

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 1 of 79

- [1- Church Services Today](#)
- [1- Severe Weather Today Expected](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [17- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [18- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [19- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [21- SD News Watch: Cancellation of festivals costing S.D. communities money and momentum](#)
- [27- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [30- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [31- June 6th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [34- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [35- Weather Pages](#)
- [38- Daily Devotional](#)
- [39- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [40- News from the Associated Press](#)

"LIFE IS LIKE
A MIRROR;
WE GET THE
BEST RESULTS
WHEN WE
SMILE AT IT."

-PETER DRUCKER



The environment remains favorable for strong to severe thunderstorm development this afternoon, mainly between the Missouri and James valleys. Risks include all types of severe weather. Be weather aware this afternoon and evening.

Church Services on-line

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

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

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

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

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

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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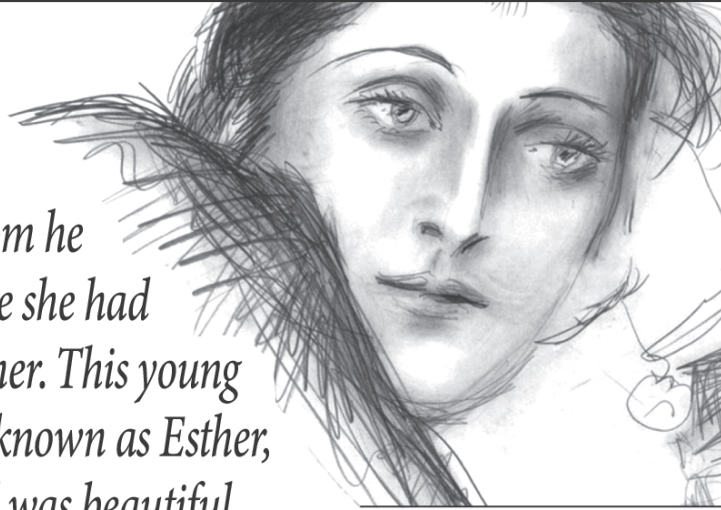
Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

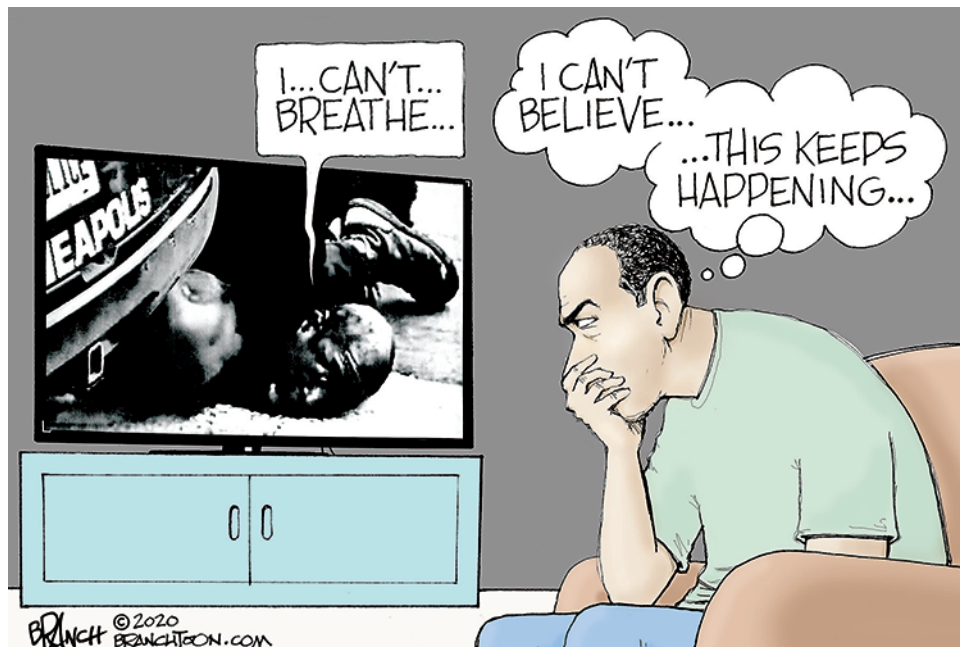
Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful.

ESTHER 2:7 



*"Portrait of Dora Maar"
by Pablo Picasso (1937)*

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Who honored a man by letting him ride the royal steed through city streets? *Silas, Hosea, Ahasuerus, Asa*

3. From Acts 9, what dressmaker was restored to life by Peter's prayers? *Dorcas, Leah, Jezebel, Miriam*

4. Pharaoh gave what burnt city to his daughter for a gift? *Cana, Gezer, Joppa, Bethel*

5. From Job 4, who was so frightened by a dream that his hair stood on end? *James, Eliphaz, Noah, Cain*

6. Where did Gideon meet an angel? *Prison, Field, Oak tree, Well*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Ahasuerus; 3) Dorcas; 4) Gezer; 5) Eliphaz; 6) Oak tree.

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Layered Chocolate Peanut Butter Dessert

If eaten in moderation, peanut butter is a good choice. We just can't put our spoons in the jar and eat with complete abandon!

12 (2½-inch) chocolate graham cracker squares

2 (4-serving) packages sugar-free instant chocolate pudding mix

1⅓ cups nonfat dry milk powder

2¼ cups water

1¼ cup reduced-fat peanut butter

1½ cup reduced-calorie whipped topping

1¼ cup chopped dry roasted peanuts

1. Evenly arrange 9 graham crackers in a 9-by-9-inch cake pan. In a large bowl, combine 1 package dry pudding mix, 2/3 cup dry milk powder and 1 1/4 cups water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in peanut butter. Spread mixture evenly over graham crackers. Refrigerate while preparing topping.

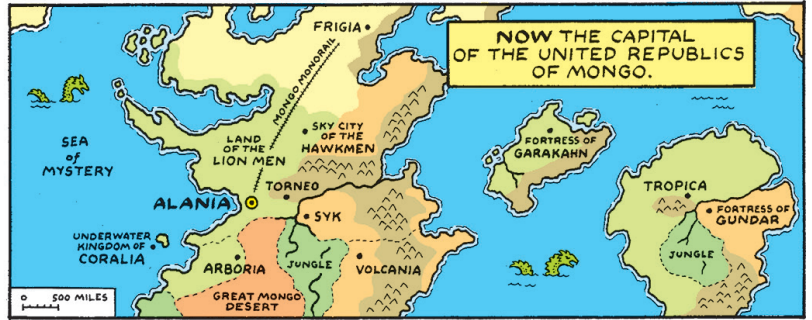
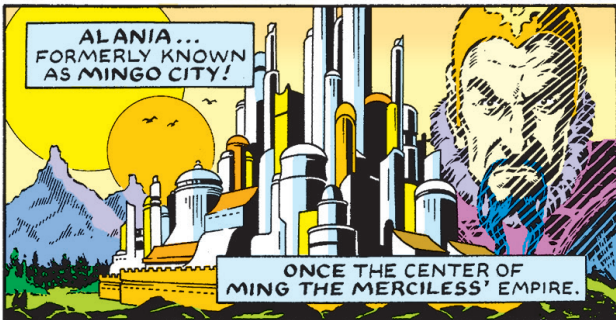
2. In the same bowl, combine remaining package dry pudding mix, remaining 2/3 cup dry milk powder and remaining 1 cup water. Mix well using wire whisk. Blend in whipped topping. Spread topping mixture evenly over chocolate filling. Finely crush remaining 3 graham crackers. Evenly sprinkle crumbs and peanuts over top. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Cut into 8 pieces.

• Each serving equals: About 173 calories, 5g fat, 8g protein, 24g carb., 470mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Fat, 1 Starch, 1/2 Fat-Free Milk.

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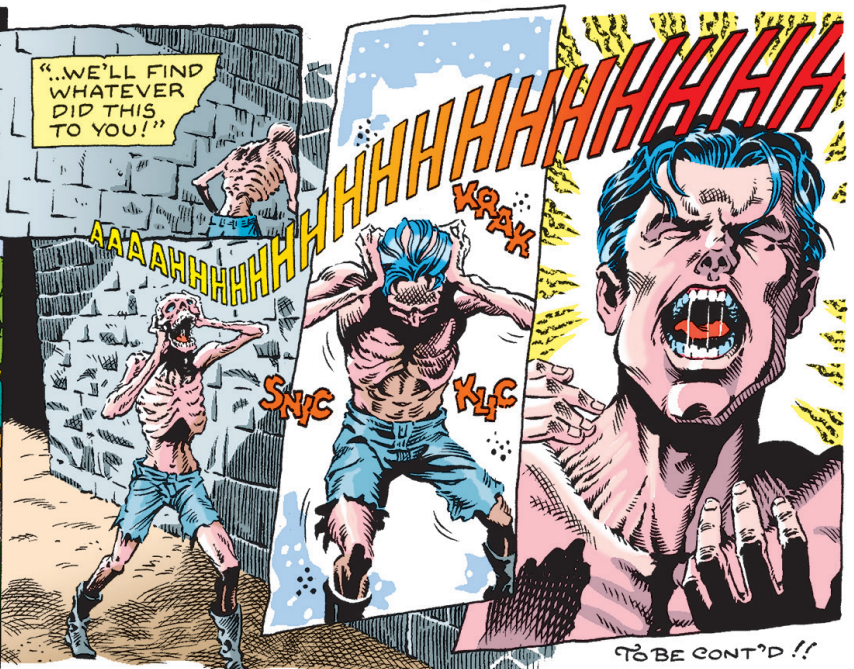
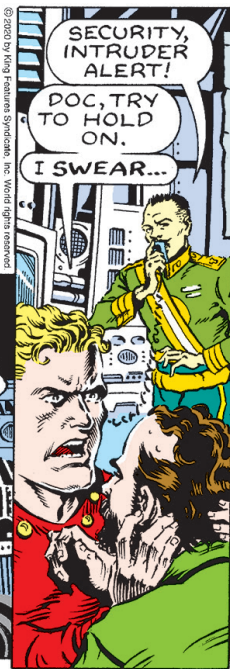
Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 4 of 79



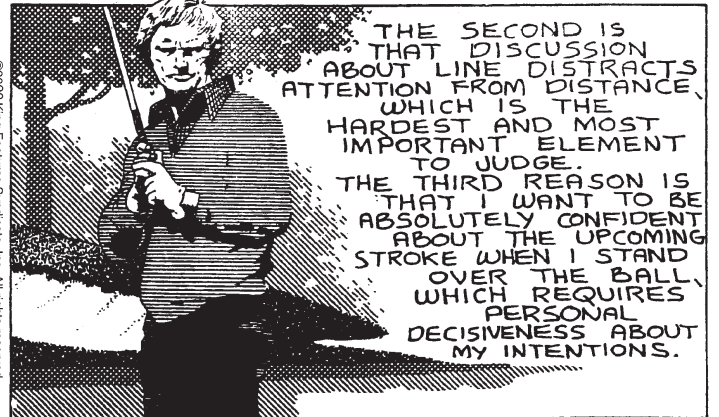
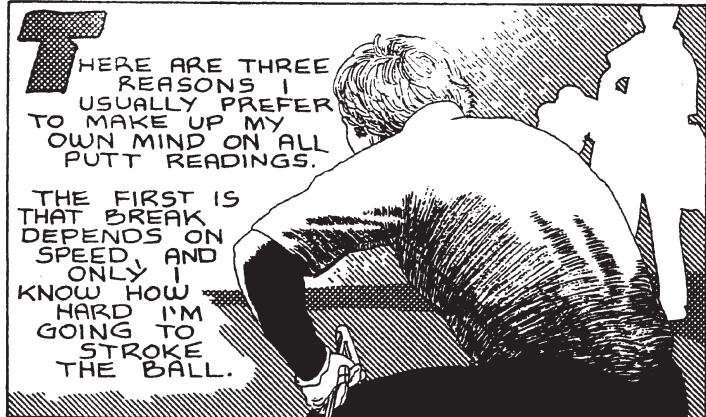
FLASH GORDON BY JIM KEEFE

5-31 Pencils: MARK McMURRAY

RESPONDING TO DOCTOR ZARKOV'S DISTRESS CALL, FLASH AND BARIN RACE TO THE RESEARCH FACILITY.



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Morning Stiffness Is Sign of Osteoarthritis

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 67-year-old black female who's been diagnosed with "a little arthritis" in my right hip. Now retired from a desk job, I unfortunately still am not getting enough exercise. My issue is that after sitting for a length of time, I'm in excruciating pain and can't stand up at all. Once I straighten up and get moving, the pain subsides. I've been told "you're getting old," but I'm not old! I'm about 30 pounds overweight. Also, when I stand for any length of time, my lower back aches.

Would taking a morning walk and a yoga class alleviate this problem? I'm so embarrassed when I get out of my car or get up from the dinner table. — S.H.

ANSWER: There are many types of arthritis, and the answer to your question varies a bit depending on type. I think you probably have the most common form, osteoarthritis, so I'm going to answer you assuming that's the case.

Stiffness in the morning, quickly relieved by exercise, is a hallmark of osteoarthritis. It's common, treatable and not something to be embarrassed about.

Exercise is an effective treatment for osteoarthritis. It can be difficult to get started, but the more people exercise, the more they are able to do. Walking and yoga both are excellent ideas, but the best exercise is the one you will want to keep doing.

Osteoarthritis affects a fair number of 67-year-olds, but it's important to remember that it's not your age that is causing the pain: It's the arthritis.

Although we know of no treatments that can reverse the course of osteoarthritis, medications (including a few supplements), exercise and physical therapy all can ease symptoms and improve function. Losing weight takes stress off the joints and is recommended, but is not easy.

Finally, severe arthritis can be treated surgically, with a joint replacement. That's not a procedure to take lightly or have done too early.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm 85 years old. I have numbness in my hands — sometimes the right, sometimes the left; sometimes both hands or not at all. It lasts only a while. My doctor feels that it's a pinched nerve in my neck. Can you give me any advice? — J.B.

ANSWER: A pinched nerve in the neck becomes more prevalent as people age. The nerve can be compressed by bony structures in people with osteoarthritis in the neck (this is spinal stenosis), or by disk material in someone with a herniated disk. Having symptoms on both sides is less common than having symptoms consistently on one side only. A careful physical exam can give clues that this is the case, but an MRI or other imaging study is the best way to be sure of the diagnosis.

Hand numbness also may be caused by the nerve being "pinched" in other locations: in the carpal tunnel in the wrist or in the cubital tunnel in the elbow. An EMG test can help sort out where this is coming from. It's certainly possible to have carpal tunnel syndrome on both sides.

My best advice is not to rush into surgery at any age, but especially not at age 85. Physical therapy can prevent many people from needing surgery. However, if numbness progresses to weakness, it's time to reconsider.

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

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1. Name the girl group that released "Nothing But a Heartache."
2. Which group had their album pulled by Disney on release day?
3. Two duos released "Mockingbird" a decade apart. Who were they?
4. Which artist had his only No. 1 hit with "Rock Your Baby"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There, like a dream, this wonderful night, I gazed at the grotto aglow in the light."

Answers

1. The Flirtations, in 1968.
2. Insane Clown Posse, in 1997. At the last minute, Disney objected to the graphic nature of the lyrics. Just weeks earlier, the Southern Baptist Convention had threatened to boycott Disney businesses because of Gay Days at Disneyland.
3. Inez and Charlie Foxx, the songwriters, in 1963, and Carly Simon and James Taylor in 1974.
4. George McCrae, in 1974. McCrae not only had a No. 1 hit, but it also netted him a Grammy nom for Best Male R&B Vocalist. Rolling Stone magazine voted it the song of the year.
5. "The Village of St. Bernadette," by Andy Williams in 1959. Songwriter Eula Parker penned the song after visiting Lourdes, where in 1858 a young peasant girl named Bernadette Soubirous saw apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 6 of 79

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{Wagner}



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Wagner

"Everything seems to be in order, Mr. Figby, except you have some money left."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Earring is missing. 2. Man's expression is different. 3. Tree is gone. 4. Shadow is cast on bush. 5. Blade handles are different. 6. Leaves are different.



- Window frames can be tricky to clean. And they are a magnet for dust and dirt, or worse — condensation that can lead to mold. To get into the crevices, employ a toothbrush sprayed with a tiny spritz of furniture polish. It works!

- “Firing up the grill? Don’t get hasty. Preheat. Cooking times are based on an even cooking temperature, and you’ll get that good sear on your steaks or chicken. Use a grill thermometer and you’ll know when just the right time is to put dinner on the grill!” — *T.E. in South Carolina*

- Ever wonder how long your peanut butter will last? On the pantry shelf, you can expect it to hold for 7-12 months if stored in a cool dark place. After opening, it will last 3-4 months in the fridge.

- Smudged mascara? Remove it on the fly with a little bit of lip balm. Sim-

ply run your finger over the lip balm, then carefully remove the smudge. You also can put a bit of the lip balm on a tissue and use that instead.

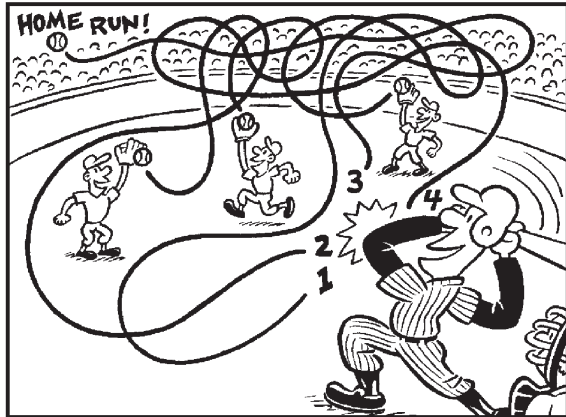
- “I dropped a glass in the kitchen, and there were a ton of small pieces. After I swept up, I wiped the area with a piece of bread, which picked up all the small shards.” — *W.C. in Kentucky*

- Stick-down carpet tiles are great for making a path from where you park your car in the garage to the door. It makes a nice nonslip surface.” — *R.T. in Florida*

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

Groton Daily Independent

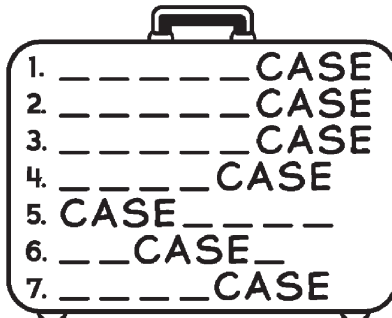
Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 8 of 79



ONE-FOR-FOUR! Can you guess which ball Casey hit out of the park?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A CASELOAD OF CASES!

Don't strike out like "Casey at the Bat" on this one! To the left is a list of seven "case" words. Using the following hints, see if you can figure out what these words are:

1. Has ups and downs.
2. A short trial.
3. An engine part.
4. A book box.
5. A type of window.
6. Completely covered.
7. Found in stores.

Answers: Ball three.

Illustrated by David Coulson

1	2	3	S	4	5
2			H		
3	S	H	O	R	E
4			R		
5			E		

IT'S "SHORE TIME" AGAIN!

At left is a word square. You are challenged to find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Welcome green spots.
2. Very pale.
3. Coastline (SHORE, in place).
4. Frightening place.
5. Scornful expression.

Answers: 1. Staircase. 2. Briefcase (pun). 3. Crankcase. 4. Slipcase. 5. Casement. 6. Encased. 7. Showcase.

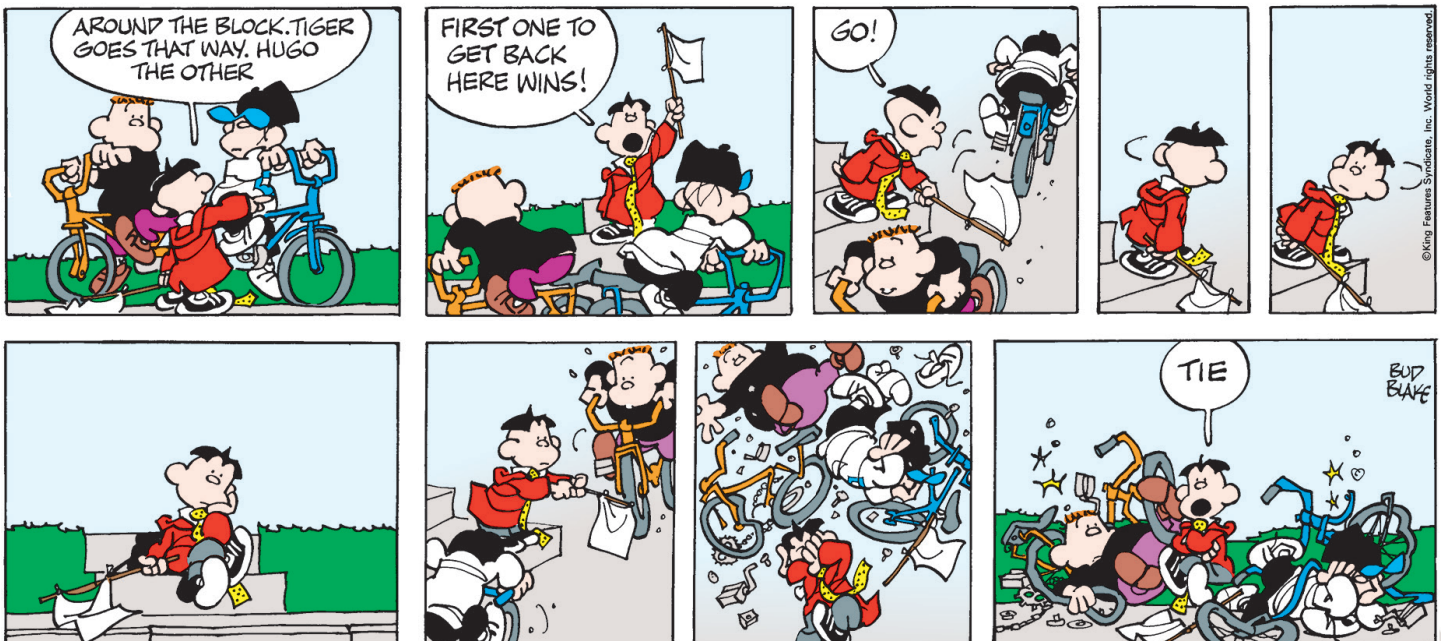
Answers: 1. Cases. 2. Ashen. 3. Shore. 4. Eerie. 5. Sheer.

IT'S MAGIC! You can make a quarter pass through a hole the size of a dime. Here's how: Fold the paper in half, place the quarter inside, and fold corners "A" and "B" toward one another. The coin will fall through the hole without ripping the paper.



