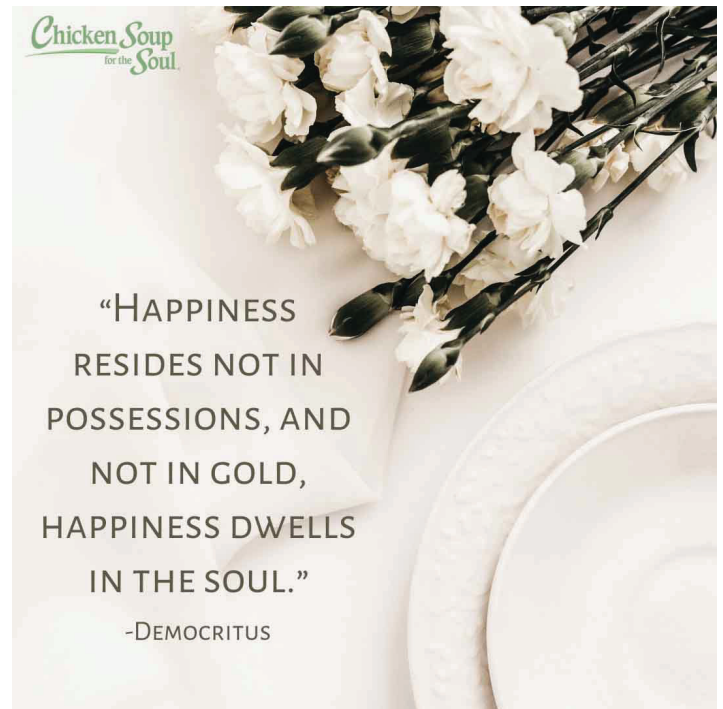


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## Service Notice: Diane Johnson

Services for Diane Johnson, 74, of Groton will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Burial will follow at a later date in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the chapel on Friday. Diane passed away June 7, 2020 at her home surrounded by her family.

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

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

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Groton Area Board of Education  
Regular Meeting – June 8, 2020

## COVID 19 Related Issues/Superintendent Report

**Prom.** We haven't returned to the prom discussion since late March. I would suggest that we officially cancel prom.

**Graduation.** Currently, we have two working plan for the graduation ceremony on Sunday, July 12 at 2:00 PM. From yesterday, graduation is five weeks out. The more restrictive plan would allow for us to create spaces for family units to remain appropriately distanced from other families allowing eight family members to attend on behalf of each student. If we have to implement this plan, I would suggest setting a date to randomly assign seating locations to all families. The other option would, in my opinion, better mirror what is happening within our communities, and would place the onus of responsibility on individuals. In this scenario we would not restrict attendance or seating for the public and would emphasize that attendees do so at their own personal risk and discretion.

**Summer Work-outs.** We implemented our return to school-sponsored athletics plan beginning on June 1, 2020. The plan very tightly mirrors the SDHSAA plan developed following the NFHS guidance with support from the SDHSAA sports medicine advisory committee. The plan is a three-phase plan intended to move from phase to phase in two-week increments assuming falling levels of infection rates. I would like the ability to exercise discretion in reviewing the data that determines whether or not we move from phase one to phase two, etc. There are currently three coaches scheduling athletes for workouts within the parameters of this plan. Aubray Harry has scheduled cheer tryouts for June 19<sup>th</sup> within the parameters of whichever phase we're in (1 or 2).

**Review Brown County Infection Rate Trends.** I've been charting trend lines on new and active cases of COVID19 for about three weeks as it became apparent this was going to be required to make local decisions about resuming typical activity and we learned that the data wasn't being charted outside of Minnehaha County. Last week, the Department of Health added a section on their website (<https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>) that allows users to view trend data of new positive cases by county over the most-recent 14 day period.

**2020-2021 School Calendar.** I've created a revised version of the 2020-2021 school calendar as part of our preparation for what school might look like into the next school year. The intent of the new draft is to potentially allow us to complete more of our instruction in a traditional environment allowing for the possibility of additional makeup days due to intermittent school closures resulting from COVID19 infections.

**Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year.** Currently the only thing that we can plan for with any certainty is that conditions in the fall will be uncertain. We need to progress with discussions on what our best options will be for instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. Given that we can't predict what might be the best course of action and to avoid being thrown into a new situation like we were in March, this means multiple plans, some of which may never be implemented. Appropriate plans might include:

1. Return to Normal Instruction
2. Rolling School Closures
3. Virtual Education
4. Staggered Schedules

Arizona and North Dakota have put together fairly extensive documents outlining return-to-school protocols for their states which have been somewhat helpful in determining what the appropriate course of action might be under certain conditions as well as helping to identify the barriers and pre-requisites for implementation. South Dakota Department of Education has initiated a "Start Well" group that is working on a guide for South Dakota schools. My understanding is that this guide will be limited in scope and direction consistent with Governor Noem's personal responsibility and local decision making philosophy provided in South Dakota's Return to Normal Plan.

I have more questions than answers for these "plans" right now.

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I see some validity in the development of a task force intended to work through these issues and questions to formulate our district action into the 2020-2021 school year. Without trying to make the group too large, the following stakeholder groups come to mind when considering the potential makeup of such a task force: Board, Administration, Nurse, Teachers, Parents, Athletic Director, Auxiliary Staff, Head Custodian

**CARES Act Funding.** The SDDOE has announced that they will be using 9.5% of their 10% of CARES Act funding to provide more equitable federal funding on a per-student basis. Initially, we expected to receive approximately \$65,000 in federal CARES funding. With the additional allocation, we expect that our federal allocation will be \$94,155 (<https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/CARES-EST3.pdf>). The new amount reflects the federally required allocation based on our appropriate proportion of Title I Part A funds plus an allocation to bring our per student total to \$162.02 based on our fall 2019 enrollment.

The application became available for the first time on Friday, June 5. Districts must obligate the funds by September 30, 2022.

## **Non-COVID19 Issues**

**1003 Grant.** Our amended grant application for unused 1003 funds for FY2020 was approved and we've ordered 20 new lpads with protective cases under the flexibilities afforded to us under that grant program. We've submitted a proposed 1003 school improvement grant budget for FY2021 to DOE for their review. If approved, the grant will fund professional development for certified staff during our 2020-2021 inservice dates on the topics identified in the action plans completed by the SDCNA teams (Planning Effective Lessons, Evidence-Based Instructional Strategies, Formative Assessments, Differentiated Instruction) along with two days of inservice training for our non-certified paraprofessional staff.

**Summer Maintenance.** Summer building maintenance is progressing. Custodial staff is nearly complete with their regular cleaning of the Elementary. Staff is completing maintenance on the HS gym floor this week and will follow into the classroom portion of the MS/HS facility. MARC will be completing the refinishing of the Arena the week of June 15.

## Principal's Report

MS/HS Building, Mrs. Sombke

June 8, 2020

### 1) 2020-2021 6-12 Schedule

- 176 Dual Credit Individual Class Registrations (each class is one semester in length). Not all students have been "approved"; some students still need to complete the Accuplacer for Math and English placement approval per individual University or Technical School requirement. Students will be contacted through email notification if they need to complete the Accuplacer
- NSU has announced a date change for Fall 2020 class registrations; August 19 at 5:00pm will be the cut off for registering for any Dual Credit Course through NSU Fall 2020
- NSU has announced official Dual Credit Start Date of August 19, 2020
- 30 Approved E-Learning Registrations (Spanish II, Spanish I); 12 pending E-Learning Registrations (World History and Government)
- Next year's schedule includes a few changes for seating placement for Dual Credit and E-Learning students which will more evenly place students in the building per hours 1-7, and will make efficient use of staff contracted time during hours of the day/specific course areas where there was little to no student registration identified
- This will benefit all students by allowing for a more evenly spaced building, and will allow more regular use of the Library space and resources

### 2) ACT- Groton Area Testing Site

- Saturday, June 13, 2020
- 8:00 am Doors will be closed; testing will begin promptly at 8:00am
- 47 Students currently registered
- 1-319-337-1270 ACT Test Center Phone Number, phone line is open 8am-8pm central time, M-F.
- If any student receives an email notification from ACT regarding any kind of change, please call this number so that the student's individual case can be processed individually; student will need to have a copy of their ACT confirmation ticket in order provide necessary information to ACT representative
- Ms. Seeklander will receive a complete list of registered students on Wednesday June 10, 2020

### 3) MS/HS Student Handbook

- No policy changes to recommend
- 2 physical versions submitted per our different sized agendas for MS and HS
- Note there is a difference in the page numbering when looking for/discussing specific policy per MS/HS Agenda

Elementary Principal Report

6/8/20

Brett Schwan

1. **Extended School Year (ESY):** We currently have 12 students who will be attending the elementary school for services. A number of these students will be requiring transportation to and from school. We are waiting to hear back from one more family before I start making arraignments with Loren. Carrie Weisenburger, Anne Zoellner, and Ann Gibbs will be working with these students on a one to one basis.
2. **Book Study Update:** Due to some changes at the Board of Regent level, Dr. Anna Schwan is no longer allowed to oversee a book study without being paid. Before, she was able to hold a book study through Northern, issue a credit for \$40, and not have to be paid for her services. It would roughly cost an additional \$1790 to Northern to cover the cost of 1 credit hour.
3. **NSU Management Class:** Starting this fall I will be teaching EDFN 450, Classroom Management. This is a 2 credit class that will be taught online. I will be using the textbook, *Comprehensive Classroom Management: Creating Communities of Support and Solving Problems*. This textbook focuses on strategies and practices that will help teachers prevent inappropriate behaviors through the process of appropriate management skills and procedures.
4. **Handbook Updates:** Most of the updates are due to Title 1 requirements.
5. **Teacher Evaluations:** I have all 11 signed evaluations back from the teachers who were in Group A this year. If nothing changes for next year, I will have 12 teachers on the full evaluation list including 3 teachers on their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. I already had a meeting with frontline and my evaluations tool has been rolled over to next school year.
6. **South Dakota Licensed or Registered Child Care Program COVID-19 Funding Application:** We were encouraged by our district rep to apply for this funding. It is unclear whether or not we will receive any funding during this time.

## COVID-19 vs. Education at stalemate for now

The Groton Area School Board of Education grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic with a stalemate being the outcome.

Superintendent Joe Schwan presented a number of scenarios dealing with going back to school, the graduation ceremony scheduled for July 12th and extra curricular activities. Not knowing what the COVID-19 numbers are going to look like in August presents problems in planning.

The only thing that is definite is that prom is cancelled.

Graduation will go on and for now, there will be no restrictions or assignments of families. It will be come at your own risk or watch it live on GDILIVE.COM.

Extra curricular activities could be challenging. Schwan said there might be a school that may not want to play another school or what does Groton Area do if we have a student with COVID-19. There are so many questions, no answers, and only time will tell.

Schwan then asked the question about busing students to and from school: "How do you safely transport students to school?" He also mentioned that extra curricular buses are full. About the only thing that is positive is that the district should receive their football helmets in time for the season, but some districts may not be so lucky. "So what then?" Schwan asked.

Schwan said that wearing masks has become politically charged. The question was raised if the students should wear masks, the teaching staff, or not. Board member Deb Gengerke said it is one thing to have three elementary students home because of COVID-19. It's another to have three teachers home because of COVID-19.

More decisions will be forthcoming in July.

Teachers will be doing training for teaching on-line classes in July or August, which will be funded through the CARES Act.

Groton Area will be getting extra funds through the CARES Act. The district was originally suppose to get \$65,000 based on the Title I funding. The Department of Education will be using 9.5 percent of its 10 percent of CARES Act funding to provide more equitable federal funding on a per student basis. So for Groton, the district will receive \$95,155 based on \$162.02 per student.

ACT testing will be done in Groton on Saturday, June 13 with the doors closed at 8 a.m. Northern State is not hosting an ACT testing site, but Groton will be having theirs. There are 47 students registered for the Groton testing site.

For the school board election, there were 386 absentee ballots requested with 293 of them being returned and counted. Thirteen absentee ballots were received after the election.

Kyle Gerlach was approved for reassignment from elementary Paraprofessional to MS/HS special education paraprofessional vacated by the retired Bill Duncan.

Drivers Education work agreements were approved for Shaun Wanner and Joel Guthmiller.

ESY agreements for the 2020 ESY services for Ann Gibbs, Anne Zoellner, Carrie Weisenburger, Todd Peterson and Becky Erickson were approved.

Ray Adams was hired as a high school math teacher. Adams is moving from Charlotte, N.C., to Aberdeen and has 18 years of teaching experience. "He should be a good fit," Superintendent Joe Schwan said. "The kids will enjoy him."

The board approved the 2020-21 district membership agreement for North Central Special Education Cooperative.

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**There were lots of bicycles at the pool and the Groton Swimming pool has been busy during the recent warm days.**

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

The numbers are still looking good; we did not crash after the weekend.

We're at 1,969,700 cases in the US. New case numbers are well down for a third consecutive day and holding below 20,000. NY leads with 383,591 cases, holding below 1000 new cases. NJ has 164,497 cases, also holding below 500. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 134,184, IL – 128,801, MA – 103,626, PA – 80,432, TX – 77,269, MI – 64,911, FL – 64,896, and MD – 59,024. These ten states account for 64% of US cases. We have one more state over 50,000. 3 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, WI, VA, AL, GA, MS, LA, and NE. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, NC, TX, AZ, MI, TN, 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.

Some states where new case reports are growing are Arizona and Florida. Both reopened early, before things were well under control, and both appear to be paying the price. I'm guessing there are other states in similar situations, but I haven't been able to track each state. I will bring you those reports as I find them.

Florida has nearly 65,000 cases and added more than 1000 new cases per day for five consecutive days last week, topping out over 1400 and today adding nearly 1000. Arizona is adding them nearly as fast; it had four 1000+ new-case days last week with 973 on a fifth day and over 800 today. The chief clinical officer at the largest health system in the state, Dr. Marjorie Bessel, predicts a crisis if the trend continues. ICUs across the state are either at or near capacity with hospitalizations, especially of critically ill patients, continuing to soar. The number of patients on ventilators in one hospital system has tripled in the past two weeks. Residents are being advised to take precautions. Bessel said people are tired of rules about where they can and cannot go. "They wish it would go away. It hasn't gone away. It isn't going to go away any time soon."

Last night, we talked about the cases showing up on campuses as athletes check in to camps, and I mentioned that more such cases might be likely. Under the heading of I wish I was wrong, but no such luck, we do have more. We mentioned Arkansas State last night; they have had seven athletes test positive. The University of Alabama, also mentioned last night, has had five. Then there have been three at Auburn, an unreleased number at Texas Tech, one at the University of Iowa, an unreleased number at Marshall University, three at Oklahoma State, and one at Iowa State. And we're months from classes starting. Could be a long school year at this rate.

For the record, case counts topped 7 million worldwide yesterday with a death toll over 400,000. The US, with just over 4% of the world's population, accounts for well over a quarter of those deaths.

There have been 110,951 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths is pretty steady, well under 1000. NY has 30,239, NJ has 12,214, MA has 7353, PA has 6007, IL has 5964, MI has 5816, CA has 4679, and CT has 4084. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today and all but 1 fewer than 50. There are 6 more states over 2000 deaths, 7 more states over 1000 deaths, 7 more over 500,



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12 more + DC and PR over 100, and 10 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

Here's some hopeful news from Wuhan, China. This city had a small outbreak a few weeks ago as they reopened after largely bringing their cases under control, so they undertook to test everyone in town over the age of 5. This is a huge undertaking in a city of 11 million residents. They used a novel strategy to optimize the value of available testing supplies; they pooled specimens from groups of five people and tested them together. When the result was negative, which happened most of the time, they got five tests for the price of one. If a specimen came up positive, then each of the five people was tested individually. This is a smart approach to widespread screenings like this one.

Out of the nearly 10 million people tested, there were just 300 positive. None of these people had symptoms. They then traced contacts for all of these folks, finding no infections among any of the 1174 close contacts which supports the thinking that maybe asymptomatic individuals aren't all that efficient in transmitting the virus. This would be great news if it holds. And the fact that this city appears to have really brought their outbreak under control is very good news too; it means it is possible.

I don't think we're going to be able to repeat their success here, however. One reason is that we started reopening things before we had new case numbers on a steady decline over a period of time. Another reason is that we still don't have anything close to enough testing. Also, we refuse to take basic public health precautions like mask-wearing, social distancing when we're out and about, and minimizing non-essential social contacts, all of these demurrals in service of freedom and liberty and such. We'll see how that works for us.

Since vaccines are in the news so much lately, I thought we could do a quick round-up of where we are with those. We talked a few days ago about the approach the US is taking to vaccine development, that the government has selected promising candidates to fund production scale-up in the hope that one or more of these will be successful in clinical trials, positioning us to crank up production very rapidly upon approval of any of them. The five companies whose vaccines are on that short list are Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Pfizer. And you will recall that the principle of vaccination is to expose you to an antigen (some component of the virus) in a form that cannot cause disease in order to give your immune system a safe head-start on building a response so that, when you encounter the virus in real life, you'll be all ready to quickly ramp up antibody production and destroy it before it can make you sick. We do have pretty strong evidence that nearly everyone who recovers from Covid-19 produces antibodies to the virus, which means exposure to a vaccine should result in the same sort of antibody production. That's important because there are some pathogens to which you don't have all that great a response. We can be glad this isn't one of those.

We're seeing basically four approaches to vaccine development for SARS-CoV-2 in the US. These are as follows:

(1) Inactivated ("killed") or attenuated (weakened "live") virus. This is the approach used now in polio, chicken pox, and flu vaccine, so we know how to do this. Exposure to virus causes you to have a response, make antibodies, and be prepared for the full-strength, infectious virus when you encounter it. A vaccine in testing now from a Chinese company, Sinovac, is an inactivated virus vaccine, and it has the best results of anything being tested currently; familiar technologies are easier to get right because we have experience with them. This is not one that the US government is backing, however.

(2) Viral fragment. This is how the HPV and some of the newer flu vaccines are designed. As long as the fragment is something to which you make neutralizing antibodies, that is, antibodies that keep the virus

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from hurting you, the same thing happens: You have a response, make antibodies, and are then prepared for the real thing.

(3) Take a chimpanzee virus that is harmless to humans and coat it with the spikes of the coronavirus, then inject that. The harmless infection with the chimp virus will set off an immune response to spike proteins, and the resulting antibodies will bind, that is, neutralize those spikes on the coronavirus. This is a new approach, so we don't actually know whether it's going to work. Early data isn't great; the vaccine lessened symptoms, but didn't prevent infection entirely when tested in monkeys. The number of neutralizing antibodies produced was "extremely low."

(4) Genetic vaccine. Genes for the spike are injected and enter cells, causing them to produce spike proteins, which in theory, should give you lots of immunologic stimulus. You have an immune response to those proteins and produce antibodies to them; the antibodies block virus from infecting your cells. This is also a new concept, so we're not entirely sure it will work either. This is the vaccine that is in Phase 2 trials in the US now; we talked about it last week. There is some dismay in the scientific community that Moderna, the company testing it, has not been forthcoming with data from its trials so far; this does not inspire a great deal of scientific confidence in the company's announcements about its promise (especially when, as happened here, some company executives unload a bunch of stock right after the price spike that eventuated when they announced early success).

No one really thinks the first vaccine to market will be the last one—or the best one. Most experts think whatever comes to market first will be only partially effective, but that could be enough to reduce the severity of infections that occur, keeping people out of the hospital and alive, which would be a good first step. I would expect refinements to continue to come for some years. It is important to remember that vaccine development is an enormously complicated process with many variables; that's why most of the successful vaccines we have now spent years, some of them decades, in development. While our technologies improve all the time, we are still working with highly complex biological systems, so there's nothing straightforward about the process.

One of the difficulties we're likely to face—and we've talked about this before—is that you need an outbreak actively occurring in order to test vaccines. That's because what you do when you test vaccine is give it to people and then wait to see whether they get infections. And if there's not much infection going around, it's going to take a long time—maybe years—to figure out whether it works. That happened in 2006 when a vaccine for rotavirus, which causes a serious intestinal infection in children, was tested. A clinical trial that started out with 40,000 children eventually ended up with 70,000 and took more than three years; that's what it took to see a protective effect in study participants. Paul Offit of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia said, "It's hard to study something that doesn't happen." So while I hope things all go along swimmingly and we have a vaccine within a few months—and that is theoretically possible, I think it is important to keep in mind all of the ways this can go wrong, run into trouble, and need more time.

We talked last week about the University of Minnesota trials of hydroxychloroquine that were not at all promising. We have more data from other studies now, and the news has not gotten better. British researchers at Oxford University leading a trial have concluded the drug is "useless," saying "This is not a treatment for COVID-19. It doesn't work." As a result of this conclusion, they halted their trial, citing their findings that the drug made no significant difference in death rates, in length of stay in the hospital, or in other outcomes. That's pretty definitive. I think this one's dead.

A few days ago, we talked about a monoclonal neutralizing antibody therapy in trials in the US; now there's a Phase 1 trial of another monoclonal starting up in China. After non-primate experiments, they are ready to test safety and dosage in healthy people. The research team published findings in Nature last

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month and has received approval from the Chinese government agencies that regulate medical products. Because there are no guarantees in this business, it's always better to have many trials going on in parallel; it increases the chance we'll end up with something that works.

We have a new long-term sequela of Covid-19 to worry about; this is seen in patients who spend significant time receiving mechanical ventilation. Because patients cannot tolerate ventilation without sedation, they are placed into a medically-induced coma for the duration. For those who recover and begin to breathe on their own, as the sedation is withdrawn, they typically wake up within a few hours to a day; but some Covid-19 patients are not waking up for days, even as much as a week or two. Some of them are still not responding two or three weeks later.

And when they do awaken, things aren't necessarily normal neurologically. The neurologic effects range from being sort of mentally foggy to severe dysfunction, including effects very like a brain injury or mild Alzheimer's disease. Those most affected may require long-term—as long as a year—acute care and inpatient neurological rehabilitation, something many insurers balk at paying for and almost no one can afford on their own. We are not sure what the incidence of this sort of complication is, but a paper from Wuhan, China, described "impaired consciousness" in 14.8% of patients hospitalized with severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Doctors are still sorting out just what's going on in these patients. Some of the effects may be due to strokes, something we are already aware are an issue. We talked a few weeks ago about the tendency for people with severe Covid-19 to develop multiple blood clots, some of which can cause strokes, the obstruction of blood vessels in the brain that deprives brain tissue of blood flow (and therefore oxygen), causing damage to that tissue; but not all of these patients show any signs of stroke. Brain inflammation is another possibility; this has been seen in some patients and can damage brain tissue. And it's possible the virus itself is crossing what's known as the blood-brain barrier into brain tissue and directly attacking the tissue. We don't know how likely this is; there has been only one published report of brain infection by the virus. It may also be that the prolonged sedation required for long-term ventilator use causes issues. That's not unheard of, but the things we're seeing in these patients are atypical, even for long sedation.

There is an effort underway to compile information on these cases, and a collaborative study is underway to put together data from three hospitals. There is general agreement we have an urgent need to understand the mechanism of this syndrome and design appropriate interventions. We'll keep an eye out for news on this front.

The 76th anniversary of D-Day was Saturday. For those too young to know, D-Day was June 6, 1944, the day when allied troops embarked from England, crossed the English Channel, and stormed the beaches of Normandy in northern France and the day WW II turned against the Axis Powers in Europe. At least 10,000 Allied personnel died that day on the beach in the largest seaborne invasion in history. Since then, there have been commemoration ceremonies every year on the site of the invasion—until this year when this pandemic prevented travel by families to visit the graves in Normandy.

Steven Oldrid, an Englishman living in Normandy, has helped with D-Day events for years, organizing parking, finding sponsors for veterans' dinners, making sure the musicians show up, always in the background. Year after year, he's watched families and friends of the fallen lay wreaths on the graves of these men long gone. But this year, there could be no families, no friends because travel was not permitted. And Steven was there for them.

He was first contacted in March. He says, "They asked, 'Steven, can you lay our wreath?'" Before long,

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there were more requests—and more. Soon, wreaths and grave markers were piled up in his garage. And on the day, Steven took it all to the graves, filming wreath-laying ceremonies on Facebook Live for the families at home, soothing their feeling of loss at being unable to attend in person. He says, “it’s not ever, never will be a burden. It’s a pleasure and an honor.” He served.

And here we have yet another example of someone stepping up for strangers, for people he has never met and probably never will meet. This is someone who has perfected the art of being together apart. An old guy too. If he can step up to such a large undertaking, surely we each can choose just one small act we can perform that will make someone else’s life easier or more comfortable. They may not come to you as these families did to Steven. You may have to seek them out; but keep your eyes open. The opportunities are kind enough to present themselves if you trouble yourself to watch for them. Changing the world is not something most of us will do in one grand gesture, but change it we can. If we have the will. And the caring. Please be one of those who does.

And keep yourself healthy. We have a long path to walk together. I’ll be back tomorrow.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9
Minnesota	25,508	25,870	26,273	26,980	27,501	27,886	28,224
Nebraska	14,611	14,866	15,117	15,379	15,543	15,634	15,752
Montana	523	525	539	541	540	545	548
Colorado	26,788	27,060	27,360	27,615	27,848	28,001	28,183
Wyoming	701	703	709	721	726	734	748
North Dakota	2646	2679	2706	2745	2816	2861	2880
South Dakota	5067	5162	5247	5277	5367	5438	5471
United States	1,831,821	1,851,520	1,872,660	1,898,401	1,920,061	1,938,931	1,961,185
US Deaths	106,181	107,175	108,211	109,137	109,802	110,481	111,007
Minnesota	+300	+362	+403	+707	+521	+385	+338
Nebraska	+266	+255	+251	+262	+164	+91	+118
Montana	+4	+2	+14	+2	-1	+5	+3
Colorado	+211	+272	+300	+255	+233	+153	+182
Wyoming	+1	+2	+6	+12	+5	+8	+14
North Dakota	+21	+33	+27	+39	+71	+45	+19
South Dakota	+33	+95	+85	+30	+90	+71	+33
United States	+20,451	+19,699	+21,140	+25,741	21,660	+18,870	+22,254
US Deaths	+1,016	+994	+1,036	+926	+665	+679	+526
	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

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## June 8th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

Good job South Dakotans! We've only had 38 positive cases in the whole state today with another 68 being recovered. That brings our percentage of recovered up to 80.5 percent and our active cases are at 1003 after dropping by 35. Brown County had only one positive case with the active cases dropping by three to 44.

