photo was also used in a false Facebook post claiming the fire broke out at a children's hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. "UAB Children's Hospital last night," stated the post shared on Monday. The Children's of Alabama Hospital confirmed on Twitter that there was no fire there. In Columbus, the apartment complex — Residences at Topiary Park — was under construction and was not occupied. A closer look at the photo posted on social media shows that the smoke was coming from behind the hospital's building. "The building is the Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion, but the fire was not on our property," said Katelyn Hanzel, media relations specialist with Nationwide Children's Hospital. The Columbus Division of Fire on Monday shared information about the fire on Facebook, confirming the apartment complex was on fire, and stating that there were no reported injuries.

**CLAIM:** An old photo of Adolf Hitler shows him holding up a Bible in front of a crowd, similar to how U.S. President Donald Trump held a Bible in front of a church Monday.

**THE FACTS:** The photo has been edited to show Hitler holding a Bible. In the original photo, Hitler is dressed in a Nazi uniform and raising his hand in response to children saluting him. The photo was taken in the 1930s by Heinrich Hoffman and is archived in Getty Images. Social media users are widely circulating that photo of Hitler, edited to show him holding a black book that people claim is a Bible. The manipulated photo is being used in posts to compare Hitler to Trump, after law enforcement forcefully cleared peaceful protests at Lafayette Park in Washington with tear gas and flash bangs on Monday. After the protesters were cleared, Trump walked from the White House Rose Garden to St. John's Church where he stood in front of cameras and raised a black-covered Bible for reporters to see. The church was damaged in a protest fire the night before. Trump's actions sparked bipartisan criticism, with some on social media comparing him to the Nazi dictator, using the false photo. "Spot the difference between Hitler and Trump," one Twitter user wrote, sharing a photo of Trump with the Bible next to the manipulated image of Hitler.

**CLAIM:** Starbucks has a promotion offering a free Frappuccino drink of choice to anyone who goes to a Starbucks store and shouts "Black Lives Matter."

**THE FACTS:** The offer is not real. The fake Starbucks promotion shows the hands of two people, one white and one black, holding up brightly colored blended coffee drinks with whipped cream on top. "We're all in this together," it says. "BLACK LIVES MATTER! Come to any of our stores shouting these words for a free Frappuccino of your choice. The louder you shout, the larger the size you'll get!" Thousands of Facebook and Twitter users on Thursday shared the fake advertisement in support of the coffee chain. "This is why they get all my money," one Facebook user wrote. "Starbucks anyone?! #BLM definitely works!" said another. However, a Starbucks spokesperson confirmed the offer is not valid and wasn't created by the company. "Our customers may confirm any Starbucks promotion by checking the Starbucks app, reaching out to our customer care line or asking a Starbucks barista," the company said in an emailed statement. Starbucks has made public statements in the wake of George Floyd's death, denouncing racism and announcing plans to design anti-bias resources and training. "Black lives matter," the company said in a tweet on Thursday. "We are committed to being a part of change."



This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

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## US unemployment drops unexpectedly to 13.3% amid outbreak

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. unemployment dropped unexpectedly in May to 13.3% as reopened businesses began recalling millions of workers faster than economists had predicted, triggering a big rally Friday on Wall Street and giving President Donald Trump something to boast about in his reelection bid.

The jobless rate is still on par with what the nation witnessed during the Great Depression. And for the second straight month, the Labor Department acknowledged making errors in counting the unemployed during the coronavirus outbreak, saying the real figure is worse than the numbers indicate.

Still, after weeks of dire predictions by economists that unemployment in May could hit 20% or more, the news that the economy added a surprising 2.5 million jobs last month is evidence that the employment collapse most likely bottomed out in April, when the rate reached 14.7%.

Most economists had expected rehiring to kick in this summer as lockdowns were increasingly lifted and people gradually resumed shopping and eating out.

"The surprising thing here is the timing and that it happened as quickly as it did," said Adam Kamins, senior regional economist at Moody's Analytics.

At the same time, economists warn that after an initial burst of hiring as businesses reopen, the recovery could slow in the fall or early next year unless most Americans are confident they can shop, travel, eat out and fully return to their other spending habits without fear of contracting the virus.

"We are witnessing the easiest phase of growth as people come off temporary layoffs and come back to their employers," said Jason Furman, a Harvard economist and former top adviser in the Obama White House. "And once employers are done recalling people, the much harder, longer work of recovery will have to proceed."

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained nearly 830 points, or more than 3%, and the broader S&P 500 closed 2.6% higher on the news. The S&P is now just 5.7% below its pre-pandemic peak, after plummeting 34%.

An exultant Trump seized on the report as evidence that the economy is going to come back from the coronavirus crisis like a "rocket ship."

"This shows that what we've been doing is right," said the president, who has pushed governors aggressively to reopen their economies amid warnings from public health officials that the country is risking a second wave of infections on top of the one that has killed over 100,000 Americans.

Kamins and other economists credited the government's small-business lending effort, the Paycheck Protection Program, with encouraging employers to rehire. Overall, Washington has provided about \$3 trillion in emergency relief funds during the crisis.

Nearly all industries added jobs last month, a sharp reversal from April, when almost all cut them. Hotels and restaurants added 1.2 million jobs in May, after shedding 7.5 million. Retailers gained 368,000, after losing nearly 2.3 million in the previous month. Construction companies added 464,000 after cutting 995,000.

The crisis has also exposed wide disparities that may have contributed to the unrest set off in many U.S. cities by the death last week of George Floyd: While the unemployment rate for white Americans was 12.4% in May, it was 17.6% for Hispanics and 16.8% for African-Americans.

Solid employment gains will probably continue through the end of the year, economists said, but the job market is in such a deep hole that it could take years to dig out. The U.S. economy still has 20 million

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fewer jobs than it did in February. Oxford Economics, a consulting firm, forecasts that 60% of jobs could be regained by the end of this year, leaving unemployment in the 8%-to-10% range.

So far, some reopened companies are seeing only a limited number of customers.

Jacob Liou, 26, is back at work as a kitchen manager and sous chef at a Chattanooga, Tennessee, restaurant. It is allowed to seat up to 50% of its former capacity but rarely reaches that.

"Our store normally pulls around \$35,000 a week," he said. "Now we're lucky to hit \$10,000."