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 9 of 79

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Impale
- 5 Father
- 8 Waller or Domino
- 12 Operatic solo
- 13 Playwright Levin
- 14 "Step —!" ("Hurry!")
- 15 Kindly bloke
- 16 Make a mock-up of
- 18 I before E except —
- 20 Draw forth
- 21 Doesn't feel good
- 23 Overly
- 24 Kiss
- 28 Winter forecast

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

- 31 Debt notice
- 32 Detroit team
- 34 Payable
- 35 Calm before the storm
- 37 Vary a tone
- 39 Winning hand's winnings
- 41 Cupola
- 42 Notlikethis
- 45 Random drawing?
- 49 Count
- 51 Require
- 52 Right angles
- 53 Knight's title
- 54 On the rocks
- 55 Encounter
- 56 Skirt terminus
- 57 "Finding Nemo" character
- 7 Knighted woman
- 8 Page numbers
- 9 Big snake
- 10 South American monkey
- 11 Undo a dele
- 17 Last (Abbr.)
- 19 Small stream
- 22 Remained upright
- 24 Lubricant
- 25 Old French coin
- 26 Guilty
- 27 Germ layer
- 29 Result of three strikes
- 30 Tiny
- 33 Wrestling style
- 36 Noisy swarmer
- 38 Nikita's successor
- 40 — Aviv
- 42 Branch
- 43 Wan
- 44 Morse morsel
- 46 Retro art style
- 47 Lecherous look
- 48 Vortex
- 50 Dead heat

DOWN

- 1 Long story
- 2 Not kosher
- 3 "It — Necessarily So"
- 4 Flat-bottomed boat
- 5 Deny
- 6 "Exodus" hero

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 10 of 79

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY



“Remember the good old days when we dreamed of owning all the things we’re now making payments on?”

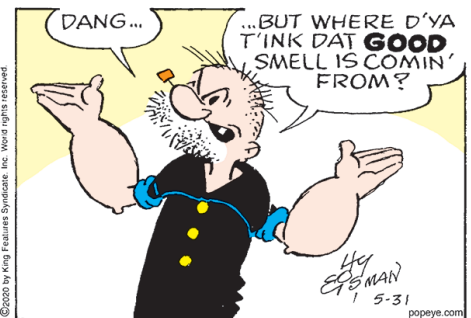
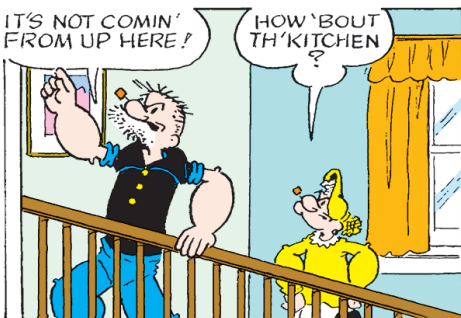
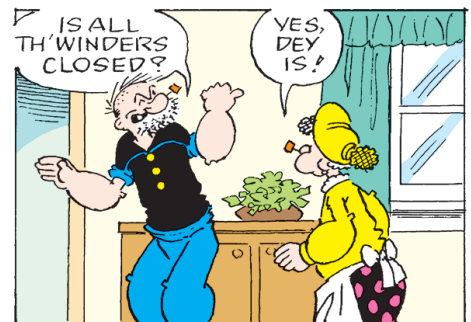
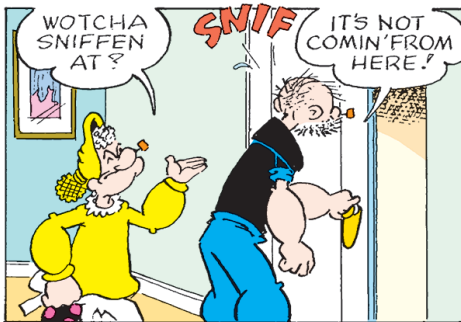
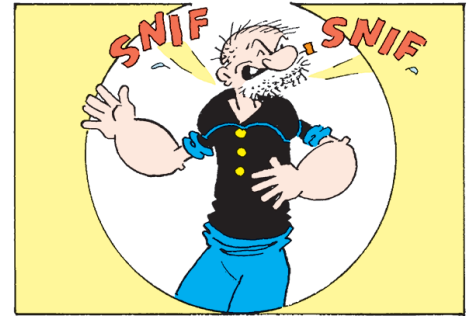
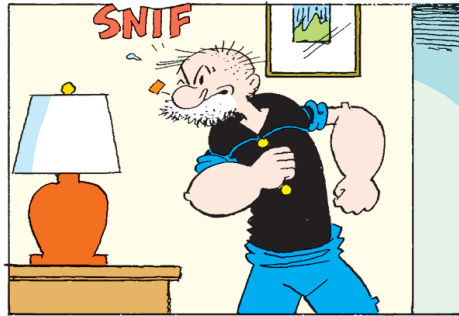
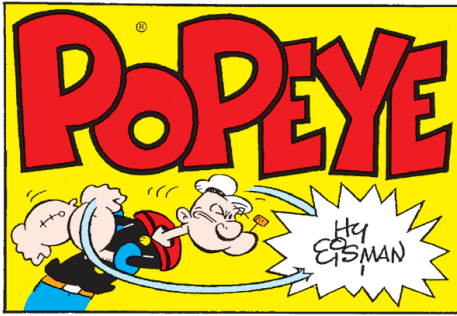
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



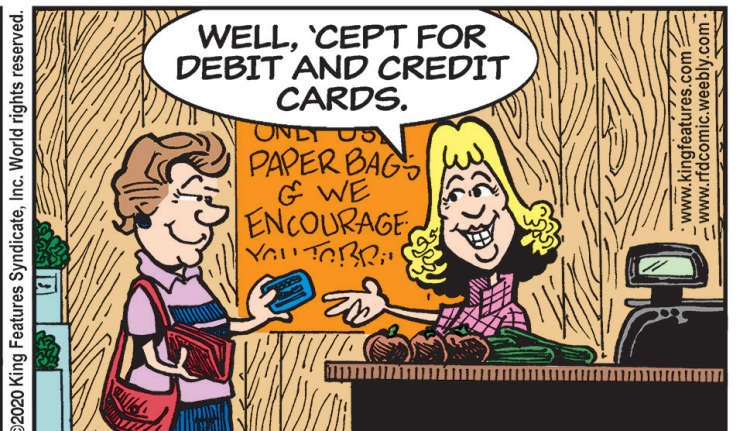
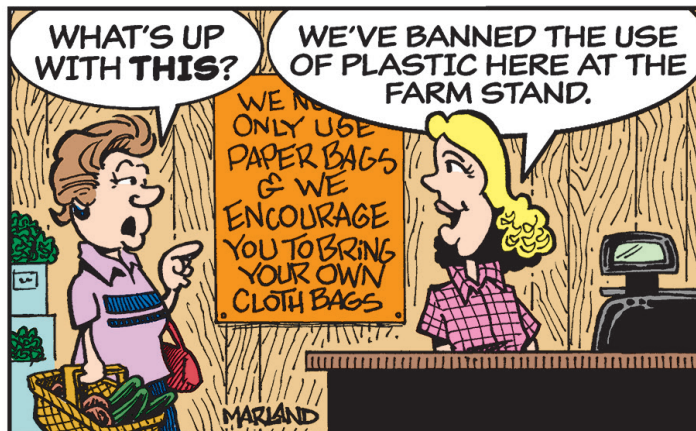
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 11 of 79



R.F.D.

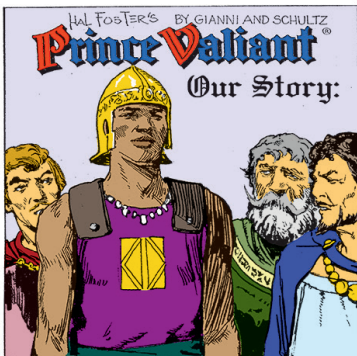
by Mike Marland



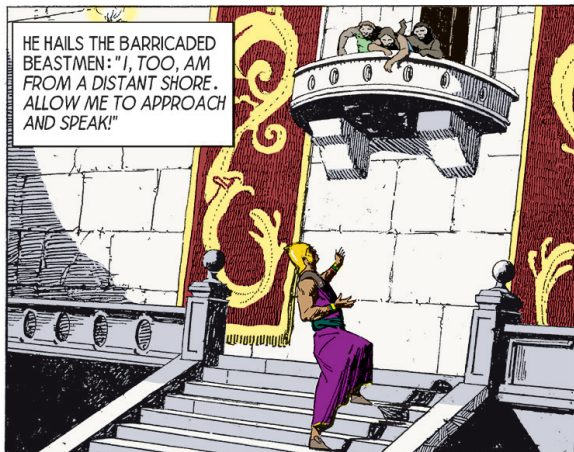
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 12 of 79

Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant
 Our Story:



A HOSTAGE SITUATION UNFOLDS IN CAMELOT. BUKOTA SEES A CHANCE TO EXERCISE HIS DIPLOMATIC SKILLS.



HE HAILS THE BARRICADED BEASTMEN: "I, TOO, AM FROM A DISTANT SHORE. ALLOW ME TO APPROACH AND SPEAK!"

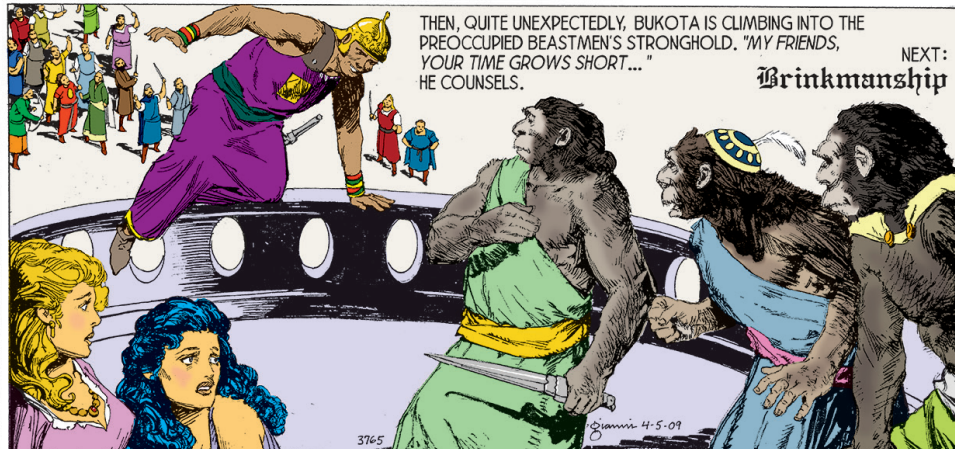


LANCELOT GRUMBLES: "WHO IS THIS DARK MAN WHO WOULD RUN OUR AFFAIRS?" VAL SHRUGS: "DO YOU OFFER A BETTER PLAN? LET HIM TRY - BLOODSHED IS NEVER A GOOD THING IN THE ROYAL COURT."

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WHILE, ON THE BALCONY ABOVE, NUDDER, BUP AND IG ARGUE THE ACCEPTANCE OF BUKOTA'S PROPOSAL. THEIR CAPTIVE BRIDES COWER, SEEMINGLY FORGOTTEN.



THEN, QUITE UNEXPECTEDLY, BUKOTA IS CLIMBING INTO THE PREOCCUPIED BEASTMEN'S STRONGHOLD. "MY FRIENDS, YOUR TIME GROWS SHORT..." HE COUNSELS.

NEXT:
Brinkmanship

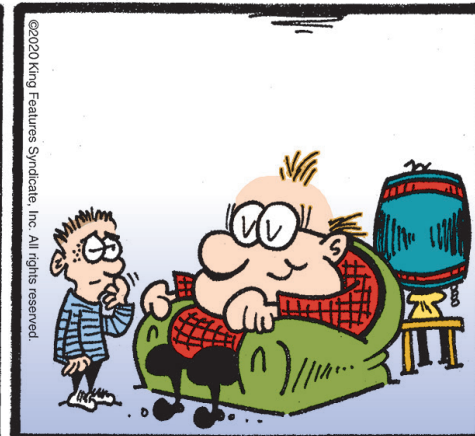
3765 Gianni 4-5-09

The Spats


by Jeff Pickering



TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION.



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YOU MUST BE TRUTH!!

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Finding Fresh Food

Many of us haven't been eating right lately. Sometimes the stores are out of what we want; sometimes we can't get an available pickup time. But there are a few other safe options for getting what we need.

Community Supported Agriculture: Farmers near you like to know in advance if their crops will have a market once it's time to harvest, and they sell "subscriptions" that allow you, as a shareholder, to pick up fresh food once a week. Do an internet search for "community supported agriculture" in your area. Look for ones that sell more than just vegetables. Some also have eggs, butter, bread, jams, flowers and meat.

Farm Stands: You'll see these along the road — a small farmer or gardener who sells his produce at the end of the driveway out of a small stand. Stop and take a look, and ask questions. Most of them will have a limited variety, but it will all be fresh, probably picked just

that morning. You might have to point to the items you want so they don't have people touching the food. That's a safety point you'll appreciate. Ask about other foods that will be available, and make it a point to stop by.

Farmers Markets: These could be a dozen or more farmers who congregate in specified town locations on certain days, each with a stall or table. They will likely have a specialty, with carrots and plants here, and honey and potatoes there. Many will have homemade goods such as breads and jams, and some will have meat in coolers. Chances are you'll be asked to use a credit, EFT or EBT card to keep from handling cash. Some vendors will have their items prewrapped so they're untouched.

And remember, no matter where you go, look for marks on the ground for places to stand six feet apart.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 14 of 79

1. What international sports competition, created by media mogul Ted Turner, was first held in Moscow in 1986?

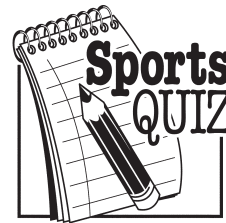
2. Name the quarterback who took over for the injured Phil Simms in 1990 and led the New York Giants to a win in Super Bowl XXV.

3. In 2019, who became the first player ever to be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame with a unanimous vote?

4. What 1977 sports comedy film featured the three boorish, brawling Hanson brothers playing for the Charlestown Chiefs?

5. In one of the most lopsided transactions in NFL history, the Dallas Cowboys traded running back Herschel Walker to what team in 1989?

6. What golfer suffered one of the most disastrous collapses in a major tournament by scoring a triple-bogey and losing the lead on the final hole of the 1999 Open Championship at Carnoustie Golf Links?



by Ryan A. Berenz

7. What Major League Baseball team celebrates a home run with mascot Bernie taking a plunge down a winding slide?

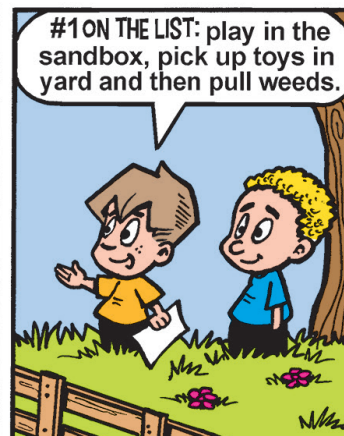
Answers

1. The Goodwill Games.
2. Jeff Hostetler.
3. Mariano Rivera.
4. "Slap Shot."
5. The Minnesota Vikings.
6. Jean van de Velde.
7. The Milwaukee Brewers.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 15 of 79



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



We Have Work To Do

George Floyd's murder was unacceptable. Racism is unacceptable. Violence is unacceptable. Trampling on the rights of journalists, protestors, property owners and others is unacceptable. Using language that divides, rather than unites, is unacceptable. Ignoring the problem is unacceptable.

Much of our attention in recent days has understandably been focused on George Floyd's death and the violence that followed. It's easy to understand why. The images are jarring and have deeply troubled the hearts of all decent people.

Real progress toward equal justice won't come from focusing only on horrific and headline-grabbing acts of violence, though. There is a real hurt and anger that long pre-dates George Floyd's death.

Every day in every state, there are thousands of acts of injustice, large and small, impacting people of color and beyond. Recognizing them, processing them and eliminating them will take tremendous work. There is a role for all of us, myself included, in that labor. Progress will take years – it will be uncomfortable and there will be setbacks. But we need to act.

People tend to look toward government action when discussing the need for progress. Clearly there is a role for state, federal and local governments in building a more just society. There is an even more important role for each of us to individually examine how we can grow in this area and to intentionally modify our behavior to become better leaders.

For example, I don't have hate in my heart. That doesn't let me off the hook, because hate isn't the only thing that fosters discrimination or injustice. I sometimes suffer from lazy assumptions, overly optimistic views, and a swiftness to discount ideas that make me uncomfortable or do not directly impact me. I have a trusted team from a diverse set of ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds, but we don't have the difficult conversations nor let these conversations guide intentional action as often as we should. Clearly, I've got work to do.

In recent years, I've tried to take steps in the right direction, though it's not been enough. I've listened to victims of discrimination to better understand what they've faced. I've established the Ben Reifel Internship, an opportunity for a student committed to tribal and Native American issues to serve in our congressional office. I serve on the House Civil Rights and Human Services subcommittee, and have been a leader on numerous bills affecting people of color, including serving as floor manager of the bill that provided much-needed resources to tribal and historically Black colleges and universities.

There are other steps our government must take. We need to increase the number of people of color in law enforcement and other government positions. We need to make sure the ways we hold offenders accountable within our criminal justice system are fair and proven to keep our communities safe. We must examine our government services to identify structural barriers and disparities in how they serve different communities and be brave enough to change these services if they do not hold up.

As I said, I have more to do. It's not easy to hear, but to be honest, we all do.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 16 of 79



Standing Together

Like many Americans, I am saddened and angered by the death of George Floyd. Watching the video displaying such reckless, unwarranted brutality at the hands of law enforcement made me sick to my stomach. Those responsible for his death should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. As a nation, we stand together in opposition to the violent killing of George Floyd.

When crimes like this occur, it is important that we continue to speak out against them. Over the past few weeks, countless individuals have made their voices heard. However, we must remember that violence and rioting are not the answer. The right to peacefully protest is an unassailable right enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. However, violence and looting – which in many cases harms local businesses and communities – is an unacceptable exploitation of the situation that undermines the intent of the legitimate and important message of the peaceful protestors. Many of the businesses that have been vandalized and stolen from are small businesses that have already been hurting for the past few months because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

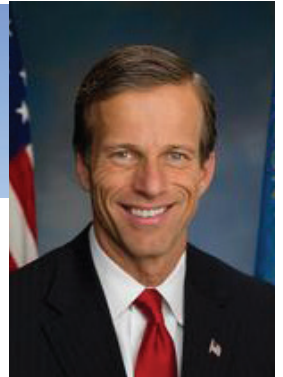
The rioting which has occurred in many of our country's communities does not represent the heart of the people that call these communities home. In many cases, the violence is being perpetrated by radical outsiders trying to further divide us. We cannot let this happen. As a country, we can do better. Violence is not the answer.

We do have an important, peaceful tool available to us, which has worked in our country for nearly 250 years: our right to vote in free and fair elections. South Dakotans recently exercised this right during the June 2 primary election, and we will take to the polls again to vote in our state, local and federal elections on November 3. Voting is the most powerful, effective tool in making a difference and enacting change. I thank all those who partake in this important tradition to make sure your voices are heard, as our election system is only as good as those who participate in it.

Former President Bill Clinton, in his first inaugural address, reminded us that "there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right in America." I couldn't agree more. Despite our challenges, we remain the greatest, strongest, freest country in the world. In the immediate future, our country will continue to be pained by the recent events. We certainly have work ahead of us as we seek ways to heal and make forward progress. This starts by recognizing the criminal act causing the loss of George Floyd's life, standing together to seek justice, and ending the violence and rioting that undermines the message.

We will continue pray for George, for his family, for our country and for a permanent healing and understanding of all Americans, regardless of race. And we will renew our resolve to make our country better for future generations.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



We Hear You, and We Are Listening

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd died at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. This senseless death left Americans reeling, most of all because there have been too many George Floyds. And Breonna Taylors. And Ahmaud Arberys. As a nation, we need to work to ensure that what happened that day in Minneapolis never happens again, and that the perpetrators of crimes like this one are held accountable and brought to justice. We also need to acknowledge how deeply many of our fellow citizens are suffering in the wake of George Floyd's senseless death.

A lot of our fellow Americans are afraid right now, shaken by another death and worried that that could easily have been their son, or husband, or brother. Too many Americans feel unsafe in their own communities. We need to listen to them with humility. To listen to those whose experience of America has often been very different from many of ours.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, Americans took to the streets in cities across the country to express their outrage. They joined a powerful tradition, and exercised a cherished right. Peaceful protest is an American institution, and, as the Civil Rights movement demonstrated, a powerful agent for change. And these protests aren't relegated to big cities. We're seeing them in towns across South Dakota and in many other places in the United States.

Unfortunately, though, there has also been counterproductive and unnecessary violence. Arson, looting, and destruction of property have happened in cities around the country, and communities have suffered damage that will be felt for years. Community spaces and community buildings have been damaged. Local businesses have seen their shops defaced and their aisles ransacked, and innocent bystanders have been injured. This is not a solution to the problems highlighted by George Floyd's death, and this violence needs to end. Putting other lives in danger cannot be an acceptable response to an unjust death.

Around our country, our law enforcement officers have been called out to respond to these riots. It was a police officer who caused George Floyd's death, and around our country, other police officers are sickened by that officer's actions and the tragic result. Most of our nation's police are like Houston's police chief, who went out and marched in solidarity with protesters. Or like Norfolk, Virginia's police chief, who did the same. Or like the police officers in Camden, New Jersey, who joined locals to march, led by their police chief.

There are certainly exceptions – sadly, too many exceptions – but the vast majority of our nation's police officers are men and women of character who care deeply about protecting everyone in their communities and who strive to do their jobs with justice and integrity.

The promise of the Declaration – that all men are created equal – was denied to many. Even in our own day, with both slavery and segregation now mercifully in our past, the effects of these great national sins still make themselves felt. We must rededicate ourselves to ensuring that the promise of liberty and justice for all is realized for every American. It will take work, but I have faith in our country and in my fellow Americans, and I believe that we can get there.

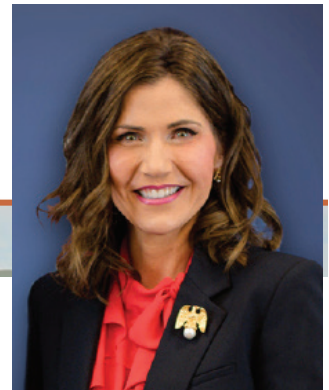
My prayers today are with George Floyd's family and with all those who are suffering because of his unjust death. "And what does the Lord require of you?" the book of Micah asks. "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." May we all seek justice and mercy and walk humbly in the days that are ahead.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 18 of 79



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



The Protests Served Their Purpose—Now It's Time to Problem Solve

Protests have a purpose. People protest when they feel like they're not being heard. For the last week, we've seen countless protests because of what happened to George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis police. Personally, I couldn't even make it through the video of his death because it was so gut-wrenching. There is no one that thinks that what happened to George Floyd was okay.

The protests have served their purpose. The question before us now is: What do we want policing to look like going forward? That's at all levels – city, county, and state.

There's no governor in America that has trusted their people to make the right choices more than I have these last several months. And there's no governor in America more willing to work with her people to find solutions to our problems – be that policing or otherwise. It's time to problem solve.

Policing is largely a state and local issue – the vast majority of police officers are local, not federal, and the laws they enforce are local, not federal. If we want to change the nature of policing, South Dakota must take the lead on that ourselves.

In America, the street doesn't settle or resolve this policing question, or any other public policy question. Rather, it's the hard work of study, review, debate, negotiation, and accommodation. Then, we decide what is the best action.

One-liners on social media aren't the answer. People need to ask themselves: What are the facts? What are the consequences? What can history teach us? Our American political system is deliberative, so we must take the time to do the hard work of looking at these things from all angles.

One thing I have noticed about public discourse in America today is the immediacy of it all. Social media and the internet have made it easy to communicate quickly – instantly, in fact. That's a great tool, but it has also made it easy to communicate thoughtlessly. In the race to be heard, too many of us have given up trying to make an argument. Instead, we compete to see who can shout the loudest.