Pennington County had the most positive cases at nine. The positive case counties still outnumber the only recovered list of counties, 14-9. Hyde County was dropped from the fully recovered list while Hutchinson was added back to that list.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: -3 (44)  
Recovered: +4 (254)  
Total Positive: +1 (299)  
Ever Hospitalized: +2 (15)  
Deaths: 1  
Negative Tests: +20 (1848)  
Percent Recovered: 84.9% (1.0 increase)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +38 (547 total)  
Negative: +726 (52348 total)  
Hospitalized: +4 (482 total) - 92 currently hospitalized (5 more than yesterday)  
Deaths: 0 (65 total)  
Recovered: +68 (4403 total)  
Active Cases: -35 (1003)  
Percent Recovered: 80.5% up 0.8

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett 134, Butte +1 (233), Campbell 42, Haakon 131, Harding 30, Jones 17, Mellette 77, Perkins 24, Potter 140, unassigned +229 (8517).

Aurora: +4 recovered (22 of 29 recovered)  
Beadle: +2 positive, +7 recovered (176 of 385 recovered)  
Bon Homme +1 recovered (7 of 8 recovered)  
Brown: +1 positive, +4 recovered (254 of 299 recovered)  
Buffalo: +2 recovered (10 of 25 recovered)  
Clay: +3 positive (13 of 35 recovered)  
Codington: +2 positive (32 of 43 recovered)  
Davison: +3 positive (10 of 30 recovered)  
Edmunds +1 positive, +1 recovered (2 of 4 recovered)  
Hamlin: +1 positive (4 of 7 recovered)  
Hanson: +1 positive (0 of 3 recovered)  
Hutchinson: +2 recovered (6 of 6 recovered)  
Hyde: +1 positive (1 of 2 recovered)  
Lincoln: +2 recovered (228 of 254 recovered)  
Lyman: +1 recovered (11 of 24 recovered)  
Meade: +2 positive, +5 recovered (15 of 26 recovered)

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Minnehaha: +2 positive, +22 recovered (3069 of 3409 recovered)  
Oglala Lakota +4 recovered (19 of 39 recovered)  
Pennington: +9 positive, +10 recovered  
Sanborn: +1 recovered (12 of 13 recovered)  
Todd: +1 positive (21 of 38 recovered)  
Union: +2 recovered (79 of 100 recovered)  
Yankton: +3 positive (46 of 58 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Hyde, gained Hutchinson): Clark 4-4, Deuel 1-1, Hutchinson 6-6, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1, Tripp 6-6, Walworth 5-5.

The NDDoH & private labs report 1,415 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 19 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,880.

State & private labs have reported 115,259 total completed tests.  
2,336 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	636	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	926	17%
Hispanic	946	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	611	11%
Other	628	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	1724	32%

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

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	29	22	181
Beadle	385	176	643
Bennett	0	0	134
Bon Homme	8	7	413
Brookings	23	16	955
Brown	299	254	1848
Brule	2	1	291
Buffalo	25	10	272
Butte	0	0	233
Campbell	0	0	42
Charles Mix	20	11	332
Clark	4	4	183
Clay	35	13	639
Codington	43	32	1215
Corson	4	3	79
Custer	1	0	190
Davison	30	10	994
Day	13	12	239
Deuel	1	1	227
Dewey	1	0	519
Douglas	4	3	174
Edmunds	4	2	183
Fall River	6	3	305
Faulk	2	1	59
Grant	13	11	249
Gregory	1	0	160
Haakon	0	0	131
Hamlin	7	4	176
Hand	5	1	144
Hanson	3	0	88
Harding	0	0	30
Hughes	20	17	757
Hutchinson	6	6	492

Hyde	2	1	60
Jackson	4	1	52
Jerauld	40	28	174
Jones	0	0	17
Kingsbury	5	2	252
Lake	13	9	322
Lawrence	12	10	632
Lincoln	254	228	2963
Lyman	24	11	345
Marshall	4	3	120
McCook	6	4	360
McPherson	2	1	111
Meade	26	15	717
Mellette	0	0	77
Miner	3	1	125
Minnehaha	3409	3069	14804
Moody	19	16	256
Oglala Lakota	39	19	543
Pennington	314	128	3944
Perkins	0	0	24
Potter	0	0	140
Roberts	38	31	682
Sanborn	13	12	141
Spink	5	5	417
Stanley	10	8	95
Sully	1	1	36
Todd	38	21	541
Tripp	6	6	212
Turner	25	22	427
Union	100	79	727
Walworth	5	5	252
Yankton	58	46	1608
Ziebach	2	1	78
Unassigned****	0	0	8517

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2597	36
Male	2874	29

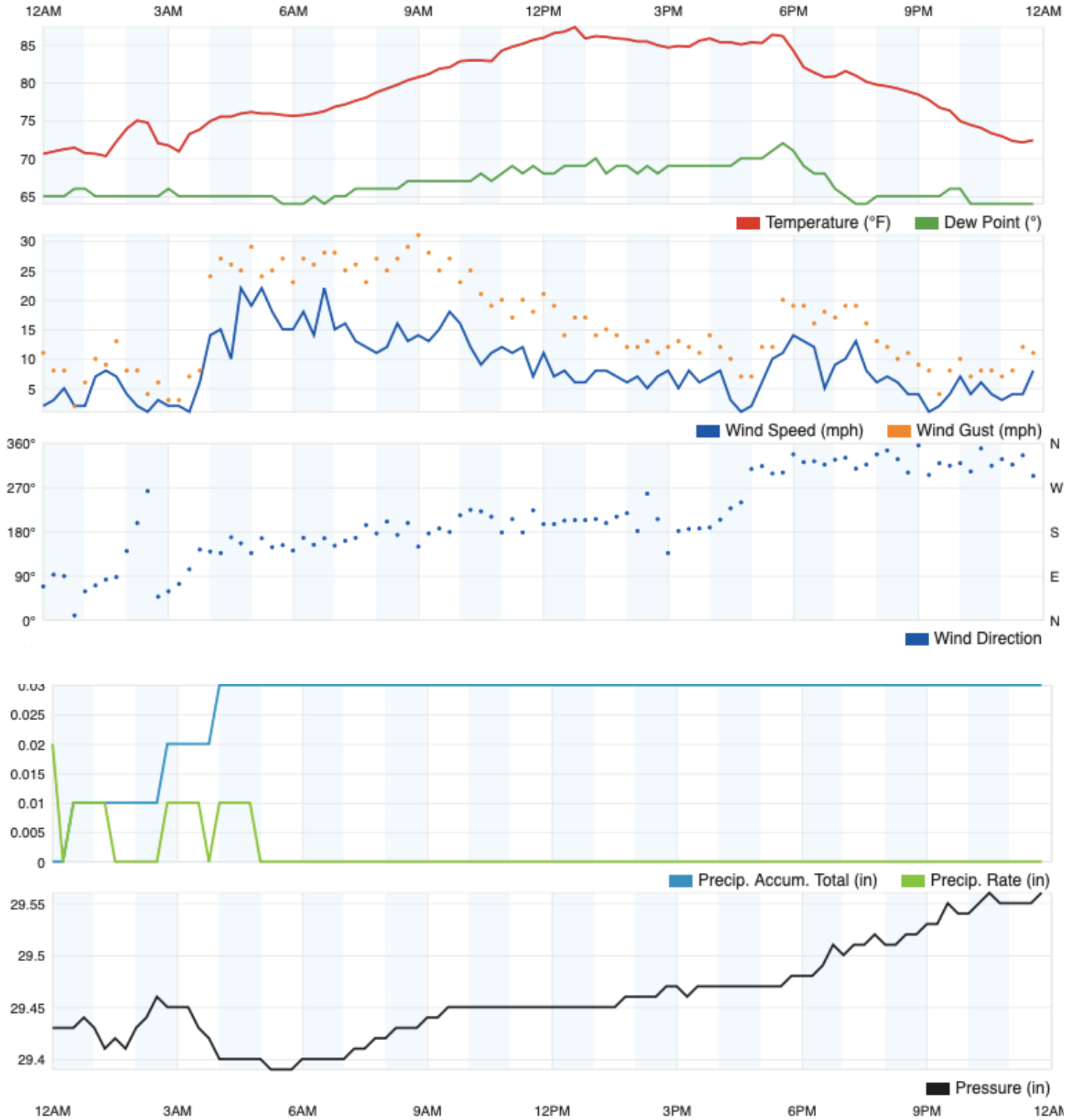
Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	546	0
20-29 years	1081	1
30-39 years	1226	3
40-49 years	929	4
50-59 years	882	9
60-69 years	493	11
70-79 years	160	6
80+ years	154	31



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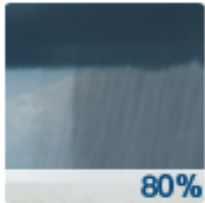
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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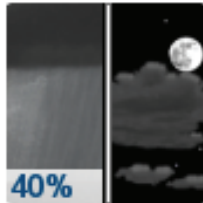
Today



Showers and Breezy

High: 64 °F

Tonight



Scattered Showers then Partly Cloudy

Low: 50 °F

Wednesday



Sunny and Breezy

High: 75 °F

Wednesday Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 52 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 79 °F

## Showery Through Mid-Week Dry Thurs/Friday & Saturday

Today



Numerous Showers & Weak Thunderstorms  
**Breezy to Windy**

Tempo

Wednesday



Isolated Showers & Weak Thunderstorms  
**Breezy to Windy**

Tempo

Thursday



Sunny  
**Breezy**

Tempo

Friday



Sunny  
**Breezy**

Tempo

We will continue to see showers with a few rumbles of thunder today, and much cooler temperatures. Windy conditions continue into Wednesday with clearing skies and a few showers. Dry conditions are expected Thursday through Saturday, but it will remain breezy.

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## Today in Weather History

June 9, 1957: Southwest of Faulkton, one of four funnel clouds finally touched down and cut an unusual path to the northeast. One home was reduced to "matchsticks and tidbits." The tornado strength was an F3.

June 9, 1968: A brief F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles northeast of Britton. Barns were destroyed, and trees were uprooted on three farms. Two cars were picked up and thrown into a ditch. One person in a car was hospitalized. Damage was estimated at \$150,000 to property and another \$80,000 to crops.

June 9, 1972: A steady flow of warm moist air near the surface fed storms and anchored them against the Black Hills for six to eight hours. A flash flood killed 238 people in the Rapid City area after as much as fifteen inches of rain fell over the eastern Black Hills.

1966: Hurricane Alma made landfall over the eastern Florida panhandle becoming the earliest hurricane to make landfall on the United States mainland.

1953 - A tornado hit the town of Worcester MA killing ninety persons. The northeastern states usually remain free of destructive tornadoes, however in this case a low pressure system, responsible for producing severe thunderstorms in Michigan and Ohio the previous day, brought severe weather to New Hampshire and central Massachusetts. The tornado, up to a mile in width at times, tracked 46 miles through Worcester County. It mangled steel towers built to withstand winds of 375 mph. Debris from the tornado fell in the Boston area, and adjacent Atlantic Ocea. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1972 - A cloudburst along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills of South Dakota produced as much as 14 inches of rain resulting in the Rapid City flash flood disaster. The rains, which fell in about four hours time, caused the Canyon Lake Dam to collapse. A wall of water swept through the city drowning 237 persons, and causing more than 100 million dollars property damage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Lightning struck Tire Mountain near Denver CO, destroying two million tires out of a huge pile of six million tires. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes around Denver, and a man was killed at Conifer CO when strong thunderstorm winds lifted up a porch and dropped it on him. A thunderstorm near Compton MD produced two inch hail, and high winds which destroyed twenty barns and ten houses injuring five persons. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Carolina to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Hail in North Carolina caused more than five million dollars damage to property, and more than sixty million dollars damage to crops. Hail three and a half inches in diameter was reported at New Bern NC. Thunderstorms in the Central High Plains produced eighteen inches of hail at Fountain CO. The temperature at Del Rio TX soared to an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe weather abated for a date, however, showers and thunderstorms continued to drench the eastern U.S. with torrential rains. Milton, FL, was deluged with 15.47 inches in 24 hours. Record heat and prolonged drought in south central Texas left salt deposits on power lines and insulators near the coast, and when nighttime dew caused arcing, the city of Brownsville was plunged into darkness. (The National Weather Summary)

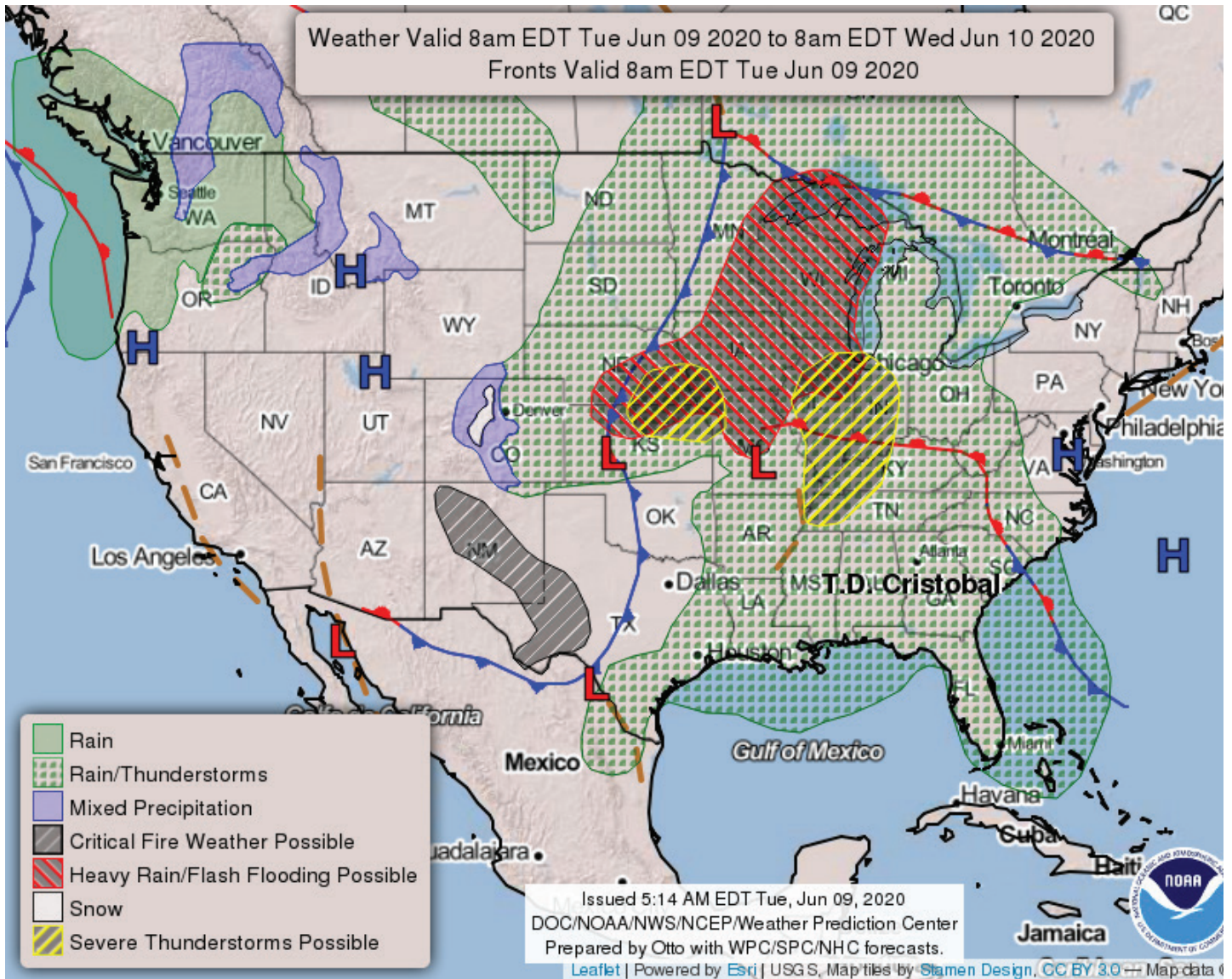
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 87 °F at 12:44 PM**  
**Low Temp: 70 °F at 1:05 AM**  
**Wind: 32 mph at 6:48 AM**  
**Precip: .03 to Midnight .47 since Midnight**

**Record High: 100° in 2016, 1933**  
**Record Low: 33° in 1915**  
**Average High: 75°F**  
**Average Low: 52°F**  
**Average Precip in June.: .93**  
**Precip to date in June.: 1.12**  
**Average Precip to date: 8.07**  
**Precip Year to Date: 5.75**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:21 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.**



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## **MISTAKES ARE NOT FATAL**

The new bank president decided that he would meet individually with each employee to introduce himself. He wanted them to know that he was very interested in their work and how important they were to the success of the bank.

After introducing himself to all of the employees, he asked one of them to come to his office. After she sat down, he asked, "How long have you been working here?"

Proudly she responded, "Forty years. And in all that time I've only made one little mistake."

"That's amazing. Wonderful!" he grumbled. "However, be more careful from now on!"

We all make mistakes. And there are at least three things we can do about them:

We can promise never to make another mistake. That, however, is impractical since we know that such a ridiculous promise would be impossible to keep.

We can give up and never do anything else and live like a hermit in a cave for the rest of our lives. And, we know that's impractical because life goes on.

Or, we can learn from our mistakes and profit from them as though they were our teachers. When things do not work out as intended, or our plans go astray and things get "messed up," we need to admit it, look for how and why things "blew-up," seek the help and advice of others, go to God in prayer, and ask for His wisdom which is available upon request.

Prayer: Lord, Your Word assures us that "if we lack wisdom and want to know what to do" all we need to do is ask You. May we seek Your guidance and insight. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:5-9

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## 2020 Groton Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
June 13	Jr. Legion	Northville	Groton	4:00 (2)
June 14	Jr. Legion	Lake Norden	Groton	3:00 (1)
June 14	Legion	Lake Norden	Groton	5:00 (1)
June 15	Jr. Teener	Fredrick	Groton	5:30 (2)
June 15	Jr. Legion	Claremont	Claremont	5:00 (1)
June 15	Legion	Claremont	Claremont	6:30 (1)
June 17	Legion	Redfield	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 18	Jr. Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
June 19	Jr. Teener	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 22	Jr. Teener	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
June 23	Jr. Legion	Claremont	Groton	6:00 (1)
June 23	Legion	Claremont	Groton	8:00 (1)
June 24	Jr. Legion	Faulkton	Faulkton	6:00 (2)
June 25	Jr. Teener	Webster	Webster	6:00 (2)
June 26	Legion	Clark	Groton	5:30 (2)
June 27	Jr. Teener	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	2:00 (2)
June 27	Legion	Redfield	Redfield	2:00 (1)
June 28	Jr. Teener	Northville	Groton	4:00 (2)
June 29	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 29	Legion	Webster	Webster	6:00 (2)
June 30	Jr. Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
July 1	Jr. Teener	Lake Norden	Groton	5:30 (2)
July 1	Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
July 2	Jr. Teener	Clark	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 6	Jr. Legion	Clark	Groton	5:30 (2)
July 7	Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 10	Jr. Legion	Faulkton	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 14	Jr. Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	5:30 (1)
July 14	Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	7:00 (1)
July 15	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 15	Legion	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 20	Jr. Legion	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
July 20	Legion	Northville	Groton	6:00 (2)

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota governor uses video to vaunt COVID-19 response

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Monday took to social media to vaunt her response to the coronavirus pandemic and pitch herself as a leading conservative governor.

Throughout the pandemic, Noem, a Republican, has held regular press briefings, taking questions from reporters. On Monday, she instead posted a nearly-nine minute video in which Noem said she has prioritized “freedom,” but claimed the “mainstream media” has attacked her for doing so.

“More freedom, not more government is the answer,” Noem said.

While the sparsely-populated and Republican-dominated state of South Dakota may be an afterthought in many national political conversations, Noem has courted attention from both conservative pundits and President Donald Trump, including seeking political advice from his former campaign-manager Corey Lewandowski.

She has stuck to some of the most lax regulations of any governor to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and has often contrasted her hands-off approach to places like New York or New Jersey. Recently, she began positioning herself as a leading conservative governor, using the line: “There’s no governor in America that has trusted their people to make the right choices more than I have.”

The approach has earned her attention from both conservative and liberal national media outlets. In the video, she also claimed its drawn the attention of common Americans. At a time when many governors are cautiously reopening, Noem boasted how the state’s Black Hills region has been filled with out-of-state tourists. She welcomed people and businesses to move to the state, returning to a message that was a priority before the pandemic.

“If you want freedom, personal responsibility and a government that works for you, rather than dictates to you, South Dakota is the place to get it,” the governor said.

She also shifted her messaging on her strategy for the coronavirus. During the pandemic, Noem said repeatedly that she was using the “data, facts and science” to guide her decision-making. But in the video, Noem called out leaders from other states, saying, “A blind reliance on insufficient modeling has led some governor’s to enact disastrous lock downs.”

But Noem’s actions during the pandemic have not been devoid of controversy. Sanford Health announced it was discontinuing a state-backed trial of the anti-malaria medicine hydroxychloroquine on Friday. When Noem announced the trial in April, she said she had worked with the White House to get it up and running.

The governor also escalated a dispute with two Native American tribes, at one point threatening to sue them over coronavirus checkpoints they had set up on federal and state highways to prevent unnecessary visitors to reservations. She backed away from that threat and the tribes are still operating the checkpoints.

So far, the state’s hospitalizations for COVID-19 have been far below what Noem projected. She initially estimated the state would need 5,000 hospital beds by mid-June, but she later cut that number by more than half. On Monday, state health officials reported that 92 people were currently hospitalized by COVID-19. Noem said the model helped the state be prepared for a “worst case scenario.”

Health officials also reported 33 new COVID-19 cases. The total number of COVID-19 cases in the state stands at 5,471. No new deaths were confirmed, leaving the statewide total at 65.

State epidemiologist Josh Clayton said there is a new cluster of 52 infections at the Dakota Provisions poultry plant in Huron. Meat processing plants have produced clusters of infections in the state, with the largest coming from a Smithfield pork processing plant in Sioux Falls in April. 853 employees at the plant had confirmed infections, according to the Department of Health.

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.



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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.

## South Dakota's tourism industry takes big hit amid pandemic

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Events that usually boost revenue and bring people together in South Dakota's communities have been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

About 50 community events have been cancelled and not rescheduled, according to the state Department of Tourism. At least 15 events have been cancelled in the western region, 14 in the southeast, nine in the northeast, and six in central South Dakota. Other events, including fairs and festivals, have been postponed for later in the year, Black Hills Pioneer reported Saturday.

A total of 14.5 million people visited the state in 2019, spending \$4.1 billion and generating \$308 million in state and local taxes and supporting more than 55,000 jobs, according to state figures.

Jim Hagen, the department's tourism secretary, said industry revenue in South Dakota is estimated to be down by about 70% so far this year, including hotel occupancy rates of only 15-30%.

Ali Tronsfeldt, manager of Fort Sisseton State Park, decided to cancel the park's Historical Festival scheduled for June 6.

"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."

Hagen noted that event cancellations can be emotionally draining for individuals and communities.

"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," Hagen added.

Hagen said the state has partnered up with Sturgis officials to gather data and medical information to determine whether the Sturgis motorcycle rally, which is South Dakota's largest event each year, will be cancelled. It is planned for Aug. 7-16.

About 490,000 people attended the 10-day event in 2019. The event brought in an estimated \$720 million.

An announcement for the event will be made on or around June 16, Hagen added.

The state encourages event organizers and the tourism industry to keep gatherings small and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for social distancing, Hagen noted.

"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."

## Attorney General: Police officer justified in April shooting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Whitewood police officer was justified in shooting a Rapid City man in the leg in April, the South Dakota attorney general announced on Monday.

Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg reported that 41-year-old Jaris Kroetch failed sobriety tests, resisted arrest and attempted to flee from an officer before he was shot at a gas station in Whitewood on April 10.

A police officer was called to the gas station after a clerk reported Kroetch was murmuring to himself and acting paranoid, according to a summary of the report. The officer said Kroetch failed a sobriety test, but as the officer tried to handcuff Kroetch, he fled. The officer fired a Taser at Kroetch, bringing him to the ground. But as the officer got on top of Kroetch, he pulled the Taser prongs from his back and flipped the officer onto the ground.

Kroetch then fled to his car and brandished a knife, the attorney general reported. Audio from the officer's body camera recorded the officer telling Kroetch that if he put his keys in the ignition, he would be shot. As the car started, the officer shot Kroetch in the left leg.

Kroetch survived and was found to have methamphetamine and marijuana in his system.

## Police want 17-year-old for attempted murder during rioting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls said Monday they are searching for a 17-year-old accused of attempted murder during riots that developed from a protest on May 31 over the death of George Floyd.

Sioux Falls police said they have video of the teen throwing rocks at police, then pulling a handgun from his pants and firing in the direction of police officers. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Police have made several other arrests of people accused of throwing rocks at police officers and vandalizing stores.

Nationwide protest have called for police reforms and an end to police brutality and racism after Floyd was killed two weeks ago by a white Minneapolis officer who pressed a knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes. Protests turned into rioting in many cities, but the protests have been mostly peaceful in recent days.

## Arrest made in fatal Rapid City motel assault

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police in Rapid City have made an arrest in a fatal assault at a local motel. Officers were sent to the motel Saturday about 10 p.m. on a report of an assault and found the victim in a room unresponsive. Emergency responders determined Harry Blackbear, 48, had died. Investigators spoke with a number of witnesses who identified a 29-year-old suspect. Police found the man sleeping near a Civic Center parking lot and arrested him early Sunday morning. The Argus Leader reports police say they found blood on the suspect's shoes and socks. The suspect was arrested on a probable charge of second-degree murder and taken to the Pennington County Jail.