Scott Grondin and Jorge Sanchez, owners of a gym in Miami, are preparing to reopen Monday after closing down three months ago. Making money in the coming months could be tough.

About 25% of members have canceled their memberships. Classes will be smaller to accommodate social distancing. The gym has dropped prices. And not everyone is ready to return.

"Some will say, 'I want to wait one week,' some will want to wait a month," Grondin said. "They want to make sure we have the proper plans."

Gwyneth Duesbery, 22, returned this week to her job as a restaurant hostess in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as Bowdie's Chop House prepares to reopen with tables 6 feet apart and seating capacity reduced to about one-quarter.

"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."

There are other signs the economy is steadily recovering, even in hard-hit industries. American Airlines said it will fly 55% of its U.S. routes in July, up from 20% in May. And the Cheesecake Factory said one-quarter of its nearly 300 restaurants have reopened, though with limited capacity.

Some economists say, however, that the longer the economy struggles, the more permanent damage may occur. Movie theater chain AMC, for example, said Wednesday it may not survive.

The United States has suffered far worse job losses than other countries. European and some Asian nations have set up programs to subsidize employees' wages and keep them employed.

A study released this week found that while the U.S. shed about 15% of its jobs from January to April, the loss in countries such as Germany, South Korea, Australia and Israel was roughly 4% or lower.

Friday's report showed that the government continues to struggle with how it classifies millions of out-of-work Americans. The Labor Department admitted that government household survey-takers mistakenly counted about 4.9 million temporarily laid-off people as employed.

The government doesn't correct its survey results for fear that will look like political manipulation.

Had the mistake been corrected, the unemployment rate would have risen to 16.1% in May, while the corrected April figure would have been 19.5%, rather than 14.7%. Taken together, the two corrected numbers show that the overall trend still holds: Unemployment is going down.

AP Writers Travis Loller in Nashville and Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Economics Writer Josh Boak in Baltimore contributed to this report.

## AP Explains: Key takeaways from a surprising jobs report

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — No one saw it coming — 2.5 million job gains in May and a lower unemployment rate. Economists, political aides and business leaders had been bracing for another horrific month of job cuts and swelling unemployment. In April, the coronavirus shutdown had caused 20 million-plus job losses. Mounting applications for unemployment benefits had suggested that the misery continued through May.

It didn't. The gap between what was expected and what happened when the Labor Department issued the jobs report Friday morning was so vast that it raised some doubts about its accuracy. But as analysts dug into the numbers, they found the numbers to be correct and suggested that the pessimistic forecasts might have mainly reflected how hard it is to gauge economic performance during a pandemic.

Here are five major takeaways from a jobs report that showed the economy faring better than believed, even if the overall picture remains bleak, with many millions still jobless and unemployment well into

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double digits.

IS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REALLY 13.3%?

The drop in the unemployment rate was a shocker. Economists had expected the rate to approach 20%, driven up from 14.7% by job losses topping 8 million. Their forecasts woefully missed the mark. Part of the explanation is the difficulty of assessing data when the situation is changing so quickly.

But it also reflects an acknowledged difficulties by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics in its information-gathering. Millions of people appeared to be erroneously classified by the survey as not working but employed. These people should have been classified as on temporary layoff and therefore unemployed. Had they been counted correctly, the jobless rate would have been roughly 3 points higher — 16% — the government said.

The same issue marred the April jobs report. In that case, the unemployment rate would have been roughly 5 points higher than the 14.7% reported.

The jobs report is drawn from a pair of surveys. A survey of households establishes the unemployment rate. A separate survey of employers determines how many jobs were added or lost. Response rates for these surveys were lower than usual in May because of the viral outbreak. But the government still gathered enough responses to produce the jobs report.

"The household survey response rate, at 67 percent, was about 15 percentage points lower than in months prior to the pandemic," the report noted.

The Labor Department also includes a broader measure of unemployment. This measure includes not only people who are out of work and looking for a job but also people who stopped looking or who were reduced to part-time hours. That rate was 21.2% in May.

PERSISTENT RACIAL INEQUALITY

The past 10 days have achingly illustrated the persistence of systemic racism in the United States. Protests emerged in nearly every major U.S. city after George Floyd's killing at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. The May jobs report pointed to the multitude of disadvantages that African-Americans endure.

Their unemployment rate ticked up last month from 16.7% to 16.8%. By contrast, unemployment for whites fell to 12.4% from 14.2% in April.

Why did the rate rise for African-Americans? More of them began searching for work in May and weren't necessarily hired. This meant that the number of officially unemployed African-Americans seeking jobs rose by 87,000 to 3.3 million.

But white people who began job hunts were mostly hired: The number of unemployed white people fell by more than 2 million.

African-American women have suffered the brunt of layoffs. Before the pandemic, their unemployment rate was lower than it was for black men. But that relationship inverted during the past two months. African-American women are now more likely to be jobless.

The racial disparities run counter to the odd assertion made Friday by President Donald Trump that Floyd was "looking down" from heaven with admiration for the May jobs report.

"It's a great day for him, it's a great day for everybody, this is a great, great day in terms of equality," Trump said, ignoring the figures that show otherwise.

TEMPORARY LAYOFFS

It's not just the job totals that matter — it's where the gains came from.

There were 2.7 million people who had been temporarily laid off and returned to their jobs in May. This was essentially the lowest-hanging fruit of any recovery. They are people who could quickly return to offices, restaurants, stores and factories that had gradually resumed operations. This left 15.3 million people who were temporarily laid off and still awaiting to return. Even if May's pace of job growth could be sustained — something most economists doubt — it would take at least six months to bring them all back to work.

MORE PART-TIMERS

The May jobs report revealed a curious increase in people saying they working part-time for "non-economic" reasons. The number of part-timers in this category grew by 2 million in May, a major driver

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of the overall gains.

This category is important because it excludes part-timers who can't work as many hours as they'd like because of poor business conditions. Instead, these workers are working fewer hours because of issues involving child care, school and other family obligations. It hints at a likely economic drag if schools and child care centers can't fully re-open.

There was also an increase in "self-employed" workers. This number rose by 401,000 in May to 7.9 million. That figure is still about 1 million jobs below its pre-COVID-19 levels. But it still suggests that parts of the the economy began to pick up last month.