America is a place where all voices can be heard. Free speech is one of our most fundamental rights. I see legitimate protests raising important concerns, and I hear those concerns. But I also see violent actors who are trying to do an end-run around public discourse. They want to intimidate and silence opposing views. They want to short-cut public debate through fear. They want to make people scared. This is un-American.

The biggest lesson I've learned when tackling public policy issues is that there's no institution more important than the family. We are blessed with great families in South Dakota and in America. Whatever your family looks like, make sure you're a strong family.

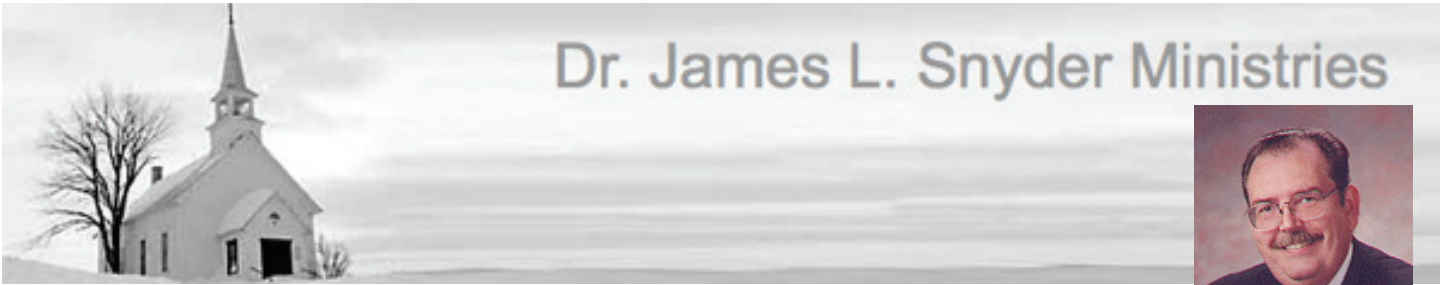
I say that because what's been taking place across our country shows that some of our families need a lot more attention. Parents need to know if their kids are out throwing rocks at cops. Brothers and sisters need to know if their siblings are looting and vandalizing businesses. Grandparents need to know if their grandkids are intentionally trying to destroy our way of life.

Violence is never the answer. Violence will not be tolerated by me, and it should not be tolerated by you. We have an opportunity to be better. But that requires us to be bold, to respect one another, listen to each other, and work together on our path forward.

This column is adapted from Gov. Noem's op-ed that originally ran on FoxNews.com.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 19 of 79



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Will There Be Television in Heaven?

If anybody can ask hard questions, the award has to go to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She knows how to ask a question and, more importantly, when to ask a particular question.

Throughout our marriage, she has become an expert in the area of questionology. There is not a question I can think of that she hasn't asked.

On the other side of the parsonage, my expertise has been in not correctly answering questions. It is not that I cannot answer a question; I do not answer in a way that fits her expectations. That is important when it comes to my wife. Her expectation is quite high.

Even though we have been married for such a long time, I have yet to master the art of hearing the question the way she wants it heard. My experience has taught me that if I do not answer the question correctly, I can be in deep trouble. Believe me, I have experience in this.

We were watching the news the other night after supper, and as you know, the news is terrible these days. All they seem to be able to show is the devastating depravity that is going on in our country. At times, I get a little weary of all this dreariness.

During a commercial, I heard my wife clear her throat and then say, "Do you think there will be television in heaven?"

I must confess that that question caught me off guard. I thought for a few moments and did not quite understand precisely the context of her question. I have learned by experience that if I do not understand the question from her point, how in the world can I give the correct answer?

I glanced her way, cleared my throat, and said, "Excuse me, what did you say?"

Looking at me, she simply said, "You heard me. Do you think there will be television in heaven?"

That is a hard question to answer because during the last few months when we could not go out anywhere, we would stay home and watch a Hallmark Mystery Movie. It is good to watch them and forget about what's happening out in the real world. They always have a happy ending.

For example. While watching the news, it gets very discouraging. Just when you think nothing can get any worse, it does!

For quite a while, I have not really believed what I hear and see on any news station. Sometimes the local stations get something right, but the national media is another story. They will do and say anything to get ratings.

Then, of course, there are the politicians. I think if a politician ever consistently told the truth, their body would drop over dead out of sheer shock. I do not understand why people just cannot tell the truth these days.

However, my wife's question was very thought provoking. We are so accustomed to television in our society today that we cannot imagine anywhere without it. I know there are places where you cannot get a television signal, but for the most part, television has really conquered our world.

I remember a famous quote from Will Rogers; "All I know is what I read in the newspapers."

If Rogers were alive today, he would edit that quote to; "All I know is what I see on television."

Unfortunately, that is all people know today. And they allow that to control their lives and their attitude and so forth.

Although I cannot imagine our society without television, I cannot imagine heaven with television. After

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 20 of 79

all, there is a special place for "all liars" (Revelation 21:8).

Consider, for instance, the reality shows on TV. There is absolutely no reality to any of those shows. The only reality they have is making money.

Also, on the news, we only see the worst side of humanity, for the most part. After watching the news, it is hard to trust anybody.

I then asked my wife, "I'm not sure, what do you think?"

"I've been thinking about that," she said very thoughtfully, "and my conclusion is simply, I hope not."

There are times in which my wife and I do not always agree, but on this point, I think we agree 100%. That is a rarity, and I want to remember this for quite a while.

If there were television in heaven, what shows would actually be allowed to be shown? And, would there be any celebrities or personalities?

I cannot imagine a television program I would like to watch if I was in heaven. I think there are many other things more satisfying than watching something on television that has no relationship to reality whatsoever.

Finishing our little conversation, I asked my wife, "If there was television in heaven, what program would you want to watch?"

That started a very long and serious conversation, and I began to find out some of her likes and dislikes.

After our conversation, I began to think about what the Bible said along this line. "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts" (Psalm 10:4).

My conclusion was this; anything that keeps God out of my thoughts is something I need to get out of my life. Heaven will be so full of the thoughts of God that nothing else would ever get in.

Cancellation of festivals costing S.D. communities money and momentum **Bart Pfankuch and Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch**

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of dozens of fairs, festivals and other events in South Dakota in 2020 that typically provide a significant revenue boost and foster community cohesiveness in cities and counties across the state.

As of early June, nearly four dozen community events, many of them multi-day affairs, were cancelled and not rescheduled, according to the state Department of Tourism. Those cancellations are in addition to the temporary or permanent closure of dozens more businesses and attractions that lure visitors and spending to the state each year.

According to a compilation of cancellations and closures on the tourism department website, at least 15 events have been cancelled in the western region, 14 in the southeast, nine in the northeast and six in the center of the state. Several other events have been postponed and may resurface later in the summer or fall.

Millions of dollars in income for businesses and individuals will be lost, and sales-tax revenues that fund operations of cities, counties and the state will be reduced as events are cancelled over fears of spreading the potentially deadly coronavirus.

The state does not break out financial, tax or employment data on the impact of community events, festivals, rodeos and fairs, but Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen said the cancellation of dozens of events will deprive many businesses and communities, especially in remote rural regions, a critical source of income and tax revenues that may be impossible to replicate.

"Especially for our small towns in rural South Dakota, we know how important those events are," Hagen said. "That event, that fair, that rodeo or that festival really becomes a rallying point and big source of revenue for the community and folks that live there."

The cancellations include time-honored, community-defining events across the state, such as Yankton Riverboat Days, the Siouxland Renaissance Festival in Sioux Falls, Lake Andes Fish Days, Oahe Days in Pierre, Wild Bill Days in Deadwood, the Hills Alive Christian music festival in Rapid City, the Fall River County Fair in Edgemont and the Festival in the Park in Spearfish.

Many smaller, niche interest events are also off for 2020, including Arts in the Park in Aberdeen, the Wheel Jam in Huron, the Custer Off-Road Rally, the Black Hills Quilt Show in Rapid City and the Sturgis Camaro Rally. Fireworks shows in Watertown and Sioux Falls have also been cancelled.

Tourism is big business in South Dakota and a major revenue source for communities across the state, especially during local events, Hagen said. According to state data, 14.5 million people visited the state



The two-day Hills Alive Christian music festival, shown here in 2019, draws an estimated 20,000 people per day to downtown Rapid City for free concerts each July. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 event was cancelled. Photo: Courtesy

Rapid City Journal, Adam Fondren

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 22 of 79

in 2019, spending \$4.1 billion and generating \$308 million in state and local taxes and supporting more than 55,000 jobs.

Hagen said revenue in the tourism industry in South Dakota is estimated to be down by about 70% so far this year, with some hotels reporting occupancy rates of only 15% to 30%, far below normal. The festival cancellations are adding to the industry woes.

A 2012 report by the national Americans for the Arts organization found that non-profit art and cultural events attracted an estimated 3.3 million people and generated almost \$97 million in spending in South Dakota in 2010. The study included a survey of 3,300 South Dakota event attendees who reported that in addition to any admission costs, they spent an average of \$17.20 per person.

Based on the study, the Czech Days festival in Tabor, which attracts up to 10,000 visitors each June, could generate up to \$172,000 in new local spending in the town of 408 people.

The decision to cancel the events is sometimes heartbreaking for organizers who have spent most of the year preparing to host vibrant events that may include music, food, sports, history and culture and children's activities. The loss of the 2020 events also cuts off a funding stream that pays for other community programs and activities.

Scrapping the June 6 Fort Sisseton Historical Festival was one of the toughest decisions park manager Ali Tronsfeldt has ever made. Part historic re-enactment, part celebration of frontier culture, the annual event has been held for decades at the Fort Sisseton Historical State Park and helps sustain the park's cultural resources.

"It just broke my heart," Tronsfeldt said. "I know people have come for 40-some years, they bring their kids or grandkids and it's a family tradition for thousands of people."

The cancellations are sure to reduce morale in communities that are already suffering from the isolation and upheaval of normal life amid the pandemic.

"It does take an emotional toll on individuals and the communities as a whole," Hagen said. "These are events that people plan their whole summers around, they become a reunion for families, and there's only so much you can do virtually to make up for that."

Sturgis rally and state fair still on for now

As of early June, two of South Dakota's largest annual events — the Sturgis motorcycle rally in August and the State Fair in Huron in September — were still planning to be held.

As far as the biggest event in South Dakota each year — the Sturgis motorcycle rally — Hagen said the state is working with officials in Sturgis to gather data and medical information to make the best pos-



Muzzle-loaded cannons were vital in the Civil War and are a prominent feature of the Fort Sisseton Historical Festival at Fort Sisseton Historical State Park in northeastern South Dakota. The festival brings an average of 10,000 visitors to the park each year and is an important source of revenue, but it was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Photo: Courtesy Fort Sisseton Historical State Park

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 23 of 79

sible decision about whether to host the rally, which is scheduled for Aug. 7-16.

An announcement on the status of the official event will be made on or around June 16, Hagen said.

The rally drew an estimated 490,000 people to the Black Hills for the 10-day event in 2019, and saw record attendance of 740,000 people at the 75th rally in 2015. The overall economic impact to the state in 2019 was estimated at \$720 million.

Hagen said he anticipates that a large number of bikers and vendors will come to Sturgis in August even if the 80th rally is officially cancelled.

"My guess would be that we will still see those folks coming in," Hagen said. "It's hard to know, but we're receiving emails inquiring about the status of the rally and some people telling us they're coming regardless of what we do."

In a June 3 news release in response to questions from South Dakota News Watch, the Department of Agriculture said the state fair remained scheduled for Sept. 3-7, but will likely include changes to address risks from COVID-19.

The release did not specify what fair planners may change to follow guidelines from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that warn that gatherings of more than 250 people significantly increase the risk of disease transmission.

"We know that this will look a lot different than previous years, but our highest priority is to ensure we are implementing measures so guests, participants, and the community can take the precautions necessary to stay healthy," State Fair Director Peggy Besch said in the news release.

More than 205,000 people attended the 2019 state fair and generated sales tax collections of more than \$224,000.



The traditional Czech beseda dance is a prominent feature of the town of Tabor's annual Czech Days festival. During the Czech Days Beseda, 238 people wearing traditional Czech garb are arranged in groups of four — two men and two women — and dance together in Tabor's Sokol Park. The 2020 Czech Days festival was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo: Courtesy Czech Days

Painful decisions, widespread impacts

The loss of Czech Days in Tabor for 2020 was a hard pill for area residents to swallow. The event has been held for more than 70 years and had been scheduled for June 18-20.

"I've got family that live five to six hours away, now they've got kids of their own and it's sad that they won't get to be a part of the festival this year," said Laverne Schieffer, chairman of the town council. "That

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 24 of 79

probably hurts more than the other stuff.”

Schieffer is also a member of the town’s volunteer fire department. Each year, the department raises a substantial portion of its annual budget selling food during Czech Days, he said.

Many of the cultural and social institutions in Tabor benefit from Czech Days in one form or another, said Mark Povondra, an event organizer. In addition to the fire department, Tabor’s American Legion Post 183, the St. Wenceslaus Alter Society and Tabor’s Czech Heritage Society all raise money selling food and beverages. Each organization can then spend money it earned during Czech Days on things such as youth baseball, an after-prom event for high-school seniors or free swimming lessons at the city pool, Povondra said.

“It is going to have an impact throughout the year,” Povondra said. “They may have to look at trying other opportunities for fundraising, like putting on bingo or anything that will help get them through the year.”

Some Czech Days attendees travel from around the country and even internationally. The event features 238 traditional Czech Beseda dancers whirling in Sokol Park, copious amounts of kolaches — a traditional Czech pastry — and a parade in addition to carnival rides and games.

“It’s kind of like canceling Christmas in Tabor,” Povondra said of calling off Czech Days 2020.

The planning process has already begun for Czech Days 2021, Povondra said, and organizers are hopeful that seven decades of history will help bring visitors back.

The Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, which combines Civil War reenactors with a fur trade-era rendezvous and recreations of frontier life for displays and hands-on history lessons for park visitors, is an integral part of the Fort Sisseton Historical State Park’s mission. Fort Sisseton was built in 1864 in a still remote section of the Prairie Coteau near the Lake Traverse Reservation in the northeast corner of what became South Dakota. Much of the Civil War-era fort remains standing and was designated as a state park in 1956.

Maintaining interest in the Fort Sisseton Historical Festival is important to the park because it drives park attendance and revenue. In an average year, 10,000 people — roughly one-fifth of the park’s annual visitors — come for the festival, Tronsfeldt said. At \$5 a head, festival entry fees would generate around \$50,000 in an average year. Not holding the event almost certainly means the park’s revenue will be down in 2020 and raises questions about how the 2021 festival will be funded.

“I don’t know what next year looks like when it comes to funding or resources,” Tronsfeldt said. “But I can tell you that my crew and I, and everybody who is involved in the festival, will do our best to make it the best festival that we can.”

The cancellation of smaller, niche events also has a negative financial impact on local businesses. Edward Miller, owner of the Rush No More RV Resort and Campground in Meade County, said he lost money when the organizers of the Black Hills Bluegrass Festival cancelled the 2020 event set to be held at his campground



The Hot Springs Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival has drawn crowds of people to the Southern Hills city each June for the past 40 years, but has been cancelled for 2020 due to concerns of spreading the coronavirus. Photo: Courtesy Fall River County Herald Star, Brett Nachtigall

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 25 of 79

and music venue the last weekend in June.

"It certainly hurt us because we had close to 400 people stay here for the event last year," Miller said.

In addition to RV and campsite rentals, Miller will lose out on revenue from the beer garden and casual dining options he provides. He's also disappointed for the fans of bluegrass music and the festival organizers who have held the event for 40 years.

"It's a fun time and everybody really enjoys it, and I'm really sorry it's not going to happen because it's such a great event," Miller said.

Though the official bluegrass fest is off, Miller said he is planning to provide accommodations and a music venue for some of the musicians and patrons who have told Miller they still plan to come in late June to hold an unofficial bluegrass jam session.

A sometimes tense debate occurred among the committee members who run the annual Hot Springs Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival, said Gerald Collogan, who has helped organize the event for the past 30 years. The event typically attracts 50 to 60 vendors and 3,000 to 4,000 patrons over the last weekend in June, Collogan said.

The committee considered moving the event to later in the summer, but eventually decided that concerns over the potential for spreading the coronavirus outweighed the benefits of hosting an event that could end up being smaller or less well-attended anyway.

"The people for 43 years have looked forward to the festival and they know exactly what time of year it is," Collogan said. "But it came down to safety. We didn't want to be the factor that would possibly spread the virus if anybody was infected and walked through the festival."

Cancellations part of tough year for tourism

The cancellation of dozens of local events is one more challenge added to an already difficult year for the tourism in South Dakota, said Julie Schmitz Jensen, CEO of Visit Rapid City.

Jensen said visitors from out of town may not come to the Black Hills or other regions of South Dakota solely because there is a local event taking place, but that once they arrive, they are likely to attend the events and spend money on food, drink and merchandise.

"Those festivals, fairs and events are all very very important to the whole picture of what makes Rapid City a great place to come visit," Jensen said. "They make our city a vibrant city."

Visit Rapid City mainly focuses its marketing efforts on people from outside South Dakota because the money they spend is seen as new revenue being pumped into the state and local economy.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has shifted its focus away from targeting people who have to



Big crowds show up to the Fall River County Fair every summer to participate in and watch events like the hog-wrestling competition. The fair was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, causing a loss of revenue and revelry in Edgemont. Photo: Courtesy Fall River County

Herald Star, Brett Nachtigall

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 26 of 79

fly to South Dakota and instead has heightened efforts to lure those who are in the "drive markets," or places that are within a six to eight hour drive from the Hills.

"The bread and butter for us are the people from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Colorado; those are the people bringing money from outside our state and leaving it here," Jensen said.

While tourism spending overall is likely to be off significantly in 2020, Jensen said South Dakota communities will remain attractive to visitors who are feeling cooped up and want to visit places where most activities are outside and safer from the coronavirus.

"Gas prices are at all-time low, and we have the great outdoors, so you can socially distance here and feel safe," she said.

Hagen said the state is urging all tourism and event providers to place a high priority on following guidance from the CDC to maintain social-distancing guidelines and keep group sizes as low as possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"If we don't provide a safe environment when they get here, we won't have any tourism," Hagen said. "Our industry is taking this very, very seriously and putting in place those protocols."

Hagen said he is concerned that the negative impacts of the virus on tourism in South Dakota and beyond may linger for a few years, making it likely some people may not return to travel anytime soon. He said the U.S. travel industry has lost \$600 billion so far due to the pandemic.

"I don't think it's something that will resolve itself in one season; we're going to be feeling the effects of this virus for a couple years or more."

However,

Hagen said the local event cancellations may make people more appreciative of the celebrations when they return, and he predicted that some events may come back stronger in 2021 as a result.

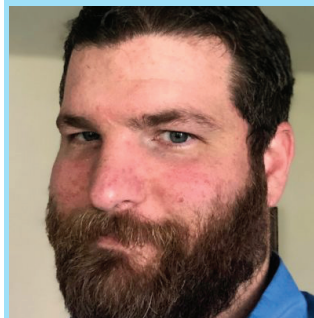
"The majority of those cancelling this year are definitely planning for next year, and some have already announced those 2021 dates, so that's encouraging," he said. "I, for one, am not going to take any of the things I used to do every summer or those things that I attend, I'm never going to take those for granted again."

ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



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

ABOUT NICK LOWREY



Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 27 of 79

#104 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The numbers are looking much better today. This could be weekend reporting effect, We're at 1,933,100 cases in the US. New case numbers are well down, far below that 30,000 spike from yesterday and back down around 21,000. I hope these wild swings settle down so we can get a line on the real trend; I'll continue to keep a close watch for another week. NY leads with 382,102 cases, holding steady, still just over 1000. NJ has 163,893 cases, a nice decrease, well below 1000. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 129,064, IL – 127,248, MA – 103,132, PA – 79,507, TX – 74,894, MI – 64,194, FL – 62,750, and MD – 587,099. These ten states account for 64% of US cases, a drop; this is an indication that other states are stepping up new case reports as these states bring things under control, a worry. 4 more states have over 40,000 cases, 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 8 more states have over 20,000 cases, 8 more have over 10,000, 7 more + DC over 5000, 6 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, CO, VA, IA, GA, WI, LA, and AL. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, NC, TX, TN, MI, AZ, FL, and WA. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MD, NJ, CT, IL, OH, PA, and IN. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 110,019 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths is pretty steady, still over 1000. NY has 30,123, NJ has 12,106, MA has 7289, PA has 5986, MI has 5894, IL has 5898, CA has 4626, and CT has 4055. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today. 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.

I just got around to reading in the journal Health Affairs a paper from researchers at the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Georgia State University about social distancing that's a few weeks old. It's pretty startling, concluding that without any social distancing measures in the US, the case count could have been 35 times higher than it was. Think about that: These authors postulate that as of the date of the article (May 27), we could have had almost 60 million cases, had we not instituted mitigation measures. The most effective measures were found to be shelter-in-place orders and closings of restaurants and bars.

We'll add to this the findings of a study modeling transmission and interventions which was done by researchers in Germany and published a few weeks ago in Science. Their interest here was in identifying change points in the spreading rate, and they saw about a two-week delay from when measures were undertaken until confirmed case numbers responded. The three change points identified were the cancellation of large events, the closing of schools, childcare centers and most stores, and a contact ban with closing of all nonessential stores. They found that all of the interventions were required to stop exponential growth and initiate decay in new infection rates. They also point out that if transmission begins to pick back up to exponential levels as restrictions are lifted, "we would be effectively blind to this worsened situation for nearly two weeks in which transmission will be uninhibited. . . . Therefore, it is important to consider lifting restrictions only when the number of active cases are so low that a two-week increase will not pose a serious threat to healthcare infrastructure." I think it's safe to say we're not doing this in the US. Look for trouble ahead—with a two-week lag, apparently.

I've been reading descriptions of a manifestation of Covid-19 about which little has been written, one that doesn't conform to the typical profile of the disease. This occurs in people who have cases of the disease sometimes too mild to require hospitalization, but who experience repeated recurrences of symptoms and fatigue for months. I do not believe there has been a formal study, but there has been a survey of people who've had symptoms over more than 30 days, and it is revealing.

Three in five of them are between 30 and 49 years of age; fewer than half have been hospitalized. Many of them have not been tested because their symptoms were not severe and tests have not been widely

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 28 of 79

available; but many have been assured by their physicians their symptoms are almost certainly attributable to the virus. Their symptoms can shift over time, some of them like classic Covid-19 and some not so much. It is possible the virus persists in these people, it is possible they are reacting to lingering fragments of viral RNA, and it is possible there is an ongoing cytokine storm: It's simply too early to know. There do appear to be exacerbations whenever the patient tries to engage in more normal life activities—cleaning, shopping, working out, going to work. Some people do get better with time; but this condition has not been around long enough to see what the eventual outcomes will be. There is little doubt, however, that there will be long term consequences, at least for some.

A new threat is showing up related to the two big news stories of this month, the pandemic and the street protests. One concomitant of the protests is the use by police of tear gas and/or pepper spray, which increases susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 by irritating and doing long-term damage to lungs. Whatever your opinion about the use of tear gas to quell protests, we should note that, in the residential neighborhoods where it is increasingly being used, it seeps into homes and other buildings and into mass transit systems, affecting people who are not part of the protests, endangering them as it does participants in the protests; and this also has consequences. Homes contaminated by the gas require careful cleaning of all surfaces to remove the residue; food in open containers will be contaminated and must be discarded. In these frequently poor neighborhoods, that imposes additional burdens on residents, even those who stayed home from the protests.