## Law enforcement workers disciplined for social media posts

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A pair of people who work in South Dakota law enforcement have been disciplined for social media posts they made about the death of George Floyd and the ensuing protests.

Protesters nationwide have called for police reforms after Floyd's May 25 death after a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee on his neck for several minutes even after the handcuffed black man stopped moving and pleading for air.

The South Dakota attorney general's office reported that a contractor is no longer working with it after the office learned of the contractor's racist social media posts regarding a Black Lives Matter protest in Topeka, Kansas, according to the Rapid City Journal. The contractor, Tessa Mitchell, wrote on Facebook: "This is why many of us don't trust black people ... look at what your people are doing to everyone. Right now I could care less if they all got shot."

A spokesman for the attorney general said Mitchell's position was terminated the same day her comments were discovered, but did not make it clear whether she was fired or resigned. She told the Pierre Capitol Journal, which first reported the incident, that she had already resigned before making the comments.

Mitchell worked as a contract coordinator for the Crisis Intervention Team training, which teaches officers to respond to people in mental or health crises.

In a separate incident, Pennington County Jail correctional officer Kathleen Burns was disciplined for Facebook comments that said Floyd's death was his fault, used derogatory terms for developmentally disabled people and described how people in jail lie about not being able to breathe.

"We denounce the statements and don't condone them at all," Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom told the Rapid City Journal.

But Thom decided to discipline Burns rather than fire her, saying she had a good track record and her actions at the jail are monitored by video and supervisors. He did not say how she was disciplined.

## Pilot killed in crash of small plane in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The pilot of a small cargo plane was killed when the aircraft crashed during takeoff in Sioux Falls.

He was the only one on board when the twin-engine Mitsubishi went down about 4 a.m. Sunday at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, according to officials.

The airport's executive director, Dan Letellier, said the plane had some sort of problem and crashed midfield, or about a half mile from where he took off.

The pilot originally departed from Everett, Washington to transfer cargo to Huron, but he was diverted

to Sioux Falls around 1:40 a.m. because of thunderstorms in the Huron area, the Argus Leader reported. The pilot was taking off to resume his flight to Huron.

The airport's tower is not in operation from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m., but the Minneapolis flight center was communicating with pilots coming in and out of Sioux Falls, Letellier said.

An investigator with the Federal Aviation Administration is collecting evidence for a preliminary investigation of the crash, said Peter Knudson, a spokesman with the National Transportation Safety Board.

The NTSB is investigating the crash and plans to release a preliminary report within the next two weeks.

## **George Floyd, whose death energized a movement, to be buried**

**By JUAN A. LOZANO and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press**

HOUSTON (AP) — The black man whose death has inspired a worldwide reckoning over racial injustice will be buried in Houston Tuesday, carried home in a horse-drawn carriage.

George Floyd, who was 46 when he was killed, will be laid to rest next to his mother. On May 25, as a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee on Floyd's neck, the dying man cried out for his mother.

His funeral will be private. Some 6,000 people attended a public memorial service Monday in Houston, where he grew up.

Under a blazing Texas sun, mourners wearing T-shirts with Floyd's picture or the words "I Can't Breathe" — one of the other things he cried out repeatedly while pinned down by the police officer — waited for hours to pay their respects. Floyd's body, dressed in a brown suit, lay in an open gold-colored casket.

Shortly after the memorial ended, Floyd's casket was placed in a hearse and escorted by police back to a funeral home.

As the hearse drove away, 39-year-old Daniel Osarobo, a Houston resident who immigrated from Nigeria, could be heard saying, "Rest in power. Rest In Peace."

"I've been stopped by police. I understand the situation. I can only imagine," said Osarobo, who works as an engineer in the oil and gas industry. "What if it was me? What if it was my brother? What if it was my sister? What if it was my son?"

Those were questions many black Americans have asked not just in recent weeks, but for decades.

Floyd's death sparked international protests and drew new attention to the treatment of African Americans in the U.S. by police and the criminal justice system. In the past two weeks, sweeping and previously unthinkable things have taken place: Confederate statues have been toppled, police departments around America have rethought the way they patrol minority neighborhoods, legislatures have debated use-of-force policies, and white, black and brown people have had uncomfortable, sometimes heated, discussions about race in a nation that is supposed to ensure equal opportunity for all.

Calls for "defunding the police" have cropped up in many communities, and people around the world have taken to the streets in solidarity, saying that reforms and dialogue must not stop with Floyd's funeral.

His death has also reshaped the presidential race. To be re-elected, President Donald Trump must rebound from one of the lowest points of his presidency, with recent polls showing that 8 in 10 Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction and even spiraling out of control. The president got a boost late last week with a better-than-expected jobs report, but he's struggling to show consistent leadership on multiple fronts, including the nationwide protests against police brutality.

Meanwhile, former Vice President Joe Biden met with Floyd's family Monday, according to a photo posted on Twitter by the Rev. Al Sharpton. Biden will provide a video message for Floyd's funeral service. Previous memorials have taken place in Minneapolis and Raeford, North Carolina, near where Floyd was born.

The memorials have drawn the families of black victims in other high-profile killings whose names have become seared into America's conversations on race — among them Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

"It just hurts," said Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother, sobbing as he ticked off some of their names outside The Fountain of Praise church. "We will get justice. We will get it. We will not let this door close."

For 14 nights, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in protest of police brutality

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and racial inequality. Cities imposed curfews as some of the demonstrations were later marred by spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. More than 10,000 people have been arrested around the country, according to reports tracked by The Associated Press.

But protests in recent days have been overwhelmingly peaceful — and over the weekend, several police departments appeared to retreat from aggressive tactics. Thousands of Los Angeles protesters arrested for violating curfew and other police orders will not be charged with a crime, prosecutors said Monday.

Four Minneapolis officers were charged in connection with Floyd's death, which was captured on video by bystanders, who begged police to stop hurting him.

A Minnesota judge on Monday kept bail at \$1.25 million for Derek Chauvin, the police officer charged with second-degree murder in Floyd's death. Chauvin's former co-workers, J Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao, are charged as accomplices.

The 44-year-old Chauvin said almost nothing during the 11-minute hearing while appearing on closed-circuit television from a maximum-security prison.

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Associated Press writers Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida, Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas, Marina Villeneuve in Albany, and Bill Barrow in Atlanta, contributed to this report.

## Hong Kong leader says all should learn from year of protests

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A year on from the start of Hong Kong's anti-government protests, the leader of the semi-autonomous Chinese city said Tuesday that all sides should learn from the difficulties and challenging times over the past year.

"Everyone has to learn their lesson, including the Hong Kong government," Carrie Lam told reporters before a weekly meeting with advisers. "Hong Kong cannot bear that kind of chaos, and the people of Hong Kong want a stable and peaceful environment to be able to live and work here happily."

Lam did not elaborate on what lessons should be learned.

Tuesday is the one-year anniversary of a huge march through central Hong Kong that grew into a pro-democracy movement that saw protesters break into the legislative building and take to the streets every weekend for months.

"The mass protest on 9 June last year has been etched in the collective memory of Hongkongers," the Civil Human Rights Front, which organized the event, wrote in a Facebook post on Tuesday. "It also marks the beginning of our togetherness in defending our beloved city."

Protesters gathered in shopping malls to mark the anniversary at lunchtime, holding up signs and banners reading "Liberate Hong Kong" and singing protest songs. There were calls for further demonstrations in the evening.

Police closed some streets and walkways ahead of possible protests and warned that participants in unauthorized assemblies could be sentenced to up to five years in prison.

The June 9, 2019, march was in opposition to a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed people in the former British colony, which has its own legal system, to be sent to mainland China to face trial. Organizers pegged the turnout at more than a million people, while police estimated the crowd at 240,000.

In the ensuing months, violent clashes broke out at times between protesters and the police, leading to accusations of police brutality and sparking protester demands for an independent inquiry into police behavior.

There was a lull in protests during the coronavirus outbreak early this year, but as infections have ebbed, protesters have returned to the streets to demonstrate against an imminent national security law for Hong Kong as well as a recently approved law that makes it illegal to insult the Chinese national anthem.

Critics and protesters say the national security law is a blow to the "one country, two systems" framework following the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China in 1997, which promised the city freedoms not found on the mainland.

China blames the protests in part on foreign intervention and is hastening to enact the national security law aimed at curbing secessionist and subversive activities in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's problems are a result of the opposition and foreign allies "attempting to turn Hong Kong into an independent or semi-independent political entity and a pawn to contain China's development," Zhang Xiaoming, deputy director of the Chinese Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, said in a speech posted on the office's website on Monday.

"The more the bottom line of national security is consolidated, the greater the space will be for Hong Kong to leverage its advantages under 'one country, two systems,'" Zhang said.

China will "unswervingly" protect its sovereignty and block any outside interference in Hong Kong's affairs, he said.

## China's companies emerge as global donors in virus pandemic

By **JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — As the coronavirus spread, the world's richest communist dug into his deep pockets.

Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and a member of the ruling Communist Party, helped to pay for 1,000 ventilators delivered to New York in April. Ma's foundation also is giving ventilators, masks and other supplies in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The pandemic marks the debut of China's business elite as global humanitarian donors alongside their American, European and Japanese counterparts. Ma, Alibaba and other Chinese companies and tycoons are donating hundreds of millions of dollars of medical supplies, food and cash in dozens of countries.

Video service TikTok has promised \$250 million to pay health workers and help others hurt by the outbreak. Tencent, operator of the popular WeChat messaging service, pledged \$100 million and says it has sent masks and protective gear to 15 countries including the United States.

Other companies including computer maker Lenovo and electric automaker BYD Auto have given masks and other supplies. Haier Smart Home, a global appliance maker, says its factory in Pakistan is distributing food to neighbors.

That gives donors a chance to repair China's image and gain credit with President Xi Jinping's government, which faces criticism its secrecy and delay in responding to the virus that emerged in central China in December made the outbreak worse.

"No single country can handle this crisis independently," Ma said during an online seminar organized by his foundation for African doctors to speak with Chinese experts who fought the outbreak.

This wave of Chinese donations is notable for "giving internationally, which is usually quite limited in scope," said Edward Cunningham, who researches Chinese philanthropy at the Ash Center of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, in an email.

Philanthropy in China has grown as its economy flourished but has been focused at home or on foreign universities with family connections to donors, said Cunningham.

American companies including Walmart Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. have given medical supplies and money in Africa, India and Latin America. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey promised \$1 billion and has announced donations in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the United States. Cisco Systems Inc. donated to the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

Ma's foundation is helping the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expand virus testing to 1 million people across the continent, according to John Nkengasong, director of the agency.

Africa, where experts fear health systems with limited resources will face a spike in infections, is a long-time diplomatic priority for Beijing. Chinese companies see the continent as a source of resources and its 1.3 billion people as an important market.

"We are extremely pleased and proud of the partnership with the Jack Ma Foundation," said Nkengasong during the April 28 online seminar. He said some 1,600 medical workers from across Africa participated.

Giving can be politically fraught at a time when Beijing is mired in conflicts with the United States, Europe and its Asian neighbors over trade, technology, spying allegations and territorial claims.

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The European Union's foreign minister, Josep Borrell, wrote in March there was a "struggle for influence" under way through the "politics of generosity."

Huawei Technologies Ltd., the biggest global maker of telecom switching equipment and the No. 2 smartphone brand, says it has given medical and communications technology, masks and other protective gear in more than 20 countries including Spain, Ireland, Zambia and South Africa.

U.S. officials say Huawei is a security risk, which the company denies. Washington wants European and other allies to shun Huawei technology as they upgrade to next-generation telecoms networks.

Huawei didn't directly answer a question about whether it was trying to influence official decisions but said in a written statement donations "will be guided by actual needs on the ground."

Jack Ma's foundation has promised supplies to all 54 African countries including 500 ventilators, 200,000 protective suits and 500,000 gloves.

"There is a sentimental impact among the populations who can see in China a country which values their health," said Mame Goor Ngom, a political analyst and editor for Africa Check, an organization in Senegal that checks the accuracy of public claims.

African governments including Senegal, Rwanda and Ethiopia publicly thanked Chinese donors.

Chinese donations in Ghana "cannot be compared with what the Americans gave out, but they got more publicity," said Manasseh Awuni Azure, a Ghanaian commentator.

China faces complaints after Africans in the southern city of Guangzhou reported they were evicted from their homes, forcibly tested for the virus or suffered discrimination.

"The stigma of this violence cannot disappear so easily," said Ngom.

Other companies have sent donations to the United States and other developed countries where they have few commercial interests.

JD.com, China's biggest online retailer, said its founder, Richard Liu, and his wife, Nancy Zhang, have given 50 ventilators, 5 million masks, surgical gloves and other supplies to British hospitals. The company provides free online medical and psychological counseling services worldwide.

Virus test kits paid for by Jack Ma's foundation that arrived in Rwanda in March were "a much needed contribution," said the country's president, Paul Kagame, on Twitter. "I know the people of Rwanda join me in gratitude."

Jack Ma, who retired as Alibaba chairman in 2019, is China's richest entrepreneur, with a net worth of 275 billion yuan (\$39 billion), according to the Hurun Report, which tracks the country's wealthy. Tencent founder Ma Huateng, who is no relation, was No. 2 last year at 260 billion yuan (\$37 billion).

The delivery of ventilators in New York, paid for by the family foundation of Ma's former deputy, Joseph Tsai, and his wife, Clara, came as its governor, Andrew Cuomo, was complaining the 400 his state received from the federal government were inadequate.

Global technology and risk control "are the strongest in history," Ma said in the online seminar. "It is up to us to decide whether we want to use this capacity to create division and isolation or use them to enhance cooperation and collaboration."

AP video producer Amer Cohadzic in Sarajevo; Associated Press Writers Babacar Dione in Dakar, Senegal, and Francis Kokutse in Accra, Ghana, and AP Business Writers Michael Liedtke in San Francisco and Barbara Ortutay and Joe Pisani in New York City contributed.

## The Latest: New Delhi lifts order that limited hospital beds

By The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — New Delhi has reversed orders that limited the scope of coronavirus testing and reserved hospital beds for city residents as the Indian capital's caseload continues to surge.

The city's numbers of infected jumped to 29,943 on Tuesday, out of India's 266,598 cases, the fifth-most in the world.

Since coming to power in 2013, the government led by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has prioritized invest-

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ing in health care. The capital has the best health care in India, drawing patients from across the country.

But as lockdown restrictions have eased, the number of people infected with the coronavirus has soared in the capital. On Sunday, Kejriwal announced that hospital beds for COVID-19 patients would be reserved for city residents and testing limited to those with symptoms.

But the central government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly objected to the rules, and late Monday the city government set them aside, with Kejriwal tweeting that "making arrangements for treatment for people from across the country during the Covid-19 pandemic is a major challenge. But maybe it's God's will that we have to serve everyone in the country."

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

- In poorer regions of the world, easing virus restrictions brings new risks
- The pandemic marks the debut of Chinese companies as global humanitarian donors
- Yemen's rebels crack down as COVID-19 and rumors spread
- Indian American surgeon and his daughter lost to virus were part of a New Jersey family of 5 doctors
- Where do the Tokyo Olympics stand, 2 1/2 months after cancellation?
- Major League Baseball talking about as many as 16 teams in the playoffs if season is able to start after virus delay

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

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** — The capital of the United Arab Emirates has extended an emirate-wide lockdown for another week over the coronavirus pandemic.

Government officials announced late Monday the extension of the lockdown, that has prevented people from leaving their area in Abu Dhabi.

Movement also has been restricted into Abu Dhabi from the rest of the UAE, a federation of seven U.S.-allied sheikhdoms also home to Dubai.

The lockdown comes as the rest of the UAE is trying to reopen its non-oil economy after the pandemic devastated its tourism and airline industry.

There have been nearly 40,000 cases and 280 deaths from COVID-19 in the UAE, with 22,000 of those infected now recovered.

**ADELAIDE, Australia** — South Australia state's government says it will allow 2,000 fans to attend an Australian rules football match but won't allow a Black Lives Matter rally on the same day.

South Australia is the first state or territory to allow a crowd to return to professional sport.

State Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said a crowd will be allowed at Adelaide Oval on Saturday for a match between local teams Port Adelaide and the Adelaide Crows.

But police would not allow a second exemption for a protest against George Floyd's death, saying those that had been allowed in Adelaide last week despite social distancing rules were due to unique circumstances.

"To continually allow people to disregard the restrictions we have in place would make a mockery of the good efforts of everybody else who are doing their best to abide by those restrictions," Stevens added.

South Australia has no COVID-19 patient in any hospital. Australia has 559 cases that are still active among more than 7,000 total.

**BRATISLAVA, Slovakia** — Slovakia is easing its border restrictions, allowing travel to 16 more European countries.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic said Tuesday that the countries are Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland,



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Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

Matovic said the countries are considered safe for Slovak travelers and their citizens don't pose a threat for Slovakia.

Last week, Slovakia reopened its borders with neighboring Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary.

Slovakia has not been hit as hard by the pandemic as some other European countries. It says 1,531 people have tested positive for the coronavirus and 28 have died.

**THE HAGUE**, Netherlands — The official opening of the Dutch parliamentary year will take place in a church in The Hague in September because the usual venue is not big enough to accommodate all 225 lawmakers with social distancing.

The chair of the lower house of the Dutch parliament, Khadija Arib, informed lawmakers of the change on Tuesday.

Traditionally, the Dutch monarch delivers a speech to lawmakers from the upper and lower houses of parliament at the historic Knights Hall on the third Tuesday in September.

Arib said a new venue was chosen because Knights Hall cannot accommodate all lawmakers if they adhere to the government's social distancing guidelines.

She said parliamentarians will not be able to bring guests to this year's event on Sept. 15.

The pageant-filled event features King Willem-Alexander being driven in a horse-drawn carriage through the tree-lined streets of The Hague.

Following the monarch's speech outlining the government's policy goals for the coming year, the country's finance minister unveils his budget plans in the lower house of parliament.

**TEHRAN**, Iran — Iran's health minister has replaced the spokesman of the ministry who in March described China's early reporting on the new coronavirus outbreak as a "bitter joke."

Chinese authorities have been heavily criticized for secrecy and delays in responding to the virus that emerged in central China in December.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said Health Minister Saeed Namaki issued an order replacing the ministry's spokesman, Kianoush Jahanpour, with Sima Sadat Lari.

Following criticism by Iranian hard-liners, Jahanpour -- who has been the public face of the authorities' struggle against the pandemic -- removed his "bitter joke" tweet and instead praised China's support for Iran in fighting COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

Namaki urged Sadat to run her statements by the minister before issuing them since all remarks by the ministry's spokesperson are considered the official position of the minister.

**ISLAMABAD** — Pakistan recorded more than 100 deaths in a single day from COVID-19 for the first time since keeping statistics in mid-March, when the country imposed a partial lockdown.

As of Tuesday, Pakistan recorded 108,316 coronavirus infections, with 4,646 new cases and a death toll that has climbed to 2,172 amid warnings from Prime Minister Imran Khan that Pakistan is not likely to see a peak in infections before August.

Despite criticism from medical professionals and opposition politicians, Khan has continued to ease lockdown restrictions saying the country's ailing economy would collapse and the poorest would suffer most.

Pakistan's poverty level hovers around 30%. Pakistanis have not taken precautions like wearing masks and social distancing even as Khan went on television late to reprimand the population and plead with them to wear masks.

**LONDON** — Britain's government is backing away from plans to have all children return to primary school before the summer, even as the country moves to ease restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson is expected to acknowledge on Tuesday that not all students will return after schools argued they were constrained by classroom sizes, the need for social distancing and

inadequate staff numbers.

Geoff Barton, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said he isn't surprised by the decision and that the "ambition" to bring back all primary students for a month before the end of the term was "a case of the government over-promising something that wasn't deliverable."

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's prime minister met with health and civil protection officials to discuss a sharp spike in coronavirus cases over the past few days, his office said Tuesday.

During the meeting, officials stressed "the need for the strict implementation of the measures that have been decided upon in view of the gradual return to the new normality," the prime minister's office said in a statement. It said checks would be intensified and the health ministry would make new announcements in coming days.

On Monday, Greece announced 97 new confirmed infections, including 30 people who entered the country from abroad and 29 in a northeastern town where there were previous outbreaks. Total confirmed cases now number 3,049 with 182 deaths.

Greece imposed a lockdown early in its outbreak, a move which has been credited with keeping the death toll and number of infections low. The country has been gradually lifting restrictions over the past several weeks, and nearly all businesses are now open.

But health authorities are warning that the virus still exists in the country and are urging people to continue social distancing.

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine peace award has been canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, marking only the third disruption in six decades for the annual prize regarded as an Asian Nobel.

The Manila-based foundation that hands out the Ramon Magsaysay awards said Tuesday it has no choice "with the COVID-19 pandemic practically immobilizing the world."

The awards were also cancelled due to a financial crisis in 1970 and a disastrous earthquake in 1990. They are named after a popular Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash and honor "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia."

The five recipients last year included a South Korean who helped fight suicide and bullying; a woman who became a human rights defender after losing her husband to violence in southern Thailand; journalists from India and Myanmar; and a musician credited with helping to shape modern Philippine musical culture.

The Philippines has confirmed about 22,400 infections, including more than 1,000 deaths. It has eased lockdowns for millions of people in a tightrope move to bolster its economy, which contracted in the first quarter.

## Yemen's rebels crack down as COVID-19 and rumors spread

By MAGGIE MICHAEL Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — In the darkness, the bodies of suspected victims of coronavirus are carried in silence, one after the other, to be buried in several cemeteries across northern Yemen. Flashlights flicker as mourners make their way through the shadows.

The corpses are washed with disinfectants, wrapped in layers of plastic sheets and white linen before being laid to rest in six-foot deep pits. There is no one around except for a handful of relatives in masks, gloves, and white gowns. Large gatherings are not permitted. Phones are not allowed.

Grave diggers and guards at the cemeteries are warned not to speak about the causes of the deaths. If asked, they are told to say that the dead are "unidentified bodies from the war," according to several residents and one gravedigger. Families are never really told if their relatives died from the coronavirus, which is believed to be the culprit. Test results are never released. These daily funeral rituals come as social media are flooded with condolences and photographs of the dead.

The coronavirus is spreading throughout Yemen, a county that has been devastated by five years of civil war. The fighting is between the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who control the capital, Sanaa, and

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much of the country's north, and a U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition fighting on behalf of the internationally recognized government.

The fighting has already killed more than 100,000 people and displaced millions. Years of aerial bombings and intense ground fighting has destroyed thousands of buildings, leaving half of Yemen's health facilities dysfunctional. About 18% of the country's 333 districts have no doctors. Water and sanitation systems have collapsed. Many families, especially among the millions displaced by fighting, can barely afford one meal a day.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added to the deadly toll of the war in Yemen, crippling a health system already in shambles with little capacity to test those suspected of having the virus. The country has no more than 500 ventilators and 700 ICU beds nationwide. There is one oxygen cylinder per month for every 2.5 million people.

The situation is exacerbated in the Houthi-controlled north, where the rebels have suppressed information about the virus, severely punished those who speak out, enforced little mitigation measures, and promoted conspiracies and claims by the Houthi minister of health that their scientists are working on developing a cure for COVID-19 to present to the world.

Officially, the rebels say that only four cases of coronavirus have been detected in the regions they control, but have resisted making the number of positive cases and deaths public.

"We don't publish the numbers to the society because such publicity has a heavy and terrifying toll on people's psychological health," said Youssef al-Hadhari, spokesman for the Houthi health ministry, in response to questions by The Associated Press.

His comments come two months after Houthi Minister of Health Taha al-Motawakel painted a bleak picture of the country's readiness to deal with the virus, saying that at some point Houthi officials will have to deal with 1 million people in need of hospital admissions in a two-month period. He told a parliament session that at one point, doctors will have to choose between whom to rescue and whom to let die.

This is "battlefield medicine," he said.

The World Health Organization believes that there is a significant undercount of total number of people affected by the coronavirus outbreak, which officials say could further hinder efforts to get the medical supplies needed to contain the virus.

Richard Brennan, the WHO's regional emergency director, told the AP that he believes the COVID-19 deaths are in the hundreds and cases are in the thousands, based on what he has heard from numerous health providers in Yemen.

Local health officials, aid workers, residents, and community activists who all spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the pandemic, say the situation in the war-torn country is worsening fast. Local unions, who have kept their own death tallies from the coronavirus, report that 46 medical staffers, 28 judges, and 13 lawyers died in a three-week period between mid-May and early June, well above the Houthis' official count.

The lack of information about the true number of people infected by the coronavirus in Houthi-controlled areas has led to wild speculation about the nature of the disease and the rebel's response to dealing with the infections and deaths has only added to the confusion.

One widely circulated rumor suggested Houthi rebels have instructed doctors to kill suspected COVID-19 patients with a "mercy injection."

The rumor, which was given credibility because of a supposedly confidential document allegedly signed by the health minister, gained so much traction that Houthi leaders took the unusual step of issuing an official denial, calling the rumor "lies aimed at spreading fear." The Houthis themselves have also spread rumors that the virus was spread by outsiders.

Some hospitals, like the Jibla hospital in the northern province of Ibb, one of the worst hit areas, have been called "injection hospitals" because of the high number of deaths happening there, residents and local activists said.

These rumors have caused widespread panic, and residents say they are less likely to notify health of-

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ficials about suspected cases of COVID-19 .

"People don't go to hospitals for fear of the mercy injection," said a local activist, referring to the Jibla hospital. "We can't tell the truth from the fallacy but I know many people who died in mysterious ways inside this hospital."

A lawmaker in Sanaa told the AP that people are afraid to report coronavirus cases, fearing retaliation from Houthi officials.

"The suspected cases are treated like war criminals," he said.

The lawmaker and a local activist from Ibb province said that the Houthis have gone through great lengths to contain information about the spread of COVID-19 in the rebel-controlled region.