## STILL WORSE THAN THE GREAT RECESSION

It was an uplifting jobs report after so many bleak numbers. But it's worth putting those numbers into context next to the Great Recession, the severe downturn that started in late 2007 and ended in mid-2009. The Great Recession was caused by a housing bust and financial market collapse, a far more gradual decline than what the coronavirus caused.

But even with the solid hiring in May, the current jobs picture is still worse than in the Great Recession. During that downturn, unemployment peaked at 10% in October 2009. That is 3.3 points lower than the current rate. With the Great Recession, it took until 2016 for the unemployment rate to return to pre-downturn levels.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, U.S. employers would have to replicate the strong gains from the May jobs report for the next seven months to return the country to where it was in February. This means the results of the June jobs report, to be released early next month, will be a critical test of the potential recovery's strength.

## Back on track: IndyCar delayed debut all-in-one Texas affair

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Sports Writer**

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Things are starting to feel a little more normal for Ed Carpenter with IndyCar finally about to start its season, though the timing still has him a bit out of sorts. The only owner-driver in the series surely isn't alone feeling that way.

"One of the weirdest things, I've been doing this so long, knowing the (Indianapolis) 500 is in August, it still feels like it's going to be in May even though we're in June," Carpenter said. "It feels a whole lot more like March now that we're getting started."

IndyCar opens its season delayed by the pandemic with an all-in-one-day show Saturday on the fast, high-banked 1 1/2-mile oval at Texas Motor Speedway, more than eight months after the 2019 finale. The 24 drivers will practice, qualify and race for the first time with new protective windscreens on the cars, all in a span of 9-10 hours in front of empty stands.

"It's going from a complete standstill to one of the fastest tracks on our schedule, so hopefully everybody has got their wits about them," Ryan Hunter-Reay said. "It's definitely an interesting scenario to go straight to Texas."

Texas was scheduled again to be the midpoint race of the season, the ninth of 17, with the Indianapolis 500 among the eight races before that and then eight more afterward. Only Indianapolis Motor Speedway has hosted IndyCar races longer than TMS, which has had races each year since opening in 1997, including the season finales from 1999-2004.

Now Texas is the opener, with 200 laps instead of the usual 248, while the Indy 500 will be run Aug. 23 and there are three doubleheader weekends. Texas, Iowa and Laguna Seca in Monterrey, California, are the only tracks that kept their original dates, though second races were added to those other two venues.

IndyCar gets started nearly three months after the teams were already in St. Petersburg, Florida, before the scheduled March 15 race was called off and the season put on hold because of the escalating pandemic. St. Pete will now host the season finale Oct. 25.

NASCAR resumed its season with five Cup Series races in a 15-day span, events without spectators that drew solid television ratings. This weekend, NBC will broadcast an IndyCar race in prime time for the first

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time, providing an opportunity for some first-time viewers of the open-wheel series at the site of some of its fastest races and closest finishes.

"It's like watching jet fighters in a gymnasium," said defending IndyCar champion Josef Newgarden, who gave Team Penske another win at Texas last June. "Texas is one of these places where you get these really intense battles with these jet fighter-looking cars. ... It's just a very fun, intense battle, which turns into a bit like a dogfight."

James Hinchcliffe will be part of the season opener and Tony Kanaan unexpectedly gets to extend his record streak of consecutive starts.

Hinchcliffe put together a three-race deal with Andretti Autosport that includes the Indianapolis 500 after he abruptly lost his ride with Arrow McLaren last year. He landed enough sponsorship from Genesys, the title sponsor for Saturday's race.

Kanaan is closing out his IndyCar career with the "TK Farewell Tour," racing at oval tracks and the Indianapolis 500. He has started 317 consecutive races since June 2001, and that streak would have ended had the season started as planned on the streets of St. Pete.

"Obviously, I was ready for that (to end) in March," Kanaan said. "While you're doing it, you don't realize how big of a deal it is. Now I do value it more because it comes to an end."

Five-time IndyCar champion Scott Dixon is second on the career list with 258 consecutive starts, ahead of Marco Andretti's 234.

Conor Daly will have #LiveLikeChris on his helmet to honor his friend, Chris Beaty. The Indianapolis native and former Indiana University offensive lineman was one of two people fatally shot in downtown Indianapolis last weekend during violence that followed protests over the death of George Floyd. A memorial scholarship fund has been created in Beaty's name.

"Chris was a pretty close friend of mine. Obviously what's going on now is just tough to see no matter who you are," Daly said. "I just wanted to say something because just how good of a person he was. I didn't want to dive in to anything and create any big story about it or anything. I just felt like he deserved some words. Obviously he was out there trying to help protect some people who were getting robbed."

## EU wants borders free of virus restrictions by end of June

By LORNE COOK and KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Europe could have its free travel zone up and running again by the end of this month, but travelers from further afield will not be allowed in before July, a European Union commissioner said Friday after talks among the bloc's interior ministers.

Panicked by Italy's coronavirus outbreak in February, countries in the 26-nation Schengen travel zone — where people and goods move freely without border checks — imposed border restrictions without consulting their neighbors to try to keep the disease out. The moves caused massive border traffic jams and blocked medical equipment.

Free movement is a jewel in Europe's crown that helps its businesses flourish and many European officials feared that the very future of the Schengen area was under threat from coronavirus travel restrictions. These added to border pressures already caused by the arrival in Europe of well over 1 million migrants in 2015.

"I personally believe that we will return to a full functioning of the Schengen area and freedom of movement of citizens no later than the end of the month of June," European Union Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said Friday after the video-conference meeting.

All but essential travel into Europe from the outside is restricted until June 15, but many ministers suggested Friday that they want this deadline extended until early July.

The meeting came as the Czech Republic was easing restrictions with some of its neighbors; Austria, Germany and Hungary. Also Friday, Switzerland said it plans to lift restrictions on travel from EU nations and Britain on June 15. Switzerland is not an EU member but is part of the Schengen travel zone.

Johansson said Europe's Centre for Disease Prevention and Control believes that confinement, social

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distancing and other health measures are working. More than 175,000 people have died in Europe's coronavirus outbreak, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, mostly in Britain, Italy, France and Spain.

"Physical distancing and other health-related measures are still needed, of course. But health authorities are clear that there is no longer a clear justification for either travel restrictions or border measures within the EU Schengen area," Johansson said.

German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, whose country plans to lift its remaining border checks on June 15 like many other EU countries, said "the internal border controls will be over in all of Europe at the end of June."