The problem is serious enough that over a thousand medical and health care professionals signed an open letter urging police to stop using "tear gas, smoke, or other respiratory irritant, which could increase risk for COVID-19 by making the respiratory tract more susceptible to infection, exacerbating existing inflammation, and inducing coughing."

The damage it causes is a result of the chemical make-up of the gas. It affects pain receptors, causing pain and inducing coughs, which causes people to shed more of the virus. It degrades the mucus membranes that protect you from viruses and bacteria; it is well established that this degradation increases susceptibility to infection from those pathogens. Tests conducted on military personnel resulted in findings that risk was increased for influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis, and other respiratory illnesses. When you remember that soldiers are, on average, healthier than the general public, less likely to have conditions like asthma or heart disease, it is easy to see that the public is even more at risk. The gas induces an inflammatory response in the lung, causing it to fill with mucus and airways to constrict, making breathing difficult. Additionally, tear gas is thought to be linked to miscarriages with the effect increased with greater or repeated exposure. Children so exposed are believed to develop permanent skin and eye damage or neurological impairment. Gas exposure can be fatal when it occurs in poorly ventilated areas to people with preexisting respiratory conditions.

In addition to the physiologic effects of gas, there are the behavioral ones. People hit with tear gas tend to remove their masks as they struggle to breathe. They will cough vigorously and then inhale vigorously to try to get air in as their airways constrict. This is bound to increase the likelihood of transmission. Additionally, panic can cause stampeding, which brings people into closer proximity, just as they're removing masks and breathing hard as they expel plenty of respiratory droplets.

Use of tear and pepper gas damages the body in ways that spread the virus and increase the severity of disease. Deploying these chemicals exposes more people to the virus, compromises your ability to resist the infection, and exacerbate mild infections into severe ones. According to Sven Eric Jordt from Duke University Medical School, "This is a recipe for disaster. Using it in the current situation with COVID-19 around is completely irresponsible. There are sufficient data proving that tear gas can increase the susceptibility to pathogens, to viruses." He adds that antiviral defenses "are depleted by inhalation of tear gas." Dr. John Balmes, pulmonologist, University of California, San Francisco and the American Thoracic Society, says tear gas will make people more likely to develop severe illness. He explained the injury and inflammation of the airway lining sets back the body's defenses and makes it more likely someone who has the virus will become sick, increasing "the risk of progression from the asymptomatic infection, to a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 29 of 79

symptomatic disease." So it increases the number of symptomatic infections and the number of seriously ill people, not a happy outcome.

I am staying away from policy issues as much as possible in reporting on this pandemic, but it is important to point out, within the context of the pandemic, that tear and pepper gas usage has health consequences related to the virus. It places at risk of Covid-19 residents who may have not chosen to protest at all, including the most vulnerable people. And this risk will be visited disproportionately on members of minority communities who, for the most part, populate the communities where the gas is discharged.

When colleges ended face-to-face classes back in March, a whole lot of college students, their social lives cut off and their class meetings eliminated, found themselves with additional time on their hands. A couple of them from schools in Pennsylvania and Maryland realized there were people with needs and other students with this extra time, so they started a spreadsheet of organizations needing help, hoping to connect the students with them. Their initial thinking was that, if their campaign helped just a few dozen people, it would be satisfying; but then the spreadsheet started spreading. A couple of other students volunteered to build a website (coronaconnects.com) where volunteers can find opportunities matching their interests, location, and availability and where organizations can submit their needs and connect with volunteers.

A student who handles marketing for the effort said, "I think the beauty of this platform is that we're reminding people you might be geographically and physically alone right now, but we're all interconnected. We're here for you. And we're one society. We're one humanity." Sounds to me like more of that together apart thing I've been flogging. Of course, you don't have to be a college student to offer a helping hand, so don't let that stop you. Just let the kids lead you; students make great teachers.

Stay well. We'll talk tomorrow.

3 Weeks Ago

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

2 Weeks Ago

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

Last Week

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

This Week

Total Confirmed
6,916,233
1,920,061 US
672,846 Brazil
467,073 Russia
286,295 United Kingdom
247,678 India
241,310 Spain
234,801 Italy
191,758 Peru
190,759 France
185,696 Germany

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 30 of 79

Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7
Minnesota	25,508	25,870	26,273	26,980	27,501
Nebraska	14,611	14,866	15,117	15,379	15,543
Montana	523	525	539	541	540
Colorado	26,788	27,060	27,360	27,615	27,848
Wyoming	701	703	709	721	726
North Dakota	2646	2679	2706	2745	2816
South Dakota	5067	5162	5247	5277	5367
United States	1,831,821	1,851,520	1,872,660	1,898,401	1,920,061
US Deaths	106,181	107,175	108,211	109,137	109,802

Minnesota	+300	+362	+403	+707	+521
Nebraska	+266	+255	+251	+262	+164
Montana	+4	+2	+14	+2	-1
Colorado	+211	+272	+300	+255	+233
Wyoming	+1	+2	+6	+12	+5
North Dakota	+21	+33	+27	+39	+71
South Dakota	+33	+95	+85	+30	+90
United States	+20,451	+19,699	+21,140	+25,741	21,660
US Deaths	+1,016	+994	+1,036	+926	+665

	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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 31 of 79

June 6th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

Positive cases are spreading through the state with yet, another county (Dewey) getting its first positive case and McPherson falling from the fully recovered list.

Beadle County is back up to 18 positive cases, Pennington County has 13 and Minnehaha has 10 positive cases. One county seeing a big increase is Clay County, having 9 of its 13 cases reported in one day.

There are 23 counties reporting positive cases today. The percent of recovered cases continues a positive tick in both the state and Brown County. Day County had one positive case reassigned so you will see a negative number there. If a county is not listed, it means they have not had a positive or recovered case to report today.

No new deaths in South Dakota, but North Dakota reported one new death.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -3 (56)

Recovered: +7 (238)

Total Positive: +4 (295)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (13)

Deaths: 1

Negative Tests: +96 (1716)

Percent Recovered: 80.7% (1.3 increase)

South Dakota:

Positive: +90 (5367 total)

Negative: +2005 (50091 total)

Hospitalized: +7 (474 total) - 93 currently hospitalized (10 more than yesterday)

Deaths: 0 (65 total)

Recovered: +94 (4273 total)

Active Cases: -4 (1029)

Percent Recovered: 79.6% up 0.4

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Dewey): Bennett +6 (133), Butte +2 (230), Campbell +1 (41), Haakon +67 (129), Harding 30, Jones +1 (16), Mellette +2 (77), Perkins 24, Potter +4 (139), unassigned +506 (7339).

Aurora: +2 positive (17 of 29 recovered)

Beadle: +18 positive, +28 recovered (159 of 361 recovered)

Brookings: +2 positive (16 of 22 recovered)

Brown: +4 positive, +7 recovered (238 of 295 recovered)

Buffalo: +2 positive, +3 recovered (8 of 24 recovered)

Charles Mix: +2 positive (11 of 20 recovered)

Clay: +9 positive (13 of 27 recovered)

Codington: +2 positive, +1 recovered (31 of 41 recovered)

Davison: +3 positive (10 of 24 recovered)

Day: -1 positive (12 of 13 recovered)

Dewey: First positive case.

Grant: +1 recovered (11 of 13 recovered)

Hand: +1 positive (1 of 4 recovered)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 32 of 79

Jerauld: +1 recovered (27 of 39 recovered)
 Kingsbury: +1 positive, +1 recovered (2 of 4 recovered)
 Lake: +1 positive (7 of 13 recovered)
 Lawrence: +1 recovered (10 of 12 recovered)
 Lincoln: +4 positive, +4 recovered (226 of 250 recovered)
 Lyman: +6 positive (10 of 22 recovered)
 McPherson: +1 positive (1 of 2 recovered)
 Meade: +1 recovered (10 of 24 recovered)
 Minnehaha: +10 positive, +27 recovered (3031 of 3397 recovered)
 Oglala Lakota: +2 recovered (12 of 35 recovered)
 Pennington: +13 positive, +13 recovered (109 of 297 recovered)
 Roberts: +1 positive (31 of 38 recovered)
 Todd: +3 positive (20 of 36 recovered)
 Union: +5 positive, +3 recovered (76 of 98 recovered)
 Yankton: +1 positive, +1 recovered (45 of 53 recovered)

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

The NDDoH & private labs report 4,034 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 71 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,816. NDDoH also reports one new death.

State & private labs have reported 111,537 total completed tests.
 2,268 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	621	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	923	17%
Hispanic	934	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	590	11%
Other	627	12%
White, Non-Hispanic	1672	31%

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

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 33 of 79

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	29	17	180
Beadle	361	159	608
Bennett	0	0	133
Bon Homme	8	6	403
Brookings	22	16	926
Brown	295	238	1812
Brule	2	1	283
Buffalo	24	8	267
Butte	0	0	230
Campbell	0	0	41
Charles Mix	20	11	326
Clark	4	4	172
Clay	27	13	626
Codington	41	31	1181
Corson	4	3	78
Custer	1	0	188
Davison	27	10	963
Day	13	12	233
Deuel	1	1	221
Dewey	1	0	467
Douglas	3	3	172
Edmunds	3	1	177
Fall River	6	3	304
Faulk	1	1	57
Grant	13	11	241
Gregory	1	0	153
Haakon	0	0	129
Hamlin	5	4	173
Hand	5	1	110
Hanson	2	0	85
Harding	0	0	30
Hughes	19	16	742
Hutchinson	6	3	435

Hyde	1	1	56
Jackson	4	0	51
Jerauld	39	27	169
Jones	0	0	16
Kingsbury	4	2	248
Lake	13	7	312
Lawrence	12	10	624
Lincoln	250	226	2901
Lyman	22	10	287
Marshall	4	3	118
McCook	6	4	347
McPherson	2	1	107
Meade	24	10	709
Mellette	0	0	77
Miner	2	1	122
Minnehaha	3397	3031	14543
Moody	19	16	251
Oglala Lakota	35	12	538
Pennington	297	109	3866
Perkins	0	0	24
Potter	0	0	139
Roberts	38	31	677
Sanborn	13	10	137
Spink	5	5	406
Stanley	10	8	93
Sully	1	1	35
Todd	36	20	548
Tripp	6	6	208
Turner	25	22	418
Union	98	76	703
Walworth	5	5	253
Yankton	53	45	1552
Ziebach	2	1	71
Unassigned****	0	0	7339

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

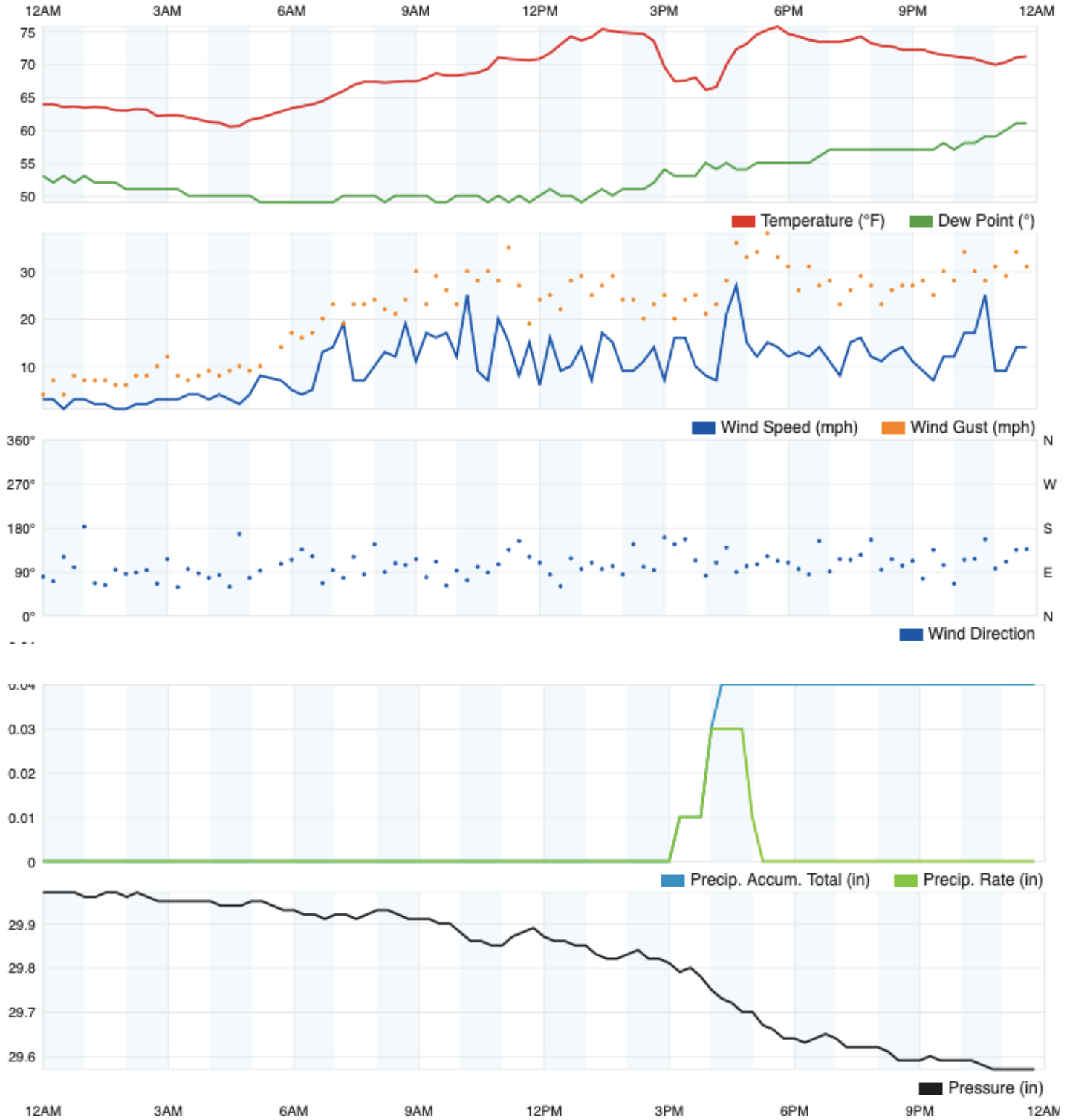
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2542	36
Male	2825	29

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	535	0
20-29 years	1047	1
30-39 years	1204	3
40-49 years	919	4
50-59 years	872	9
60-69 years	486	11
70-79 years	152	6
80+ years	152	31

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 34 of 79

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 35 of 79

Today



Severe
Thunderstorms
and Breezy

High: 93 °F

Tonight



Severe
Thunderstorms
and Breezy

Low: 70 °F

Monday



Breezy. Sunny
then Chance
T-storms

High: 89 °F

Monday
Night



T-storms

Low: 58 °F

Tuesday



T-storms
Likely

High: 68 °F

Storm Threat Sunday Afternoon

ISSUED: 2:36 AM - Sunday, June 07, 2020

WHAT

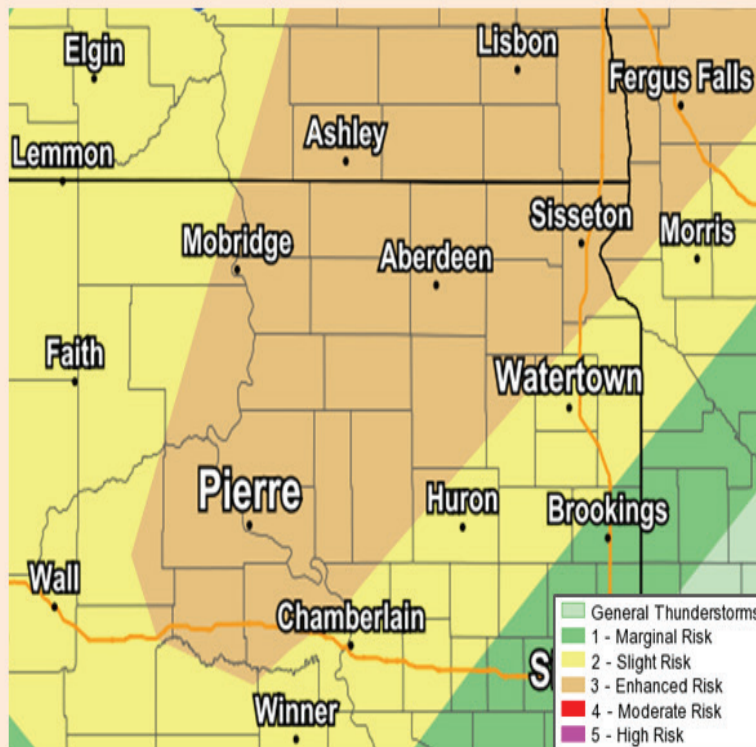
Severe Storms with the threat for **Tornadoes**, **Hail** and **Damaging Winds**. **Heavy Rain** potential exists as well.

WHERE/WHEN

Storms develop along a front between the James and Missouri valleys in the mid-late Afternoon.
Storms lift northeast rapidly.

CONFIDENCE

Confidence is highest in the Enhanced risk, but **all areas should be on alert Saturday evening/overnight**



The environment remains favorable for strong to severe thunderstorm development Sunday afternoon, with a stalled front situated between the Missouri and James valleys the focus for storm development. Risk includes all types of severe weather with this one, so be alert to changes in the forecast and keep an eye on the skies during the afternoon.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 36 of 79

Today in Weather History

June 7, 1982: Lightning struck a house in Sunshine Acres, north of Pierre, and the ensuing fire destroyed the interior. One person received minor burns. Over two inches of rain fell in Pierre causing Capital Lake to rise four feet. Water and mud flooded the State Maintenance Building.

June 7, 1993: A large F3 tornado destroyed a farmstead 9 miles southwest of Tulare. The tornado twisted the house on its foundation, virtually destroying it. This storm also destroyed a barn, three steel bins, three granaries, and two hog houses. Ten hogs were killed.

At least three more tornadoes damaged several farms in the Tulare and Redfield areas. A tornado hit one farm northwest of Tulare causing about 65,000 dollars in damage. Another tornado damaged a farm 5 miles west of Redfield.

1692: A massive earthquake strikes Port Royal in Jamaica, killing some 3,000 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1816: The following is found on page 31, from the book, "History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Year, and Life of Chauncey Jerome," written by Chauncey Jerome. The book was published in 1860. "The next summer was a cold one of 1816, which none of the old people will ever forget, and which many of the young have heard a great deal about. There was ice and snow in every month of the year. I well remember on the seventh of June, while on my way to work, about a mile from home, dressed throughout with thick woolen clothes and an overcoat on, my hands got so cold that I was obliged to lay down my tools and put on a pair of mittens which I had in my pocket. It snowed about an hour that day." This bitter cold event occurred in Plymouth, Connecticut.

1816 - A famous June snow occurred in the northeastern U.S. Danville VT reported drifts of snow and sleet twenty inches deep. The Highlands were white all day, and flurries were observed as far south as Boston MA. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Richmond VA experienced its worst flood of record as rains from Hurricane Agnes pushed the water level at the city locks to a height of 36.5 feet, easily topping the previous record of thirty feet set in 1771. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Laramie Mountains of eastern Wyoming produced golf ball size hail, and up to five inches of rain in just one hour. Half a dozen cities in the Upper Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse, WI, with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1988 - Snow whitened some of the mountains of northern California and northwestern Nevada. Twenty-six cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rapid City SD with a reading of 104 degrees, and Miles City, MT, with a high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from southern Oklahoma and eastern Texas to northwestern Florida through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes, including a dozen in Louisiana, and there were 119 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-2) tornado at Gross Tete LA killed two persons, injured thirty others, and another strong (F-2) tornado injured 60 persons at Lobdell LA. Softball size hail was reported at Hillsboro TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

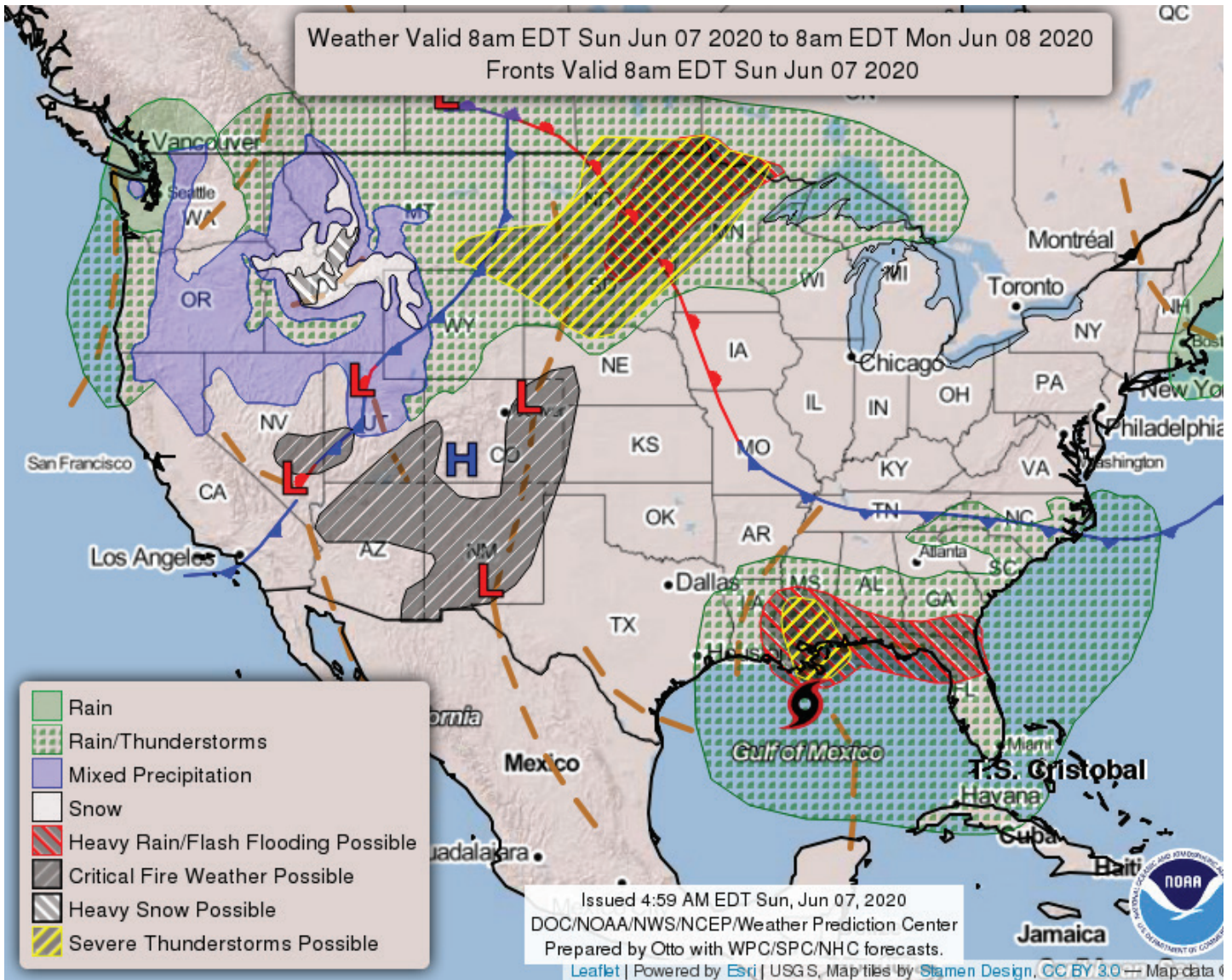
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 37 of 79

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 76 °F at 5:43 PM
Low Temp: 63 °F at 5:41 AM
Wind: 38 mph at 5:25 PM
Precip: .04

Record High: 95° in 1959, 1952
Record Low: 28° in 1901
Average High: 75°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in June.: .70
Precip to date in June.: 0.55
Average Precip to date: 7.84
Precip Year to Date: 5.18
Sunset Tonight: 9:20 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 38 of 79



TAMING A TEMPER

Bobby Jones began playing golf at the age of five. At twelve, he was able to defeat any golfer in his hometown. But he had a major problem: he had a hot temper that caused him some serious problems.