At the Jibla hospital, which has been turned into a COVID-19 isolation facility, the rebels have appointed a security supervisor to control the flow of information in and out of the hospital.

"He is the one in charge, meaning the head of the hospital himself is powerless in the face of this official. All staffers in the hospital fear him," the activist said.

In a phone call with the AP, Abdullah al-Matari, the head of the hospital, declined to comment. He referred questions to the ministry's top officials.

Residents said militiamen working as security personnel in the hospital also search visitors for phones and prevent them from carrying the devices inside the quarantine wards.

The Houthi information blackout extends beyond the hospitals. When a local activist posted a picture of an ambulance on social media of two medical workers in protective gear washing the vehicle in a pond, one of the men said they just finished transferring eight bodies to the cemetery named Jarraf.

When the picture went viral on social media, the man who spoke was interrogated and suspended from his job, the activist said. The AP could not independently verify his account.

In several cemeteries in Sanaa, Yemen's capital, burials occur almost daily, according to local residents and doctors.

Deaths from suspected coronavirus cases have surged to the point that, at the end of May, the Houthi religious endowment ministry, which is in charge of cemeteries, hung a sign on one of Sanaa's largest cemeteries that read: "Khazima cemetery is full."

Residents say it's hard to find a burial plot for less than a quarter million rials, or 500 dollars — five times the salary of a government employee. Burials are spread out all over Sanaa cemeteries so as not to attract any attention to the numbers, residents said.

Secretly filming the burials on smartphones in defiance of the Houthi orders has become an act of heroism, local resident said in interviews, adding that the amateur videos give Yemenis the only true glimpse of the true impact of COVID-19 in the region.

The outbreak in the Houthi-held territory is taking place amid simmering tension between the rebels and the U.N. agencies, which are running short of funding for aid programs.

Last week, the United Nations announced that it was about a billion dollars short of what aid agencies say is needed to address Yemen's humanitarian needs and a deteriorating health care system made worse by the coronavirus.

"The situation is catastrophic," said one aid worker of an international agency working in Yemen. "Now the COVID-19 outbreak, the suspension of funding, the tension between donors and the authorities, we have less money, and more needs. It's terrible."

## Still beside the queen at 99: Prince Philip to mark birthday

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — There certainly won't be fuss. Count on that.

When Britain's Prince Philip reaches the grand age of 99 on Wednesday, he will spend it quietly and in much the same way he's spent most of his adult life: beside Queen Elizabeth II.

The stalwart consort plans a quiet lunch at Windsor Castle, where the senior royals have been sheltering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some family members may call but the palace is saying little more

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than that. Britain is still under coronavirus restrictions that limit the size of gatherings and Philip and the 94-year-old queen are well into the over-65 age group most vulnerable to coronavirus.

The last year hasn't been an easy one for Philip, who retired from public life in 2017 after 65 years of supporting the queen.

In November, his second son, 60-year-old Prince Andrew, was forced to step away from all royal public duties because of concerns about his links to Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted American sex offender who died in a New York prison. Two months later, Prince Harry, Philip's grandson, and his wife, the former Meghan Markle, caused further controversy when they announced they were stepping away from royal duties so they could seek financial independence in North America.

Wednesday's birthday is just the latest milestone for the man born Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark on June 10, 1921, amid the upheaval that led to a military coup that overthrew his uncle, King Constantine of Greece, a few months later.

His parents were Princess Alice of Battenberg, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, and Prince Andrew of Greece.

England's King George V sent a Royal Navy cruiser to evacuate Philip's family, and the infant prince was whisked to safety in a cot made from an orange box. The young Philip went to school in Germany and Britain and rarely saw his parents when he was growing up.

In 1939, Philip joined the British military as a cadet at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. It was there he was asked to escort then-Princess Elizabeth and her sister on a visit to the facility.

He served in the Royal Navy throughout World War II, winning mention in dispatches for service aboard the battleship HMS Valiant at Cape Matapan, on Greece's Peloponnesian peninsula. Philip rose to the rank of commander, but his career ended when his wife became Queen Elizabeth II after the death of her father, King George VI, in 1952.

Philip had married the future queen at Westminster Abbey in 1947 when she was 21 and he was 26. He renounced his Greek title and King George VI made him the Duke of Edinburgh. At Elizabeth's coronation in 1953, Philip swore to be his wife's "liege man of life and limb," and he settled into a life supporting the queen.

Together they had four children — Charles, the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, Anne, Andrew and Edward; eight grandchildren, including Prince William, second-in-line to the throne and Harry; and eight great-grandchildren.

At the time he retired from public life, Philip was the patron, president or a member of more than 780 organizations, including many charities. He had given 5,496 speeches, written 14 books and gone on 637 solo visits overseas, in addition to hundreds of trips accompanying the queen.

"I think probably a lot of people don't know what he's done because he doesn't like adulation," said Ingrid Seward, editor of Majesty Magazine. "He doesn't like fame. He just gets on with it."

To many, Philip has been the man, a step or two behind the queen, who told off-color jokes and occasionally made headlines for being a tad inappropriate.

He is not without controversy. Newcomers to the House of Windsor, such as the late Princess Diana and Prince Andrew's ex-wife, the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, have reportedly clashed with him.

But Seward said such disagreements arose out of Philip's sense of duty to the monarchy as an institution.

He is, after all, a man who gave up his own independence and a promising naval career to marry the future queen at a time the royal family was still recovering from the abdication of King Edward VIII a decade earlier. Elizabeth's father only became king because his older brother, later known as the Duke of Windsor, refused to rule without the American divorcee who became his wife — a move some saw as shirking his duty to the nation.

But Seward said Philip's contributions to the monarchy have been profound. He's been credited with modernizing the House of Windsor behind the scenes, making the royal estates profitable and being a redoubtable supporter of the monarch.

"I think he shaped the queen's reign very subtly, and people don't really know what he's done," she said. "So he's managed to do things without being noticed, which is what he wants."

Associated Press Writer Hilary Fox contributed.

## Key Democrats spurn push to defund police amid Trump attacks

By STEVE PEOPLES, ALAN FRAM and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his allies have seized on calls to “defund the police” as a dangerous example of Democratic overreach as he fights for momentum amid crises that threaten his reelection.

Key Democrats, including presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden, are distancing themselves from the “defund” push, which some supporters say is a symbolic commitment to end systemic racism and shift policing priorities rather than an actual plan to eliminate law enforcement agencies.

But confusion over the proposal’s intent has created an opportunity for the Republican president, who has struggled to navigate the delicate debate over racial justice, risking support from people of color, suburban women and independents less than five months before Election Day.

Facing increasing pressure to weigh in, Biden addressed the issue Monday in an interview with “CBS Evening News.”

“I don’t support defunding the police. I support conditioning federal aid to police based on whether or not they meet certain basic standards of decency, honorableness and, in fact, are able to demonstrate they can protect the community, everybody in the community,” Biden said.

Other opponents of the movement include Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., a former presidential candidate and one of two black Democratic senators, and Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., head of the Congressional Black Caucus.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson, in an interview, also declined to endorse calls to defund the police.

“I support the energy behind it. I don’t know what that substantively means. As I’m talking to people about the concept, I’ve gotten three different explanations,” said Johnson, who has criticized Trump. “We know there has to be a change in the culture of policing in this country.”

Democrats are well-positioned to win over the political center this fall, according to Republican pollster Frank Luntz, who said Trump’s uneven actions and rhetoric at a time of sweeping social unrest are “killing him.”

Luntz added, however, that Democrats risk their advantage by embracing policies viewed as radical following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The handcuffed black man died after a white officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes.

Municipal officials in Minneapolis have endorsed the “defund the police” language backed by some civil rights activists and a handful of progressive House Democrats. Protesters over the weekend also painted “DEFUND THE POLICE” in large yellow letters on a street close to the White House.

But there was little evidence that the effort was gaining momentum in Congress. Some Democrats described it as bad politics, even if most Democrats shared the desire to overhaul policing.

Former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., a white moderate who lost her 2018 reelection bid, said “defund the police” is “a horrible name” that misconstrues the goal.

“By starting with the word ‘defund,’ you’ve left the impression that you are doing something much more radical than what needs to be done,” said Heitkamp, a leader of the One Country Project, which is trying to help Democrats connect better with rural voters.

She said the term left her frustrated that “there’s going to be somebody who’s going to try to find an opportunity in this, especially among the Republican Party, and use it now as an excuse not to address what is a very real problem in America.”

That’s largely what played out as the Trump campaign and congressional Republicans sought to link Democrats to the defund effort.

“This year has seen the lowest crime numbers in our Country’s recorded history, and now the Radical Left Democrats want to Defund and Abandon our Police,” Trump declared on social media. “Sorry, I want

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LAW & ORDER!"

The House GOP campaign arm sent out emails condemning "defund the police" and connecting it to Democratic candidates.

"No industry is safe from Democrats' abolish culture," said Michael McAdams, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "First they wanted to abolish private health insurance, then it was capitalism and now it's the police. What's next, the fire department?"

Democrats on Capitol Hill unveiled a sweeping proposal Monday to address police brutality that did not include plans to strip funding from the police. The Justice in Policing Act would limit legal protections for police, create a national database of excessive-force incidents and ban chokeholds, among other changes.

Rep. Greg Meeks, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a group of moderate House Democrats called the New Democrat Coalition, said Trump's tweets accusing Democrats of seeking to abolish the police are a diversion.

"It sounds like the guy that's the 45th president is trying to distract from what the real issue is, the brutality and the murder of George Floyd," said Meeks, who represents New York. "And we're not going to allow them to do that."

Democratic Rep. Matt Cartwright, who is white and represents a Trump-leaning district in northeastern Pennsylvania, rejected calls to defund the police outright.

"I don't care how it's named, I'm not for that," he said, while noting he's joined protest marches in his district.

Asked if GOP use of the term "defund the police" might erode his support, Cartwright said, "If they can get voters to believe that lie about me, I suppose. Am I afraid of it? No."

Trump, meanwhile, is grasping for a strategy that might generate some momentum. A NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll this weekend found that 80% of Americans believe the country is out of control.

Some Trump advisers have considered having the president deliver an address on police-community relations and racial injustice, while others believe it would do little good, according to two White House officials and Republicans close to the White House. They also discussed creating a task force featuring Housing Secretary Ben Carson, the only black member of Trump's Cabinet, but that has yet to get off the ground.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Before the pandemic, Trump advisers believed the president had a real chance of making inroads with black voters, given his support for criminal justice reform and the strength of the economy. They're less confident now.

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Peoples reported from Montclair, N.J., and Lemire from New York. Associated Press writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

## North Korea cuts off all communication with South Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said it was cutting off all communication channels with South Korea on Tuesday, a move experts say could signal Pyongyang has grown frustrated that Seoul has failed to revive lucrative inter-Korean economic projects and persuade the United States to ease sanctions.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said all cross-border communication lines would be cut off at noon in the "the first step of the determination to completely shut down all contact means with South Korea and get rid of unnecessary things."

When South Korean officials tried to contact their North Korean counterparts via several channels after the North's announcement Tuesday, the North Koreans didn't answer, according to the South Korean government.

North Korea has cut communications in the past — not replying to South Korean phone calls or faxes — and then restored those channels when tensions eased. North Korea has been accused at times of deliberately creating tensions to bolster internal unity or to signal its frustration over a lack of progress in

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nuclear talks with Washington.

In its announcement, North Korea said Tuesday's move was a response to South Korea's failure to stop activists from floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across their border.

"The South Korean authorities connived at the hostile acts against (North Korea) by the riff-raff, while trying to dodge heavy responsibility with nasty excuses," KCNA said.

South Korea's liberal government, which seeks improved relations with North Korea, said that cross-border hotlines must be maintained as they are the basic means of communication between the two Koreas. The Unification Ministry said South Korea will strive to promote peace while abiding by inter-Korean agreements.

For years, conservative South Korean activists, including North Korean defectors living in the South, have floated huge balloons into North Korea carrying leaflets criticizing leader Kim Jong Un over his nuclear ambitions and human rights record. The leafleting has sometimes triggered a furious response from North Korea, which bristles at any attempt to undermine its leadership.

South Korea has typically let activists launch such balloons, citing their rights to freedom of speech, but has halted some attempts when North Korean warnings appeared to be serious. In 2014, North Korean troops opened fire at propaganda balloons flying toward their territory, triggering an exchange of fire that caused no known casualties.

North Korea began taking with issue with the leafleting again last week.

Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong called defectors involved in recent leafleting "human scum" and "mongrel dogs," and she threatened to permanently shut down a liaison office and a jointly run factory park, both in the North, as well as nullify a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement that had aimed to reduce tensions.

North Korea's latest moves will further set back South Korean President Moon Jae-in's push for inter-Korean reconciliation.

"The North Koreans have been trying to find something they can use to express their dissatisfaction and distrust against South Korea. And they've now got the leafleting issue, so I don't think we can simply resolve (tensions) even if we address issues related to the leafleting," said Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

He said the North Korean statement also appeared aimed at strengthening internal unity and signaling the North's resolve not to make concessions in nuclear talks.

Moon, who met Kim Jong Un three times in 2018, facilitated a flurry of high-profile meetings between Pyongyang and Washington, including the first summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in June 2018.

But North Korea has increasingly turned the cold shoulder to Moon and suspended virtually all inter-Korean cooperation since a second Kim-Trump summit in early 2019 fell apart due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions.

North Korea has urged Moon's government not to meddle in its diplomacy with Trump and slammed Seoul for failing to break away from Washington and revive joint economic projects held up by the sanctions.

Critics of Moon's engagement policy say North Korea had initially expected Moon to help it win sanctions relief but eventually got angry with him after Kim returned from the second Trump summit empty handed.

How far Kim is willing to go in stoking tensions is unclear. Some experts say he could take additional steps targeting South Korea, such as shutting down the liaison office or short-range weapons tests. However, they say Kim may be reluctant to do something like stage a nuclear or missile test due to concerns it could completely scuttle diplomacy with Washington.

Some see Tuesday's move as a sign that North Korea is feeling the pinch financially and that its already battered economy perhaps deteriorated further when the coronavirus pandemic forced it to shut its border with China, the North's biggest trading partner.

North Korea said the decision to sever communications was made by Kim's sister and former hard-line military intelligence chief Kim Yong Chol. Some experts say this shows the elevated political standing of Kim's sister.



## Anger, activism grow over police abuse amid French lockdown

By ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — With France confined to fight the virus, a video circulated online in April showing a young man lying on the bloody ground next to two police officers — and quickly set off protests in struggling neighborhoods around the Paris region.

Sometime before, the man had been on a motorcycle. Then, he crashed into a suddenly opened police car door. Whether the door was opened on purpose or not is unclear, but what was clear was the anger the video sparked. A protest that night in the town of Villeneuve-la-Garenne led to others in a dozen Paris suburbs and similar neighborhoods around France in the ensuing days.

The relationship between police and marginalized residents of France's low-income neighborhoods, many of whom are Arab or black and trace their roots to former French colonies, has long been tense. Safety measures intended to curb the spread of COVID-19 further empowered police — but also empowered community activists using apps or online sleuthing to track and challenge what they see as an abuse of police power.

George Floyd's death in the U.S. has resonated especially loudly in places like Villeneuve, one of many banlieues, or suburbs, where poverty and minority populations are concentrated in France. Floyd-related protests against police violence and racial injustice have been held around France, and more are planned for Tuesday evening.

In a pivotal moment for modern France, rioting engulfed the country for three weeks in 2005 after two boys who were running from police, Zyed and Bouna, were electrocuted while hiding in an electric generator in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois. A state of emergency was declared and almost 3,000 people were arrested.

Despite billions of euros in government improvement programs for the banlieues since 2005, tensions with police persist, and the deaths of other young men periodically rekindles anger. Protesters marching in solidarity with Floyd notably called for justice for Adama Traore, whose death in police custody in 2016 is still under investigation.

"The anger (in those neighborhoods) is so present and police impunity so frustrating that we don't need much for it to blow up," said Ilyes Ramdani, editor-in-chief of the Bondy Blog, which was founded in 2005 to tell the stories of young black and Arab French people in the banlieues.

Under France's strictest virus lockdown measures, from March 17-May 11, the government restricted people's movements to a kilometer (half-mile) around their homes and required that anyone leaving their homes carry a signed paper stating why. Punishments included fines starting at 135 euros (about \$150), or even prison.

On the first day punishments were doled out, 10% of the fines given in the entire country were given in the region of Seine-Saint-Denis on Paris' northern edge, where unemployment is twice the national average, almost one person out of three is an immigrant, and many others are the descendants of immigrants.

Government officials defended the fines as necessary to fight the virus in a region with especially high infection rates.

But police union leader Yves Lefebvre lamented that the lockdown measures "again made the police a repressive tool."

"Public services have deserted these neighborhoods," and police are the only presence left, which "necessarily leads to confrontation," he said.

Lefebvre, general secretary for Unité SGP Police-Force Ouvrière union, said trust has been broken because "police only enter those neighborhoods to restore order."

The Villeneuve incident is being investigated by prosecutors and by the French state police watchdog agency, which said it received 166 citizen reports of problematic police behavior and seven formal complaints of police abuse during the 54 days of France's coronavirus lockdown.

Under pressure to act, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner pledged Monday to ban police chokeholds and said more officers will be equipped with cameras to help ensure that identity checks don't lead to

discrimination against minorities.

Frustrated activists are taking matters into their own hands.

At the start of the lockdown, Sihame Assbague, an anti-racial profiling activist and journalist, started to collect reports of police harassment, citing "a multiplication of police violence videos on social media."

She's cross-referencing and verifying about 40 cases, most of them from videos she's received. "I don't expect much from the state or public authorities, but what I know is they respect strength. That's why it's important to organize," she said.

Amal Bentounsi, whose brother Amine was shot in the back and killed by the police in 2012, founded a group to support families of victims and provide legal help to bring abusive police to court. The officer who killed her brother was sentenced to a five-year suspended prison sentence — a rare legal victory for families like hers.

In March, Bentounsi and three other families launched an app called Emergency-Police Violence designed to record abuses.

"The idea is for people to develop the habit of filming, not to make buzz, but to create a tool for citizens to contradict the police's version of events and dissuade police who will be filmed" from abusing their authority, Bentounsi said.

Users can record arrests live, and the videos are directly uploaded onto the app's server so they can be salvaged if the phone is seized or broken.

Since March, the app has been downloaded more than 30,000 times.

Their group wants to encourage people to press charges, even if chances of conviction are slim, Bentounsi said. The government says numbers of police abuses "aren't big enough for it to be an issue. We want to change that. Because if there are no charges, there are no statistics."

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Follow all developments and AP stories on global protests against racial injustice and police brutality at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

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

## Protesters heartened by swift reform, but vow broader change

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — In the two weeks since George Floyd's killing, police departments have banned chokeholds, Confederate monuments have fallen and officers have been arrested and charged amid large global protests against violence by police and racism.

The moves are far short of the overhaul of police, prosecutors' offices, courts and other institutions that protesters seek. But some advocates and demonstrators say they are encouraged by the swiftness of the response to Floyd's death — incremental as it may be.

"Everywhere you look, you see something that gives you hope," said Frank James Matthews, 64, an activist in Alabama. "But we have no illusions because something that's embedded like racism is hard to kill."

Matthews spent years pushing for the removal of a Confederate monument in Birmingham near the site where four black girls died in a racist church bombing in 1963. The city took down the obelisk last week after protesters tried to remove it themselves during one of the many nationwide demonstrations over Floyd's killing by police in Minneapolis.

At a memorial for Floyd on Monday in Houston, Bracy Burnett said it was hard to tell if the changes that have taken place since Floyd's death will last.

"It's a start, but you can't expect an oppression of 400 years to be eliminated in a few months, a few years," Burnett, 66, said.

Tancey Houston Rogers, 49, said she's seen more progress in addressing racism and police brutality in the last two weeks than she's seen in the past.

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"Now, we've got to take it forward," she said.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped responding. Prosecutors have charged that officer, Derek Chauvin, with second-degree murder. Three other officers at the scene were charged with aiding and abetting.

Minneapolis has since banned chokeholds, and a majority of the City Council has vowed to dismantle the city's 800-member police agency. Police in Denver have also banned the use of chokeholds and required officers who intentionally point their gun at someone to notify a supervisor and file a report.

Police officers have also faced charges for violent conduct during protests.

Savano Wilkerson said he worries about a backslide on reform if national attention shifts away from Floyd's case. He's also concerned about convictions against the officers charged in Floyd's death.

"It's not really a win yet because they could easily get off," the 22-year-old resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, said during a phone interview on Monday.

The recent protests are the country's most significant demonstrations in a half-century — rivaling those during the civil rights and Vietnam War eras.

During the push for civil rights in the 1960s, activists also won some quick concessions from authorities, said Ashley Howard, an assistant professor of history and African American studies at the University of Iowa.

"If you want to take the cynical view, cities want to get back to business as usual," she said. "They don't want property defaced. They don't want to be on the front page of the newspaper."

But Howard said she sees perseverance and a long-term vision for a "radical alternative" among the marchers and is hopeful for more substantive changes.

Civil rights icons Xernona Clayton and Andrew Young also predicted a broader impact from the protests.

"There's going to be a new consensus emerging about how to maintain law and order in a civilized society," said Young, a confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who went on to become a congressman, United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor.

Young said organizing protests during the civil rights era was harder, so that delayed some of the movement's victories.

Clayton said another difference was how receptive people in power were to demonstrators.

"They're at least talking about making the change and wanting to make the change," said Clayton, who served as King's office manager in Atlanta and organized protest marches and fundraisers. "The people who have been the perpetrators — as I call them — are talking differently."

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Associated Press writers Juan Lozano in Houston and Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

## In poor regions, easing virus lockdowns brings new risks

By MARIA CHENG and MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — As many countries gingerly start lifting their lockdown measures, experts worry that a further surge of the coronavirus in under-developed regions with shaky health systems could undermine efforts to halt the pandemic, and they say more realistic options are needed.

Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan are among countries easing tight restrictions, not only before their outbreaks have peaked but also before any detailed surveillance and testing system is in place to keep the virus under control. That could ultimately have devastating consequences, health experts warn.

"Politicians may be desperate to get their economies going again, but that could be at the expense of having huge numbers of people die," said Dr. Bharat Pankhania, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Exeter in Britain.

He said re-imposing recently lifted lockdown measures was equally dangerous.

"Doing that is extremely worrying because then you will build up a highly resentful and angry population, and it's unknown how they will react," Pankhania said. And as nearly every developed country struggles

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with its own outbreak, there may be fewer resources to help those with long overstretched capacities.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said Monday the pandemic was "worsening" globally, noting that countries on Sunday reported the biggest-ever one-day total: more than 136,000 cases. Among those, nearly 75% of the cases were from 10 countries in the Americas and South Asia.

Wealthy countries in Europe and North America hit first by the pandemic are training armies of contact tracers to hunt down cases, designing tracking apps and planning virus-free air travel corridors.

But in many poor regions where crowded slums and streets mean even basic measures like hand-washing and social distancing are difficult, the coronavirus is exploding now that restrictions are being removed. Last week, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan all saw one-day records of new infections or deaths as they reopened public spaces and businesses.

Clare Wenham of the London School of Economics described the situation in Brazil as "terrifying," noting the government's decision to stop publishing a running total of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

"We've seen problems with countries reporting data all over the world, but to not even report data at all is clearly a political decision," she said. That could complicate efforts to understand how the virus is spreading in the region and how it's affecting the Brazilian population, Wenham said.

Johns Hopkins University numbers showed Brazil recorded more than 36,000 coronavirus deaths Monday, the third-highest in the world, just ahead of Italy. There were nearly 692,000 cases, putting it second behind the U.S.

Rio de Janeiro allowed surfers and swimmers back in the water and small numbers of beach-goers were defying a still-active ban on gathering on the sand.

Relaxing restrictions "is dangerous because we're still at the peak, right? So it's a little dangerous," said Alessandra Barros, a 46-year-old cashier on the sidewalk next to Ipanema beach. "Today it's calm, but this weekend will be crowded."

Bolivia has authorized reopening most of the country, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro also recently unwound restrictions, Ecuador's airports have resumed flights and shoppers have returned to some of Colombia's malls.

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador urged the country to stay calm after officials last week reported escalating fatalities that rivaled those in Brazil or the U.S.

"Let there not be psychosis, let there not be fear," López Obrador said, while accusing the media of fanning concerns of an escalating crisis.

Across Latin America, countries that cracked down early and hard, like El Salvador and Panama, have done relatively well, although some of that has come at the expense of human rights and civil liberties, Wenham said.

"Countries willing to take the short-term hit are the ones coming out better," she said, adding that poor countries weren't entirely without options, noting early, pre-emptive actions by Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"They learned from the Ebola outbreak and moved quickly when they decided their economy couldn't cope with community transmission," she said. So far, numbers have been relatively low in both West African countries.

Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, a clinical lecturer at King's College London, warned that some countries might be lulled into a false sense of security, citing South Africa as an example.

"Their response looked quite promising initially, but it seems premature to release the lockdown without a better level of testing in place," she said.

South Africa's cases are "rising fast," according to President Cyril Ramaphosa. More than half of its approximately 48,000 confirmed cases have been recorded in the last two weeks, prompting concerns that Africa's most developed economy could see a steep rise in infections shortly after restrictions are relaxed.

MacDermott said the surge of COVID-19 in many developing countries suggests "we will potentially struggle more to get on top of it," and that the virus might persist long after developed countries bring it under control.

"That could result in very stringent travel measures on those parts of the world where the virus is still

circulating," she said.

In Pakistan, the number of infections continued to rise as Prime Minister Imran Khan said the country's poorest cannot survive a strict lockdown after easing restrictions last month.

After refusing to close mosques and opening up the country even as medical experts pleaded for stricter measures, Pakistan's caseload soared Monday to 103,671, with 2,067 deaths. Still, authorities shut down thousands of shops and markets nationwide last week in raids of those violating social distancing regulations.