The news should come as a relief to millions of Europeans still trying to work out their summer vacation plans — which begin for many in July once the school year is over — and who are anxious to know whether they will be allowed to head to the continent's beaches or mountains.

It's also good news for European countries whose economies have been ravaged by the spread of COVID-19 and are hoping for a much-needed boost from their decimated tourism industries.

But the perception that Italy is still dangerous is weighing heavily on its tourism sector, which along with related industries accounts for 13% of Italy's gross domestic product.

In an apparent reference to Austria and Greece, which have not fully opened to Italian tourists, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio denounced the "ad hoc" measures put in place by some countries as "a violation of the European spirit that has always distinguished us."

Di Maio said Rome would provide regular infection data to Austria "so they can have certainty about Italy's numbers." Last week, he said Italy refused to be treated as a leper after Greece announced a list of 29 countries whose citizens could visit without testing or quarantine requirements, but excluded Italians, Britons and residents of other hard-hit countries.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte have sent a joint letter to European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen urging "the lifting of restrictions at our internal borders (...) in a coordinated, non-discriminatory manner." The letter was shared with media in Spain on Friday.

The government leaders of the eurozone's third- and fourth-largest economies want the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to play a leading role in "defining as soon as possible these criteria together with the member states."

Spain, which relies on tourism for 12% of its GDP, plans to wait until July 1 to drop its 14-day quarantine requirement for everyone who crosses its borders, Spaniards included.

"Many of our member states are approaching the date when they are going to reopen their borders to tourist mobility," Sánchez and Conte wrote. "How this process is carried out will largely determine our citizens' perception of the centrality of the European Union in tackling this crisis."

Germany's Seehofer said most of the EU's interior ministers want to extend the current entry ban on outside travelers "by 14 days until July 1."

Visitors from the United States, Russia or Brazil, for example, would only be allowed back into Europe on based on how those nations have brought the spread of the virus under control, he said. Those three nations account for 44% of the world's confirmed infections and nearly 38% of the world's confirmed coronavirus deaths, according to Johns Hopkins.

Worldwide, 6.6 million people have been confirmed infected by the virus and over 391,000 have died, according to Johns Hopkins, but experts say the tally understates the true toll of the pandemic due to limited testing, missed mild cases and deliberate government undercounts.

Janicek reported from Prague. Geir Moulson in Berlin, Nicole Winfield in Rome, and Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain, contributed to this report.

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

## UN agency: Iran violating all restrictions of nuclear deal

By KIYOKO METZLER and DAVID RISING Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has continued to increase its stockpiles of enriched uranium and remains in violation of its deal with world powers, the United Nations' atomic watchdog said Friday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency reported the finding in a confidential document distributed to member countries and seen by The Associated Press.

The agency said that as of May 20, Iran's total stockpile of low-enriched uranium amounted to 1,571.6 kilograms (1.73 tons), up from 1,020.9 kilograms (1.1 tons) on Feb. 19.

Iran signed the nuclear deal in 2015 with the United States, Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia. Known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, it allows Iran only to keep a stockpile of 202.8 kilograms (447 pounds).

The IAEA reported that Iran has also been continuing to enrich uranium to a purity of up to 4.5%, higher than the 3.67% allowed under the JCPOA. It is also above the pact's limitations on heavy water.

The nuclear deal promised Iran economic incentives in return for the curbs on its nuclear program. President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the deal unilaterally in 2018, saying it needed to be renegotiated. Iran has since slowly violated the restrictions to try and pressure the remaining nations to increase the incentives to offset new, economy-crippling U.S. sanctions.

The ultimate goal of the JCPOA is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb. Since the U.S. withdrawal, Iran has stockpiled enough uranium to produce a weapon, although the government in Tehran insists it has no such goal and that its atomic program is only for producing energy.

According to the Washington-based Arms Control Association, Iran would need roughly 1050 kilograms (1.16 tons) of low-enriched uranium — under 5% purity — and would then need to enrich it further to weapons-grade, or more than 90% purity, to make a nuclear weapon.

With the nuclear deal in place, Iran's so-called breakout time — the period Tehran would need to build a bomb if it chose to — stood at around a year. As Iran has stepped away from the limits of the 2015 deal, it slowly has narrowed that window.

However, that doesn't mean Iran would immediately rush toward building a bomb if all the materials were in place.

Before agreeing to the nuclear deal, Iran enriched its uranium up to 20% purity, which is just a short technical step away from the weapons-grade level of 90%. In 2013, Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium was already more than 7,000 kilograms (7.72 tons) with higher enrichment, but it didn't pursue a bomb.

As the country has expanded its nuclear program, Iran has been open about the violations and continues to allow inspectors for the U.N. atomic agency access to facilities to monitor their operations.

It remains in violation of all the main restrictions outlined by the JCPOA, which Tehran says it hopes will pressure the other nations involved to increase economic incentives to make up for hard-hitting sanctions imposed by Washington after the U.S. withdrawal.

Though Iran has been hard hit by the new coronavirus pandemic, the IAEA said it has maintained its verification and monitoring activities in the country, primarily by chartering aircraft to fly inspectors to and from Iran.

It cited "exceptional cooperation" from authorities in Austria, where it is based, and Iran in facilitating the operation.

The agency raised concerns, however, about access to two of three locations it identified in March as places where Iran possibly stored and/or used undeclared nuclear material or undertook nuclear-related activities without declaring them to international observers.

Activities at all three sites are thought to have been from the early 2000s. The IAEA said in its current report that it had determined that one site had undergone "extensive sanitization and leveling" in 2003 and 2004 and there would be no verification value in inspecting it.

It said Iran has, for more than four months, blocked access to the other two locations, one of which was partially demolished in 2004 and the other at which the agency observed activities "consistent with

efforts to sanitize" the facility from July 2019 onward.

The watchdog agency added that Iran has also "not engaged in any substantive discussions" with the IAEA to answer its question about possible undeclared nuclear material and activities for almost a year.

Rising reported from Berlin

## Peru is running out of oxygen for COVID-19 patients

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Television. Sewing machine. Motorcycle.

These are the things Edda Marchan's children sold to keep their mother breathing.

In the far stretch of northern Peru where the family lives, medicinal oxygen to treat the coronavirus has become a scarce commodity.

Eventually, they could not find any.