When he was fourteen, he entered the National Amateur Tournament. He had high expectations of winning but he lost this very prestigious event because of his temper. After things settled down, his "Grandpa Bart" went to him and said, "You're good enough to win. But you'll never win until you control your temper."

Later in life, when Bobby Jones became a world-famous golfer, "Grandpa Bart" said, "Bobby was fourteen when he mastered golf. But he was twenty-one when he mastered himself."

"Don't sin by letting anger gain control over you□for anger gives a mighty foothold to the devil."

We often become angry when someone does something that displeases us. It can be as simple as someone having too many items in a checkout line at the grocery store or as large as a trusted friend breaking an important promise or causing us embarrassment. The causes vary but the result is always the same: the devil is given a "mighty" foothold in our lives. And that always opens the door to bitterness and resentment that will destroy us and damage others.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to conquer our tempers and tongues that quickly get out of control when we are threatened or tested. May we be helpful, not hurtful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 39 of 79

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

01-11-23-26-27

(one, eleven, twenty-three, twenty-six, twenty-seven)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

10-12-22-39-46, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(ten, twelve, twenty-two, thirty-nine, forty-six; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.9 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$410 million

Powerball

01-17-38-68-69, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(one, seventeen, thirty-eight, sixty-eight, sixty-nine; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Lottery ticket sales open for Trump visit to Mount Rushmore

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota tourism officials say the number of ticket requests Friday for President Donald Trump's planned appearance at a Mount Rushmore fireworks show were nearly four times the amount available in the lottery.

Officials said they received nearly 5,700 applications requesting nearly 29,000 tickets by midday on Friday, the first day of ticket sales, the Rapid City Journal reported. Maximum capacity for the July 3 event is 7,500 people in ticketed areas.

The fireworks display at Mount Rushmore to celebrate Independence Day has not happened since 2009, when it was ended because of fire danger after a pine beetle infestation.

It costs \$1 to enter the lottery, which is a non-refundable fee and doesn't guarantee tickets. Those who are selected to receive tickets won't pay any additional cost.

Lottery ticket sales will close 10 a.m. Monday. Tickets will be awarded by Friday.

New cases of the coronavirus in South Dakota increase by 90

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — New cases of the coronavirus in South Dakota grew by 90 and the number of people hospitalized increased by 10, state health officials reported Saturday.

The total number of COVID-19 cases in the state stands at 5,367, including nearly 3,400 in Minnehaha County, which includes Sioux Falls. There are currently 93 people who are hospitalized.

No new deaths were confirmed, the state Health Department said. Active cases dropped by four from Friday, to 1,029.

Beadle, Pennington, Brown and Lincoln counties have all reported more than 200 COVID-19 cases since the pandemic took hold in South Dakota.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

New Mexico child disparities on food, violence ranked high

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

RIO RANCHO, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico has the highest child food insecurity and the lowest percentage of students graduating on time nationally, according to a new report from a global children's advocacy group.

The report by the Save the Children released Tuesday found that the American Southwestern state had the highest child food insecurity rate at 24.1% — well about the national average of 17%.

Food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited access to adequate food.

Using data from 2017, the report found that New Mexico had the highest percentage of students not graduating on time (28.9%). The latest numbers released by the state show that New Mexico's graduation rate has slightly increased by four percentage points since, but remains well below the national average.

"The Land of Inopportunity: Closing the Childhood Equity Gap for America's Kids" report found that children in the nation's most disadvantaged counties and census areas die at rates up to five times of children in the same state. Children in those regions also are 14 times as likely to drop out of school and are three times as likely to lack healthy food and consistent meals, the report said.

The report examined 2,600 counties using federal data from 2018 and earlier.

The report also found that New Mexico had one of the highest rates of violent childhood deaths, as measured by homicides and suicides among children aged 0 to 19. The state's violent childhood death rate was 12.8 per 100,000 residents, according to the group. Only Alaska and South Dakota — two other states with sizable Native American populations — had a higher rate.

Mark K. Shriver, senior vice president of U.S. programs & advocacy at Save the Children, said the findings should serve as a wake-up call for political leaders to battle poverty in New Mexico.

He praised Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and outgoing state Sen. John Arthur Smith for pushing for the expansion of early education programs in the state. Smith lost his bid for re-election Tuesday to a more liberal Democratic challenger.

"We have to make sure those dollars stay intact," Shriver said. "Obviously, there are competing demands here and we are in a crisis."

Madelyn "Maddie" Brace, 21, hopes the state will expand early childhood programs. A mother of a 4-month-old girl named Elora, her boyfriend's hours have been reduced to 22 hours a week, and he's working on getting unemployment.

The family lives in a southeastern Albuquerque, New Mexico, neighborhood where they hear gunshots regularly at night. "It happens so much now that it doesn't bother us anymore, but it should," Brace said. "New Mexico is not the best place to raise a child."

Allen Sánchez, president of the nonprofit group CHI St. Joseph's Children, which has long advocated for the expansion of early childhood programs in the state, said the report backs up what advocates have been shouting for decades about child poverty in New Mexico.

"We've been offer solution for years," Sánchez said. "The time for talking is over."

Sánchez said advocates will renew their push next year to seeks a state Constitutional amendment to take money for the state's permanent land fund to expand early childhood education programs.

Associated Press journalist Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

The Latest: Berlin police arrest 93 in clashes after protest

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Berlin police detain 93 in clashes after peaceful rally ends
- 14 police injured in London clashes after mostly peaceful protest
- Small anti-racism protest held in Hong Kong
- Portland police disperse Oregon protesters near Justice Center

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 42 of 79

— Statue of Confederate Gen. Wickham toppled in Richmond, Virginia

BERLIN — After a day of anti-racism protests across Europe, Berlin police said 93 people were detained in connection with a demonstration in the German capital — most of them after the main rally had ended. More anti-racism demonstrations were planned for Sunday across the U.K., including one outside the U.S. Embassy, just south of the River Thames.

At least 15,000 people had rallied peacefully in Berlin on Saturday in response to the May 25 death of American George Floyd, which has triggered global protests against racism and police brutality.

Police said several officers and one press photographer were injured in Berlin when bottles and rocks were thrown from a crowd that had gathered despite police orders to clear the city's Alexander Square an hour after the demonstration was over. Berlin police said 28 officers suffered minor injuries in the scuffles.

HONG KONG — About 20 people protested in Hong Kong to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement at a rally Sunday outside the U.S. consulate in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

"It's a global issue," said Quinland Anderson, a 28-year-old British citizen living in Hong Kong. "We have to remind ourselves, despite all we see going on in the U.S. and in the other parts of the world, black lives do indeed matter."

Organizers called off the rally late Saturday because of the city's coronavirus restrictions. Those that still showed up gathered in groups of eight, the limit on the size of public gatherings.

LONDON -- Britain's most senior police chief says 14 officers were injured during clashes with protesters in London on Saturday following a largely peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration.

Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said the assaults on officers were "shocking and completely unacceptable." She said a number of arrests have been made and "justice will follow."

The clashes broke out in the early evening near the Downing Street offices of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Video footage online showed one police officer colliding with a traffic light when her horse appeared to have bolted. The Met Police said the officer was taken to the hospital but her injuries are not life-threatening.

More demonstrations are planned Sunday across the U.K., including one outside the U.S. Embassy, just south of the River Thames.

Dick urged protesters to find "another way" of making their voices heard during the coronavirus pandemic.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Just before midnight, police began dispersing protesters in Portland near the county's Justice Center after declaring "a civil disturbance and unlawful assembly."

Portland police Lt. Tina Jones said on Twitter that a firework had been lobbed over the fence at the Justice Center, injuring a Multnomah County deputy. She says police were making arrests in the area.

In a video posted on Twitter by a Portland Tribune reporter, a voice from a loudspeaker could be heard ordering demonstrators to leave the area "or you will be subject to use of force and arrest."

In earlier videos, popping noises could be heard as whiffs of smoke wafted from a street filled with demonstrators, and a police officer is seen momentarily clashing with a protester.

RICHMOND, Va. — In the former capital of the Confederacy, demonstrators toppled a statue of Gen. Williams Carter Wickham from its pedestal after a day of mostly peaceful demonstrations across the commonwealth.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports that most of the demonstrators had already dispersed when a rope was tied around the Confederate statue, which has stood since 1891 in Richmond's Monroe Park, which is surrounded by the Virginia Commonwealth University campus. In 2017, some of Wickham's descendants urged the city to remove the statue.

A Richmond police spokeswoman didn't know if there were any arrests and the extent of any damage.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 43 of 79

Confederate monuments are a major flashpoint in Virginia. Last week, Gov. Ralph Northam announced that a state-owned statue of former Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee would be removed from its perch on the famed Monument Avenue "as soon as possible."

SEATTLE — Police used flash bang devices and pepper spray to disperse a crowd of protesters in Seattle on Saturday night, the ninth consecutive day of George Floyd protests in the city.

The mayhem in the city's Capitol Hill neighborhood followed a large, peaceful demonstration earlier in the day with medical workers demonstrating against racism and police brutality. It also came a day after Mayor Jenny Durkan and Police Chief Carmen Best imposed a 30-day moratorium on the department's use of one kind of tear gas.

KING-TV reports that a small group of protesters started throwing objects at officers about 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Police ordered the crowd to move, then used incendiary devices.

After police were severely criticized by protesters and public officials alike for using tear gas and pepper spray to disperse largely peaceful crowds, Durkan and Best said Friday outside groups would review and update crowd-control policies, including the use of pepper spray and deadly force techniques such as neck and choke holds. She and the mayor added that the ban on one kind of tear gas known as CS could be extended if groups need more time for policy review.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has ordered the city's police not to use a type of tear gas except as a last resort in life-threatening situations.

Wheeler issued a statement Saturday saying he shares community concerns about the use of CS gas, especially during a respiratory-illness pandemic.

Critics have called on the Portland Police Bureau to permanently ban the use of CS gas on protesters.

The announcement came a day after the mayor said police would no longer use a "long-range acoustic device," or LRAD, to disperse protesters. The device can emit high-pitched, loud frequencies and can cause hearing damage.

ATLANTA — Protests downtown assumed an almost festive feel at times on Saturday, with Atlanta's curfew lifted and police and National Guard presence somewhat out of view.

A group of black college band alumni were serenading one main protest area with a tuba-heavy mix of tunes from atop a parking garage.

Students from historically black colleges and other young people marched to City Hall to demand more action on police violence. Jauan Durbin said he began organizing protests after two fellow college students were pulled from their car and shocked with a stun gun last Saturday by police in Atlanta. The incident was caught on video by WGCL-TV and six officers were fired and then criminally charged.

Durbin said youth protesters are calling for increased financial assistance for black businesses from Atlanta's city government and increased funding for the city's public school system.

LONDON — Tens of thousands gathered in cities far from the United States to express anger over the death of George Floyd, a sign that the Black Lives Matter movement against police brutality is resonating with wider calls to address racism from Australia to Europe.

In Berlin, where police said 15,000 people rallied Saturday on Alexander Square, protesters chanted Floyd's name and held up placards with slogans such as "Stop police brutality" and "I can't breathe."

Some 20,000 others rallied in Munich, while thousands more took part in protests in Frankfurt and Cologne. In Paris, several thousand demonstrators ignored a protest ban — issued due to the coronavirus pandemic — and assembled within sight of the U.S. Embassy,

In London, tens of thousands staged a rally outside Parliament Square, invoking Floyd's memory as well as people who died during police encounters or indifference in Britain. Many dropped to one knee and raised their fists in the air outside the gleaming U.S. embassy building. There were chants of "Silence is

violence!" and "Color is not a crime!"

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

The Latest: Pope warns 'Be careful' after lockdowns lifted

By The Associated Press undefined

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is cautioning people in countries emerging from coronavirus lockdowns to keep following authorities' rules for COVID-19 containment.

"Be careful, don't cry victory, don't cry victory too soon," he said Sunday.

Italy's gradual easing of stay-at-home rules now allows the public to gather in St. Peter's Square on Sundays for the pope's noon blessing, and Francis was clearly delighted to see several hundred people gathered in the square below his window, standing safely either individually or as families.

Francis told the faithful to "follow the rules, they are rules that help us to avoid the virus getting ahead" again.

"Thank God, we're slowly coming out" from the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

But in his prepared remarks, the Argentine-born pontiff has also expressed dismay that the virus is still claiming many lives, especially in Latin America. In his off-the-cuff comments to the people in the square, he didn't name any country, but said that two days earlier, in one day, a death of an infected person was registered every minute.

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

- Coronavirus disrupts global fight to save endangered species
- Brazil yanks virus death toll as data befuddles experts
- Travel restrictions and lockdowns have made for one of Normandy's loneliest D-Day remembrances
- The British government faced criticism for another sudden change in its advice on face coverings that has left those running hospitals in England scrambling to work out how they will be able to meet the new requirements. As the World Health Organization broadened its recommendations for the use of masks, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said all hospital staff in England will have to wear surgical face masks from June 15 while visitors and outpatients will need to don some sort of face covering.
- People in Asia, Australia and Europe braved gloomy weather, infection risk and protest bans to voice support for George Floyd and for what is becoming an international Black Lives Matter movement. Demonstrations took place in Sydney, London, Seoul and other cities in a worldwide wave of solidarity.
- While seasonal colds and the flu spread through NFL locker rooms most years, football teams now have COVID-10 to worry about. Coaches are returning to their offices, but many players polled by The Associated Press say they're scared to return to work without a cure or a vaccine for the coronavirus.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:

LONDON — The worldwide death toll from COVID-19 has surpassed 400,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that health experts say is still an undercount because many who died were not tested for the virus.

The milestone was reached Sunday, a day after the Brazilian government stopped publishing a running total of coronavirus deaths and infections. Critics called the move an extraordinary attempt to hide the true toll of the disease rampaging through Latin America's largest nation.

Brazil's last official numbers recorded over 34,000 virus-related deaths, the third-highest toll in the world behind the U.S. and Britain.

Worldwide, at least 6.9 million people have been infected by the virus, according to Johns Hopkins. The U.S. has seen nearly 110,000 confirmed virus-related deaths and Europe has recorded over 175,000 since

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 45 of 79

the virus emerged in China late last year.

LONDON — The British government will allow places of worship to reopen on June 15 — but only for private prayer.

Weddings and other services will not be permitted under the latest easing of the coronavirus lockdown. People are expected to adhere to social-distancing rules.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick said it has been a “priority” to get places of worship to open again. He said people of all faiths have “shown enormous patience and forbearance” during the lockdown, unable to mark Easter, Passover, Ramadan or Vaisakhi in the traditional way.

Under the government’s road map for easing the lockdown, places of worship are not due to fully reopen until at least July 4.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to discuss the next stage of the lockdown easing with his Cabinet on Tuesday. As things stands, nonessential shops, including department stores, are due to reopen on June 15.

The government insists it will hold off if any of its five tests to monitor the pandemic, such as being confident there is no second wave in the outbreak, are not met.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysians will be allowed to travel interstate, get their hair cut at salons and visit street markets beginning Wednesday, when more coronavirus lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said Sunday that more economic sectors will reopen, schools and religious activities will gradually resume, and people can travel for domestic holidays after nearly three months of lockdown.

But he said certain prohibitions will remain as the country enters a “recovery” phase until the end of August.

Nightclubs, pubs, karaoke parlors, theme parks and reflexology centers will stay shut. Contact sports or those that involve many spectators, including soccer and boxing, and activities involving mass groups will remain banned.

Malaysia has confirmed just over 8,000 cases of the virus, including 117 deaths.

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan passed another grim milestone as the number of deaths from COVID-19 crossed the 2,000 mark on Sunday.

Pakistan is also pushing toward 100,000 confirmed infections as Prime Minister Imran Khan warned the country’s 220 million people in televised speeches that they are going to have to learn to live with the virus.

He said the country is too poor to go into a full lockdown, which he warned would devastate a failing economy, already dependent on billions of dollars in loans from international lending institutions.

Pakistan’s medical professionals have pleaded for more controls and greater enforcement of social distancing directives. They’re infuriated that Khan’s government bowed to the radical religious right to keep open mosques, which have been one of the leading causes of the spikes in infections.

To try to stem the spread of the virus, the government has ordered markets closed on weekends and inspections have been stepped up in some areas where clusters have emerged, quarantining entire neighborhoods.

Pakistan has some 3,000 ICU beds, and while the demands are increasing, nearly 25% are still available.

NEW DELHI — India reported 9,971 new coronavirus cases Sunday in another biggest single-day spike, a day before it prepares to reopen shopping malls, hotels and religious places after a 10-week lockdown.

India has now surpassed Spain as the fifth hardest-hit by the pandemic with 246,628 confirmed cases and 6,929 fatalities.

New Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad are among the worst-hit cities in the country. Six of India’s 28 states account for 73% of total cases.

India has already partially restored train services and domestic flights and allowed shops and manufacturing to reopen. E-commerce companies have started to deliver goods, including those considered

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 46 of 79

nonessential, to places outside containment zones.

Subways, schools and movie theaters remain closed.

BEIJING — China has reported its first non-imported case of the new coronavirus in two weeks, an infected person on the island of Hainan off the southern coast.

The National Health Commission said Sunday that there were also five imported cases in the previous 24-hour period, bringing the nation's total case count to 83,036.

China says it has largely stopped the spread of the virus at home, though it continues to have occasional localized outbreaks. It is on guard against imported cases as it begins to ease restrictions on flights and people arriving from abroad.

The official death toll in China is 4,634.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 57 additional cases of the coronavirus, marking a second day in a row that its daily jump is above 50 as authorities struggle to suppress a spike in fresh infections in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area.

The figures released Sunday by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention took the country's total to 11,776 cases, with 273 deaths. The agency says 10,552 people have recovered while 951 remain in treatment.

South Korea's caseload peaked in late February and early March but a later significant easing amid aggressive tracing, testing and treatment prompted authorities to loosen strict social distancing rules. The country has since seen an increase in new infections, mostly in the Seoul region, where about half of its 51 million people live.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Northern Arizona University will start and end its fall semester earlier this year, hoping to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

University President Rita Cheng has announced in an email that classes will start Aug. 12 and end before Thanksgiving Day.

She adds that the university plans to increase cleaning and sanitation measures, require facial coverings in common areas and maintain social distancing guidelines and protocols for testing and screening.

On Saturday, Arizona state officials reported more than 1,000 new coronavirus cases, increasing the statewide total to nearly 25,500. More than 1,000 people have died from the virus in Arizona.

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

Detentions, injuries after anti-racism protests in Europe

By **FRANK JORDANS** and **PAN PYLAS** Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — After a day of anti-racism protests across Europe, Berlin police said 93 people were detained in connection with a demonstration in the German capital — most of them after the main rally had ended.

More anti-racism demonstrations were planned for Sunday across the U.K., including one outside the U.S. Embassy, just south of the River Thames.

At least 15,000 people had rallied peacefully in Berlin on Saturday in response to the May 25 death of American George Floyd, which has triggered global protests against racism and police brutality.

Police said several officers and one press photographer were injured in Berlin when bottles and rocks were thrown from a crowd that had gathered despite police orders to clear the city's Alexander Square an hour after the demonstration was over. Berlin police said 28 officers suffered minor injuries in the scuffles.

Floyd, a black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck even after he pleaded for air while handcuffed.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 47 of 79

In Britain, the country's most senior police chief said 14 officers were injured Saturday during clashes with protesters in central London following a largely peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration attended by tens of thousands.

Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said the assaults on officers were "shocking and completely unacceptable." She said a number of arrests have been made and "justice will follow."

The clashes broke out in the early evening near the Downing Street offices of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Video footage online showed one police officer colliding with a traffic light when her horse appeared to have bolted. The Met Police said the officer was taken to the hospital and her injuries are not life-threatening.

In the French port city of Marseille, police fired tear gas and pepper spray in skirmishes with protesters who hurled bottles and rocks at what had otherwise been an emotional but peaceful demonstration Saturday.

The rally drew more than 2,000 people. Protesters took a knee in front of riot officers, gave speeches and chanted before setting off on a march through the city from its famous Old Port on the Mediterranean. But the tail end of the march finished in chaos with clashes between police and protesters.

The protest was one of several Saturday in France, where Floyd's death has shone a spotlight on similar French police abuses and given voice to complaints from minorities that they are frequent targets of harassment and worse from French officers.

An anti-racism march was also held Saturday in Paris despite a police ban but it came off peacefully.

— Pylas reported from London. Daniel Cole reported from Marseille, France.

— Follow all AP stories about global anti-racism protests and government reactions at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>.

Largely peaceful protests against police brutality march on

By **STEVEN SLOAN, JUSTIN PRITCHARD and TOM FOREMAN Jr. Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Massive protests against police brutality nationwide capped a week that began in chaos but ended with largely peaceful expressions that organizers hope will sustain their movement.

Saturday's marches featured few reports of problems in scenes that were more often festive than tense. Authorities were not quick to release crowd size estimates, but it was clear tens of thousands of people — and perhaps hundreds of thousands — turned out nationally.

Wearing masks and urging fundamental change, protesters gathered in dozens of places from coast to coast while mourners in North Carolina waited for hours to glimpse the golden coffin carrying the body of native son George Floyd, the black man whose death at the hands of Minneapolis police has galvanized the expanding movement.

Collectively, it was perhaps the largest one-day mobilization since Floyd died May 25 and came as many cities lifted curfews imposed following initial spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. Authorities have softened restrictions as the number of arrests plummeted.

Demonstrations also reached four other continents, ending in clashes in London and Marseille, France. In the U.S., Seattle police used flash bang devices and pepper spray to disperse protesters hurling rocks, bottles and what authorities said were "improvised explosives" that had injured officers, just a day after city leaders temporarily banned one kind of tear gas. Around midnight in Portland, a firework was thrown over the fence at the Justice Center, injuring a Multnomah County deputy, Portland police Lt. Tina Jones said. Smith said police had declare an unlawful assembly and were making arrests.

The largest U.S. demonstration appeared to be in Washington, where protesters flooded streets closed to traffic. On a hot, humid day, they gathered at the Capitol, on the National Mall and in neighborhoods. Some turned intersections into dance floors. Tents offered snacks and water.

Pamela Reynolds said she came seeking greater police accountability.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 48 of 79

"The laws are protecting them," said the 37-year-old African American teacher. The changes she wants include a federal ban on police chokeholds and a requirement that officers wear body cameras.

At the White House, which was fortified with new fencing and extra security measures, chants and cheers were heard in waves. President Donald Trump, who has urged authorities to crack down on unrest, downplayed the demonstration, tweeting: "Much smaller crowd in D.C. than anticipated."