Some experts say lockdowns were always "panic measures" and not designed to be sustainable, particularly in developing countries.

"The strategy has its roots in China, in the desire to eliminate the disease, but that clearly went out the window a couple of months ago," said Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh.

"Many countries are now deciding that the cure could turn out to be worse than the disease," he said. Woolhouse suggested that countries unable to lock down their populations could focus instead on targeted interventions to protect those most at risk, such as people over 60 or those with underlying medical conditions.

"Countries are simply not following World Health Organization advice to lock down and are saying they need another strategy," Woolhouse said. He noted the relatively younger demographics of many developing countries might help them avoid the high death rates seen in Italy, Spain and Britain.

Even tiny Panama, once Latin America's fastest-growing economy, is struggling to maintain some of the region's tightest controls amid simultaneous economic slowdown and disease spread.

"It's impossible to maintain a quarantine for all of 2020," said Dr. Xavier Sáenz-Llorens, a government adviser on the disease response. "The country would sink."

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Cheng reported from London. Contributing were David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, Cara Anna and Andrew Meldrum in Johannesburg, Munir Ahmed and Kathy Gannon in Islamabad, Christopher Sherman in Mexico City, David Biller in Rio de Janeiro and Juan Zamorano in Panama City.

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

## US prosecutors spar with Prince Andrew in Epstein probe

By **DANICA KIRKA** Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. prosecutors and attorneys for Britain's Prince Andrew sniped at one another across the Atlantic on Monday, each saying the other side was to blame for the duke's failure to participate in the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking probe.

Andrew's lawyers said in a statement that he has offered three times this year to speak with U.S. investigators after being assured that he "is not and has never been a 'target' of their criminal investigations into Epstein."

That offer, though, came with a request that "our co-operation and any interview arrangements would remain confidential," said the firm Blackfords LLP in London.

"Unfortunately, the DOJ has reacted to the first two offers by breaching their own confidentiality rules and claiming that the Duke has offered zero cooperation. In doing so, they are perhaps seeking publicity rather than accepting the assistance proffered," the lawyers said.

Hours later, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey S. Berman, issued a statement saying the prince had tried to "falsely portray himself to the public as eager and willing to cooperate" even as he repeatedly declined to schedule an interview.

"If Prince Andrew is, in fact, serious about cooperating with the ongoing federal investigation, our doors remain open, and we await word of when we should expect him," Berman said.

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Berman's statement addressed only Prince Andrew's willingness to be interviewed. It made no mention of the claims by his lawyers that the Department of Justice had advised them that Andrew is not a target of the investigation, or that they made any promise that whatever he told investigators would be confidential.

Before Monday, Berman had said that Andrew has provided "zero cooperation" to American investigators. Attorney General William Barr told Fox News on Monday that prosecutors are not seeking to extradite Andrew.

"I don't think it's a question of handing him over," Barr said. "I think it's just a question of having him provide some evidence, but beyond that I'm not going to comment."

Epstein killed himself in a U.S. jail last summer as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges.

One of the women who was sexually abused by Epstein as a teenager, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, has claimed that the financier flew her around the world on private planes to have sex with powerful men, and that she had sexual encounters with Andrew in London and New York, starting when she was 17.

Andrew denies the allegation.

The contrasting views of what is going on behind the scenes came after The Sun newspaper and other media organizations reported that the U.S. Department of Justice had submitted a mutual legal assistance request to Britain's Home Office. Such requests are used in criminal cases under a treaty and are generally used when material can't be obtained on a police cooperation basis.

U.S. investigators are still examining potential criminality by Epstein's associates. Multiple women have said the financier had helpers who recruited underage girls into a network of sexual servants.

Andrew's help is being sought as a witness, his lawyers said.

"Far from our client acting above the law, as has been implied by press briefings in the US, he is being treated by a lower standard than might reasonably be expected for any other citizen," Blackfords said. "Further, those same breaches of confidentiality by the DOJ have given the global media – and, therefore, the worldwide audience – an entirely misleading account of our discussions with them."

## The Latest: Pakistan sees more than 100 virus deaths in day

By The Associated Press undefined

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan recorded more than 100 deaths in a single day from COVID-19 for the first time since keeping statistics in mid-March, when the country first imposed a lock down that has never been total.

As of Tuesday, Pakistan recorded 108,316 coronavirus infections, with 4,646 new cases and a death toll that has climbed to 2,172 amid warnings from Prime Minister Imran Khan that Pakistan is not likely to see a peak in infections before August.

Despite criticism from medical professionals and opposition politicians, Khan has continued to ease lock-down restrictions saying the country's ailing economy would collapse and the poorest among the country's 220 million would suffer the most for prolonged lockdowns.

Pakistan's poverty level hovers around 30 percent, measured as those who earn \$1.90 a day or less. Pakistanis have also been stubbornly refusing to take precautions like wearing masks and social distancing even as Khan went on television late on Monday to reprimand the population and plead with them to wear masks.

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

- New Zealand says it has eradicated the virus.
- New York City gradually begins reopening.
- Medical professionals raise alarm that tear gas, pepper sprays could increase virus spread.
- India eases lockdown even as virus cases jump in capital.
- Big hotel companies are competing on cleanliness in wake of the pandemic.

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

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MANILA, Philippines — The Ramon Magsaysay awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, have been cancelled this year due to the global pandemic, the only third time the annual awards were disrupted in six decades.

The Manila-based foundation that hands out the awards said Tuesday it has no choice but to cancel the awards this year "with the COVID-19 pandemic practically immobilizing the world." The awards were also cancelled due to a financial crisis in 1970 and a disastrous earthquake that hit the Philippines in 1990.

The awards are named after a popular Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash and honor "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the peoples of Asia."

The more than 330 awardees so far had included leaders like the late President Corazon Aquino, an icon of nonviolent democratic struggle across the world, and Mother Teresa, who has been honored in the Catholic church as Saint Teresa and known globally for her missionary work for the poorest of the poor.

The Philippines is a coronavirus hotspot in Southeast Asia, with about 22,400 infections, including more than 1,000 deaths. It has eased lockdowns for millions of people in a tightrope move to bolster its economy, which contracted in the first quarter.

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea has reported 38 new cases of COVID-19 and one more death, bringing national totals to 11,852 infections and 274 virus-related fatalities.

Figures from South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday showed 35 of the new cases came from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where officials have struggled to trace transmissions linked to entertainment venues, church gatherings and low-income workers who couldn't afford to stay home.

At least 1,300 infections have been linked to international arrivals, with around 90% of them being South Korean nationals who have returned home amid broadening outbreaks in the United States, Europe and elsewhere.

Officials have repeatedly pleaded for people to stay home amid the resurgence in coronavirus infections, but they are so far resisting calls to reimpose social distancing restrictions after easing them in April, citing concerns about unleashing further shock on a fragile economy.

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont has ordered an independent, third-party review of how Connecticut's nursing homes and assisted living centers prepared for and responded to the coronavirus pandemic, noting the findings could be helpful if the state faces a second wave this fall.

The Democrat said Monday that proposals will soon be solicited from third-party experts. In the meantime, he expects to meet with state lawmakers to determine the full scope of the review, which will include input from the operators of the long-term care facilities, unions representing the workers, patients, health experts and others.

"Obviously that was the tragic center for our state and the other 49 states, in terms of fatalities," said Lamont, referring to the nursing homes. "If there's a chance that there could be a second surge later on this summer, more likely in the fall, we want to be ready."

Lamont said "a strong outside group" will be able to focus on things like infection protocols, adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and what nursing homes might look like in the long-term.

To date, there have been more than 2,500 resident deaths from COVID-19 in nursing homes across Connecticut, a number that represents more than 60% of the state's total deaths, which grew to 4,084 on Monday.

The president of the United Nations General Assembly says world leaders will not be coming to New York for their annual gathering in late September for the first time in the 75-year history of the United Nations because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande told a news conference Monday that he hopes to announce in the next two weeks how the 193 heads of state and government will give their speeches on pressing local and world

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issues during the assembly's so-called General Debate.

He said "world leaders cannot come to New York because they cannot come simply as individuals and "it is impossible" to bring large delegations during the pandemic.

"We cannot have them in person as we used to — what happened in the last 74 years — but it will happen" Muhammad-Bande said of the annual gathering.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recommended last month that the meeting of world leaders, which was supposed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, be dramatically scaled back because of the pandemic.

**V**ERMONT — Officials in Vermont say the outbreak of COVID-19 that began in the city of Winooski on Memorial Day has grown to 62 cases, including nine in the adjoining city of Burlington and five in other communities.

Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine said Monday that 38 are adults and 24 are children with a median age of 21. There have been no reports of hospitalizations or deaths and only one in five of the infected individuals showed any symptoms.

Officials say the outbreak is confined to "one social network of families," but they have been reluctant to provide more details, citing confidentiality concerns.

State Epidemiologist Patsy Kelso said contact tracers have identified shared activities that could have led to the outbreak and officials believe there has been spread within households as well.

"We think this is a pretty-well contained situation or outbreak and while the case numbers may go up because there may have been exposures in the recent days even, we don't think this is something that we will see pop up all over the state," Kelso said.

**L**ockdowns and social distancing helped save 3.1 million lives across 11 European countries, according to research published Monday in the journal Nature.

Yet there's still need for caution, said co-author Seth Flaxman at Imperial College London.

"We're just at the beginning of this epidemic," he said, adding that there's substantial "risk of a second wave if all precautions are removed" quickly.

Another study published in the same journal found that shutdowns also had a substantial impact in slowing disease spread in the U.S., China and South Korea.

"This has been an extraordinary moment in human history," said co-author Solomon Hsiang at the University of California, Berkeley. He credits leaders listening to scientists' advice with making it possible "to save more lives in a shorter period of time than ever before."

**T**he head of the World Health Organization warned that the coronavirus pandemic is worsening globally, even as the situation in Europe is improving.

At a press briefing on Monday, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that about 75% of cases reported to the U.N. health agency on Sunday came from 10 countries in the Americas and South Asia. He noted that more than 100,000 cases have been reported on nine of the past 10 days — and that the 136,000 cases reported Sunday was the biggest number so far.

Tedros said most countries in Africa are still seeing an increase in cases, including in new geographic areas even though most countries on the continent have fewer than 1,000 cases.

"At the same time, we're encouraged that several countries around the world are seeing positive signs," Tedros said. "In these countries, the biggest threat now is complacency."

**R**ICHMOND, Va. — Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House's virus task force, says she's worried about the potential impact the widespread protests may have on curbing the coronavirus pandemic.

Birx said Monday she's concerned shouting protesters may have spread the disease and that high-risk individuals attended some protests. She also said that some testing sites were destroyed in the protests. Birx made the comments on a private White House call with governors, the audio of which was obtained



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by The Associated Press.

Birx said she saw many protesters not wearing masks and some who wore masks were shouting. She said that while the masks may work at stopping to spread the disease when an infected person wearing one is talking, "we don't know the efficacy of masks with shouting."

She said she's also concerned about some of the age groups she saw at the protests, particularly as they became more peaceful.

"I saw more and more higher risk groups on the streets," Birx said.

**ATHENS, Greece** -- Greece has announced a major jump in positive coronavirus cases, with 97 new infections confirmed since the previous announcement on June 4.

Health authorities said Monday that the total number of confirmed cases now stands at 3,049, while two more deaths since June 4 bring the total death toll to 182.

Authorities said 30 of the new cases were travelers from abroad, while another 29 were found during mass testing in the northeastern Xanthi region following previous outbreaks there.

Greece has lifted nearly all lockdown measures and is to allow tourists into the country starting from June 15, without compulsory coronavirus tests or quarantine unless they arrive from an airport listed as having a high risk of coronavirus by the European air safety agency.

Currently anyone arriving in Greece is subject to compulsory tests and a quarantine of seven days if the test is negative, or 14 days if positive.

**MEXICO CITY** -- Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador says he does not plan to get tested for COVID-19, one day after the announcement that a high-ranking member of his administration he'd recently been in contact with was infected.

Zoé Robledo, director of Mexico's social security system, announced Sunday night that he had tested positive, two days after he appeared with López Obrador at an event in the Tabasco state capital of Villahermosa. The president's security cabinet had also been present during that event.

López Obrador returned to the capital Sunday after a week-long tour of the country's southeast. He used the trip to kick off construction of a tourist train, one of his signature projects, and to illustrate the government's efforts to reactivate the economy.

**SKOPJE, North Macedonia** — Authorities in North Macedonia have announced the second highest number of new infected people recorded, saying a second wave of coronavirus was expected because people have ignored recommendations to wear protective masks and to keep social distance.

Health Minister Venko Filipce said 127 newly infected people and three deaths were recorded over the past 24 hours, which is the second highest number of new cases in the country since the outbreak of the epidemic in late February. The total number of confirmed cases in North Macedonia now stands at 3,152, with 156 deaths in the country of roughly 2 million people.

Filipce said more than a half of those newly infected are from the capital Skopje and that the new spike is related to mass gatherings two weeks ago, during the celebrations of religious holidays.

North Macedonia has ended a strict 80-hour curfew in four regions on Monday, but the health minister said the national commission for protection of infectious diseases is recommending the government impose another movement restrictions in the most affected regions with new infected. The government is yet to decide on whether to announce movement restrictions in four regions, including capital Skopje. \_\_\_\_\_

The World Health Organization says it still believes the spread of the coronavirus from people without symptoms is "rare," despite warnings from numerous experts worldwide that such transmission is more frequent and likely explains why the pandemic has been so hard to contain.

Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead on COVID-19 said at a press briefing on Monday that many countries are reporting cases of spread from people who are asymptomatic, or those with no clinical symptoms. But when questioned in more detail about these cases, Van Kerkhove said many of them turn

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out to have mild disease, or unusual symptoms.

Although health officials in countries including Britain, the U.S. and elsewhere have warned that COVID-19 is spreading from people without symptoms, WHO has maintained that this type of spread is not a driver of the pandemic and is probably accounts for about 6% of spread, at most. Numerous studies have suggested that the virus is spreading from people without symptoms, but many of those are either anecdotal reports or based on modeling.

Van Kerkhove said that based on data from countries, when people with no symptoms of COVID-19 are tracked over a long period to see if they spread the disease, there are very few cases of spread.

"We are constantly looking at this data and we're trying to get more information from countries to truly answer this question," she said. "It still appears to be rare that asymptomatic individuals actually transmit onward."

**MADRID** — Spain's top health official for the coronavirus response is warning against complacency, saying that the earlier detection and treatment of infections could be giving a deceiving impression that the virus might be weakening.

Fernando Simón, who heads Spain's health emergency coordination center, said that the much lower rate of hospital admissions for COVID-19 and the lower age of incoming patients — who are now 52 on average compared with 61 in early May — might have contributed to the idea that the outbreak is less severe.

"There is no evidence that the virus is less virulent," Simón said Monday during a daily briefing. "The most plausible explanation is simply that we now detect cases at a milder stage."

Spain has 241,136 confirmed infections for the novel virus, 48 more in the past 24 hours mainly due to small clusters identified in hospitals. At least 56 deaths in the past seven days have been attributed to the virus, although Spain is not updating the official tally of 27,136 deaths until it completes a revision of past data provided by regional governments.

The country is edging closer to fully re-emerging from confinement rules. On Monday schools re-opened in some regions where students need to catch up on studies before college-entry exams later this month, while nightlife in bars and clubs is expected to resume in roughly half of the country.

Hard-hit Madrid and Barcelona, where most new infections are still being recorded, are also advancing to phase 2 of 3 in Spain's staggered plan out of the lockdown. That means dropping the existing time slots for daily exercise and allowing restaurants to serve food and drinks indoors as well as outdoors.

**MILAN** — Italy added 280 new cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, with over one-third of those in the hardest-hit region of Lombardy. Italy's total confirmed number of positives has reached 235,278 — although experts believe the actual number is much higher as only certain groups of people, such as nursing home residents, medical personnel and people with serious symptoms, are being tested. Just 65 deaths were added Monday, according to civil protection figures, for a total in the epidemic to date of 33,964. Most Italian regions are showing either no cases or new positives in the single digits. Lombardy is the only region with triple-digit positives, with the next closest region, Emilia Romagna, adding just 20.

**TORONTO** — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says his government will allow immediate family members of citizens or permanent residents to come to Canada amid the pandemic.

Trudeau noted anyone entering the country will be required to quarantine for 14 days and if they don't follow the rules there will be serious penalties. He says his immigration minister will release details later on the limited exemption.

Canada closed its borders to nonessential travel in March.

**LONDON** — The U.K. has recorded the lowest daily rise in the number of coronavirus deaths since March, when the country imposed lockdown measures.

As of Sunday afternoon, official figures showed that a further 55 people died after testing positive with

the virus. The total death toll rose to 40,597.

Scotland and Northern Ireland recorded no new deaths for the second day in a row.

Mondays typically see a lower death figure because of a delay in reporting over the weekend.

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

## **Q&A: State of Tokyo Olympics 2 1/2 months after postponement**

**By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — It's been 2 1/2 months since the Tokyo Olympics were postponed until next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So where do the games stand? So far, many ideas about how the Olympic can take place are being floated by the International Olympic Committee, Japanese officials and politicians, and in unsourced Japanese newspaper articles coming from local organizers and politicians. The focus is on soaring costs, fans — or no fans — possible quarantines for athletes, and cutting back to only "the essentials."

No one blames the IOC for not knowing what conditions will be a year from now. And from the IOC perspective, there is no need yet to speak frankly and possibly alienate Japanese politicians and citizens, sponsors and TV broadcasters, and athletes.

The IOC executive board meets on Wednesday and will hear a brief presentation from Tokyo organizers on a remote hookup, explaining where things stand. Few surprises and few specifics are expected. The meeting is behind virtual closed doors, although IOC President Thomas Bach will speak afterward.

Q: Given the pandemic, will the Olympics really open on July 23, 2021? There are skeptics, particularly if no vaccine is available.

A: The IOC says "yes," although that was the stance just days before the 2020 games were postponed in late March. Japan and the IOC have agreed: the games cannot be postponed again. If they can't be held this time, they will be canceled.

IOC member John Coates, who oversees preparations for Tokyo, said a few weeks ago that the games face "real problems." Much has to do with the massive scale: 11,000 Olympians, 4,400 Paralympians, 206 national Olympic Committees, dozens of summer sports federations, 42 venues and more than 5,000 apartments to secure in the Athletes Village, about 25% of which are reported to have been sold. Pierre Ducrey, Olympic Games operations director, said last week that retaining the Olympic Village was "problem No. 1." This is without even raising the question of fans.

Q: So, will there be fans? Sports starting up around the world are doing it in empty venues.

A: Bach has not ruled out competing in empty venues. "This is not what we want," he said, in an interview with the BBC. But he has acknowledged there are questions about access to venues. All of this affects more than 4 million tickets already sold. Ticket sales are worth at least \$800 million to the local organizing committee. Organizers are unlikely to want to pay refunds. Tickets have a "force majeure" clause that might get organizers off the hook if the coronavirus is deemed beyond "Tokyo 2020's reasonable control." Not helping is that Japan, like many other countries, is heading into a recession due to the economic repercussions of the coronavirus shutdown.

Q: What will the postponement cost?

A: This is the best-kept secret. Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto undoubtedly has a very good idea. He's a former deputy governor of the Bank of Japan and a veteran of Japan's finance ministry. But he has declined to offer any numbers. The estimates in Japan for the postponement range from \$2 billion to 6 billion. The IOC has said it will chip in \$650 million "as our part of the assessment" toward the added cost. Therefore, the vast majority of extra costs fall to Japanese taxpayers. Tokyo said the games would cost \$7.3 billion when it won the bid in 2013. The official budget says the games will cost \$12.6 billion, though a government audit says it's twice that. All but \$5.6 billion is public money.

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Ducrey, the Olympic Games operations director, said last week the IOC is in talks with insurers about some compensation for the postponed Olympics. The IOC has cancellation insurance but it's unclear if that covers an unprecedented postponement.

Q: How different might these Olympics look on TV?

A: No matter where the Olympics are held, or in what city, most Olympic venues look much the same on television. The venues are studios for a TV production. TV will have a year to adapt, watching how European soccer clubs, or the NBA, present their games. TV pays the Olympic bills, and the IOC cannot do without TV revenue. The IOC earns at least 73% of its income — about \$4 billion in a four-year Olympic cycle — from selling broadcast rights. By any calculation, it's difficult to see the games being canceled and the IOC losing its major income source. And don't forget, the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics open six months after Tokyo closes.

Q: Is there any deadline for organizers and the IOC to firm up plans?

A: Former Olympic minister Toshiaki Endo, a member of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party, said last week that March was a possible deadline for deciding whether the postponed Tokyo Games can go ahead. Muto, the CEO of Tokyo 2020, has said few decisions will be made public before the fall about the shape of the Olympics. Everyone from Bach to Muto to Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike is preaching cuts. Bach, who has termed putting on the games next year "an enormous task," says old ways of running the Olympics have "to be questioned." Muto has been open about slashing costs and "reducing service levels." Koike has used the words "streamlined and simplified" but has offered nothing specific. Among the cuts could be having only one opening and closing ceremony, combined for both the Olympics and Paralympics.

Q: Where do the athletes stand in all of this?

A: Olympics athletes have no single voice. Most get only one chance at participating. The pandemic has financially crushed many Olympics-related bodies — sports federations and national Olympic committee — that help fund athletes. Bach earlier this year warned against using the Tokyo Olympics as a platform for highlighting political and social causes. That will certainly be challenged next year in the wake massive protests condemning the death of black Americans by law enforcement. American hammer thrower Gwen Berry wrote in an open letter this week that "the idea that sport and politics can be separated is absurd."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Falwell apologizes for tweet that included racist photo

By SARAH RANKIN and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. apologized Monday for a tweet that included a racist photo that appeared on Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook page decades ago.

"After listening to African American LU leaders and alumni over the past week and hearing their concerns, I understand that by tweeting an image to remind all of the governor's racist past I actually refreshed the trauma that image had caused and offended some by using the image to make a political point," he tweeted Monday.

Falwell, a stalwart backer of President Donald Trump and the son of the late evangelist the Rev. Jerry Falwell, said he had deleted the tweet and apologized "for any hurt my effort caused, especially within the African American community."

Falwell's apology comes after nearly three dozen black alumni denounced him last week, writing in a letter that his rhetoric has "repeatedly violated and misrepresented" Christian principles. They said they would stop urging students to attend Liberty, would no longer donate to the university and would urge fellow people of faith to avoid speaking at the school unless Falwell changes his behavior or steps aside.

An online instructor for Liberty, a black pastor who also teaches at Ithaca College, also announced his resignation online in response to the tweet.

Organizers of last week's alumni letter responded to Falwell's apology with a note of thanks, adding that they "are hopeful that healing and reconciliation can" result from it. The alumni also sought a meeting to

discuss further changes, including the involvement of more “ethnically diverse pastors and advisors” on Falwell’s leadership team and the school’s board of trustees.

In late May, Falwell tweeted his opposition to a mask mandate from Gov. Ralph Northam in order to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Falwell tweeted that he was “adamantly opposed” to the mask mandate “until I decided to design my own.” With it, he posted a picture of a mask bearing a racist photo that appeared on Northam’s medical yearbook page and — when made public last year — sparked a scandal that nearly forced him from office. The photo showed a person in blackface and another in a Ku Klux Klan costume.

Falwell told The Associated Press at the time that his comment about the blackface scandal was made in defense of Liberty students, including minorities, who would be affected by tuition assistance cuts in a budget passed by the state legislature and signed by Northam.

He initially shrugged off the African American alumni’s concerns, saying in an interview last week that “I don’t blame” them for speaking out but that they “don’t know all that context” he was attempting to share in the now-deleted tweet. He also defended his involvement in politics as in line with Christian values, saying that Jesus criticized “the establishment of his day.”

Whether Falwell’s apology quells what had become a growing tide of criticism of his leadership style and occasionally inflammatory comments remains an open question.

Kaitlyn Schiess, a 2016 Liberty graduate who now lives in Dallas, said the apology itself was a surprise. But she was skeptical that it would significantly “change the minds of anyone who’s already been incredibly frustrated by his political support of Donald Trump and a lot of the statements he’s made.”

Falwell’s reversal and apology also come as a growing number of evangelical groups align with peaceful demonstrations seeking action on racial justice in response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Mitt Romney of Utah became the first GOP senator to participate a march against police brutality on Sunday, joining a group of nonpartisan marchers, among them evangelical Christians.

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

## **A look back, and follow-up, on coronavirus good-deed tales**

### **Associated Press undefined**

One Good Thing, each day. That was the guiding principle when The Associated Press launched this fixture in mid-March.

An act of generosity or self-sacrifice. A whimsical gesture to distract neighbors from anxiety or cabin fever. A helping hand to a person thrown out of a job, support for a patient struggling with COVID-19, solidarity with the medical professional toiling day and night to save them.

Nearly three months later, there’s been no end to the tales of good deeds we’ve found.

Whitney Rutz began making giant cinnamon rolls in March, initially to amuse herself and later, as they took off online, to raise money for the Oregon Food Bank.

By now the Portland, Oregon resident has rustled up more than \$50,000 in donations and sent out over 100 rolls, most of them to health care and other essential workers. “Some weeks it was overwhelming,” she says, reached by AP for a follow-up. “Other times it was the most uplifting experience.”

With the nation in ongoing turmoil, including nearly two weeks of outrage and nationwide protests over the police killing of George Floyd, Rutz is looking to use her rolls to support other causes. She’s still working out details, but she’d like to help schoolkids from low-income families: “It has a lot to do with racial inequities. The kids are our future.”

Even “while our country is suffering,” Rutz adds, “I really have started to believe that the world is mostly made of good people.”

Emily Bauman and a friend donated their government-issued pandemic stimulus checks last month to fund a “stimulus-serenade” for health workers. The May 19 performance not only cheered up the New

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Orleans East Hospital staffers who danced and clapped along, it meant a paid gig for members of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

The performance exceeded her expectations. "From the feedback I got ... it seemed like a community formed around the event," Bauman says today.