"It's the greatest desperation in the world," said her daughter, 39-year-old Fiorella Sorroza. "We are praying to God not to abandon us."

In the South American nation wracked by COVID-19, one of the world's most abundant elements is now in short supply. Exasperated relatives are racing to fill overpriced tanks. Long neglected hospitals are running empty. And President Martín Vizcarra has issued an emergency decree ordering industrial plants to ramp up production or purchase oxygen from other countries.

"Peru, with the Amazon, has the lungs of the planet," said Iván Hidalgo, academic director of the Institute of Government and Public Management in Peru's capital of Lima. "And we're dying because of lack of oxygen."

Regional health directors say the shortage has already cost lives and is so severe that even by turning industrial plants that typically produce oxygen for mining into medicinal production, Peru will fall short of what it needs. Defense Minister Walter Martos said Thursday the country needs 173 tons of oxygen per day. The dean of the Medical College of Peru estimates the nation is producing about 20% of that.

The problem is a consequence of decades of underinvestment in hospitals, corruption and poor management, several medical leaders said. The hospital in Tumbes, near the border with Ecuador, where Marchan's family resides, has a plant that has been inoperative for years because someone stole an electronic card needed to operate it. Officials are hoping to get it back up Saturday.

In the meantime, Tumbes health workers have imported oxygen from Ecuador and trucked in tanks from the nearest Peruvian plant, five hours away. The biggest public hospital usually utilizes 30 tanks a week but now needs about 200.

Many also blame Peru's governments for failing to prepare earlier.

"This exposes failings throughout the country," said Dr. Harold Burgos, regional health director for Tumbes. "It was coming and no one took it seriously."

Other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are facing – or soon likely to encounter – oxygen shortages. In Colombia's Amazon, doctors have had to airlift patients to Bogota because the only oxygen plant in the region is barely functioning. Haiti is heavily reliant on one oxygen plant for a population of over 11 million.

About 15% of all COVID-19 patients experience severe illness that requires oxygen therapy, while another 5% need ventilation, according to the World Health Organization. By the time many patients are critical enough to seek hospital attention, they often have low blood oxygen levels that require immediate attention.

That was the case for Armando Ancajima's uncle, who was taken Sunday to a hospital in Talara, an oil producing city near Peru's northern coast. Struggling to breathe, his nails purple, he had just 35% oxygen saturation on arrival. The family was told the hospital had no oxygen, suggesting that they rapidly find a way to buy it themselves.

Ancajima said he saw 10 people die during the night he spent with his uncle.

"This is the inheritance of 30 years of inattention," he said.



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Peru was one of the earliest nations in Latin America to institute a strict lockdown, but that failed to stop infections from skyrocketing. With nearly 185,000 cases, the country has the second-highest number in the region. Peru's large informal sector — about 70% of the economy — means many have to break quarantines to earn money and buy food.

But the oxygen shortages are also symptomatic of the overall difficulties Latin America encountered in ramping up medical supplies during the pandemic. By the time the first cases were diagnosed in late February and early March, global supplies were drying up. Unable to buy from the U.S. or Europe, many turned to China for ventilators, which have been slow to arrive.

"The opportunity to buy goods had already passed when the first cases were diagnosed," said Dr. Ciro Ugarte, director of the Pan American Health Organization's health emergencies department.

Aid groups have tried to fill some of the gaps. The U.K.-based Hope Health Action will soon open a COVID-19 ward with 10 oxygen concentrators in the port city of Cap-Haitien in Haiti. The concentrators produce medicinal oxygen using electricity and ambient air.

Nonetheless, they have limitations. The machines typically supply up to 10 liters per minute and severe COVID-19 cases can require more, said Rob Dalton, an emergency nurse with the organization. Each concentrator can serve just one patient.

"We need even more," Dalton said. "We need as many as we can get."

In Peru, Vizcarra on Thursday announced nearly \$25 million to purchase oxygen and \$3.2 million to develop plants and generators.

"If we can meet the demand nationally, we will," he said. "If plants and generators cannot be secured that way, we'll go wherever necessary."

Perhaps the most severe shortages have been in Peru's Amazon, where doctors in Iquitos were tending to 500 patients in a hospital meant for 225. With no oxygen plant, health workers were depending on outside shipments until recently. The government promised 60 tanks a day by air, though only 24 were arriving.

With the help of the church and local communities, two plants have since been purchased and overall need and shortages have gone down.

But the oxygen scarcity is increasingly being felt outside the Amazon as well.

In recent days, lines of people waiting to fill oxygen tanks for loved ones with COVID-19 have been seen even in better-equipped Lima. And in northern Peru, where Marchan's family lives, many say price gougers are taking advantage.

The family was spending about \$150 a day on oxygen until recently, hoping to avoid taking her to the hospital, which doctors warned was on the verge of collapse. But as she grew worse and no oxygen could be found, they decided to seek help.

A day after admitting her to the hospital, Sorroza said a doctor called, saying they didn't have oxygen and asking the family to bring some. Later that night, she said, one doctor called a cousin offering to sell them a tank for around \$120.

Three days later, she was dead.

The family was alerted at 6 a.m. on a Saturday that she'd passed and was told she'd be buried four hours later at a newly created cemetery. They rushed to say a hasty goodbye, enlisting a carpenter cousin to construct a simple white cross out of wood.

"I didn't get to see her," Sorroza said. "Nothing."

## **Pandemic accelerates Mormon missionaries' transition online**

**By BRADY McCOMBS and MARIAM FAM Associated Press**

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah (AP) — Wearing dress shirts, ties and name tags, three missionaries with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sit around the kitchen table inside a Utah apartment planning how they'll spread their gospel that day.

Seth Rather, a 19-year-old from Wichita, Kansas, reads aloud as he types on a smartphone: "During this time, we must put our faith in God to deliver us through these unprecedented times. How has putting

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your faith in God helped you in your life?

"That good?" he asks his two companions.

"I like it," Andrew Zitting responds. Guenter Castrillo nods.

With that, the young men have their Facebook post for the day.

This is what missionary work looks like during the coronavirus pandemic, which has forced the Utah-based faith widely known as the Mormon church to accelerate its online outreach.

After hastily bringing home more than 26,000 young people from overseas missions aimed at recruiting new members, the church has begun sending many of them out again in their home countries with a new focus on online work that may persist even after the pandemic, officials told The Associated Press.