Elsewhere, the backdrops included some of the nation's most famous landmarks. Peaceful marchers mingled with motorists as they crossed the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Cars had been cleared from the Brooklyn Bridge as protesters streamed into Manhattan on a day that New York police relaxed enforcement of a curfew that has led to confrontations. They walked the boulevards of Hollywood and a Nashville, Tennessee, street famous for country music-themed bars and restaurants.

Many protesters wore masks — a reminder of the danger that the protests could exacerbate the spread of the coronavirus.

Roderick Sweeney, who is black, said the large turnout of white protesters waving signs that said "Black Lives Matter" in San Francisco sent a powerful message.

"We've had discussions in our family and among friends that nothing is going to change until our white brothers and sisters voice their opinion," said Sweeney, 49.

A large crowd of Seattle medical workers, many in lab coats and scrubs, marched to City Hall, holding signs reading, "Police violence and racism are a public health emergency" and "Nurses kneel with you, not on you" — a reference to how a white officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Atop a parking garage in downtown Atlanta, a group of black college band alumni serenaded protesters with a tuba-heavy mix of tunes. Standing within earshot, business owner Leah Aforkor Quaye said it was her first time hitting the streets.

"This makes people so uncomfortable, but the only way things are happening is if we make people uncomfortable," said Quaye, who is black.

In Raeford, North Carolina, a town near Floyd's birthplace, people lined up outside a Free Will Baptist church, waiting to enter in small groups. At a private memorial service, mourners sang along with a choir. A large photo of Floyd and a portrait of him adorned with an angel's wings and halo were displayed at the front of the chapel.

"It could have been me. It could have been my brother, my father, any of my friends who are black," said Erik Carlos of nearby Fayetteville. "It made me feel very vulnerable at first."

Floyd's body will go to Houston, where he lived before Minneapolis, for another memorial in the coming days.

Protesters and their supporters in public office say they're determined to turn the outpouring into change, notably overhauling policing policies. Many marchers urged officials to "defund the police."

Theresa Bland, 68, a retired teacher and real estate agent protesting at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, envisioned a broader agenda.

"I'm looking at affordable housing, political justice, prison reform," she said.

Congressional Democrats are preparing a sweeping package of police reforms, which is expected to include changes to immunity provisions and creating a database of use-of-force incidents. Revamped training requirements are planned, too — among them, a ban on chokeholds.

The prospects of reforms clearing a divided Congress are unclear.

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Pritchard reported from Los Angeles and Foreman from Raeford, North Carolina. Associated Press staff from around the world contributed to this report, including Jeff Chiu in San Francisco; Jill Colvin in Washington; Jeff Amy in Atlanta; Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio; Bobby Caina Calvin in Tallahassee,

Florida; John Leicester in Paris; and David Crary and Brian Mahoney in New York.

Protesters topple Confederate statue in Virginia capital

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A small group of demonstrators toppled a statue of a Confederate general in the the former capital of the Confederacy late Saturday, following a day of largely peaceful protests in the Virginia city.

The statue of Gen. Williams Carter Wickham was pulled from its pedestal in Monroe Park, a Richmond police spokeswoman said. She said she did not know if there were any arrests or damage done to the statue.

A rope had been tied around the Confederate statue, which has stood since 1891, The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported, adding that someone urinated on the statue after it was pulled down. Photos and video from the newspaper showed the what appeared to be red paint splashed or sprayed on the statue.

In 2017, some of Wickham's descendants urged the city to remove the statue.

Confederate monuments are a major flashpoint in Virginia and elsewhere in the South. Confederate memorials began coming down after a white supremacist killed nine black people at a Bible study in a church in South Carolina in 2015 and then again after the deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

Last week, Gov. Ralph Northam announced that a state-owned statue of former Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee would be removed from its perch on the famed Monument Avenue "as soon as possible."

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

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

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

Wickham's statue stood in Monroe Park, about a mile away from the Lee statue and surrounded by the Virginia Commonwealth University campus.

Washington protesters express optimism after week on edge

By STEVEN SLOAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On Monday, they were forcibly removed from the street by law enforcement. On Saturday, they danced.

The tens of thousands of racially diverse demonstrators who flooded Washington to protest injustice and police brutality reshaped the mood of a city that has been on edge this week. Bursts of looting and violence early in the week prompted a dramatic clampdown by law enforcement that gave the nation's capital the feeling of an occupied city, complete with military vehicles, helicopters buzzing low to the skyline and National Guard troops on patrol.

But on Saturday, go-go music — a distinctive D.C. offshoot of funk — blared from a truck that looked more like a parade float. Impromptu dance parties popped up. A black man shared a fist bump with a black police officer. People used chalk to write messages of support on the street.

The purpose of the protest was somber: to demand changes to police practices and pay homage to George Floyd, the black man killed by Minneapolis police. But the displays of levity, unfolding against the backdrop of damaged buildings marked with graffiti, amounted to a moment of catharsis for a city and nation in crisis.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 50 of 79

Some said they saw the beginning of a new movement.

"This is us walking across the Pettus Bridge," said Kendyll Myles, a 33-year-old project manager, referring to site of the iconic 1965 civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. "This is that type of awakening that our country needed."

The scene on Saturday was starkly different from earlier this week when law enforcement moved aggressively to push back protesters from a park in front of the White House. Within minutes, President Donald Trump walked across the park to appear before cameras at a church where he held up a Bible, but didn't offer any prayers. The episode has been widely criticized.

As demonstrations are expected to spill into another week, there are questions about whether the scope of the protests can become something more durable.

Unlike the major Washington protests of the past, Saturday's events weren't strongly organized. In some cases, they were mini-marches that began in residential neighborhoods before converging on 16th Street, one of the major roads leading to the White House, where Trump spent the day without any public appearances.

Many protestors carried signs urging participants to vote with the passion they brought to the streets. The Rev. Al Sharpton has said he's organizing a March on Washington for late August that would energize voters heading into the fall presidential campaign.

There were signs of cultural change. Those who led demonstrators in chants were almost exclusively people of color.

Several white people who were approached for an interview demurred, saying that white people do enough talking and that this was a moment for their black and brown counterparts to have the spotlight and set the agenda.

That's one reason some black protestors said they thought this moment was different from previous demonstrations against police brutality. The fact that large numbers of white people would march alongside them fueled some hope that change might happen.

"You can finally see it, the different races out here," said Carl Sirls, a 26-year-old airline worker. "It's not just black people. It's not just white people. It's everyone."

Pamela Reynolds said she hoped the massive size of the crowd and the diversity of the participants would help build momentum behind reforms including a ban on police chokeholds and a requirement for law enforcement to wear body cameras.

"It took protest, it took rioting to happen," the 37-year-old teacher said. "But I think they're finally listening and they're seeing that this is everybody's fight."

There were still plenty of signs of anger on Saturday.

Outside the FBI headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue, a protestor moved close to a line of law enforcement and shouted they had no right to patrol the city. A few blocks away at the Trump International Hotel, protestors regularly shouted epithets at the building. One man used a bullhorn to ask police how they could justify guarding a building associated with a president who has backed aggression toward protestors.

More broadly, the expressions of hope don't mask the deeper challenges facing Washington or the nation.

The city is home to one of the largest income inequality gaps in the country, according to the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute. The racial divide is stark and has grown as longtime black neighborhoods have gentrified, sending home prices soaring. The coronavirus has taken a disproportionate toll on the black community.

Mayor Muriel Bowser is under pressure to reduce funding for the city's police and reinvest that money elsewhere. The local chapter of Black Lives Matter derided Bowser's widely publicized move to paint Black Lives Matter across one of the streets near the White House.

"This is performative and a distraction from her active counter organizing to our demands to decrease the police budget and invest in the community," it said on Twitter.

But as Bowser strolled that section of the street, the crowd in this overwhelmingly Democratic city burst into applause for a woman who is increasingly the subject of Trump's ire. Art Lindy, a fifth-generation Washingtonian, shouted "Vice President Bowser" as she walked by.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 51 of 79

Bowser "has done an incredible job standing up to the face of federal power," the 56-year-old construction manager said.

A few blocks north, Jake Mathai was passing out free bottles of water to any demonstrator who needed relief from the heat and humidity. He said it was the least he could do for protestors and expressed particular admiration of younger people who showed up.

"When I was 18, I was never doing this kind of thing," the 36-year-old said. "These kids are going to be me in 18 years. But much better because I wasn't doing this."

Massive, peaceful protests across US demand police reform

By **STEVEN SLOAN, JUSTIN PRITCHARD and TOM FOREMAN Jr. Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Massive demonstrations against racism and police brutality filled some of the nation's most famous cityscapes Saturday, with tens of thousands of people marching peacefully in scenes that were more often festive than tense.

Wearing masks and urging fundamental change, protesters gathered in dozens of places from coast to coast while mourners in North Carolina waited for hours to glimpse the golden coffin carrying the body of native son George Floyd, the black man whose death at the hands of Minneapolis police has galvanized the expanding movement.

Collectively, it was perhaps the largest one-day mobilization since Floyd died 12 days ago and came as many cities began lifting curfews that authorities imposed following initial spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. Authorities have softened restrictions as the number of arrests plummeted.

Demonstrations also reached four other continents, ending in clashes in two European cities. In the U.S., Seattle police used flash bang devices and pepper spray to disperse protesters hurling rocks, bottles and explosives, just a day after city leaders temporarily banned one kind of tear gas.

The largest U.S. demonstration appeared to be in Washington, where protesters flooded streets closed to traffic. On a hot, humid day, they gathered at the Capitol, on the National Mall and in neighborhoods. Some turned intersections into dance floors. Tents offered snacks and water.

Pamela Reynolds said she came seeking greater police accountability.

"The laws are protecting them," said the 37-year-old African American teacher. The changes she wants include a federal ban on police chokeholds and a requirement that officers wear body cameras.

At the White House, which was fortified with new fencing and extra security measures, chants and cheers could be heard in waves. President Donald Trump, who has urged authorities to crack down on unrest, downplayed the demonstration, tweeting: "Much smaller crowd in D.C. than anticipated."

Elsewhere, the backdrops included some of the nation's most famous landmarks. Peaceful marchers filed across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, where officers pulled back on enforcing a curfew that has led to confrontations. They walked the boulevards of Hollywood and a Nashville, Tennessee, street famous for country music-themed bars and restaurants.

They also gathered in places as far flung as a St. Louis suburb and cities in the Deep South.

Many wore masks — a reminder of the danger that the protests could exacerbate the spread of the coronavirus.

Roderick Sweeney, who is black, said he was overwhelmed to see the large turnout of white protesters waving signs that said "Black Lives Matter" in San Francisco.

"We've had discussions in our family and among friends that nothing is going to change until our white brothers and sisters voice their opinion," said Sweeney, 49. The large turnout of white protesters "is sending a powerful message."

In Philadelphia and Chicago, marchers chanted, carried signs and occasionally knelt in silence. At a massive showing near the Philadelphia Museum of Art and its famous "Rocky" steps, protesters chanted "No justice, no peace!" before heading for City Hall.

Seattle police said on Twitter that several officers were injured by "improvised explosives" thrown by a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 52 of 79

crowd. Officers responded with pepper spray. Earlier, a large crowd of medical workers, many in lab coats and scrubs, marched to City Hall, holding signs reading, "Police violence and racism are a public health emergency" and "Nurses kneel with you, not on you" — a reference to how a white officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Atop a parking garage in downtown Atlanta, a group of black college band alumni serenaded protesters with a tuba-heavy mix of tunes. Standing within earshot, business owner Leah Aforkor Quaye said it was her first time hitting the streets.

"This makes people so uncomfortable, but the only way things are happening is if we make people uncomfortable," said Quaye, who is black.

In Raeford, North Carolina, a town near Floyd's birthplace, people lined up outside a Free Will Baptist church, waiting to enter in small groups. At a private memorial service, mourners sang along with a choir. At the front of the chapel was a large photo of Floyd and a portrait of him adorned with an angel's wings and halo.

"It could have been me. It could have been my brother, my father, any of my friends who are black," said Erik Carlos of nearby Fayetteville. "It made me feel very vulnerable at first."

Floyd's body will go to Houston, where he lived before Minneapolis, for another memorial in the coming days.

Protesters and their supporters in public office say they're determined to turn the outpouring into change, notably overhauling policing policies. Many marchers urged officials to "defund the police," which some painted in enormous yellow letters on the street leading to the White House near a "Black Lives Matter" mural that the mayor had added a day earlier.

Theresa Bland, 68, a retired teacher and real estate agent protesting at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, envisioned a broader agenda.

"I'm looking at affordable housing, political justice, prison reform," she said.

Some change already has come.

Minneapolis officials have agreed to ban chokeholds and neck restraints and require that officers stop colleagues who are using improper force. California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered the state's police-training program to stop teaching officers a neck hold that blocks blood flowing to the brain.

The police chief in Bellevue, a wealthy city near Seattle, largely banned officers from using neck restraints, while police in Reno, Nevada, updated their use-of-force policy.

Congressional Democrats are preparing a sweeping package of police reforms, which is expected to include changes to immunity provisions and creating a database of use-of-force incidents. Revamped training requirements are planned, too, among them a ban on chokeholds.

The prospects of reforms clearing a divided Congress are unclear.

While police in some places have knelt in solidarity with protesters, their treatment of some marchers also has generated more tension.

Two officers in Buffalo, New York, were charged Saturday with second-degree assault after a video earlier this week showed them shoving a 75-year-old protester, who smashed his head on the pavement. Both pleaded not guilty.

Most protests in Europe were peaceful. In London, however, clashes with police erupted after thousands gathered amid a cold rain. In the French city of Marseille, authorities fired tear gas and pepper spray as protesters hurled bottles and rocks.

Back in North Carolina, the Rev. Christopher Stackhouse recounted the circumstances of Floyd's death for the congregation.

"It took 8 minutes and 46 seconds for him to die," Stackhouse said at the memorial service. "But it took 401 years to put the system in place so nothing would happen."

Pritchard reported from Los Angeles and Foreman from Raeford, North Carolina. Associated Press staff from around the world contributed to this report, including Jeff Chiu in San Francisco; Jill Colvin in Wash-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 53 of 79

ington; Jeff Amy in Atlanta; Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio; John Leicester in Paris; and David Crary and Brian Mahoney in New York.

Brazil govt yanks virus death toll as data befuddles experts

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's government has stopped publishing a running total of coronavirus deaths and infections in an extraordinary move that critics call an attempt to hide the true toll of the disease in Latin America's largest nation.

The Saturday move came after months of criticism from experts saying Brazil's statistics are woefully deficient, and in some cases manipulated, so it may never be possible to gain a real understanding of the depth of the pandemic in the country.

Brazil's last official numbers showed it had recorded over 34,000 deaths related to the coronavirus, the third-highest number in the world, just ahead of Italy. It reported nearly 615,000 infections, putting it at the second-highest, behind the United States. Brazil, with about 210 million people, is the globe's seventh most populous nation.

On Friday, the federal Health Ministry took down a website that had showed daily, weekly and monthly figures on infections and deaths in Brazilian states. On Saturday, the site returned but the total numbers of infections for states and the nation were no longer there. The site now shows only the numbers for the previous 24 hours.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro tweeted Saturday that disease totals are "not representative" of the country's current situation.

A Bolsonaro ally contended to the newspaper O Globo that at least some states providing figures to the Health Ministry had sent falsified data, implying that they were exaggerating the toll. Carlos Wizard, a businessman expected to assume a high-level post in the Health Ministry, said the federal government would be conducting a review intended to determine a "more accurate" toll.

"The number we have today is fanciful or manipulated," Wizard said.

A council of state health secretaries said it would fight the changes by Bolsonaro, who has dismissed the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic and tried to thwart attempts to impose quarantines, curfews and social distancing, arguing those steps are causing more damage to the economy than the pandemic.

"The authoritarian, insensitive, inhumane and unethical attempt to make the COVID-19 deaths invisible will not prosper," the health secretaries council said Saturday.

While precise counts of cases and deaths are difficult for governments worldwide, health researchers have been saying for weeks that a series of serious irregularities with Brazilian government statistics was making it impossible to get a handle on an exploding situation.

Around the world, coronavirus deaths are being undercounted to varying degrees due to lack of universal testing. Academic groups in dozens of nations have tried to figure out the magnitude of the undercount by studying the total number of deaths in a set period compared to the average of prior years in a particular nation, state, province or city. Where they find unexplained surges in deaths, it is likely due in large part to undiagnosed cases of the coronavirus.

In Brazil, such efforts by academics and other independent experts have been handicapped to an extreme degree by problems with the government statistics that serve as a baseline.

"It is very difficult to make predictions that you think are reliable," said Fabio Mendes, an adjunct professor in software engineering at the federal University of Brasilia, who studies Brazilian coronavirus statistics. "We know the numbers are bad."

At the end of April, 42-year-old Leivane Bibiano da Silva became feverish, developed a bad, incessant cough and diarrhea — all symptoms of the new coronavirus that was devastating Manaus, the Brazilian Amazon's most populous city.

Bibiano, who had HIV and tuberculosis, was scared of checking herself into Manaus' overwhelmed hospitals, family relatives said. She died in her home about two weeks later, and was buried in a mass grave

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 54 of 79

at the public cemetery. She was never tested.

"I'm upset, not just about my mother, but about all of those who didn't enter into the statistics," said Leonardo Bibiano, her eldest son. "To be honest, I don't believe in the numbers."

Brazil's Health Ministry did not respond to queries about the experts' allegations about problems with the data.

The gravity of the problems with Brazil's data became clear last month when academics reviewing death certificates compiled by the federal Civil Registration office — which compiles death data from all Brazilian states — found drastic, unexplained fluctuations in the number of monthly deaths in recent years, and puzzling discrepancies between states.

In Rio de Janeiro state, the number of average monthly deaths fell sharply starting in January 2019, a change the Civil Registration office said stemmed from its state court providing duplicate data for 2018 and previous years. The number of average monthly deaths in Manaus, the capital of the northern state of Amazonas, more than doubled when the shift occurred, which the office chalked up to delay in data submission.

On May 14, as independent investigators were questioning the inconsistencies, the Civil Registration office pulled more than 500,000 death certificates from its website, saying most were from Rio and it needed to review how the figures were tallied nationwide in order to make sure statistics were consistent year over year.

That made it virtually impossible to produce statistically significant analyses of excess death in Rio or Amazonas, two of the Brazilian states hit hardest by the coronavirus.

"Wow," said Jesús Gómez-Gardeñes, an associate professor in physics and computational epidemiology at the University of Zaragoza, who has studied coronavirus statistics in his native Spain. "Half a million is a hell of a lot."

Another way to detect uncounted deaths from the virus is by looking at deaths attributed to other conditions, like pneumonia and respiratory insufficiency. In the absence of widespread testing, deaths from COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, are often attributed to one or more of these conditions.

Brazil's second most populous state, Minas Gerais, has recorded just 368 coronavirus deaths and has been praised for its handling of the pandemic. But data from Fiocruz, a widely respected, state-run biology research and development foundation, show deaths from severe acute respiratory infections in the state rose eightfold from 2019 to 2020, to 1,796.

In Rio, the total number of deaths from pneumonia and respiratory insufficiency in the nine weeks through May 18 were 6,909 higher than in the same period last year. But the federal Health Ministry's COVID-19 death toll for the same period was 2,852 — less than half the suspected number.

On May 22, as media and independent researchers debated the discrepancy, the Civil Registration office's number of pneumonia and respiratory insufficiency deaths in the state fell from 6,909 to 3,599. The office said it was due to reclassification of death certificates that list several related causes of death.

Beyond the shifting and incomplete information, critics say, the Brazilian federal government has further eroded trust in its count-keeping with cosmetic changes to official sites that appear designed to de-emphasize the gravity of the epidemic.

One bulletin published by the president's press office refers to patients in hospitals and intensive care units as "recovering," even though a significant number eventually die of COVID-19.

"We are becoming an international joke in terms of public health," said Domingos Alves, an associate professor of social medicine at the University of Sao Paulo. "Deaths cannot be hidden by decree."

Associated Press videojournalist Renata Brito in Manaus and AP writers David Biller in Rio de Janeiro and Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 55 of 79

A U-turn, a rush to see Trump, a day of tension and surprise

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper was three blocks from the FBI's Washington field office. He had planned to confer there at a security command center, but plans changed with an unexpected call to divert immediately.

Go the White House. President Donald Trump wanted a briefing from him and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on how the military was handling security as protests grew on the streets of the nation's capital.

Esper's driver pulled a U-turn in the middle of the street and flipped on the flashing lights, and they rushed to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

It was late afternoon on a Monday, June 1 — one of the more consequential days of Donald Trump's presidency, when he was forced to reckon with rapidly swelling demonstrations in the wake of George Floyd's death in the hands of Minneapolis police officers.

This account of Trump's decision-making, based on a senior defense official as well as several others in the Trump administration, offers insight into how the president was pushing for the fastest, most extreme measures while advisers at the Pentagon tried to persuade him that a more moderate approach would work.

The officials asked that their names not be used to describe sensitive deliberations.

At an Oval Office meeting late Monday morning, tempers were flaring. Trump and some of his senior aides wanted federal troops on the streets, and fast.

Some Washington businesses had been vandalized Sunday night and St. John's Church, near the White House, had sustained fire damage. Trump was unhappy. Some state governors, and local authorities in the District of Columbia, were not doing enough to stop violence, Trump believed.

By Monday morning he was considering a dramatic move — invoking the Insurrection Act so that he could use federal troops to enforce the law.

According to a senior defense official, Trump wanted 10,000 federal troops immediately on the streets to control a situation some aides believed could escalate dangerously.

Esper and Milley, however, argued against calling out the active-duty forces, fearful that it would militarize a problem that should be handled by civilian law enforcement. Violent elements among the protest crowds, the two men believed, were too small and manageable to justify calling out the military.

The White House did not dispute or confirm the 10,000 figure. A senior White House official recalled on Saturday that Trump had urged Esper and Milley to get as many troops as needed to secure the city. The president stressed that Sunday night's unrest had shown that security was inadequate.

With the president's demands in mind, and hoping they could stall his move to use federal troops, Esper and Milley moved swiftly to try to get state governors to send as many National Guard troops as possible to supplement the roughly 1,300 District of Columbia National Guard members and a hodgepodge of Park Police, Secret Service and other federal law enforcement officers dealing with protesters.

Because of the District of Columbia's special status and its dizzying mix of jurisdictions, the FBI field office had been selected to serve as a command post to coordinate the movements and roles of various security forces. Attorney General William Barr was in charge. That's why Esper was headed there from the Pentagon on Monday afternoon when he got the call to go see Trump again.

Milley had gone to the command center, also. And figuring he had seen the last of the White House for the day, he made a decision he later regretted — changing from his dress uniform, which is standard for a White House visit, to his battle fatigues, everyday wear at the Pentagon and when mixing with troops. Milley figured he would have a long night, including time with troops on the street.

Another surprise was in store for Esper and Milley when they reached the White House. After meetings, Trump went to the Rose Garden, where he noted Americans' revulsion at Floyd's death and declared himself the "president of law and order."

"In recent days, our nation has been gripped by professional anarchists, violent mobs, arsonists, looters, criminals, rioters, Antifa and others," he said. "A number of state and local governments have failed

to take necessary action to safeguard their residents.”