Bauman, who lives in New York City, watched the spectacle via live feed that day. She says she was moved that the orchestra included a local parade tradition known as a second line, which originated with organizations helping people with illness and loss. Bauman was also gratified to see the story get national attention: "That means that it resonates with communities everywhere, which is what I was hoping."

In India, which ordered one of the world's strictest lockdowns, feeding the working poor at a time they couldn't work was an obvious concern. The Sikh temple Bangla Sahib Gurdwara in New Delhi rose to the challenge, ramping up a kitchen operation that already fed a half-million people per week to help the growing ranks of the unfortunate.

With virus cases spiking in the country even as the lockdown eased the first week in June, the temple has had to adapt to challenges but is still producing millions of meals. It lost some distribution partners when charities that lent vehicles reclaimed them for other projects. Emails poured in from around the world after the story was published from people wanting to donate: An Australian man sent \$100, a Canadian doctor \$50.

But cash is still tight. The temple has used its dwindling funds to hire a fleet of trucks and drivers to keep delivering 100,000 meals a day to some 30 drop-off points where people form long lines holding tin pitchers and bowls to fill and take home. Temple president Manjinder Singh Sirsa says they used their TV channel to appeal for more help, leading to pledges of five more loaned vehicles.

May 22 was the second annual 1-4-3 Day, when Pennsylvanians are encouraged to be extra kind to their neighbors. Inspired by the nicest guy in the history of children's television, the late Mister Rogers, it took on new poignance this year for focusing on first responders and other essential workers risking their health every day during the pandemic. The 143rd day of the year, its name is a nod to the number of letters in each word of Fred Rogers' favorite phrase, "I love you."

A state website asked people to share stories of goodness and has tracked more than 4,900 of them since May 22. One woman ran 1.43 miles to honor her nurse father. Another baked cookies for frontline workers. A girl left a thank you note in the mailbox for her letter carrier. A food bank in central Pennsylvania delivered meals to a nursing home. Others sang songs about kindness, bought coffee for the person in line behind them and donated blood.

The governor's office says #143DayInPA was the top Twitter trending topic in the state and went as high as No. 25 nationwide. "I think now ... we could all use a little more kindness in our lives," Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney says.

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Associated Press writers Mariam Fam in Winter Park, Florida, Stacey Plaisance in New Orleans, Emily Schmall in New Delhi and Luis Andres Henao in Hershey, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

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

## Thousands mourn George Floyd in Texas amid calls for reform

By **JUAN A. LOZANO** and **NOMAAN MERCHANT** Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The last chance for the public to say goodbye to George Floyd drew thousands of mourners Monday to a church in Houston where he grew up, as his death two weeks ago continues to stoke protests in America and beyond over racial injustice, and spurred France to abruptly halt the use of police choke holds.

Reflecting the weight of the moment, the service drew the families of black victims in other high-profile

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killings whose names have become seared in America's conversation over race — among them Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

"It just hurts," said Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother, sobbing as he ticked off some of their names outside The Fountain of Praise church. "We will get justice. We will get it. We will not let this door close."

Under a blazing Texas sun, mourners wearing T-shirts with Floyd's picture or the words "I Can't Breathe" — the phrase he said repeatedly while pinned down by a Minneapolis police officer — waited for hours to pay their respects as Floyd's body, dressed in a brown suit, lay in an open gold-colored casket. Some sang "Lean on Me" and Houston's police chief bumped fists and embraced others in line. Funeral home spokeswoman La'Torria Lemon said at least 6,000 attended the service.

Some knew Floyd in the nearby housing projects where he grew up. Others traveled hours or drove in from other states. Those who couldn't make it whipped up their own tributes: In Los Angeles, a funeral-style procession of cars inched through downtown as the viewing began in Houston. In Tennessee, residents of Memphis held a moment of silence.

Bracy Burnett approached Floyd's casket wearing a homemade denim face mask scrawled with "8:46" — the length of time prosecutors say Floyd, who was black, was pinned to the ground under a white officer's knee before he died.

"All black people are not criminals. All white people are not racists. All cops are not bad. And ignorance comes in all colors. That's what I thought about when I viewed the body," Burnett, 66, said.

Floyd's death on May 25 has inspired international protests and drawn new attention to the treatment of African Americans in the U.S. by police and the criminal justice system.

Hours into the viewing, a judge in Minneapolis kept bail at \$1 million for Derek Chauvin, the police officer charged with second-degree murder in Floyd's death. Chauvin, 44, said almost nothing during the 11-minute hearing while appearing on closed-circuit television from a maximum-security prison.

Two weeks after Floyd's death, the impact continued to resonate at home and abroad.

In Paris, France's top security official said police would no longer permit chokeholds that have been blamed for multiple cases of asphyxiation and have come under renewed criticism after Floyd's death.

In Portland, Oregon, the city's police chief resigned Monday, just six months into her job, amid criticism of her department's handling of protests in Oregon's largest city. An African American lieutenant on the force replaced her. The shakeup came as police have been sharply criticized for using what has been called inappropriate force against some protesters as huge demonstrations continue in Portland.

"With this happening to him, it's going to make a difference in the world," said Pam Robinson, who grew up with Floyd and handed out bottled water to mourners waiting outside the church in Houston. The punishing heat spiked above 90 degrees and got to dozens in line, including one person who was taken to a hospital. Dozens more were helped to a cooling tent.

Comill Adams said she drove more than seven hours from Oklahoma City with her family, including two children ages 8 and 10. They wore matching black T-shirts with "I Can't Breathe" on the back — shirts she made up specially for the memorial.

"We had been watching the protests on TV. We've been at home feeling outraged. At times it brought us to tears," Adams said. "The fact this one is causing change, we had to come be a part of it."

Mourners were required to wear masks over fears of the coronavirus and stood 6 feet apart as they paused briefly to view the casket. On a stage behind the casket two identical murals showed Floyd wearing a black cap that read "Houston" and angel wings drawn behind him.

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott was among the first to view the casket, wearing a striped gold-and-crimson tie, the colors of Floyd's Houston high school, where Floyd was a standout football player.

"George Floyd is going to change the arc of the future of the United States. George Floyd has not died in vain. His life will be a living legacy about the way that America and Texas responds to this tragedy," Abbott said.

Floyd's death has spurred calls for change nationwide.

The Minneapolis City Council has vowed to dismantle the city's 800-member police agency. And in

Washington, House and Senate Democrats held a moment of silence at the Capitol's Emancipation Hall before proposing legislative changes in policing oversight, reading Floyd's name and those of others killed during police interactions and kneeling for 8 minutes and 46 seconds — now a symbol of police brutality.

Besides banning police chokeholds, the Justice in Policing Act would limit legal protections for police and create a national database of excessive-force incidents, according to an early draft.

Meanwhile, officials nationwide are already taking steps to outlaw chokeholds: California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered the state's police training program to stop teaching them and Denver police announced Sunday they were banning them, effective immediately. In New York, the state Senate and Assembly passed legislation that bans police chokeholds, guarantees the right to record police activity and collects more data on deaths in custody.

Floyd's funeral will be Tuesday, followed by burial at the Houston Memorial Gardens cemetery in suburban Pearland, where he will be laid to rest next to his mother, Larcenia Floyd.

Former Vice President Joe Biden met with Floyd's family Monday, according to a photo posted on Twitter by the Rev. Al Sharpton. Biden will provide a video message for Floyd's funeral service. Previous memorials have taken place in Minneapolis and Raeford, North Carolina, near where Floyd was born.

"Listening to one another is what will begin to heal America. That's just what Vice President Biden did with the family of George Floyd for more than an hour. He listened, he heard their pain and shared in their woe. That compassion meant the world to this grieving family," said Ben Crump, the attorney for the Floyd family.

Cities imposed curfews as several protests last week were marred by spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. More than 10,000 people have been arrested around the country, according to reports tracked by The Associated Press.

But protests in recent days have been overwhelmingly peaceful — and over the weekend, several police departments appeared to retreat from aggressive tactics.

Several cities have lifted curfews, including Chicago and New York City, where the governor urged protesters to get tested for the coronavirus as concerns have been raised that demonstrations could lead to an increase in virus cases.

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Associated Press writer Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas, Marina Villeneuve in Albany, and Bill Barrow in Atlanta, contributed to this report.

## Democrats propose sweeping police overhaul; Trump criticizes

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats in Congress proposed a far-reaching overhaul of police procedures and accountability Monday, a sweeping legislative response to the mass protests denouncing the deaths of black Americans in the hands of law enforcement.

The political outlook is deeply uncertain for the legislation in a polarized election year. President Donald Trump is staking out a tough "law and order" approach in the face of the outpouring of demonstrations and demands to re-imagine policing in America.

"We cannot settle for anything less than transformative structural change," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, drawing on the nation's history of slavery.

Before unveiling the package, House and Senate Democrats held a moment of silence at the Capitol's Emancipation Hall, reading the names of George Floyd and many others killed during police interactions. They knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds — now a symbol of police brutality and violence — the length of time prosecutors say Floyd was pinned under a white police officer's knee before he died.

Trump, who met with law enforcement officials at the White House, characterized Democrats as having "gone CRAZY!"

As activists beyond Capitol Hill call to restructure police departments and even to "defund the police," the president tweeted, "LAW & ORDER, NOT DEFUND AND ABOLISH THE POLICE." He declared later,



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"We won't be dismantling our police."

Democratic leaders pushed back, saying their proposal would not eliminate police departments — a decision for cities and states — but establish new standards and oversight.

Joe Biden, the presumed Democratic presidential nominee, "does not believe that police should be defunded," said spokesman Andrew Bates.

The Justice in Policing Act, the most ambitious law enforcement reform from Congress in years, confronts several aspects of policing that have come under strong criticism, especially as more and more police violence is captured on cellphone video and shared widely across the nation and the world.

The package would limit legal protections for police, create a national database of excessive-force incidents and ban police choke holds, among other changes.

It would revise the federal criminal police misconduct statute to make it easier to prosecute officers who are involved in "reckless" misconduct and it would change "qualified immunity" protections to more broadly enable damage claims against police in lawsuits.

The legislation would ban racial profiling, boost requirements for police body cameras and limit the transfer of military equipment to local jurisdictions.

Overall, the bill seeks to provide greater transparency of police behavior in several ways. For one, it would grant subpoena power to the Justice Department to conduct "pattern and practice" investigations of potential misconduct and help states conduct independent investigations.

And it would create a "National Police Misconduct Registry," a database to try to prevent officers from transferring from one department to another with past misconduct undetected, the draft says.

A long-sought federal anti-lynching bill that has stalled in Congress is included in the package.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., a co-author with Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., and Democratic senators will convene a hearing on the legislation Wednesday.

"The world is witnessing the birth of a new movement in this country," said Bass, chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, which is leading the effort.

While Democrats are expected to swiftly approve the legislation this month, it does not go as far as some activists want. The outlook for passage in the Republican-held Senate is slim.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose Louisville hometown faces unrest after the police shooting of Breonna Taylor in her home, said he would take a look at potential Senate legislation.

It is unclear if law enforcement and the powerful police unions will back any of the proposed changes or if congressional Republicans will peel off some of their own proposals.

Republicans are likely to stick with Trump, and GOP campaign officials bashed efforts underway in some cities to reallocate police funds to other community services.

Yet McConnell was central to passage of a 2018 criminal justice sentencing overhaul the president signed into law, and some key GOP senators have expressed interest in more streamlined changes to policing practices and accountability.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, who marched with protesters Sunday, told reporters late Monday at the Capitol that he is working with other Republican senators "to see if we can't fashion a piece of legislation which could receive bipartisan support to make some changes to the way we do our policing."

The chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has said his panel intends to hold a hearing to review use of force and other issues, and other GOP lawmakers have suggested Floyd's death could spark more modest changes.

Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, who marched in support of Floyd in Houston, penned an op-ed Monday about how his own black father instructed him to respond if he was pulled over by the police, and suggested proposals for changes in police practices.

What started with the Black Lives Matter movement after the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., has transformed with the killings of other black Americans into a diverse and mainstream effort calling for changing the way America polices its population, advocates say.

"I can't breathe" has become a rallying cry for protesters. Floyd pleaded with police that he couldn't breathe, echoing the phrase Eric Garner said while in police custody in 2014 before his death in New York.

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"All we've ever wanted is to be treated equally — not better, not worse," said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y. Biden's own platform reflects much of the approach from congressional Democrats, and his former presidential primary rivals, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.Y., and Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., are co-authors of the package in the Senate.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor in Washington and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Review: Davidson steps up in 'The King of Staten Island'

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The protagonists in Judd Apatow movies don't generally have their stuff together. They are emotionally stunted, occasionally underachieving, unmotivated to change and often even border on unlikable. But whether it's Seth Rogen's stoner-entrepreneur, Steve Carell's 40-year-old virgin or Adam Sandler's depressed movie star, there has always been at least some separation between the actor and the character.

That shield of fiction is pushed aside in his latest, "The King of Staten Island," in which Pete Davidson (a co-writer and producer on the film) lays bare many of his personal struggles for our entertainment and edification, from losing his firefighter father at the age of 7 to living with Crohn's disease, in this tale of a Staten Island loser who is more than happy to just drift.

It is the kind of personal project that could have gone wrong in so many ways. All you need is for the lead to lack a certain self-awareness or for the filmmaker to be too protective. But somehow, and despite its bloated runtime, Davidson and Apatow have made a film that is honest, entertaining and humane. That is no small feat considering Davidson's character Scott is one of the most unlikable Apatow leads (at least at first).

Scott is angry at the world for taking his father away, although he tries to hide that behind a nihilistic stoner front. He lives with his mother Margie (Marisa Tomei) and refuses to commit to the local girl he's sleeping with (Bel Powley, channeling "Working Girl"-style Staten Island swagger). He knows he has mental health issues but doesn't seem to want to do anything about it. He doesn't have any prospects or passions. His friends are losers too. And he doesn't even really seem to care about his pie-in-the-sky career choice of tattoo artist (his lack of skills in that department provides a particularly funny through line).

But Scott is 24 and his youthful indifference is starting to turn into a full-fledged character flaw, which is why Margie gives him a push and then a shove out of her house to get his act together. She's emboldened by her new boyfriend Ray (Bill Burr). He's a firefighter too, which makes Scott crazy. When Ray takes him out to a baseball game with his fellow firefighters, Scott decides to rant to the guys (among them an excellent Steve Buscemi) about why people in their profession shouldn't have families. It's raw and uncomfortable and helps set the stage for what will come next for Scott.

Apatow refuses to make short movies and thus "The King of Staten Island" is a bit of an odyssey that's packed with some well-drawn side characters (including Maude Apatow as Scott's sister) and subplots as well as some questionable and repetitive ones. It also curiously leaves some story threads dangling (like a few of Ray's serious shortcomings that his ex-wife tells Scott about).

But it's a journey that does pay off and the film really hits its stride in the third act, in which Scott finds himself living in the fire station with Ray and starts to learn about both work and his father.

It might seem silly to say, but Davidson is really good at playing himself. He never sacrifices honesty in the name of trying to make himself seem cooler or more sympathetic and you end up liking him more because of it.

What is so refreshing about "The King of Staten Island" is that there isn't some big Hollywood arc to it. Scott doesn't suddenly become a tattoo prodigy. No suspiciously put-together love interest descends to pull him out of his status quo. And there is no miraculous revelation that fixes him completely, just a few little ones.

Davidson isn't everyone's cup of tea and no one knows that better than he does. It's that self-awareness that elevates this story and makes "The King of Staten Island" worth the watch.

"The King of Staten Island," a Universal Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for language and drug use throughout, sexual content and some violence/bloody images." Running time: 136 minutes. Three stars out four.

MPAA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires an accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ladbahr](http://www.twitter.com/ladbahr)

## Some Minneapolis activists doubt disbanding police will work

By AMY FORLITI and MOHAMED IBRAHIM Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — George Floyd's death was the breaking point for some Minneapolis civic leaders, who now say the only way to fix the city's embattled police department is to take it apart. But it's not clear how they would do that, and groups that have spent years shining a light on police brutality aren't even sure it's the answer.

"We're dismantling our police department," City Council member Jeremiah Ellison tweeted on Sunday, the same day he and a majority of the council proclaimed support to disband the force to cheering protesters at a Minneapolis park. "And we won't be silent. We'll be loud. We'll fight. We'll win."

But dismantling an entire department is exceedingly rare. It was done in Camden, New Jersey, and was talked about — though ultimately discarded — in Ferguson, Missouri, after the death of Michael Brown. Such a move comes with legal issues, including a city charter that stipulates a police force, plus a union-protected workforce.

"Saying that they're going to defund the police or that they're going to ban the police or whatever they're talking about, that was optics, guys," said Michelle Gross, president of the Minneapolis chapter of Communities United Against Police Brutality. "Just plain optics."

Sam Martinez, an activist with Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar, a group formed after the 2015 death of Jamar Clark in a confrontation with police, said just getting rid of a police department doesn't solve the problem.

"If they attempted to defund the police or reduce the police force, we know they can't do it, and what comes after that? Will they turn over the power to the (Hennepin County) sheriff ... who has had no accountability either?" Martinez said.

Community activists have criticized the Minneapolis department for years for what they say is a racist and brutal culture that resists change. The state of Minnesota launched a civil rights investigation of the department last week, and the first concrete changes came Friday in a stipulated agreement in which the city agreed to ban chokeholds and neck restraints.

Steve Cramer, a former City Council member who now serves as president and CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, called rhetoric about ending policing as the city knows it "exhilarating to some but terrifying to others."

"Until we really understand how this kind of evaluation and planning process is going to move forward, there's this vacuum that people are going to fill with their own thoughts," he said. "... I think that's just a hard place that some of our elected officials have put our community in at a very vulnerable time."

Protesters nationwide are demanding police reforms, and calls to "defund the police" over the death of Floyd and other black Americans killed by law enforcement have become a rallying cry. Supporters say the movement isn't about eliminating police departments or stripping agencies of all of their money. Instead, they say it is time for the country to address systemic problems in policing in America and spend more on what communities across the U.S. need, such as housing and education.

Gross' group, along with others including Minnesota's Council on American-Islamic Relations and two Black Lives Matter chapters, presented their own 40 recommendations for police reform on Monday. They gathered at the remnants of the Third Precinct station, which was set ablaze by protesters at the height of violence following Floyd's death.

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Among the recommendations, officers would be required to carry their own professional liability insurance, an idea that aims to hike out-of-pocket insurance rates for officers who engage in high-risk conduct. Some of the worst offenders would become uninsurable and forbidden from working as a police officer.

The groups also are seeking an independent agency to investigate and prosecute critical incidents involving police; mandatory psychological testing for officers; and community participation in negotiating police union contracts. They would end so-called "warrior" training for officers and the use of no-knock warrants, while banning military equipment in community policing as well as neck restraints and chokeholds.

In Ferguson, where the 2014 shooting death of Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old, galvanized the fledgling Black Lives Matter movement, the city and U.S. Justice Department entered a consent agreement that required massive reforms overseen by a court-appointed monitor. Among the results are a department with significantly more black officers, a police use-of-force policy and progress in use of body-worn and in-car cameras.

Ferguson spent \$1.1 million in the first three years of the consent agreement and expects to spend another \$1 million over the next three years — a significant investment for a city with an annual budget of less than \$13 million.

Changes are being talked about elsewhere, too. In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday that the city would move funding from the NYPD to youth initiatives and social services, while keeping the city safe, but he didn't give details. In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti vowed to cut as much as \$150 million that was part of a planned increase in the police department's budget.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who was booed at a rally Saturday outside his house when he said he does not support abolishing the department, repeated that stance Monday. In an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America," he said he looked forward to "deciphering" what council members mean by such talk.

He said he favors "a full-on cultural shift in how our Minneapolis Police Department and departments throughout the country function."

"We have difficulty both terminating and disciplining officers, and then getting that termination or discipline to stick," Frey said. "We're going after the police union, the police union contract, the arbitration provisions that mandate that we have arbitration at the end of the process, and oftentimes that reverts the officer to right back where they were to begin with."

Alondra Cano, one of the nine council members who said they support disbanding, called impending change "a process" that is just beginning. Meanwhile, she said the council will look at redirecting funding from the police department toward the city's office of violence prevention and other community safety strategies that will "help inform and bring life to that new public safety system that we all want to create".

Ellison said the city will continue to fund safety initiatives like the Group Violence Intervention program, which started in 2017 with the aim of reducing gun violence.

"I think that we owe it to ourselves as a community to sort of put our resources behind those things that we already know are working," Ellison said. "But we are not going to hit the eject button without a fully realized plan."

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Mohamed Ibrahim is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

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Associated Press Writer Steve Karnowski contributed from Minneapolis.

## Behind virus and protests: A chronic US economic racial gap

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has been here before, staring into the deep chasm that divides white and black Americans.

It happened after cities burned in 1967, after Los Angeles erupted with the 1992 acquittal of police officers who beat Rodney King, after the 2014 police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

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After those upheavals came talk of change — of reforming policing, yes, but also of expanding economic opportunity to black Americans who have been disproportionately left behind in one of the world's richest countries. Yet despite big pledges and high hopes, economic progress has come slowly, if at all, for black America.

African Americans still earn barely 60 cents for every \$1 in white income. They have 10 cents in wealth for every \$1 whites own. They remain more than twice as likely to live in poverty. And they're about as likely to own a home as they were when Richard Nixon was president.

Now, demonstrators are out in the streets again, this time to protest what happened in Minneapolis to George Floyd, dead after a police officer pressed a knee into his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds.

Once again, racial inequality underlies rage and despair, especially because the unrest coincides with an economic and health calamity, one that's falling hardest, yet again, on African Americans.

"We've got a perfect storm," said Cecelia Rouse, professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University. "COVID is wreaking economic havoc" for African Americans.

Black Americans are far more likely than whites to die of COVID-19. They work disproportionately in low-paying service jobs — the ones that were slashed when restaurants and movie theaters closed as a health precaution and customers stayed away from hotels and airports.

"We've been blindsided by the pandemic," said Imani Fox of the Washington community group ONE DC.

Black workers who remain employed are more likely to work as front-line workers in warehouses, grocery stores and takeout eateries — jobs that leave them exposed to the virus.

"People are mad as hell," said Monica Lewis-Patrick, president of the community group We the People of Detroit. "We can't be the wealthiest nation or declare ourselves the wealthiest nation in the world and still have these major inequities and disparities that are glaringly based on race."

Rouse said she has reread portions of the Kerner Commission report, issued in 1968 to call for reform in the wake of the urban unrest of the late '60s. "It was so depressing," she said. "What has changed?"

A month after the Kerner report, for example, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act, meant to eliminate housing discrimination. Assessing the act on its 50th anniversary two years ago, Margery Turner of the Urban Institute wrote that African Americans and other minorities continued to face discrimination, though the "most blatant" forms of bias had declined.

"We still live in starkly segregated neighborhoods," she wrote, noting that the typical white Americans lives in a neighborhood that is 75% white and 8% African American; a typical black American lives in a neighborhood that is 35% white and 45% black.

The coronavirus recession is especially disheartening because African Americans finally seemed to be making headway in the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2007-2009. The unemployment rate for black Americans hit a record low last fall. And black wealth, decimated by the financial crisis of the late 2000s, had in recent years outgrown white wealth.

Then came COVID-19.

"When something goes wrong for all American workers, it's going to disproportionately affect African Americans, who are often the most fragile in the economy," said Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey.

Amid the anger and anguish is optimism that policymakers will use this moment to find ways to narrow the economic gap between black and white Americans. Among the hopes is that political leaders can deliver reforms to America's economic system: Paid sick leave. A higher federal minimum wage. Perhaps even direct payments to the needy — test-run, perhaps, by the \$1,200 stimulus checks the government sent to many Americans as the economy shut down in the face of the pandemic.

But the United States has had watershed moments before. And the big changes didn't come.

Here's a look at America's economic racial divide and how it has and hasn't changed after decades of protests:

## INCOME

From 1968 to 2018, median income for black households, adjusted for inflation, rose 37% from \$30,155

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to \$41,361. In percentage terms, that outpaced the 31% growth in household income for whites (from \$51,138 to \$66,943), according to the Census Bureau. But black households still earn just 62 cents for every \$1 earned by white households.

The income gap remains wide even though African Americans have vastly upgraded their educational attainment: The proportion of black Americans with a high school diploma has surged from 54% in 1968 to 92% in 2018. The share with a college degree rose from 9% to 23% over that period, according to government figures compiled by the Economic Policy Institute.

Yet black people are still more than twice as likely as whites to live in poverty. Their poverty rate has dropped from 55% in 1959 to 35% in 1968 to 21% in 2018. The white rate has barely budged at around 10%. The official poverty rate may understate African Americans' progress because it excludes the effect of non-cash government programs such as food stamps and Medicaid.

## JOBS

The unemployment rate for African Americans has typically hovered around twice the rate for whites. But beginning last year, the record-breaking economic expansion that began in June 2009 had finally begun to pay off for African Americans. Their jobless rate dropped from 16.8% in March 2010 to an all-time low of 5.4% in August last year.

That progress ended abruptly once the coronavirus recession wiped out tens of millions of jobs in March and April. Black workers, disproportionately laboring in low-wage service jobs, were less likely to be among the fortunate: The office workers who could keep their jobs while working from the safety of home. African Americans were likelier to either lose their jobs or to work as essential front-line employees who are more vulnerable to the virus.

On Friday, the government issued a surprisingly upbeat jobs report for May: The national unemployment rate unexpectedly dropped from 14.7% to 13.3%. But the jobless rate for African Americans ticked up, from 16.7% to 16.8%, the level where it had been 10 years earlier.

## WEALTH

Black Americans face an even bigger long-term problem than lagging incomes and higher unemployment. They have struggled to build wealth — home equity and investment portfolios — that could be tapped in times of need, used as collateral for loans to start a business or passed on to children.

"Income helps you pay your bills," said Olugbenga Ajilore, senior economist at the liberal Center for American Program. "Wealth moves you from poverty to the middle class to the upper class."