"The leaders of our church have been asking us: What are we learning from this pandemic that will help us become better, become more efficient," said Brent H. Nielson, executive director of the church's missionary department. "We've learned that finding people, teaching people online is much more effective than trying to meet people in person on a bus or on a street corner or somewhere else. This will change what we do, I think, forever."

Missionary work has changed drastically for young people like Rather and Castrillo, who had spent long days walking through the streets in the Philippines to spread the word of their faith before the pandemic hit. Now, they hardly leave a ground-level apartment in the small town of Brigham City in northern Utah.

After sending the Facebook post recently, they knelt for a prayer and then dialed in to a Zoom call with a family. A similar scene is playing out worldwide as reassigned missionaries navigate new realities.

In Orlando, Florida, Bella McCain and Madison King hold a WhatsApp video call with a family they have been teaching church doctrine. They invite the family to take the sacrament for the first time and follow up on an earlier proposal: forgo coffee, a key part of the faith's health code, which also bans alcohol and tobacco.

The husband and wife had different outcomes: She says she found it difficult but would like to work on it. He says he'd given it up.

On Facebook, McCain and King craft a message in Portuguese, the language they learned for their original assignments in Brazil. They also text people asking to set up a call to talk about the church.

It's a far cry from just months ago. In Brazil, McCain had one of those "little brick phones" and largely spoke to people face to face.

"Sometimes we feel like pioneers," said McCain, a 19-year-old from Texas. "We're not used to using social media in this way and, like, I never made videos and posted them online before. ... We're all learning, and it's really interesting and really fun."

The church began incorporating online faith outreach when it gave some missionaries tablets six years ago. It's since made technology more prevalent, giving most missionaries smartphones even before the pandemic, Nielson said.

A more online-based approach would be a major shift and could diminish the appeal for some young church members who crave an enriching cultural experience, said Ryan Cragun, a sociology professor at the University of Tampa who specializes in religion and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The time in the community also breaks up the drudgery of being alone with a fellow missionary, said Cragun, a former church member who served a mission in Costa Rica.

"There's this quasi-tourist experience of going to these cool places, but there is also the connection you get to the people," Cragun said. "That's probably one of the more meaningful things that happens to them."

McCain said she sees an opportunity to use online tools to reach more people. Still, "we would love to go and be able to teach in people's houses." She and King went to the home of the family they have been teaching to share the sacrament, while social distancing.

"Finding and teaching people online is really effective," Nielson said, "but we also think there's a personal touch, too, of meeting people" and having them come to church when things open up more.

The virus forced church officials to scramble for flights to get missionaries home from far-flung countries like Ethiopia, Australia and Vietnam. But Nielson said the church never wavered in keeping the missionary program going.

It shows the importance the church places on sharing its gospel and giving young people the chance to fulfill an important rite of passage.

About 5,000 missionaries who were brought home have been sent out again in the United States. Thousands more are heading out soon. The church gave them the option to wait a year, but the large majority chose to start again now, Nielson said.

Missions, which last two years for men and 18 months for women, are as much about locking in young church members for life as converting others, Cragun said. The average number of people converted per missionary has risen slightly in the last three years, to 3.7, but is still less than the average of five in the previous decade, church figures show.

Nielson said the pandemic has made people hungry for the missionaries' message of hope.

"There's never been a time when more people have wanted to know about religion than there is now," Nielson said. "People searching for peace. People searching for answers. People searching for someone to talk to. It's been an incredible thing."

Fam reported from Winter Park, Florida. Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## **Malaria drug didn't help virus patients, big UK study finds**

**By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer**

Leaders of a large study in the United Kingdom that is rigorously testing the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and other medicines for hospitalized COVID-19 patients say they will stop putting people on the drug because it's clear it isn't helping.

Results released Friday from 1,542 patients showed the drug did not reduce deaths, time in the hospital or other factors. After 28 days, 25.7% on hydroxychloroquine had died versus 23.5% given usual care -- a difference so small it could have occurred by chance.

The results "convincingly rule out any meaningful mortality benefit," study leaders at the University of Oxford said in a statement.

The results have not been published; the statement said full details will be provided soon. No information on safety was given.

Hydroxychloroquine has long been used for malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis but is not known to be safe or effective for preventing or treating coronavirus infection. It has been heavily promoted by President Donald Trump and can cause potentially serious side effects, including heart rhythm problems.

Many recent studies have suggested it does not help treat COVID-19, but they are mostly weak and observational. A very large one suggesting the drug was unsafe was retracted by the journal Lancet on Thursday amid questions about the truthfulness of the data.

The Oxford study is the largest study so far to put hydroxychloroquine to a strict test.

More than 11,000 patients in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were randomly assigned to get either standard of care or that plus one of these treatments: hydroxychloroquine, the HIV combo drug lopinavir-ritonavir, the antibiotic azithromycin, the steroid dexamethasone, the anti-inflammatory drug tocilizumab, or plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 that contains antibodies to fight the virus.

Independent monitors met Thursday night to review results so far and recommended ending the hydroxychloroquine part of the study because results from 80% of participants suggested continuing was futile.

"Although it is disappointing that this treatment has been shown to be ineffective, it does allow us to focus care and research on more promising drugs," study leader and Oxford professor Peter Horby said in a statement.

The research is funded by government health agencies in the United Kingdom and private donors including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The World Health Organization is leading a similar study testing hydroxychloroquine and several other

therapies versus standard of care. More than 3,500 patients in 35 countries have enrolled.

WHO chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said researchers would consider the full Oxford results once they're available but for now will continue its own study as is.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter: @MMarchioneAP

AP Medical Writer Maria Cheng contributed to this report.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Hong Kong's last British leader: China's agenda 'Orwellian'

By **DAKE KANG** Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The last British governor of Hong Kong criticized the Chinese government on Friday over proposed national security legislation, calling it part of an "Orwellian" drive to eliminate opposition in violation of the agreement on handing the territory over to Beijing.

Chris Patten defended London's announcement that it would grant residency and a path to citizenship for nearly 3 million Hong Kong residents if Beijing goes through with passage of the legislation.

The law is seen as potentially imposing severe restrictions on freedom of speech and opposition political activity in the former British colony that was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997. China has denounced the offer of citizenship as a violation of its sovereignty.