That failure, in Trump’s view, made it urgent to get more security on the streets, even if it meant using active-duty forces, about 1,300 of which had been moved to military bases just outside of Washington, just in case.

Esper and Milley, joined by Barr, opposed the use of federal troops at that point. To Esper, a failure to get more Guard troops called up would mean there would be active-duty troops all over the country confronting protesters, a scene he and Milley saw as unwise and untenable.

After Trump finished his remarks in the Rose Garden he gathered aides and officials, including Esper and Milley, for a walk across Lafayette Park to St. John’s Church. The president held up a Bible to pose for photographers.

Critics would slam both Esper and Milley for their presence at the photo op — especially with Milley in battle fatigues. The scene fed a perception that Milley was giving tangible meaning to Trump’s threat to use the military on city streets, and that Esper was allowing himself to be used to advance a political agenda.

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

As Trump blames antifa, protest records show scant evidence

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, JAKE BLEIBERG and ALANNA DURKIN

RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scott Nichols, a balloon artist, was riding home on his scooter from the protests engulfing Minneapolis last weekend when he was struck by a rubber bullet fired from a cluster of police officers in riot gear.

“I just pulled over and put my hands up, because I didn’t want to get killed,” said Nichols, 40. “Anybody that knows me knows I wasn’t out there to cause problems.”

Nichols, who before the coronavirus pandemic made his living performing at children’s birthday parties under the stage name “Amazing Scott,” spent two days in jail before being released, facing criminal charges of riot and curfew violation.

President Donald Trump has characterized those clashing with law enforcement after George Floyd’s death under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer as organized, radical-left thugs engaging in domestic terrorism, an assertion repeated by Attorney General William Barr. Some Democrats, including Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, initially tried to blame out-of-state far-right infiltrators for the unrest before walking back those statements.

There is scant evidence either is true.

The Associated Press analyzed court records, employment histories, social media posts and other sources of information for 217 people arrested last weekend in Minneapolis and the District of Columbia, two cities at the epicenter of the protests across the United States.

Rather than outside agitators, more than 85% of those arrested by police were local residents. Of those charged with such offenses as curfew violations, rioting and failure to obey law enforcement, only a handful appeared to have any affiliation with organized groups.

Those charged with more serious offenses related to looting and property destruction — such as arson, burglary and theft — often had past criminal records. But they, too, were overwhelmingly local residents taking advantage of the chaos.

Social media posts indicate only a few of those arrested are left-leaning activists, including a self-described anarchist. But others had indications of being on the political right, including some Trump supporters.

The president has tried to portray the protesters and looters with a broad brush as “radical-left, bad people,” ominously invoking the name “antifa,” an umbrella term for leftist militants bound more by belief than organizational structure. Trump tweeted last Sunday that he planned to designate antifa as a terrorist organization.

“These are acts of domestic terror,” Trump said in a Rose Garden speech Monday, moments after heav-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 57 of 79

ily armed troops and riot police advanced without warning on the largely peaceful protesters across the street from the White House.

Barr, put in charge of organizing the police and military response, activated the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force last weekend to target protest organizers.

"The violence instigated and carried out by Antifa and other similar groups in connection with the rioting is domestic terrorism and will be treated accordingly," Barr said in a statement issued Sunday.

There have been violent acts, including property destruction and theft. Police officers and protesters have been seriously injured and killed. But federal law enforcement officials have offered little evidence that antifa-aligned protesters could be behind a movement that has appeared nearly simultaneously in hundreds of cities and towns in all 50 states since Floyd's death.

The AP obtained copies of daily confidential "Intelligence Notes" distributed this past week to local enforcement by the Department of Homeland Security that repeat, without citing evidence, that "organized violent opportunists — including suspected anarchist extremists — could increasingly perpetrate nationwide targeting of law enforcement and critical infrastructure."

"We lack detailed reporting indicating the level of organization and planning by some violent opportunists and assess that most of the violence to date has been loosely organized on a level seen with previous widespread outbreaks of violence at lawful protests," the assessment for Monday says.

The following day, the assessment noted "several uncorroborated reports of bricks being pre-staged at planned protest venues nationwide."

"Although we have been unable to verify the reporting through official channels, the staging of improvised weapons at planned events is a common tactic used by violent opportunists," the Tuesday assessment says.

But social media posts warning that stacks of bricks have been left at protest sites in Atlanta, Boston and Los Angeles have been debunked by local officials who have explained that the masonry was out in the open before the protests or was for use in construction projects.

Nichols, the balloon artist, hardly fits the portrait of a radical.

He recently gained local notice for a giant balloon rabbit and other sculptures displayed in his front yard for Easter. He laughed when asked if he had any ties to antifa or other militant groups. A white man who lives less than a half mile from where Floyd was killed on May 25, Nichols said he protested to support of his neighbors, many of whom are black.

"It was the most insane thing I've seen in my life," he said. "The city was going crazy."

Nichols said he and a friend helped douse a dumpster fire near a laundromat. He remembers getting a text from his mother saying that Minneapolis had set an 8 p.m. curfew, but he thought it would be enforced loosely.

"Had I known that being out after curfew would be such a severe penalty, I would have never done it," Nichols said, adding that he missed his son's high school graduation while he was in jail.

Lars Ortiz, a 35-year-old classical musician, said he was driving just blocks from his Minneapolis home on May 29 after visiting a friend recovering from COVID-19 when officers pulled him out of his car at gunpoint. He said he had been unaware of the 8 p.m. curfew enacted that night.

Ortiz and another friend in the car with him were put in zip-tie restraints and forced to wait on a bus for hours before police took them to jail, where he would spend the weekend.

"It was scary. It was confusing. I felt violated," said Ortiz, a cellist who identifies as a biracial Mexican American.

Ortiz was held on a riot charge and curfew violation. He said he was told when he was released from jail on Monday the more serious rioting charge was dropped.

Lt. Andy Knotz of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, whose deputies were deployed from the suburban county north of Minneapolis into the city to help with the unrest, said it was a "chaotic scene" and that Ortiz was coming from the direction of the protests. Knotz said Ortiz was removed from his car by the Minnesota State Patrol, and an Anoka deputy took him to the police station.

"In chaos like that you can't determine who is legit and who isn't," Knotz said.

Natalie Cook, 43, who's white, said she had never before participated in a protest, but wanted to be

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 58 of 79

there to support and protect her 24-year-old son, who's black.

"Not only did I want to go to be an ally to black people, but I wanted to go to support my son," Cook said. "Also, I was afraid to send him out by himself."

Cook said they were marching peacefully with about 100 protesters for hours when police started using tear gas and shooting rubber bullets. As they tried to get away, they were pepper sprayed and her son was hit at close range by a rubber bullet, she said. They were both jailed and released on Monday, charged with riot and violating curfew.

Cook said her son was deeply affected by Floyd's death and she doesn't have any regrets about going out to make their voices heard.

"My son was really struggling with it," she said. "We couldn't just sit by and watch."

AP filed public records requests seeking arrest reports and other documents that might show what evidence law enforcement officers have against Nichols, Ortiz the Cooks and others arrested in Minneapolis. Those records have not yet been provided.

In Washington, the D.C. Metropolitan Police arrested at least 81 people last weekend, including some as young as 13. Most were charged with curfew violations and felony rioting, which could result in up to 180 days in jail and \$5,000 in fines.

Among the highest profile arrests made by federal authorities in the last week was Matthew Lee Rupert. Prosecutors allege the 28-year-old Illinois man traveled to Minneapolis to participate in riots and then posted videos on a Facebook page showing him looting stores and handing out explosives.

In one video, Rupert, a convicted felon, says: "We come to riot, boy! This is what we came for!"

Though Rupert is alleged to have targeted police officers, there is no evidence cited in his indictment he is affiliated with any organized group. Among the few indicators of his political beliefs was a series of Facebook posts celebrating Trump's 2017 inauguration. "Trump is my president but I'm not racist," he wrote, adding that he loves Mexican food.

Rupert, who made an initial court appearance Friday, remains in federal custody. A federal public defender assigned to represent him did not respond to a voicemail message seeking comment.

Michael German, a former FBI agent and fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, said people often travel and cross state lines to participate in protests and that not all of them have peaceful intent. He said politicians and law enforcement often cite the presence of out-of-towners to justify greater police force against protesters.

"It's an old tactic for law enforcement policing protests to suggest that the problems are being caused by outside agitators," German said. "It opens up the opportunity for greater police violence in response."

Among those who traveled to Minneapolis to protest Floyd's killing was Tara Houska, a 36-year-old attorney and member of the Couchiching First Nation from northern Minnesota. An activist for indigenous rights, she was arrested in Minneapolis last Saturday night and charged with not complying with a peace officer.

Houska, who attended college and law school in the city, said she was with a group a couple blocks from where Floyd died when police told them they were breaking curfew. They replied they were going home, she said, and then the officers hit them with pepper spray and zip-tied their hands.

"Almost everyone that was in our holding tank with us was from Minnesota," Houska said.

Sierra West, 29, of Kansas City, Missouri, said she drove to Minneapolis with a friend because she is "so angry about what is happening" with police brutality and wanted to peacefully protest.

After marching for hours, West broke away from the crowds and was walking back to her car through an alley alone when police arrested her early Saturday on riot and curfew violation charges. She said she did nothing to provoke the four officers who confronted her.

"They were hiding, and they literally jumped out of the shadows with guns drawn on me," she said. "The street was completely empty."

West, who is white and describes herself as a strong supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, was freed from jail on Monday afternoon.

University of Minnesota Law School student Santana Boulton, 23, said a police officer pepper-sprayed her

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 59 of 79

in the face on May 28 before she was tear-gassed two days later and then arrested on Sunday, charged with unlawful assembly and violating a curfew.

About 15 minutes before the 8 p.m. curfew, Boulton said she and her boyfriend joined a large crowd of marchers on Interstate 35. People linked arms and kneeled before two lines of police officers formed near the protesters. She said she never heard any orders to disperse.

"It was nothing like a riot. It was a sit-in," she said.

Boulton, a white woman who moved from Michigan to Minneapolis to attend law school, was arrested and spent 16 hours in custody. She described herself as "philosophically an anarchist," but "not a revolutionary."

"Antifa isn't even real," Boulton said. "As an actual person who identifies with the political label of anarchist, the only thing anarchists do is have meetings where they argue for five hours and get nothing done."

Kunzelman reported from Silver Spring, Maryland, Bleiberg from Dallas and Durkin Richer from West Harwich, Massachusetts. Associated Press writers Brian Slodysko and Ashraf Khalil in Washington, Amanda Seitz and Don Babwin in Chicago, and Lori Hinnant in Paris contributed to this report.

Follow Associated Press Investigative Reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Have a tip? Contact AP's global investigative team at Investigative@ap.org

This story has been corrected to reflect that Trump's remarks in the Rose Garden came after, not before, authorities advanced on protesters across the street from the White House.

Fox News: Black deaths, stock market graphic was insensitive

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fox News apologized Saturday for how it displayed a chart correlating the stock market's performance with the aftermath of the deaths of George Floyd, Martin Luther King Jr. and Michael Brown.

The graphic that aired Friday to illustrate market reactions to historic periods of civil unrest "should have never aired on television without full context. We apologize for the insensitivity of the image and take this issue seriously," the cable channel said in a statement.

The chart included on "Special Report with Bret Baier" illustrated gains made by the S&P 500 index after King's assassination in 1968; the Ferguson, Missouri, police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in 2014, and the May 25 death of Floyd while in Minneapolis police custody. It also measured the financial yardstick against the 1991 acquittal of Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King.

It was shown as part of a segment with Fox News and Fox Business reporter Susan Li focusing on the market rally that followed an unexpectedly lower number of jobless claims.

Other business publications and TV channels in recent days have compared the market's performance to current and historic social upheaval, but with significant background and explanation.

Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Illinois, tweeted that the graphic makes it clear that Fox News "does not care about black lives," while Michael Steele, former Republican National Committee chair and a MSNBC political analyst, posted, "This is how they mourn the loss of black men at #FoxNews - by how much the stock market goes up."

Baier retweeted Fox's apology without further comment.

Later Saturday, on Fox's "America's News HQ" telecast, anchor and senior correspondent Eric Shawn said the graphic should not have been used.

"Last night, Fox News Channel aired an infographic attempting to show the stock market on occasion gained ground in the midst of turmoil, civil unrest and even tragedy," Shawn said. "In trying to make that point, the program 'Special Report' failed to explain the context of the times we are living in and should not have used that graphic."

Prosecutor: 2 Buffalo police charged with assault in shoving

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Two Buffalo police officers were charged with assault Saturday, prosecutors said, after a video showed them shoving a 75-year-old protester in recent demonstrations over the death of George Floyd.

Robert McCabe and Aaron Torgalski, who surrendered Saturday morning, pleaded not guilty to second-degree assault. They were released without bail.

McCabe, 32, and Torgalski, 39, "crossed a line" when they shoved the man down hard enough for him to fall backward and hit his head on the sidewalk, Erie County District Attorney John Flynn said at a news conference, calling the victim "a harmless 75-year-old man."

The officers had been suspended without pay Friday after a TV crew captured the confrontation the night before. If convicted of the felony assault charge, they face up to seven years in prison.

McCabe's lawyer, Tom Burton, said after the arraignment that prosecutors didn't have any grounds to bring felony charges. He said his client is a decorated military veteran with a clean record as a police officer.

"Nobody started out their day intending to hurt this fellow," Burton said. He added that if the victim had followed commands to back off, "none of this would have happened."

A phone message was left with Torgalski's lawyer.

The footage shows the man, identified as longtime activist Martin Gugino, approaching a line of helmeted officers holding batons as they cleared 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.

The police officers "knew this was bad," Flynn said of the video. "Look at their body language."

The video of the encounter sparked outrage online as demonstrators take to cities across the country to protest racial injustice sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes.

"I think there was criminal liability from what I saw on the video," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said at a briefing Saturday. "I think what the mayor did and the district attorney did was right, and I applaud them for acting as quickly as they did."

"What we saw was horrendous and disgusting, and I believe, illegal," he added.

But dozens of Buffalo police officers who were angered over their fellow officers' suspensions stepped down from the department's crowd control unit Friday. The resigning officers did not leave their jobs altogether.

A crowd of off-duty officers, firefighters and others gathered on Saturday outside the courthouse in a show of support for the accused officers and cheered when they were released.

"It was tremendous, tremendous to see," John Evans, president of the Buffalo Police Benevolent Association, told WIVB-TV. "I just think it's a strong indication of the outrage basically over this travesty."

Flynn said he understood the concerns of officers who don't feel they are being supported and pointed out that he's also prosecuting protesters "who have turned into agitators" and "need to be dealt with as well."

"There will be some who say that I'm choosing sides here," he said. "And I say that's ridiculous. I'm not on anyone's side."

Analysis: White House, Pentagon tensions near breaking point

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tensions between the White House and Pentagon have stretched to near a breaking point over President Donald Trump's threat to use military force against street protests triggered by George Floyd's death.

Friction in this relationship, historically, is not unusual. But in recent days, and for the second time in

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 61 of 79

Trump's term, it has raised a prospect of high-level resignations and the risk of lasting damage to the military's reputation.

Calm may return, both in the crisis over Floyd's death and in Pentagon leaders' angst over Trump's threats to use federal troops to put down protesters. But it could leave a residue of resentment and unease about this president's approach to the military, whose leaders welcome his push for bigger budgets but chafe at being seen as political tools.

The nub of the problem is that Trump sees no constraint on his authority to use what he calls the "unlimited power" of the military even against U.S. citizens if he believes it necessary. Military leaders generally take a far different view. They believe that active-duty troops, trained to hunt and kill an enemy, should be used to enforce the law only in the most extreme emergency, such as an attempted actual rebellion. That limit exists, they argue, to keep the public's trust.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper, a West Point graduate who served 10 years on active duty, argued against bringing federal troops into Washington. In a contentious Oval Office meeting with Trump and others on Monday, the president demanded 10,000 federal troops be sent to the capital city, according to a senior defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Esper then pushed for governors from several states to send National Guardsmen as a way of steering Trump away from a buildup of federal forces in Washington, the senior defense official said.

Vincent K. Brooks, a recently retired Army four-star general, says the military's "sacred trust" with the public has been breached by Trump's threat to use federal troops for law enforcement in states where he deems a governor has not tough enough against protesters.

"It is a trust that the military, especially the active-duty military — 'the regulars' — possessing great physical power and holding many levers that could end freedom in our society and could shut down our government, would never, never apply that power for domestic political purposes," Brooks wrote in an essay for Harvard University's Belfer Center, where he is a senior fellow.

Esper has made known his regret at having accompanied Trump to a presidential photo opportunity in front of a church near the White House. He has said he did not see it coming — a blind spot that cost him in the eyes of critics who saw a supposedly apolitical Pentagon chief implicitly endorsing a political agenda.

Esper two days later risked Trump's ire when he stepped before reporters at the Pentagon to declare his opposition to Trump invoking the two-centuries-old Insurrection Act. That law allows a president to use the armed forces "as he considers necessary" when "unlawful obstructions ... or rebellion against the authority of the United States" make it impractical to enforce U.S. laws in any state by normal means.

Esper said plainly that he saw no need for such an extreme measure, a clear counterpoint to Trump's threat to use force. Almost immediately, word came from the White House that Trump was unhappy with his defense secretary.

On Saturday, the White House press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany, said Trump "remains confident" in Esper.

"Secretary Esper has been instrumental in securing our nation's streets and ensuring Americans have peace and confidence in the security of their places of business, places of worship, and their homes," she said.

After a night of sometimes violent protesting in Washington last Sunday, Esper pulled several active-duty units, including a military police battalion, to bases just outside the nation's capital. He never called them into action; just positioning them close to the capital satisfied Trump for the time being, the senior defense official said. On Friday, the last of those active-duty units were being sent back home.

Trump lost his first defense secretary, retired Marine Gen. Jim Mattis, over an accumulation of grievances, and it took an unusually long time to replace him. For half a year after Mattis resigned in December 2018, the Pentagon was run by acting secretaries of defense — three in succession, the longest such stretch of interim leadership in Pentagon history — before Esper took over last July.

This week, Mattis added weight to the worry that Trump is militarizing his response to the street protests in Washington and across the nation.

Mattis wrote in an essay for The Atlantic that keeping public order in times of civil unrest is the duty of civilian state and local authorities who best understand their communities and are answerable to them..

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 62 of 79

"Militarizing our response, as we witnessed in Washington, D.C., sets up a conflict — a false conflict — between the military and civilian society," Mattis wrote.

The worry felt among Pentagon leaders is reflected in the Joint Chiefs chairman, Gen. Mark Milley, reaching out privately to members of Congress in recent days to discuss concerns about use of the military on American streets.

Milley has been publicly quiet since he caused a stir by joining Esper on the walk with Trump across Lafayette Square last Monday. The optics were awkward. Police had forcibly pushed peaceful protesters out of the way just before Trump and his entourage strolled to St. John's Church, where Trump held up a Bible.

Esper made matters worse by saying, in a conference call earlier that day with governors, that they should use their National Guard troops to "dominate the battlespace," a term widely interpreted by critics as suggesting street protesters should be treated like battlefield enemies. Esper said later it was a poor choice of words.

"America is not a 'battle space,' former Defense Secretary William J. Perry said in a statement. "And the people he threatens to dominate are American citizens, not enemy combatants."

EDITOR'S NOTE — AP National Security Writer Robert Burns has covered the Pentagon and national security affairs for The Associated Press since 1990. Follow him at <http://twitter.com/robertburnsAP>

New jobs report diminishes GOP appetite for more virus aid

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A stronger than expected jobs report could further scramble an already uncertain picture for passing a fifth and possibly final coronavirus aid bill. The positive statistics are feeding the wait-and-see approach of the White House and its GOP allies in Congress.

Republicans say the numbers vindicate their decision to take a pause and assess the almost \$3 trillion in assistance they already have approved. The White House was already showing little urgency about pursuing another trillion-dollar response bill, much less the \$3.5 trillion measure passed by the House last month, and prefers to concentrate on reopening the economy.

The coming weeks are expected to bring difficult negotiations over what the package should contain, just months before an election where the White House and control of Congress are at stake.

For lawmakers, tough decisions loom about how much money to allocate to states, how to extend unemployment benefits for millions of people and whether to create lawsuit protections for businesses and schools as they reopen during the pandemic.

Friday's jobs report showed a 2.5 million gain instead of an expected loss of millions more, complicating prospects for the aid talks. Trump is difficult to gauge, but talks often of pursuing public works spending and a payroll tax cut, which is a nonstarter on Capitol Hill.

"They are less than urgent, less than inclined for another package," said Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., a GOP leader when his party was in the majority. "There is less urgency to go strike a hard deal — and this one would be a hard deal. Doesn't mean it won't happen, I just think the urgency is far lessened."

Democrats looked at the jobs report and saw job losses for 600,000 public employees that are likely to worsen if Washington doesn't help cash-starved state and local governments. Despite the positive jobs news, unemployment nationwide is at 13%, so the looming expiration of a supplemental \$600 per week jobless benefit promises to provide a catalyst for action.

Top Democrats such as Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York are united behind the \$3.5 trillion "HEROES Act," which contains party priorities such as jobless aid, another round of \$1,200 checks and money for essential workers, local schools, colleges and people missing mortgages and rent payments.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and other Republicans are opposed to the Democratic plan. But they are struggling with their own divisions, with more pragmatic lawmakers favoring aid to states and local governments and recognizing that additional jobless aid is inevitable if there is to be

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 63 of 79

an agreement.

GOP Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine and Cory Gardner of Colorado back a significant state aid package, and there's strong support across Congress for help for smaller municipalities. But concerns about piling additional trillions of dollars onto the national debt have risen, and some Republicans believe Congress has done enough.

McConnell has already said Republicans won't extend the \$600 per week supplemental unemployment benefit, which they say is taking away incentive for people to return to the job market. A recent Congressional Budget Office report estimated that 5 out of 6 people would earn more by continuing to receive the higher benefits than returning to work and that extending the benefit would harm the economy next year.

What is plain is that the enormous sense of urgency that produced the first four aid bills has faded, along with the freewheeling dynamic that inflated the price tags. That dynamic helped Democrats to win gains in the \$2 trillion CARES Act in March that they might not have gotten through a more deliberate process.

"Unlike the CARES Act, where we really did need to act in a matter of days, here we have a little bit of luxury of time, but that time is not indefinite," said Neil Bradley, chief policy officer at the U.S Chamber of Commerce. "We don't have months."

Now, Republicans have set a goal of keeping the cost of the next bill below \$1 trillion. That's going to be a hard sell for Pelosi, who devoted almost \$1 trillion just to states and localities.

Supporters of a deal had hoped to reach an agreement this month, but acknowledge the annual August recess is now looking more like the informal deadline. For starters, leadership aides in both parties acknowledge there have been virtually no bipartisan talks so far, with Pelosi and McConnell communicating through their public statements.

"Future efforts must be laser-focused on helping schools reopen safely in the fall, helping American workers continue to get back on the job, and helping employers reopen and grow," McConnell said Friday.

How messaging technology is helping fuel global protests

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **AMANDA SEITZ** Associated Press

When a friend shared a Facebook post with Michelle Burris inviting her to protest in downtown Washington, D.C., last Saturday, she knew she had to go. So she bought a Black Lives Matter mask from a street vendor before marching the streets of the district with a "No Justice, No Peace" sign.