The median black family has wealth of just \$17,200 — perhaps enough to buy a car — versus \$171,000 for the median white family. The wealth gap persists even for African Americans in the top 10% of U.S. incomes: Their wealth comes to \$343,160, less than one-fifth of the \$1.79 million for whites in the top 10%, according to government numbers compiled by the Brookings Institution.

One ongoing culprit was the housing bust of the late 2000s. Commerce Department figures compiled by the Urban Institute show that black homeownership rose from 41.8% in 1970 to 47.3% in 2000 before being swept away by the financial crisis and the ensuing recession. As of 2015, black homeownership was 41.2% — lower than it had been 45 years earlier and far below the 71.1% for whites.

In February, researchers at the Brookings Institution reported other reasons for the wealth deficit: African Americans inherit far less money than whites. Even those who become top earners are likelier than whites to fall out of the ranks of the rich. And they are more likely to have to provide financial help to friends and family.

As a Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Booker pushed a plan for "Baby Bonds" to provide \$1,000 to every American child at birth. After that, they would receive up to \$2,000 a year, depending on their family income. The idea would be to create a nest egg that could eventually be used to finance a college education or buy a home.

Bradley Hardy, a professor in American University's School of Public Affairs, said that researchers and activists are working on plans like Booker's to narrow the divide between black and white Americans, between rich and poor.

The current protests could provide momentum for those efforts.

"It's absolutely an opportunity," Hardy said. "And, yes, it could be squandered."

AP Economics Writers Josh Boak and Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

## **Bonnie Pointer, early member of Pointer Sisters, dies at 69**

**By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bonnie Pointer, who in 1969 convinced three of her church-singing siblings to form the Pointer Sisters, which would become one of the biggest acts of the next two decades, died Monday.

The Grammy winner died of cardiac arrest in Los Angeles, publicist Roger Neal said. She was 69.

"It is with great sadness that I have to announce to the fans of the Pointer Sisters that my sister, Bonnie died this morning," sister Anita Pointer said in a statement. "Our family is devastated, on behalf of my siblings and I and the entire Pointer family, we ask for your prayers at this time."

Bonnie Pointer often sang lead and was an essential member of the group through its early hits including "Yes We Can Can" and "Fairytale." She would leave for a short and modest solo career in 1977 as her sisters went on to have several mega-hits without her.

Ruth, Anita, Bonnie and June, born the daughters of a minister who also had two older sons, grew up singing in his church in Oakland, California.

It was Bonnie, shortly after graduating high school, who first wanted to move away from singing gospel songs into clubs to pursue a professional singing career.

"The Pointer Sisters would never have happened had it not been for Bonnie," Anita Pointer said in her statement.

She convinced younger sister June to join her, and the two began doing gigs together as a duo in 1969. Eventually they'd enlist their two older sisters, who were already married with children, to join them.

The quartet brought unique fusion of funk, soul and 1940s-style jazz, scat and pop to their act, often dressing in a retro style that resembled their forerunners the Andrews Sisters.

They worked as backup singers for Taj Mahal, Boz Scaggs, Elvin Bishop and others before releasing their self-titled debut album in 1973, and the song "Yes We Can Can," a funky anthem calling for unity and tolerance, became their breakout hit.

They followed up with "That's A Plenty," which featured an eclectic mix of musical styles ranging from jazz to gospel to pop.

They even delved into country. Bonnie and Anita co-wrote the song "Fairytale" about a crumbling relationship. The song earned them a groundbreaking gig performing as a rare African American act at the Grand Ole Opry, and they would win their first Grammy, for best country vocal performance by a group.

Bonnie Pointer left the group in 1977, signing a solo deal with Motown Records.

"We were devastated," Anita Pointer told The Associated Press in 1990. "We did a show the night she left, but after that, we just stopped. We thought it wasn't going to work without Bonnie."

She would have only modest solo success. Her biggest hit was "Heaven Must Have Sent You," a 1979 disco cover of an earlier Motown hit by the Elgins. It reached No. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1979.

After making three albums for Motown, she would retire from the studio, and only perform occasionally.

Her three sisters, who had nearly disbanded when she quit, instead regrouped, shed their retro image for a modern pop sound, and became one of the biggest acts of the 1980s with huge hits including "He's So Shy," "Jump (For My Love)" and "Neutron Dance."

Bonnie married Motown producer Jeffrey Bowen in 1978. The two separated in 2004 and divorced in 2016.

She twice reunited with her sisters for public appearances. Once in 1994, when they received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and again in 1996 at a show in Las Vegas.

"She had always told me, mother, I want something for myself," Bonnie's mother Sarah Pointer told Ebony in 1974. "I want to be somebody in this world."

June Pointer, the youngest of the sisters, died in 2006.

In addition to Ruth and Anita, Bonnie Pointer is survived by her two older brothers, Aaron and Fritz.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

## A US recession began in February in the face of coronavirus

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy entered a recession in February as the coronavirus struck the nation, a group of economists declared Monday, ending the longest expansion on record.

The economists said that employment, income and spending peaked in February and then fell sharply afterward as the viral outbreak shut down businesses across the country, marking the start of the downturn after nearly 11 full years of economic growth.

A committee within the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private nonprofit group, determines when recessions begin and end. It broadly defines a recession as "a decline in economic activity that lasts more than a few months."

For that reason, the NBER typically waits longer before making a determination that the economy is in a downturn. In the previous recession, the committee did not declare that the economy was in recession until December 2008, a year after it had actually begun. But in this case, the NBER said the collapse in employment and incomes was so steep that it could much more quickly make a determination.

"The unprecedented magnitude of the decline in employment and production, and its broad reach across the entire economy, warrants the designation of this episode as a recession, even if it turns out to be briefer than earlier contractions," the NBER panel said.

The way the NBER defines recessions, they begin in the same month that the previous expansion ends. Because the economy peaked in February, that is the month when the recession officially began, rather than in March, when unemployment began to rise.

Financial markets had little reaction Monday to the NBER's declaration. February is when the stock market hit its own record high before stumbling into a severe downturn from which it has mostly recovered, thanks to extraordinary stimulus and support measures from the Federal Reserve and Congress as well as expectations that the worst of the economic pain may have passed.

The unemployment rate is officially 13.3%, down from 14.7% in April. Both figures are higher than in any other downturn since World War II. A broader measure of underemployment that includes those who have given up looking and those who have been reduced to part-time status is 21.2%.

On Friday, the government said that employers added 2.5 million jobs in May, an unexpected gain that suggested job losses may have bottomed out. A recession ends when employment and output start to pick up again, not when they reach their pre-recession levels. So it's possible that the recession could technically end soon.

That would make the current recession the shortest and deepest on record. It is expected to be followed by an extended recovery before the economy manages to regain its pre-pandemic levels of production and employment. Some economists say it could take two years or more, with the unemployment rate likely still 10% or higher at the end of this year.

"The most important thing to focus on is the strength of the recovery, and that's where the greatest uncertainty lies right now," said Ernie Tedeschi, policy economist at investment bank Evercore ISI.

It's unclear, Tedeschi noted, whether the virus is under control, whether there will be a second wave or whether or when a vaccine will be developed.

On Monday, the World Bank said the world was facing a health and economic crisis that has spread with astonishing speed and will produce the largest shock the global economy has witnessed in seven decades. It expects millions of people to be pushed into extreme poverty.

In its updated global outlook, the World Bank projected that international economic activity will shrink by 5.2% this year, the deepest recession since a contraction in 1945-46 at the end of World War II. The 5.2% downturn would be the fourth-worst global downturn over the past 150 years, exceeded only by the



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Great Depression of the 1930s and the periods immediately after World War I and World War II.

In the U.S., states have begun reopening their economies, thereby allowing businesses to recall some employees to work. But economic activity is returning only very gradually. A full recovery won't occur until Americans are willing to resume their previous habits of shopping, eating out, and traveling. That might not happen until a vaccine is developed or testing is more widely available.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, an accounting firm, said the NBER committee might end up declaring this recession to have already ended in May based on the fact that hiring rebounded that month.

"We could have the shortest recession in history — it seems ridiculous, but we could," Swonk said. Still, it will take much longer for the economy to rebound, she said.

"This bottom is going to be uniquely deep, and we don't know how fast we will get out of the bottom," she said.

AP Economics Writer Martin Crutsinger contributed to this report.

## MLB offers 76-game season, playoffs rise up to 16 teams

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball has made another try to start the coronavirus-delayed season in early July, proposing a 76-game regular season, expanding the playoffs from 10 teams to as many as 16 and allowing players to earn about 75% of their prorated salaries.

Players have refused cuts beyond what they agreed to in March shortly after the pandemic began, part of baseball's again acrimonious labor relations. The arduous negotiations have jeopardized plans to hold opening day around the Fourth of July in empty ballparks and provide entertainment to a public still emerging from months of quarantine.

MLB's latest proposal would guarantee 50% of players' prorated salaries over the regular season, according to details obtained by The Associated Press.

The proposal would eliminate all free-agent compensation for the first time since the free-agent era started in 1976. It also would forgive 20% of the \$170 million in salaries already advanced to players during April and May.

"If the players desire to accept this proposal, we need to reach an agreement by Wednesday," Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem wrote in a letter to union negotiator Bruce Meyer that was obtained by The Associated Press. "While we understand that it is a relatively short time frame, we cannot waste any additional days if we are to have sufficient time for players to travel to spring training, conduct COVID-19 testing and education, conduct a spring training of an appropriate length, and schedule a 76-game season that ends no later than Sept. 27."

"While we are prepared to continue discussion past Wednesday on a season with fewer than 76 games, we simply do not have enough days to schedule a season of that length unless an agreement is reached in the next 48 hours," he added.

There was no immediate response from the union, which is likely to view the plan as a step back because of the large percentage of salaries not guaranteed.

"There's social unrest in our country amid a global pandemic. Baseball won't solve these problems, but maybe it could help," Washington pitcher Sean Doolittle tweeted. "We've been staying ready & we proposed 114 games — to protect the integrity of the game, to give back to our fans & cities, and because we want to play."

"It's frustrating to have a public labor dispute when there's so much hardship. I hate it," he said. "But we have an obligation to future players to do right by them. We want to play. We also have to make sure that future players won't be paying for any concessions we make."

While there is no chance players would accept this proposal as is, the offer dropped the sliding scale teams embraced last month that would have left stars with just a fraction of their expected pay. The latest

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proposal figures to spark more talks that could lead to opening day at some point in July.

Players agreed March 26 for prorated salaries that depend on games played, part of a deal for a guarantee of service time if the season was scrapped.

MLB says it can't afford to play in ballparks without fans and on May 26 proposed an 82-game schedule. The union countered five days later with a 114-game schedule at prorated pay that would extend the regular season by a month through October.

MLB is worried a second wave of the virus would endanger the postseason — when MLB is scheduled to receive \$787 million in broadcast revenue.

Teams estimate the new offer would guarantee \$1.43 billion in compensation: \$955 million in salaries, including an allowance for earned bonuses; \$393 million if the postseason is played — half the broadcast revenue — for a 20% bonus for every player with a big league contract; \$50 million for the regular season postseason pool normally funded with ticket money; and \$34 million for the forgiven advances.

Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole, who have the highest salaries of \$36 million each, would have been guaranteed \$5.58 million each under the initial MLB proposal with the chance to earn up to about \$8 million, and \$25.3 million apiece in the union plan. They would be guaranteed \$8,723,967 each under the latest offer and would get \$12,190,633 apiece if the postseason is completed.

A player at the \$563,500 minimum could earn up to \$244,492 and those at \$1 million — about half those on current active rosters — could get up to \$389,496.

MLB estimates its revenue would drop from \$9.73 billion last year to \$2.75 billion this year with a 76-game season. Adding prorated shares of signing bonuses, option buyout, termination pay, assignment bonuses and benefits, MLB says players would get 70.2% of revenue, up from 46.7%. Also factoring in signing bonuses for amateurs in the draft this week and international players, MLB projects players would get 86.2%, up from 52.1%.

Expansion of the playoffs would make a major change for MLB's 30 clubs. Postseason teams doubled to four with the split of each league into two divisions in 1969, then to eight with the realignment to three divisions and the addition of a wild card in 1995, a year later than planned due to a players' strike. The postseason reached its current 10 with the addition of a second wild card and a wild-card round in 2012.

Players proposed expanding the playoffs to 14 teams in both 2020 and '21. The MLB plan also would cover the next two seasons. It doesn't specify a format other than as many as eight clubs per league.

Free agent compensation has long caused bitter fights since the arbitration decision in December 1975 that struck down the reserve clause — it led to an eight-day strike during spring training in 1980 and a 50-day strike during the 1981 season. Compensation had been narrowed in recent years but still caused some free agents to have fewer bidders and sign later, such as pitchers Craig Kimbrel and Dallas Keuchel in 2019.

MLB proposed dropping the loss of draft picks and international signing bonus pool allocation for signing a qualified free agent.

All players would have the right to opt out and not play, but only high-risk individuals would be treated as if injured and would receive salary and service time.

Players' distrust of MLB stems from accusations of service time manipulation to delay eligibility for free agency and salary arbitration; payroll paring for rebuilding the union calls tanking; slow free-agent markets; and five years of relatively flat salaries.

MLB's frustration with the union has built since Tony Clark took over after Michael Weiner died in late 2013. Management complains the union procrastinates responding to proposals and then causes hectic deadline negotiations.

Halem sent Meyer an angry letter Wednesday, and Meyer replied in kind Friday.

"I am not going to respond to the assertions and mischaracterizations in your letter because we are well past the point that exchanging letters is a constructive use of our limited time," Halem wrote Monday. "To be clear, we are neither shutting down negotiations nor requesting that the association negotiate against itself."

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Building bubbles: Cautious 1st steps toward football season

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

College football is scheduled to kick off in less than three months and there are plenty of reasons to be hopeful that games will be played Labor Day weekend.

Universities across the country are taking the first cautious, detailed steps toward playing football in a pandemic, attempting to build COVID-19-free bubbles around their teams as players begin voluntary workouts.

"I think the start of the race has a lot to do with how you finish it," Baylor athletic director Mack Rhoades said.

Thousands of athletes will be tested for COVID-19, though not all. Masks will need to be worn — most of the time. Some schools will have players pumping iron this week. Others are waiting a few more weeks.

"There's an element of this that's kind of like building an airplane as you fly it in that we're learning so much more really every week," Notre Dame football team Dr. Matt Leiszler said. "But it's a moving target at times."

For months, health officials including the NCAA's chief medical officer have said widespread and efficient COVID-19 testing is pivotal to bringing back sports. Now that exists, and at many schools every player will be tested before they are permitted to enter a team facility.

Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork said the school has conducted just under 500 tests on coaches, staff and athletes since May 18. The Pac-12 is the only major college football conference in which all the members have agreed to test all returning athletes for COVID-19.

Athletes testing positive for the disease have already been reported at Arkansas State, Marshall and Oklahoma State and elsewhere.

Expect that list to grow, and there is no standardized protocol for testing under the most recent NCAA guidelines, which is why plans are different from school to school. Missouri initially announced it would not test all athletes for COVID-19, then said it would. Michigan State will give its athletes two PRC tests (often done with a nasal swab), with a seven-day quarantine in between, before they cause use team facilities. Tulane will be giving every football player PRC and antibody tests.

"You know, there's nothing that says my testing is going to protect my guys any better than their screening is going to. We don't know," said Dr. Greg Stewart, team physician for Tulane's athletic department. "And probably for most of the schools across the country, you know athletic departments are the canary in the coal mine."

Defending national champion LSU is testing each athlete for coronavirus antibodies upon arrival to campus; some will also get a PCR test to check for an active infection. A positive antibody test at LSU will trigger a PCR test and a positive PCR test means that player will have to isolate for a period of time.

Shelly Mullenix, LSU senior associate athletic director and director of wellness, said some players who test positive for antibodies but negative for active infection will also be isolated depending on symptoms or risk of previous exposure. All players were prescribed a seven-day "quasi-quarantine," Mullenix said, after receiving their antibody tests.

Having players return to campus infected is worrisome but inevitable. The protocols being put in place are designed to catch and address that. The real challenge is keeping the players from getting infected after they return.

At Notre Dame, football players will be housed in single rooms at the on-campus Morris Inn hotel. They will face temperature screens and a health questionnaire every time they want to enter a facility to work out.

Notre Dame is planning to structure workout groups by academic schedules. Other schools are using a mix of factors such as keeping friends, roommates or position groups together.

"But you also have to think about things like, do you want all of your quarterbacks with the same group?"

Wake Forest athletic director John Currie said.

As the small groups avoid infection they can be merged to form bigger groups.

"We think we're going to create four pods," Stewart said of Tulane's plan. "We're going to have the offense that is on campus as a pod. The defense that is on campus is a pod. Special teams that is on campus is a pod. And those that live off campus are a pod."

While the workouts are voluntary, athletic staffers will be setting up strict schedules and moving equipment to allow for appropriate social-distancing. Masks will be required at times, though not necessarily when they work out. Bjork said Texas A&M will clean workout rooms after use, though the locker rooms at many schools will remain closed.

Southeastern Conference schools agreed to allow voluntary workouts starting Monday. The Big 12 and Pac-12 have set June 15 as their opening date. Other conferences, such as the Big Ten and Atlantic Coast Conference, are letting schools figure out what's best for themselves. Ohio State and Iowa in the Big Ten started voluntary workouts Monday, along with Louisville in the ACC.

Oklahoma from the Big 12 is waiting until July 1, sticking with a plan it was working on before the NCAA last month cleared the way for voluntary workouts starting June 1. The Sooners didn't see benefits in rushing but others decided the sooner the better.

"We wanted to actually go as early as we could because if we did have a problem, then you could you could actually manage it in with a lot more time," Bjork said.

Schools hope to transition to required team activities in mid-July. A copy of the the Football Oversight Committee's six-week plan includes a typical four-week preseason practice schedule preceded by two weeks during which teams can do up to 20 hours per week of weight training, conditioning, film study, meetings and walk-throughs with coaches.

Players would not be permitted to wear helmets and pads during walk-throughs, but a ball could be used for instruction. The plan, which still needs to be approved by the Division I Council, was obtained Monday by The Associated Press and first reported by Sports Illustrated.

Of course, there is only so much schools can do to manage 18- to 22-year-old football players.

"What you worry about is this is two hours a day, right?" Rhoades said. "And so what are student athletes, what are young men as it pertains to football, doing the other 22 hours?"

The message coaches, administrators and medical staff are trying to get across to their players is their behavior is as important as testing, screening and disinfecting. Limit the exposure to people outside the team bubble. That night out at the bar or the weekend trip to the beach could lead to an infection that sets back the whole team — or something worse.

"What we're trying to impress upon them," Stewart said, "is that if this season is important to you, then you have to do things different this year than you have done ever before and maybe even ever again."

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AP Sports Writers Brett Martel, Aaron Beard and Teresa Walker contributed.

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## Officer charged in Floyd's death held on \$1 million bail

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A judge on Monday kept bail at \$1 million for a former Minneapolis police officer charged with second-degree murder in George Floyd's death.

Derek Chauvin, 44, said little during an 11-minute hearing in which he appeared before Hennepin County Judge Jeannice M. Reding on closed-circuit television from the state's maximum security prison in Oak Park Heights. He wore a mask and handcuffs as he sat at a table, where he answered yes or no to routine housekeeping questions and confirmed the spelling of his name and address. He did not enter a plea; a step that usually comes later in Minnesota courts.

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A judge raised Chauvin's bail from \$500,000 to \$1 million when a second-degree murder charge was added on Wednesday. Monday's hearing was a chance for arguments over the higher bail. Prosecutor Matthew Frank argued for keeping the higher bail, saying the seriousness of the charges and the "strong reaction in the community, to put it mildly," made Chauvin a flight risk. The judge agreed with the state's request for \$1.25 million unconditional bail, or \$1 million with standard conditions including surrendering firearms, remaining law-abiding and making all future court appearances.

Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, did not contest the bail amount and didn't address the substance of the charges, which also include third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Nelson did not speak with reporters afterward. He has not commented on the case publicly since Chauvin's May 29 arrest.

Attorneys for two of the three other ex-officers charged in the case made it clear at separate first appearances for their clients on Thursday that a key element of their defenses will be to argue that their clients were rookies who tried to intervene verbally to help Floyd, but that they had no choice but to defer to Chauvin, the most senior officer at the scene.

Chauvin's next appearance was set for June 29 at 1:30 p.m.

Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died May 25 after the white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped moving and pleading for air. His death set off protests, some violent, in Minneapolis that swiftly spread to cities around the U.S. and the globe. Chauvin and three other officers on the scene were fired the day after Floyd's death.

The other three officers — J. Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao — are charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and with aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. They remain in the Hennepin County jail on \$750,000 bail. If convicted, they potentially face the same maximum penalty as Chauvin: up to 40 years in prison.

Lane's family has set up a website seeking donations to help him post bond. The site highlights Lane's relative lack of experience -- he had only recently completed his probationary period -- and his questions to Chauvin about whether Floyd should be rolled onto his side. It also noted his volunteer work.

Floyd's death has ignited calls to reform the Minneapolis Police Department, which community activists have long accused of entrenched racial discrimination and brutality. A majority of Minneapolis City Council members said Sunday that they favor disbanding the department entirely, though they have yet to offer concrete plans for what would replace it.

"Nobody is saying we want to abolish health or safety," Council Member Alondra Cano told WCCO-AM on Monday. "What we are saying is we have a broken system that is not producing the outcomes we want."

The state last week launched a civil rights investigation of the department. On Friday, the council approved a stipulated agreement that immediately banned the use of chokeholds and neck restraints and included several other changes. That investigation is ongoing.

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Associated Press writer Todd Richmond contributed from Madison, Wis.

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This version corrects that Chauvin's bail was raised to \$1 million on June 3 and Monday's hearing was a chance for his attorney to contest that. The name of the judge and the location of the prison where Chauvin is being held have also been corrected.

## Russia rejects US drive for permanent Iran arms embargo

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia's foreign minister is accusing the Trump administration of unleashing a politically motivated campaign against Iran and is calling for "universal condemnation" of the U.S. attempt to get the U.N. Security Council to impose a permanent arms embargo against the Islamic Republic.

Sergey Lavrov said the United States withdrew from the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers and now has no legal right to try to use the U.N. resolution endorsing the deal to indefinitely

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continue the arms embargo, which is set to expire on Oct. 18.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council circulated Monday, the Russian minister said statements by U.S. State Department officials that the Trump administration doesn't plan to resume its commitments under the nuclear deal but plans to invoke rights allegedly deriving from the resolution endorsing it are "ridiculous and irresponsible."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft have said extending the arms embargo against Iran is a top priority for the United States.

Craft told a press briefing Friday that she had shared a draft Security Council resolution imposing an indefinite arms embargo on Iran with Russia and with Western council allies Britain, France, Germany and Estonia, and hopes to give the draft to the rest of the 15-member council "pretty soon."

But she said first she wants to talk to ambassadors and "make sure everyone understands that we are committed to making certain that the U.N. Security Council does not allow this to expire in October."

"What I say to people is on Oct. 18 ... do we want Russia selling weapons to Iran? Do we want China selling? Do we want anyone providing or selling weapons to Iran?," Craft asked. "I'm stressing that Russia and China need to join a global consensus on Iran's conduct. This is about not only the people of Iran but the people in the Middle East."

But Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia has already make clear Moscow's opposition to a Security Council resolution extending Iran's arms embargo, which Russia could veto. He also said the U.S. has "no right" following its withdrawal from the nuclear deal to use the "snap back" provision in the 2015 council resolution, which automatically restores all U.N. sanctions against Iran that had been lifted or eased if the nuclear deal is violated.

Craft disagreed, saying the resolution "makes clear that the US retains the right" to use the "snap back" provision.

Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have escalated since President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018 and re-imposed crippling U.S. sanctions. A year ago, the U.S. sent thousands more troops, long-range bombers and an aircraft carrier to the Middle East in response to what it called a growing threat of Iranian attacks on U.S. interests in the region.

The five other powers that signed the nuclear deal — Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and Germany — remain committed to it, saying the agreement is key to continuing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and preventing Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons.

Lavrov's letter went further in explaining Moscow's strong opposition to an indefinite arms embargo and U.S. use of the "snap back" provision.

"We are proceeding on the basis that the United Nations should not become hostage to the political situation in the United States, which has decided to withdraw from the plan," he said. "There are no valid grounds for raising in the Security Council the issue of an arms embargo against Iran."

Lavrov said the nuclear deal and the Security Council resolution "form a single whole" and can't be considered separately. And under Article 25 of the U.N. Charter, "the United States side is obliged to carry out the decisions of the Security Council, rather than undermine them through its unlawful actions," he said.

Lavrov said international courts have held "that a party which disowns or does not fulfill its own obligations cannot be recognized as retaining the rights which it claims to derive from a relationship."

The United States, having violated the Security Council resolution and declined to implement the 2015 nuclear agreement has therefore "forfeited the possibility" of using the "snap back" provisions, he said.

Lavrov called on the U.S. to stop undermining the nuclear agreement and the U.N. resolution.

He said Russia and "other responsible members of the international community will continue to make every effort" to preserve the nuclear deal.

"The United States must recognize that there are neither legal nor other grounds for its policy of using Security Council mandates to pursue its own selfish interests," Lavrov said.

## K-pop fans become an unexpected ally to American protesters

By JUWON PARK Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — As American protesters took to the streets to mourn the death of George Floyd, they found an unexpected ally: K-pop fans.

Floyd died May 25 after a police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving. K-pop fans galvanized by police brutality and political disappointments swiftly mobilized, re-purposing their usual platforms and hashtags from boosting their favorite stars to backing the Black Lives Matter movement. They flooded right-wing hashtags and police apps with short video clips and memes of their K-pop stars.

In a tweet Thursday to its 26 million fans, South Korean boy band BTS said it opposes racial discrimination and violence and announced a \$1 million donation to Black Lives Matter. Fans quickly followed suit with the hashtag #MatchAMillion on Twitter, matching the donation after 24 hours according to "One "One In An ARMY," a global fundraising team made up of BTS fans.