"If they've broken the (Sino-British) Joint Declaration, if they've thrown it overboard, how can they then use the joint declaration as though it stops us doing something that's a sovereign right of ours?" said Patten, now chancellor of the University of Oxford, in an online talk with reporters.

The declaration is a bilateral treaty signed as part of the handover process. China has essentially declared it null and void, while Britain says Beijing is renegeing on its commitments made in the document that was supposed to be remain in effect until 2047.

China shocked many of Hong Kong's 7.5 million people when it announced earlier this month that it will enact a national security law for the city, which was promised a high level of autonomy outside of foreign and defense affairs.

An earlier push to pass security legislation was shelved after massive Hong Kong street protests against it in 2003. However, Beijing appeared to lose patience after months of sometimes violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong last year that China said was an attempt to split the territory off from the rest of the country.

Patten said the security legislation is unnecessary because Hong Kong's legal code already includes provisions to combat terrorism, financial crimes and other threats to security.

"What Beijing wants is something which deals with those rather worrying Orwellian crimes like sedition, whatever that may be," Patten said.

China may also be seeking grounds to disqualify opposition candidates from running in September's election for the local legislature by accusing them of being disloyal, he said.

Beijing has ignored promises that Hong Kong could democratize of its own accord after the handover, Patten said. The U.S. should unite with other democratic countries to oppose underhanded tactics by Beijing, he said.

"It's the Chinese Communist Party which attacks us, which hectors, which bullies, which tells companies which have roots in our countries, that unless they do what China wants, they won't get any business in China," Patten said. "That's the way the Mafia behave, and the rest of the world shouldn't put up with it, because if we do, liberal democracies are going to be screwed."

## Virginia city removes 176-year-old slave auction block

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A 176-year-old slave auction block has been removed from a Virginia city's downtown.

The 800-pound (363-kilogram) stone was pulled from the ground at a Fredericksburg street corner early Friday after the removal was delayed for months by lawsuits and the coronavirus pandemic, The Free Lance-Star reported.

The weathered stone was sprayed with graffiti twice and chants of "move the block" erupted this week during local demonstrations over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, city officials said in a statement announcing the removal.

The protests were part of a nationwide movement that was sparked by the death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded for air.

A local chapter of the NAACP called for the stone's removal in 2017, saying it was a relic of "a time of hatred and degradation" that was allowed to be displayed at a main thoroughfare in the city.

In 2019, the City Council voted in favor of its removal and relocation to the Fredericksburg Area Museum, and a judge upheld that decision in February after two businesses near the auction block sued to stop the relocation.

The process was held up after one of the businesses, a commercial building owner, asked the Virginia Supreme Court to bar the removal while her decision was being appealed, the newspaper said.

The museum now plans to display the knee-high stone in an exhibit chronicling the "movement from slavery to accomplishments by the local African American community," the Free Lance-Star said. The staff also plans to feature the recent protests in the exhibit, according to the museum's president and CEO.

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

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

SAINT-LAURENT-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.

"I miss the others," said Charles Shay, who as a U.S. Army medic was in the first wave of soldiers to wade ashore at Omaha Beach under relentless fire on D-Day.

Shay, 95, lives in France close to the beach where he and so many others landed in 1944. He knows of no U.S. veterans making the trip overseas to observe D-Day this year.

"I guess I will be alone here this year," Shay said before he performed a Native American ritual to honor his comrades by spreading the smoke of burning white sage into the winds lashing the Normandy coast Friday.

The eerie atmosphere touches the French as well as Americans.

"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.

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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, storming 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 French President 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 vintages 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 wearing 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>

## Despite global reopening push, some jobs 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 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. figures released on Friday showed a surprise drop in joblessness as some of those who were temporarily laid off returned to work. But it's only a dent in the recent months' surge of unemployment, which remains near Depression-era levels. In a pattern repeated across the world, high unemployment 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

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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."

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 cutbacks. 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

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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 aren't all the jobs coming back, 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, economist 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 Kazziha in Nairobi, Aron Heller in Kfar Saba, Israel, David Biller in Rio de Janeiro and Dave McHugh in Frankfurt contributed.

## 'Respect them': Even in wealthy areas, food bank demand high

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. (AP) — One was a nurse, another a retiree. Others had recently lost jobs with an insurance company and a country club.

On a humid day last week, in the parking lot of this Long Island town's largest park, they had a common bond. Each was making their first visit to a food bank to help cope with hardships arising from the coronavirus outbreak.

"I'm hungry. That's why I'm here," said Marcia Duckley, a mother of four children ages 4 through 17 who lost her hotel job this year. "It never crossed my mind before that I'd be doing this."

Duckley, who came to the United States 30 years ago from Jamaica, said she has recently been feeding her children meals of flour dumplings with butter – plus an occasional treat of water flavored with sugar.

"They say, 'Mom, when are you going back to work?'" she said through an open window as she edged her car slowly forward.

The scene in Valley Stream, a community of 37,000 in the Nassau County suburbs just east of New York City, has been replicated nationwide during a 10-week stretch in which 42 million Americans have applied for unemployment benefits. Long lines of cars, sometimes numbering in the thousands, backed up while their occupants wait — sometimes for hours — for the chance to take home a free batch of food.

Island Harvest, one of the major food banks on Long Island, organized the food distribution in Valley Stream, one of many it has conducted throughout the area.



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Randi Shubin Dresner, Island Harvest's CEO, said the food bank has distributed 1.2 million more meals so far this year than during the same period last year.

In Valley Stream, she said, 1,124 boxes of food were distributed by volunteers, mostly to motorists, but also to several hundred people who came on foot. Each box contained roughly 25 pounds of milk, potatoes, apples, cheese and other produce.

"There are a lot of people who've never asked for food before -- some used to contribute to us," she said. "It's a very humbling experience for them."

Dresner noted that some cars in the long line were new, upscale models — and that it would be wrong to second-guess their occupants' needs.

"Maybe a few weeks ago they had a great job," she said. "Then the world is taken from underneath them and they have no income -- they're struggling to pay the mortgage and the car loan."

"It's not up to us to judge the type of car that comes through the line, or the way people are dressed," she added. "It's up to us to respect them."

The first woman waiting in the pedestrian line was indeed well dressed. She asked to be identified only as Maria G. and said she had been furloughed during the pandemic by the insurance company where she'd been an underwriter for 20 years.