After that march ended, she pulled up details on Instagram for a car caravan demonstration just a few blocks away. "It was extremely powerful, not only Facebook but Instagram," Burris said. "It was very easy to mobilize."

Protesters are using a variety of technology tools to organize rallies, record police violence and communicate during the marches sweeping the U.S. and other countries following the death of George Floyd. Some of that involves secure messaging services like WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram, which can encrypt messages to thwart spies. Those apps, along with others for listening to police scanners and recording video, are enjoying an uptick in popularity.

But experts say convenience and reach are key. "Reaching as many people as possible is the number one criterion for which platform someone is going to use," said Steve Jones, a University of Illinois at Chicago media researcher who studies communication technology.

That means Twitter, Facebook and Facebook-owned Instagram remain the easiest ways for people to organize and document the mass protests. Facebook's tools remain popular despite a barrage of criticism over the platform's inaction after President Donald Trump posted a message that suggested protesters in Minneapolis could be shot.

"I don't want to support or be a part of something that is possibly supporting Trump and his racist, hate filled spew," said Sarah Wildman, who's been to three protests in Atlanta and has used Instagram exclusively to locate and to document the demonstrations she attended. But she said she feels that, at this point, "the benefits of Instagram outweigh not using it."

Half a century ago during the civil rights protests, Jones said, it was almost impossible to know what

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 64 of 79

was going on during a protest. "There was a lot of rumor, a lot of hearsay," he said. "Now you can reach everyone almost instantaneously."

Wildman said she uses Instagram's "live" function to find out what is happening during protests, especially when protesters in the back might not know what's happening at the front. At one, she said, people started yelling that police were using tear gas — but it wasn't true, which she learned by checking Instagram.

Organizers are also using Telegram, an app that allows private messages to be sent to thousands of people at once, creating channels for specific cities to give updates on protest times and locations, as well as updates on where police are making arrests or staging. One New York City Telegram channel for the protests grew from just under 300 subscribers on Monday to nearly 2,500 by Friday.

During a peaceful rally in Providence, Rhode Island, on Friday, Anjel Newmann, 32, said that while she's mostly using Instagram and Facebook to organize, younger people are using Snapchat. The main problem: It's hard to tell which online flyers are legitimate. "That's one of the things we haven't figured out yet," she said. "There was a flyer going around saying this was canceled today."

The simplicity of shooting and sharing video has also made possible recordings of violence that can spread to millions within moments. A smartphone video of Floyd's death helped spark the broad outrage that led to the protests.

Apps like Signal are seeing an uptick in downloads according to Apptopia, which tracks such data. Signal was downloaded 37,000 times over the weekend in the U.S., it said, more than at any other point since it launched in 2014. Other private messaging apps, such as Telegram and Wickr, have not seen a similar uptick.

One new user is Toby Anderson, 30, who also attended the Providence rally on Friday. Anderson, who is biracial, said he downloaded the encrypted Signal app several days earlier at the request of his mom. "She's a black woman in America," he said, worried about his safety and eager to grasp any additional measure of security she could.

Meanwhile, apps like Police Scanner and 5-0 Police Scanner, which allow anyone to listen to live police dispatch chatter — and may be illegal in some states — racked up 213,000 downloads over the weekend, Apptopia said. That is 125% more than the weekend before and a record for the category. Citizen, which sends real-time alerts and lets users post live video of protests and crime scenes, was downloaded 49,000 times.

On the down side, the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism said in a blog post this week that it has found white nationalists using Telegram to try to wreak havoc during the protests.

"Some, especially those in the accelerationist camp, are celebrating the prospect of increased violence, which they hope will lead to a long-promised 'race war,'" the ADL said Monday. "They are extremely active online, urging other white supremacists to take full advantage of the moment."

In one Telegram channel, the ADL found, participants suggested murdering protesters, then spreading rumors to blame the deaths on police snipers.

Others want to further exacerbate racial tensions. "Good time to stroke race relations" and "post black live's don't matter stickers," a user posted — with misspellings — to the Reformthestates Telegram channel, according to the ADL.

AP technology writer Matt O'Brien contributed to this article from Providence, Rhode Island.

Anatomy of a political comeback: How Biden earned nomination

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — It seemed easy to write off Joe Biden.

The former vice president came across as easily blindsided at debates. The crowds at his presidential campaign speeches were far from stadium size. Other Democratic candidates such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg each had moments of radiating a kinetic energy, while Biden appeared to be conserving his resources.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 65 of 79

But Biden had name recognition.

He is able to connect on an emotional level with people who have experienced personal loss, as he has. And as Barack Obama's wingman for eight years, Biden was a reminder to many Democrats of what a president should be.

The opening contests in the 2020 nominating race in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada were humbling losses for Biden. Then came a commanding victory in South Carolina with help from African American voters. Rivals departed the race, and within days his coalition expanded to make him a lock for the nomination that was officially secured Friday night.

This is how Biden won.

It's an account drawn directly from more than 40,000 people from AP VoteCast surveys in 17 states that voted between Feb. 3 and March 17. The result is a rich portrait of a diverse Democratic electorate eager to oust President Donald Trump. The issues confronting the nation intensified since Biden took an overwhelming lead in the primary as the United States now faces a pandemic, a recession and civil unrest due to racial inequality.

MODERATE VOTERS

A majority of Democratic voters wanted to put a moderate with practical policy proposals in office over a liberal with bold ideas. This should not be a surprise, given that 58% say they are moderate or conservative. At the same time, the surveys show a slim majority (53%) of voters say they prefer a dramatic overhaul of Washington, compared with 45% who want a return to a pre-Trump era.

Voters who wanted to restore the political system went for Biden over any other candidate, whether they wanted a liberal or a centrist. Sanders, a Vermont senator who is a self-described democratic socialist, had an advantage over Biden among those who wanted fundamental change and a liberal candidate. But even among those who support a sweeping transformation and centrist policies, 38% backed Biden.

OLDER VOTERS

A solid 61% of primary voters were older than 45 -- a group that firmly supported Biden. His advantages among this group offset his weakness with younger voters. The demographic composition of Democratic voters was a barrier for Sanders. Voters under 30 were a key component of Sanders' coalition but made up just 15% of the electorate. The pattern is similar among self-described liberals and people who saw themselves as falling behind in the economy.

IOWA AND NEW HAMPSHIRE WERE FALSE INDICATORS

The opening contests failed to set the tone for the rest of the country. Biden finished fourth in the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3 and fifth in the New Hampshire primary about a week later. While those states got the bulk of attention from candidates, the results failed to sway voters elsewhere. Iowa and New Hampshire were whiter and much more supportive of sweeping change than the states that followed on the election calendar.

More important, the moderate vote was fractured in those places.

Before South Carolina, no candidate had earned more than one-third of this group. In New Hampshire, for example, about 6 in 10 voters identified as moderate or conservative. Roughly 3 in 10 went for Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. About one-quarter backed Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar. Only about 1 in 10 supported Biden. By contrast, Sanders enjoyed a relatively clear advantage among liberals, with Massachusetts Sen. Warren well behind vying for those votes.

SALVATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina's Feb. 29 primary gave Biden a much needed comeback. It was the first heavily African American state to have a say, and 64% of African American voters supported Biden. The state's voters were more enthused about restoring the Obama era compared with voters in Iowa and New Hampshire. About 7 in 10 considered themselves to be moderate or conservative. More than half were nonwhite, un-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 66 of 79

like the roughly 9 in 10 white voters in Iowa and New Hampshire.

The delegate count was high enough in South Carolina that it shook up the field. Within 72 hours, Buttigieg, Klobuchar and billionaire Tom Steyer decided to set aside their presidential ambitions, clearing the way for Biden to build out his coalition.

LATE DECIDERS

Biden cemented his status a few days later during the Super Tuesday primaries on March 3. He won 10 states, including Texas, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Virginia. One key: voters making their choice in the few days before the elections, in what turned out to be a reflection of the momentum coming out of South Carolina. Across eight of the states with presidential primaries that day, 37% of voters said they made up their minds in the last few days. About half of them went to Biden.

Biden expanded his coalition among liberals, college graduates and even younger voters. Electability was at the forefront of many voters' minds. In Minnesota, a potential November battleground, 60% of voters said it would be harder for a nominee with strong liberal views to win in the general election.

ALL BEFORE CORONAVIRUS AND GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH

Throughout the primaries, Democratic voters said health care was the most important problem facing the nation. Climate change trailed in second place. The economy ranked a distant third. This made sense in the moment as the U.S. was coasting through the longest expansion in its history and the unemployment rate was at a half-century low of 3.5%.

But less than two weeks after the Super Tuesday primaries, everything changed.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused the unemployment rate to rocket to 13.3%, something not seen since the Great Depression. A survey in May from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found nearly 70% of the workers who lost their jobs expected to be rehired, compared with close to 80% just a month before, as the grim realities of restaurant closures and shuttered businesses become clearer.

Then there was another turn in May after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which has sparked protests across the country for racial equality. Civil rights now has joined the economy as a dominant national issue.

During the primary, race relations fell behind health care, the economy and climate change as the most important issues for South Carolina Democrats, according to VoteCast. But voters trusted Biden most on racial matters, with a plurality, 39%, saying he would be the best Democrat to address that issue.

After months of campaigning from his basement, Biden emerged this past week to give a speech in Philadelphia.

"We can't leave this moment thinking we can once again turn away and do nothing," he said. "The moment has come for our nation to deal with systemic racism. To deal with the growing economic inequality in our nation."

Associated Press visual journalist Kati Perry in Washington contributed to this report.

AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for The Associated Press and Fox News. The survey's results in the 2020 Democratic primaries are based on interviews with 42,169 voters in 17 states. Find more details about AP VoteCast's methodology at <https://www.ap.org/votecast>.

Government job losses are piling up, and it could get worse

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Jobs with state and city governments are usually a source of stability in the U.S. economy, but the financial devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic has forced cuts that will reduce public services — from schools to trash pickup.

Even as the U.S. added some jobs in May, the number of people employed by federal, state and local governments dropped by 585,000. The overall job losses among public workers have reached more than 1.5 million since March, according to seasonally adjusted federal jobs data released Friday. The number of government employees is now the lowest it's been since 2001, and most of the cuts are at the local level.

"With that comes a decline in essential public services," Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said on a conference call with reporters this week. For instance, "911 calls are taking a long time to be answered."

Clean drinking water and trash pickups also are being affected in some places, he said.

Tax revenue from businesses walloped by coronavirus restrictions has plummeted, forcing cuts by cities and states that rely on that money. It's likely to get worse in the coming months unless Congress delivers additional aid to states and cities.

Several states are projecting tax revenue will be down 20% or more for the fiscal year starting next month, and governments are facing rising costs resulting from the virus and the police and National Guard response to protests over racial injustice and police brutality.

The layoffs and furloughs are coming amid calls for governments and school districts to do more to respond to the outbreak — from hiring workers to find those who had contact with people infected with the coronavirus to additional janitors needed to sanitize schools and make them safe for students and teachers to return.

"It's going to make it very, very difficult to reopen schools in the fall because you need more money, not less money to reopen," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

In the Chicago suburbs, Lyons School District No. 103 laid off health aides at its six schools. One of them, Maureen Jacobsen, said she was told the workers, who give students medicine and first aid for minor injuries, were being laid off in anticipation of a new requirement that each school has a nurse. A district official did not return a call Friday.

So at 58, Jacobsen is working on her resume for the first time in 21 years. She said the students at Robinson Elementary will be affected by not having her there to help them when school resumes next fall.

"When they go back, they're looking for the familiar," Jacobsen said. "I could tell you that I had 280 kids in my building, and I knew their names."

She may be on the leading edge of permanent layoffs for government employees.

The federal numbers do not provide precise breakdowns, but many of those out of government jobs so far have been temporarily furloughed. And some of the first to go were those whose absence would not be felt deeply when stay-at-home orders were in effect.

For instance, the Pittsburgh Parking Authority furloughed its three dozen enforcement officers and meter technicians. In Michigan, nearly two-thirds of state government workers have been furloughed through July. And in North Carolina, more than 9,000 state Department of Transportation employees have been told to take unpaid time off by June 26.

But union officials warn that the cuts could become deeper and permanent as budgets are ironed out. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said his state alone could lose 200,000 government jobs.

Some permanent cuts already have been made or proposed. Last week, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority voted to lay off 500 toll collectors as part of a move to make the road system cashless. And California Gov. Gavin Newsom is calling for 10% salary cuts for many state government employees.

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association, said the impact will be biggest in lower-income areas.

"A 30% cut in a poor school district's budget means you just lost your arts program, you just lost your

sports program," she said. "We are going to have to lay off one teacher in each grade."

And the first workers to be cut also could be the most vulnerable.

"Very often the first people who will go will be all the administrative staff, the public works department and custodial staff and many, many people who are low paid, who are women, who are black and brown," said Hetty Rosenstein, New Jersey director of Communications Workers of America, the largest union of state government employees there.

Unions and bipartisan groups are pushing Congress to send state and local governments more help quickly. Following a \$2.2 trillion coronavirus aid package in March, the Democratic-led House last month approved an additional \$3 trillion bill, which includes \$1 trillion for governments. But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said his chamber will not agree to such a large amount — or anything quickly — as the economy reopens.

For Ashley Sims, a library assistant in Louisville, Kentucky, being furloughed when libraries were closed did not cause a financial strain. With a \$600 weekly boost in unemployment benefits as part of a federal response to the crisis, she said her pay has been higher than when she was working.

But there are worries about permanent layoffs. Sims, who's president of the library workers union, said she may consider a voluntary layoff to save the jobs of some of her coworkers.

She said many who rely most on libraries are lower-income people and immigrants who can't afford computers and use them to search for work, among other tasks.

"It would be an incredible loss," Sims said. "Libraries are the lifeblood of communities."

Associated Press reporters Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina, and David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this article. Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Follow him on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>.

SpaceX opens era of amateur astronauts, cosmic movie sets

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX's debut astronaut launch is the biggest, most visible opening shot yet in NASA's grand plan for commercializing Earth's backyard.

Amateur astronauts, private space stations, flying factories, out-of-this-world movie sets — this is the future the space agency is striving to shape as it eases out of low-Earth orbit and aims for the moon and Mars.

It doesn't quite reach the fantasized heights of George Jetson and Iron Man, but still promises plenty of thrills.

"I'm still waiting for my personal jetpack. But the future is incredibly exciting," NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren said the day before SpaceX's historic liftoff.

NASA astronaut Nicole Mann, who will test drive Boeing's space capsule next year, envisions scientists, doctors, poets and reporters lining up for rocket rides.

"I see this as a real possibility," she said. "You're going to see low-Earth orbit open up."

The road to get there has never been so crowded, with Elon Musk's SpaceX company leading the pack.

A week ago, SpaceX became the first private company to send people into orbit, something accomplished by only three countries in nearly 60 years. The flight to the International Space Station returned astronaut launches to the U.S. after nine long years.

"This is hopefully the first step on a journey toward a civilization on Mars," an emotional Musk told journalists following liftoff.

Closer in time and space is SpaceX's involvement in a plan to launch Tom Cruise to the space station to shoot a movie in another year or so. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine embraces the idea. He wants NASA to be just one of many customers in this new space-traveling era, where private companies own and fly their own spaceships and sell empty seats.

"Kind of a changing of the guard in how we're going to do human spaceflight in the future," said Mike

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 69 of 79

Suffredini, a former NASA station program manager who now leads Houston's Axiom Space company.

Axiom has partnered with SpaceX to launch three customers to the space station in fall 2021. An experienced astronaut will accompany them, serving as the commander-slash-tour guide. Two private flights a year are planned, using completely automated capsules belonging to SpaceX or Boeing, NASA's two commercial crew providers.

The ticket price — which includes 15 weeks of training and more than a week at the space station — is about \$55 million. Besides the three signed up, others have expressed serious interest, Suffredini said.

Since last weekend's successful launch, "everybody's starting to wonder where their place in line is," Suffredini told The Associated Press on Thursday. "That's a really, really cool position to be in now."

Space Adventures Inc. of Vienna, Virginia, also has teamed up with SpaceX. Planned for late next year, this five-day-or-so mission would skip the space station and instead orbit two to three times higher for more sweeping views of Earth. The cost: around \$35 million. It's also advertising rides to the space station via Boeing Starliner and Russian Soyuz capsules.

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin and Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic are taking it slower and lower with tourist flights. These space-skimming, up-and-down flights will last minutes, not days, and cost a lot less. Hundreds already have reservations with Virgin Galactic.

Branson is the only one of the three billionaires planning to launch himself before putting customers aboard at \$250,000 a pop. His winged rocketship is designed to drop from a customized plane flying over New Mexico.

Blue Origin's customers will launch on rockets from West Texas; the capsules sport wall-to-ceiling windows, the largest ever built for a spacecraft.

It's not just rocket rides that have companies salivating.

Beginning in 2024, Axiom plans to build its own addition to the 260-mile-high (420-kilometer-high) outpost to accommodate its private astronauts. The segment would later be detached and turned into its own free-flying abode.

Space Adventures is marketing flights to the moon — not to land, but buzz it in Russian spacecraft.

The moon — considered the proving ground for the ultimate destination Mars — is where it's at these days. NASA is pushing to get astronauts back on the lunar surface by 2024 and establish a permanent base there.

Musk's company recently won contracts to haul cargo to the moon and develop a lunar lander for astronauts.

But the bigger draw for Musk is Mars. It's why he founded SpaceX 18 years ago — and why he keeps pushing the space envelope.

"I cannot emphasize this enough. This is the thing that we need to do. We must make life sustainably multi planetary. It's not one planet to the exclusion of another, but to extend life beyond Earth," Musk said after last weekend's launch.

"I call upon the public to support this goal," he added, beckoning to the NASA TV cameras.

To fulfill that vision, SpaceX is using its own money to develop a massive, bullet-shaped steel spacecraft called Starship at the bottom of Texas. Prototypes repeatedly have ruptured and exploded on the test pad, most recently on the eve of the company's astronaut flight from Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

NASA's Bridenstine said space is currently a \$400 billion market, including satellites. Opening up space-flight to paying customers, he said, could expand the market to \$1 trillion.

The goal is to drive down launch costs and ramp up innovation, drawing in more people and more business. By NASA's count, 576 people have flown in space, with only the wealthy few footing their own bill.

The world's first space tourist, California businessman Dennis Tito, paid a reported \$20 million to the Russians to fly to the space station in 2001 — against NASA's wishes. The Canadian founder of Cirque du Soleil, Guy Laliberte, shelled out \$35 million for a Russian ticket in 2009. Space Adventures arranged both deals.

"It really is the billionaire boys' club," former space shuttle astronaut Leland Melvin said during last Sat-

urday's launch broadcast. Once prices drop, he'd consider returning to space, but not without his dogs.

"They're ready to go, need SpaceX suits for them," he said.

Once lunar bases are established, the next step will be Mars in the 2030s, according to Bridenstine.

"Those are the kinds of things that inspire the next Elon Musk, the next Jeff Bezos, the next Sir Richard Branson. And that's what we have to get back to as an agency," he said.

SpaceX still has to get NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken safely back to Earth this summer in its Dragon capsule. But the company already is looking ahead to the next astronaut crew. Crew mission director Benji Reed got a brief taste of this future as he wrapped up a chat with the astronauts Monday.

"Thank you for flying SpaceX," he chimed.

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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.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 71 of 79

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 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.

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,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 72 of 79

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."

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."

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 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 Huehuepiactla 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 74 of 79

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 Prengaman from Phoenix.

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.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 75 of 79

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."

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 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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 76 of 79

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 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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 77 of 79

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.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 78 of 79

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Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 7, the 159th day of 2020. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

On this date:

In 1654, King Louis XIV, age 15, was crowned in Rheims, 11 years after the start of his reign.

In 1712, Pennsylvania's colonial assembly voted to ban the further importation of slaves.

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1942, the Battle of Midway ended in a decisive victory for American naval forces over Imperial Japan, marking a turning point in the Pacific War.

In 1954, British mathematician, computer pioneer and code breaker Alan Turing died at age 41, an apparent suicide. (Turing, convicted in 1952 of "gross indecency" for a homosexual relationship, was pardoned in 2013.)

In 1958, singer-songwriter Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson in Minneapolis.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, struck down, 7-2, a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious groups could sometimes meet on school property after hours. Ground was broken for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

In 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death; one of them, Lawrence Russell Brewer, was executed in 2011 and the other, John William King, was executed in April, 2019. A third defendant received life with the possibility of parole.)

In 2004, a steady, near-silent stream of people circled through the rotunda of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, where the body of the nation's 40th president lay in repose before traveling to Washington two days later for a state funeral.

Ten years ago: U.S. defense officials announced that Army Spc. Bradley Manning had been detained in Baghdad in connection with a video posted on WikiLeaks showing Apache helicopters gunning down unarmed men in Iraq. Veteran White House correspondent Helen Thomas, 89, abruptly retired after calling for Israelis to get "out of Palestine" in an online video. An Indian court convicted seven former employees of Union Carbide's India subsidiary of "death by negligence" for their roles in the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama opened a visit to Germany for a G-7 summit, where he praised the leadership of Chancellor Angela Merkel. Turkish voters rebuked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahnz) ambitions to expand his powers, stripping his party of its simple majority in parliament. Stan Wawrinka beat Novak Djokovic 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to win the men's French Open title. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" won best play at the Tony Awards; "Fun Home" won best musical. Actor Christopher Lee, 93, died in London.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that he had suspended plans to impose tariffs on Mex-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 330 ~ 79 of 79

ico, tweeting that the country had “agreed to take strong measures” to stem the flow of Central American migrants into the United States; the deal appeared to fall short of some of the dramatic overhauls sought by the United States. NASA announced that the International Space Station would be open for visits by private citizens; a round-trip ticket was expected to cost \$58 million. Barnes & Noble, a bookstore chain that had suffered under competition from Amazon and other online sellers, was acquired by hedge fund Elliott Management for \$476 million. The University of Alabama returned a \$26.5 million donation from philanthropist Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr., and took his name off the university’s law school, a week after he called on students to boycott the institution over Alabama’s new abortion ban.

Today’s Birthdays: Movie director James Ivory is 92. Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner is 91. Actress Virginia McKenna is 89. Singer Tom Jones is 80. Actor Ronald Pickup is 80. Poet Nikki Giovanni is 77. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 74. Americana singer-songwriter Willie Nile is 72. Actress Anne Twomey is 69. Actor Liam Neeson is 68. Actress Colleen Camp is 67. Author Louise Erdrich (UR’-drihk) is 66. Actor William Forsythe is 65. Record producer L.A. Reid is 64. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 63. Vice President Mike Pence is 61. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 57. Rapper Ecstasy (Whodini) is 56. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 54. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 53. Actress Helen Baxendale is 50. Actor Karl Urban is 48. TV personality Bear Grylls is 46. Rock musician Eric Johnson (The Shins) is 44. Actress Adrienne Frantz is 42. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 42. Actress Anna Torv is 41. Actress Larisa Oleynik (oh-LAY’-nihk) is 39. Former tennis player Anna Kournikova is 39. Actor Michael Cera is 32. Actress Shelley Buckner is 31. Rapper Iggy Azalea is 30. Actress-model Emily Ratajkowski is 29. Rapper Fetty Wap is 29.

Thought for Today: “Two men look out through the same bars: One sees the mud and one the stars.”
— Frederick Langbridge, English clergyman and author (1849-1922.)

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