She is a single mom living with four sons ages 15 to 20 who are "eating me out of house and home," she said.

"I've never been through something like this," she said. "I've seen it in Third World countries, and now it's hit Valley Stream."

Not far behind her was retiree Sheila Barron, 69, who said she was making her first trip to a food bank because of increasing wariness of grocery stores. They're too crowded, she said, and often are out of items she needs.

The pandemic restrictions have been tough for her. She's missed the opportunity to go to church and is asked to do medical appointments via telemedicine.

Barron was soon followed by Tina Grace, 29, walking alongside her bicycle, who said she was recently laid off by the country club where she worked on event planning. She's getting unemployment compensation but worries it won't last.

"I'm just taking it day by day," she said. "It's hard. It sucks. Everyone is in a tough situation right now."

Unlike many others in line, Mary Blaize is still employed — she's a nurse in New York City. The stress of her job is now compounded by her husband's recent layoff, she said, making it harder to pay their mortgage and utility bills.

But she was upbeat about her first visit to a food bank.

"It feels good to know that people actually care," she said.

In neighboring Connecticut, perennially ranked as one of the richest states, demand on food banks has also been intense.

Each weekday outside a football stadium in East Hartford, 1,000 to 2,500 cars roll through a distribution site run by the regional food bank, Foodshare. Drivers have their trunks open as volunteers load boxes of fruits and vegetables, bread, milk and even toys.

Among those making use of the site was Natalie Townsend, 32, a single mother from Hartford who lost her job at a call center in April. She said she has fallen two months behind on her rent, is still waiting for unemployment benefits and worries about how to care for her 9-year-old daughter.

"It definitely gets me down because I like to pay my bills on time," she said. "I don't want to be on the streets."

Also at the site were Yanet Belossantos and her husband, Alex Cepeda, who lost their jobs in March, she as a medical assistant, he as a chef. The Dominican Republic immigrants live in Hartford with her mother, who has Alzheimer's disease.

They have been surviving on unemployment benefits but are behind in their bills.

"We can't go grocery shopping because we don't have the money," Belossantos said. "This is really helping us."

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In the mostly affluent southwest corner of Connecticut, Kate Lombardo says demand is up by about 40% in recent weeks for the Stamford-based Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, of which she is executive director.

Lombardo says her own family in Brooklyn faced sudden hardship in the 1960s, including losing their house, after her father died and her mother had to care for five children. She said that experience deepens her empathy with people now facing their first-ever need for food assistance.

"Suddenly you feel like you've been transported to a different country," Lombardo said. "You never used these resources before. You don't know how to find them. It's like Dorothy trying to find the Wizard of Oz."

Lifelong Stamford resident Juledah Wilson -- in addition to her job as a paraeducator in the public school system -- has for many years helped run one of the neighborhood food pantries supplied by the food bank.

But Wilson has been out of work since March; so are the two adult children who live with her, along with two grandchildren. Wilson recently designated herself and her family as recipients of aid from that very pantry in order to obtain meat, bread and fresh vegetables.

"I grew up with a lot of brothers and sisters," she said. "I learned how to make do with what you have -- try to survive."

Throughout her community, anxiety is high as food supplies grow tighter.

"A lot of people are very nervous," Wilson said. "We don't know where we're headed. It's kind of scary."

Associated Press writer Dave Collins in East Hartford and AP video journalist Robert Bumsted in Valley Stream contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 6, the 158th day of 2020. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 6, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, 25 1/2 hours after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

On this date:

In 1799, American politician and orator Patrick Henry died at Red Hill Plantation in Virginia.

In 1816, a snowstorm struck the northeastern U.S., heralding what would become known as the "Year Without a Summer."

In 1918, U.S. Marines suffered heavy casualties as they launched their eventually successful counteroffensive against German troops in the World War I Battle of Belleau Wood in France.

In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater was opened by Richard Hollingshead in Camden County, New Jersey. (The movie shown was "Wives Beware," starring Adolphe Menjou.)

In 1939, the first Little League game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day" as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

In 1955, the U.S. Post Office introduced regular certified mail service.

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a primary ballot initiative calling for major cuts in property taxes.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1989, burial services were held for Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Washington state Democrat Tom Foley succeeded Jim Wright as House speaker.

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In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that people who smoked marijuana because their doctors recommended it to ease pain could be prosecuted for violating federal drug laws.

Ten years ago: The Vatican released a working paper which said the international community was ignoring the plight of Christians in the Middle East, and that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Iraq and political instability in Lebanon had forced thousands to flee the region. Rafael Nadal won his fifth French Open title, beating Robin Soderling 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Five years ago: Two convicted murderers escaped from the maximum-security Clinton Correctional Facility in upstate New York (Richard Matt ended up being shot dead by authorities while David Sweat was recaptured). American Pharoah led all the way to win the Belmont Stakes by 5½ lengths, becoming the first horse in 37 years to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Serena Williams won her third French Open title and 20th major singles trophy by beating Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-2.

One year ago: After two days of intense criticism, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden reversed course and declared that he no longer supported a long-standing congressional ban on the use of federal health money to pay for abortions. World leaders including President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron gathered at the site of the D-Day landings in France to honor those who took part in the operation 75 years earlier that would help bring an Allied victory in World War II. R&B singer R. Kelly pleaded not guilty in Chicago to 11 additional sex-related charges. New Orleans singer and piano player Dr. John died at the age of 77; his family said the musician, who was born Mac Rebennack, had died of a heart attack.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 81. Country singer Joe Stampley is 77. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 76. Actor Robert Englund is 73. Folk singer Holly Near is 71. Singer Dwight Twilley is 69. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., is 68. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 68. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 64. Actress Amanda Pays is 61. Comedian Colin Quinn is 61. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 61. Rock musician Steve Vai is 60. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 59. Actor Jason Isaacs is 57. Actor Anthony Starke is 57. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 54. Actor Max Casella is 53. Actor Paul Giamatti is 53. Rhythm and blues singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 52. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 50. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 48. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 47. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 46. Actress Sonya Walger is 46. Actress Staci Keanan is 45. Jazz singer Somi is 44. Actress Amber Borycki is 37. Actress Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 13.

Thought for Today: "A great man is one who leaves others at a loss after he is gone." — Paul Valery, French poet and essayist (1871-1945).

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