Even so, political activism isn't exactly associated with K-pop fans. Over the years, K-pop fans have gained notoriety for overtaking Twitter trends and Instagram feeds. The loose network of fans mobilizes in a heartbeat — usually to promote new songs from their favorite K-pop artists or to put down their critics. That same social media energy is being repurposed to support the Black Lives Matter movement, and BTS fans, known as ARMY, are at the forefront.

Chloë Gallot, a French university student, said she joined ARMY — Adorable Representative M.C. for Youth — earlier this year when she "fell into the rabbit hole" while searching for a distraction from the coronavirus outbreak and personal troubles. A few days ago, Gallot became one of the ARMY members to respond to the #MatchAMillion hashtag, donating around \$90 to Black Lives Matter.

"They (BTS) are pushing us to use our platforms even more," Gallot told The Associated Press, adding that BTS fans, including herself, had already started fundraising before BTS' donation was made public.

K-pop experts say zealous activism is nothing new for the fans.

"Despite the stereotypes about boy band fans, they are known for being politically aware and helping raise money for charitable causes online, especially on Twitter," said Hyun-su Yim, K-pop reporter at the Korea Herald. "Which is why it took many people by surprise when the fandom spearheaded efforts to drown out racist hashtags," Yim said, referring to K-pop fandoms clogging up U.S. police apps and flooding racist hashtags like "whitelivesmatter" and "WhiteOutWednesday" with their favorite K-pop memes and fancies, rendering them useless.

Although K-pop has been popular in Asia for decades, the rise of BTS around the mid-2010s has grown fans in all corners of the world. However, that global expansion has sometimes created tension within the industry, spurred by multiple factors including language and cultural differences.

Korean artists and labels have been thrust into uncharted territories where they're forced to take a stance on social issues, drawing criticism from fans who say some issues are too far-removed from their own backyards.

Danny Kim, who runs "DKDKTV," a popular YouTube channel on all things K-pop, points out that Korean celebrities are not known to be vocal about social issues. "The general perception of a celebrity is 'he's not there to voice his opinion — he's there to for the enjoyment of the people,'" Kim said. He also said K-pop stars are often bound by legal contracts, keeping them from making remarks that could cause friction.

Joseph Dorsey, a black fan from Chicago, said he wants K-pop artists to support the Black Lives Matter movement because the music industry has long benefited from adopting "black American music and black American culture."

Kim thinks it's time for K-pop stars to speak themselves.

"K-pop has become not strictly a Korean thing anymore."

## In Bristol, toppling of slave trader's statue a major moment

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

BRISTOL, England (AP) — In an English port city that once launched slave ships, an empty plinth has become the center of a debate about racism, history and memory.

For over a century the pedestal in Bristol held the statue of Edward Colston, a 17th-century slave trader whose wealth helped the city grow. On Sunday, anti-racism demonstrators pulled the 18-foot (5.5 meter) bronze likeness down, dragged it to the nearby harbor and dumped it in the River Avon — sparking both delight and dismay in Britain and beyond.

On Monday the empty base, surrounded by Black Lives Matter placards, drew a stream of activists, office workers and onlookers. Some posed proudly in front of it, others stood in silence, a few argued. Some Bristolians said toppling the statue was historical vandalism. Others welcomed the removal of a stain on their city.

"It should have happened a long time ago," said Katrina Darke, a family doctor.

Chyna Lee, a 24-year-old recruitment consultant, said that she didn't advocate vandalism, but "I'm quite happy it got dumped in the river."

"There have been petitions and requests to get the statue removed," she said. "I just think people weren't listening to anything at all, and everyone is very fed up."

Images of protesters toppling the statue — one posing with his knee on its neck, evoking the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police — made news around the world. They resonated especially in the United States, where campaigners have sought to remove Confederate memorials.

Colston's demise also reinvigorated Oxford University campaigners calling for the removal of a statue of Cecil Rhodes, a Victorian imperialist in southern Africa who made a fortune from mines and endowed the university's Rhodes scholarships.

Since Floyd's death, Black Lives Matter protests have spread across the U.S. and to countries around the globe, including Britain, where more than 200 have been held. Demonstrators in London, Glasgow, Bristol and other U.K. cities — whose cultural diversity is rooted in Britain's long-vanished empire — have expressed solidarity with the United States, and also demanded change closer to home.

The protests have been predominantly peaceful but some demonstrators in London hurled objects at police and spray-painted a statue of Winston Churchill. The government said 135 people had been arrested and 35 police officers hurt, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the outbreaks of "thuggery."

Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, said the prime minister viewed the statue-toppling in Bristol as "a criminal act" and said the police should "hold to account those responsible." Home Secretary Priti Patel, Britain's interior minister, said it was "sheer vandalism."

But Bristol Mayor Marvin Rees said it was a significant moment in the city's history.

"I cannot condone criminal damage," said Rees, who is the city's first black mayor. "But also, as the descendant of Jamaicans who were enslaved at some point, and this man was a slaver, I won't deny that the statue was an affront to me."

Colston has long been a problematic presence in Bristol, 120 miles (195 kilometers) southwest of London. He was a senior official in the Royal African Company, which in the late 1600s trafficked 80,000 African men, women and children to slavery in the Americas. About 20,000 died on the journey.

Bristol went on to become Britain's biggest port for slave ships during the early 18th century. Ships based in the city transported at least half a million Africans into slavery before Britain outlawed the slave trade in 1807. Many 18th-century Bristolians helped fund the trade and shared in the profits, which also built handsome Georgian houses and buildings that still dot the city.

Colston died in 1721, leaving his fortune to charity. Modern-day Bristol has Colston's Almshouses, Colston schools, Colston Avenue, Colston Tower and the Colston Hall concert venue, which plans to change its name. An annual church service of thanksgiving for Colston's life was held until a few years ago.

The city attempted to replace the plaque on the statue extolling Colston as "virtuous and wise" with one that mentioned his role as a slave trader. But several years of wrangling failed to come up with an



agreed wording.

Some residents of the city feel that toppling the statue amounts to airbrushing the past.

"The reason the statue was erected is not the same reason you have to retain it," said 66-year-old Claire Wren.

"This was just hooliganism and criminal damage," she said, wondering whether supporters of making Britain a republic would want to tear down statues of Queen Victoria. "Where does it end?"

Olivette Otele, professor of the history and memory of slavery at the University of Bristol, acknowledged that some people felt "angry and sad" that the statue had been felled, but asked them to examine their reasons.

"Why are you sad about this particular statue? The movement was about the death of a black man," she said. "What are the priorities here? What does it say about mourning the statue and not the man?"

"Everything's going really fast at the moment, but it's a moment to pause: What do we value as a society?"

Despite some calls for the statue to be re-erected, that looks unlikely. Historic England, the country's heritage guardian, said it recognized that the statue was "a source of great pain for many people" and said "we do not believe it must be reinstated."

Rees, the mayor, said city authorities planned to fish the statue out of the harbor and install it in a museum as "part of the overarching story of the city of Bristol."

He said the statue's fate was "almost (a) piece of historical poetry" — the man who sent slave ships across the ocean ending up under water, "just like the bodies of enslaved Africans."

Simbarashe Tongogara, a musician and longtime activist in Bristol, was hopeful the actions of the young protesters who brought the statue down, some black and some white, could mark a turning point in the fight against racism.

"Seeing that it was white people that brought the statue down, that's the important message because that means some learning time is happening," he said. "Because it's taken a long time to come to that point."

"It's not British, American — it's a world pandemic that we need to address."

## France to abandon police chokeholds amid Floyd death anger

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French police will no longer be allowed to use chokeholds during arrests, the interior minister said Monday, banning the immobilization technique after it came under renewed criticism following George Floyd's death in the United States.

With the French government under increasing pressure to address accusations of brutality and racism within the police force, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner announced Monday that "the method of seizing the neck via strangling will be abandoned and will no longer be taught in police schools."

He said that during an arrest, "it will be now forbidden to push on the back of the neck or the neck."

"No arrest should put lives at risk," he said.

Yet Castaner stopped short of banning another technique — pressing on a prone suspect's chest, which also has been blamed for leading to asphyxiation and possible death.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped responding. Three days later, another black man writhed on the street in Paris as a white police officer pressed a knee to his neck during an arrest.

French lawmakers have called for such practices to be banned, and they have raised criticism in other countries too.

France has seen several protests over the past week sparked by Floyd's death, which is stirring up anger around the world.

President Emmanuel Macron has stayed unusually silent so far both about Floyd's death and what's happening in France. Macron's office said he spoke to the prime minister and other top officials over the weekend, and asked Castaner to "accelerate" plans to improve police ethics that were initially promised in January.

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Castaner acknowledged that there are racist police officers and promised "zero tolerance" for racism within the force going forward.

He ordered police officers to be systematically suspended when they are suspected of racist acts and comments, in addition to criminal proceedings.

"Racism has no place in our society and even less" so among police, he said.

In addition, Castaner said that more police officers will be equipped with body cameras to help ensure that identity checks don't lead to discrimination against minority groups, as human rights groups accuse French police of ethnic profiling.

Last week, the Paris prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation into racist insults and instigating racial hatred based on comments allegedly published by police in a private Facebook group.

Website Streetpress published a string of offensive messages that it said were published within the group, though acknowledged that it is unclear whether the authors were actual police officers or people pretending to be police. Some of the reported comments mocked young men of color who have died fleeing police.

Separately, six police officers in the Normandy city of Rouen are under internal investigation over racist comments in a private WhatsApp group. Both incidents have prompted public concerns about extreme views among French police.

French activists say tensions in low-income neighborhoods with large minority populations grew worse amid coronavirus confinement measures, because they further empowered the police.

At least 23,000 people protested in cities around France on Saturday against racial injustice and police brutality, even defying a police ban on such protests in Paris due to fears about spreading coronavirus.

Thousands of activists marched Monday in the western city of Nantes, and more demonstrations are planned in France on Tuesday, when Floyd is being buried.

The body that investigates allegations of police misconduct, the Inspectorate General of the National Police, known by its French acronym IGPN, said that 19 people have died and 117 others have been injured during police operations in France last year, according to a report released Monday.

The IGPN has investigated 1,460 complaints against officers last year, about half of them for alleged violence against civilians. Many incidents were related to often violent anti-government yellow vest protests, the report said.

Follow all the latest developments from The Associated Press on the anti-racism protests worldwide at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

## Can tear gas and pepper spray increase virus spread?

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

Police departments have used tear gas and pepper spray on protesters in recent weeks, raising concern that the chemical agents could increase the spread of the coronavirus.

The chemicals are designed to irritate the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and throat. They make people cough, sneeze and pull off their masks as they try to breathe.

Medical experts say those rushing to help people sprayed by tear gas could come into close contact with someone already infected with the virus who is coughing infectious particles. Also, those not already infected could be in more danger of getting sick because of irritation to their respiratory tracts.

There's no research on tear gas and COVID-19 specifically, because the virus is too new. But a few years ago, Joseph Hout, then an active duty Army officer, conducted a study of 6,723 Army recruits exposed to a riot control gas during basic training. The study found a link between that exposure and doctors diagnosing acute respiratory illnesses.

Could tear gas lead to an increase in coronavirus infections? "I think it's plausible, yes," Hout said Monday.

The gases and sprays "by their nature, make you cough, sneeze and excrete fluids," said Hout, now employed by Fairfax, Virginia-based Knowesis Inc., a private contractor.

"If there is a person who is positive for the virus, I can see them coughing on someone else and spread-

ing it that way," Hout said. "Another less likely way is through irritation of the respiratory system. It could create an environment for opportunistic infection in the body."

Last week, more than 1,000 medical professionals and students signed a letter urging public health officials to oppose any use of "tear gas, smoke, or other respiratory irritants, which could increase risk for COVID-19 by making the respiratory tract more susceptible to infection, exacerbating existing inflammation, and inducing coughing."

In the U.S., mayors in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle have ordered limits on the use of one common gas for crowd control. A judge in Denver imposed restrictions on the use of chemical weapons by police. And officials in Pittsburgh, New Orleans and Washington, D.C., have proposed bans or limits on tear gas use.

As protests over the death of George Floyd and other black Americans killed by law enforcement continue, it will take weeks before the effect might show up in rising COVID-19 case numbers. If cases increase, there are other factors that could share the blame, such as shouting, singing and, for thousands who were arrested, being confined in close spaces with others.

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## When protesters cry 'defund the police,' what does it mean?

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesters are pushing to "defund the police" over the death of George Floyd and other black Americans killed by law enforcement. Their chant has become a rallying cry — and a stick for President Donald Trump to use on Democrats as he portrays them as soft on crime.

But what does "defund the police" mean? It's not necessarily about gutting police department budgets. Still, some activists and lawmakers have also raised the possibility of completely disbanding police departments, clouding the more complicated message.

### WHAT IS THE 'DEFUND THE POLICE' MOVEMENT?

Supporters say it isn't about eliminating police departments or stripping agencies of all of their money. They say it is time for the country to address systemic problems in policing in America and spend more on what communities across the U.S. need, like housing and education.

State and local governments spent \$115 billion on policing in 2017, according to data compiled by the Urban Institute.

"Why can't we look at how it is that we reorganize our priorities, so people don't have to be in the streets during a national pandemic?" Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza asked during an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Activists acknowledge this is a gradual process.

The group MPD150, which says it is "working towards a police-free Minneapolis," argues that such action would be more about "strategically reallocating resources, funding, and responsibility away from police and toward community-based models of safety, support, and prevention."

"The people who respond to crises in our community should be the people who are best-equipped to deal with those crises," the group wrote on its website.

### WHAT ARE LAWMAKERS SAYING?

Sen. Cory Booker said he understands the sentiment behind the slogan, but it's not a slogan he will use.

The New Jersey Democrat told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he shares a feeling with many protesters that Americans are "over-policed" and that "we are investing in police, which is not solving problems, but making them worse when we should be, in a more compassionate country, in a more loving country."

Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said part of the movement is really about how money is spent.

"Now, I don't believe that you should disband police departments," she said in an interview with CNN. "But I do think that, in cities, in states, we need to look at how we are spending the resources and invest

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more in our communities.

"Maybe this is an opportunity to re-envision public safety," she said.

President Donald Trump and his campaign view the emergence of the "Defund the Police" slogan as a spark of opportunity during what has been a trying political moment. Trump's response to the protests has sparked widespread condemnation. But now his supporters say the new mantra may make voters, who may be otherwise sympathetic to the protesters, recoil from a "radical" idea.

Trump ramped up his rhetoric on the issue on Monday, tweeting: "LAW & ORDER, NOT DEFUND AND ABOLISH THE POLICE. The Radical Left Democrats have gone Crazy!"

Trump's 2016 campaign was built on a promise of ensuring law and order — often in contrast to protests against his rhetoric that followed him across the country. As he seeks reelection, Trump is preparing to deploy the same argument again — and seems to believe the "defund the police" call has made the campaign applause line all the more real for his supporters.

IS THERE ANY PUSH TO ACTUALLY DEFUND POLICE DEPARTMENTS?

Yes, or at least to reduce their budgets in some major cities.

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday that the city would move funding from the NYPD to youth initiatives and social services, while keeping the city safe, but he didn't give details.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti vowed to cut as much as \$150 million that was part of a planned increase in the police department's budget.

A Minneapolis city councilmember said in a tweet on Thursday that the city would "dramatically rethink how we approach public safety and emergency response."

"We are going to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department," Jeremiah Ellison wrote. "And when we're done, we're not simply gonna glue it back together." He did not explain what would replace the police department.

A majority of the members of the Minneapolis City Council said Sunday they support disbanding the city's police department. Nine of the council's 12 members appeared with activists at a rally in a city park Sunday afternoon and vowed to end policing as the city currently knows it.

"It is clear that our system of policing is not keeping our communities safe," Lisa Bender, the council president, said. "Our efforts at incremental reform have failed, period."

Disbanding an entire department has happened before. In 2012, with crime rampant in Camden, New Jersey, the city disbanded its police department and replaced it with a new force that covered Camden County. Compton, California, took the same step in 2000, shifting its policing to Los Angeles County.

HOW HAVE POLICE OFFICIALS AND UNIONS RESPONDED?

Generally, police and union officials have long resisted cuts to police budgets, arguing that it would make cities less safe.

The Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union for the city's rank-and-file officers, said budget cuts would be the "quickest way to make our neighborhoods more dangerous."

"Cutting the LAPD budget means longer responses to 911 emergency calls, officers calling for back-up won't get it, and rape, murder and assault investigations won't occur or will take forever to initiate, let alone complete," the union's board said in a statement last week.

"At this time, with violent crime increasing, a global pandemic and nearly a week's worth of violence, arson, and looting, 'defunding' the LAPD is the most irresponsible thing anyone can propose."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller in Washington and Michael R. Sisak in New York contributed to this report.

## Floyd's casket arrives at Houston church for public viewing

By JUAN A. LOZANO and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The body of George Floyd arrived at a church Monday in Houston for a final public memorial for the man whose death at the hands of police in Minneapolis sparked protests around the

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world and calls to reform policing in America.

His body arrived in a gold-colored casket that was escorted to The Fountain of Praise church by Houston police. A six-hour viewing that is open to the public was scheduled to begin in the afternoon.

Before the casket arrived, workers outside the church assembled a large floral arrangement with white roses on one side in the shape of a heart and with the initials "BLM" for Black Lives Matter created from blue roses and placed on top of the heart. The other side of the floral arrangement was made up of red roses and appeared to be in the shape of a raised fist.

Mourners will be required to wear a mask and gloves to comply with coronavirus-related guidelines.

Floyd's funeral will be Tuesday, followed by burial at the Houston Memorial Gardens cemetery in suburban Pearland, where he will be laid to rest next to his mother, Larcenia Floyd.

George Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped responding. His death has inspired international protests and drawn new attention to the treatment of African Americans by police and the criminal justice system.

Former Vice President Joe Biden plans to travel to Houston to meet with Floyd's family and will provide a video message for Floyd's funeral service. A Biden aide on Sunday described the plans of the Democratic presidential candidate. They did not include attending the service.

Biden expects to give the family his condolences, said the aide, who discussed Biden's plans on condition of anonymity.

Previous memorials have taken place in Minneapolis and Raeford, North Carolina, near where Floyd was born. At the Minneapolis tribute Thursday, those in attendance stood in silence for 8 minutes, 46 seconds, the length of time prosecutors say Floyd was pinned to the ground under the officer's knee.

Floyd was raised in Houston's Third Ward and was a well-known former high school football player who rapped with local legend DJ Screw. He moved to Minneapolis several years ago to seek work and a fresh start. His face now appears on a mural in his old neighborhood, and his name was chanted by tens of thousands last week at a protest and march in downtown Houston.

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Associated Press reporter Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

## **BP to cut 10,000 jobs worldwide amid virus pandemic**

**By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Oil and gas company BP announced Monday that it will slash its global workforce by 10,000 jobs as the COVID-19 pandemic slams the energy industry.

Chief Executive Bernard Looney said that the cuts will affect office-based roles in BP's global workforce of 70,000 people and come mostly this year. The changes are expected to significantly affect senior levels, cutting the number of group leaders by a third.

"We are spending much, much more than we make – I am talking millions of dollars, every day," Looney said in an email to staff that revealed that net debt rose by \$6 billion in the first quarter. "We have to spend less money."

He pledged to bring down capital expenditure by 25% this year, a reduction of around \$3 billion. He also said that it costs \$22 billion a year to run the company, including \$8 billion in people costs.

"So we are driving down those operating costs by \$2.5 billion in 2021 – and we will likely have to go even further," he said.

The job cuts come at a time of tremendous change for London-based BP. It had already embarked on a restructuring plan to ensure its long-term viability as the world decreases its reliance on fossil fuels in an effort to fight climate change. BP wants to eliminate or offset all carbon emissions from its operations and the oil and gas it sells to customers by 2050, an ambitious target.

The wider energy industry has meanwhile been hit hard by the pandemic as the widespread limits on business, travel and public life reduced the need for oil, gas and other fuels.

Supply of oil and gas was particularly high when the outbreak began, creating a perfect storm for the

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industry. With storage facilities filling up, the U.S. price of oil went below zero in April for the first time ever.

"To me, the broader economic picture and our own financial position just reaffirm the need to reinvent BP," Looney said in the email. "While the external environment is driving us to move faster – and perhaps go deeper at this stage than we originally intended – the direction of travel remains the same."

The U.S. contract for crude oil began the year at over \$60 a barrel, collapsed to below -\$37 in April and recovered to about \$39 a barrel as of Monday as OPEC countries agreed to limit production.

David Elmes, who leads the Global Energy Research Network at Warwick Business School, said BP's cuts are symptomatic of the wider challenges facing the industry, with firms in the sector thinking about cutting costs.

"BP and the other European-based international companies have already said they will become less focused on oil and gas over time," he said. "If this situation continues, there will be intense discussions about what can they do to move faster."

Major companies like BP with diversified businesses are likely to survive the pandemic, but smaller oil producers are going to have a harder time, analysts say.

U.S. shale companies in particular took on a lot of debt to finance operations and can only make ends meet at about \$40 a barrel. Heavily-indebted companies will have to refinance at a time of capital constraint.

Some companies are already going under. Whiting Petroleum, a shale producer, filed for bankruptcy protection in April, for example followed by Diamond Offshore Drilling. More are expected.

## 'Create your own excitement': Players ponder empty buildings

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Sports Writer

The roar of the crowd has been such a staple of major sports, such an advantage for the home team, that NFL clubs have been accused at times of artificial amplification. The Atlanta Falcons even admitted to the mischief, leading to a 2015 punishment from the league.

When the coronavirus risk wanes enough to allow games to begin again, something besides the fans will be missing: The very essence of these events will be gone, too, at least for a while. No cheers, no boos, no chants or whistles. No one behind the backboard trying to distract a free-throw shooter. No kids seeking autographs.

Playing in empty buildings, for these well-paid performers, will require a significant recalibration.

"You know how much I love to talk to the fans, you know? To be in conversation, to throw the ball to kids," Kansas City Royals catcher Salvador Perez said, hoping a baseball season will come to pass. "It's going to be hard. It's never happened before to me. If that's going to be the best way to start playing, we have to do it, but I don't think I'm going to feel good the first couple of games with no fans."

One NASCAR driver called fan-less sports "weird" and he won't be the last. Even when there is the green light to reopen the gates to the public, near or full-capacity attendance figures are not likely for some time. Temporary caps on the amount of fans who can come in are expected, with the goal of maintaining social distancing.

Michigan State athletic director Bill Beekman said national consultants have advised between 17% to 35% capacity at football stadiums for now, depending on layout. The combination of an economic downturn and skittishness about germ spread might naturally keep crowds smaller, too.

"Sure, it would still be guys competing at their highest level and their hardest, because that's what we do," said Minnesota Wild center Eric Staal, who won the Stanley Cup with Carolina in 2006. "But as far as comparing it to a full building in a Game 7, there's no comparison."

Strength and stamina. Speed and agility. Focus and determination. Experience and preparation. All that factors in to success on the field, court or rink. Adrenaline is also an ingredient, though, and athletes might have to learn how to play with a little less than they've been used to. LeBron James declared he had no interest in playing in front of empty seats before walking that back to being simply disappointed.

"I feel like the fans pick you up," Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald said. "The fans are what makes the game exciting. The fans would give you that extra juice when you're tired and fatigued."

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When you make that big play and you hear 80,000 fans going crazy, that pumps you up. If you don't have that in the game, I think that just takes the fun out of it."

The players may need to revert to those school-age days of summer when a complaint about boredom might have prompted this familiar challenge from a parent: Make your own fun.

"When I was in college, we would go and play like Purdue, and there wasn't a lot of fans in the stadium, and our coach would say, 'Y'all have got to bring your own juice today,' because there's no electricity in the crowd," said Green Bay Packers safety Adrian Amos, who played at Penn State.

Edmonton Oilers defenseman Darnell Nurse was pondering this recently in light of the widely viewed ESPN documentary, "The Last Dance," about Michael Jordan and the 1997-98 Chicago Bulls.

"That's a perfect example, his mindset in a lot of those games of creating your own environment, creating your own fire," Nurse said. "That's a test everyone who is in this situation is going to have to go through: Having to create your own excitement. There shouldn't be a whole lot that you need to get you going, because you are still playing for a Stanley Cup. Yes, there are no fans there, and you might be in a hub city, but there is an opportunity to win a Stanley Cup."

The recipe for success?

"The team or the teams that get over that the quickest and buy into the format and the fact that it's not changing and we've just got to get on with it," said Winnipeg Jets right wing Blake Wheeler, anticipating the NHL's 24-team postseason tournament that will be held behind closed doors in two yet-to-be-determined cities. The NBA is planning a 22-team format in Orlando, Florida.

For all the atmospheric change that would come to the games themselves, it's worth noting just how much time teams spend rehearsing with nobody there to root them on.

"We practice every day in an empty grass area and pump in fake crowd noise for away games," Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins said. "Honestly, to go out and just play the game would kind of be refreshing, a breath of fresh air, to just let us know that we don't have to have all the smoke and the fire. We can just play football."

Road games would certainly become easier for Cousins and his blockers and their peers around the NFL, suddenly able to hear all the pre-snap strategy without worrying about a false start penalty. In Germany, where the Bundesliga soccer season has resumed without fans, players have been able to pick out some positives despite the letdown in energy level.

"When they are loud and they are screaming, you get pushed and you are more emotional and maybe you speak in another way with the referee," said Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich. "Now you can be more quiet and calm and speak in a normal way with the referee, and you don't have to shout at him, and he doesn't have to shout back."

A little bit like the days of youth leagues.

"Maybe the focus is more on the game. It's not like a show," Kimmich said.

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AP Sports Writers Rob Harris, Steve Megargee, Dave Skretta and Stephen Whyno contributed to this report.

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More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **Poll: Pandemic does little to alter US views on health care**

**By EMILY SWANSON and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The coronavirus pushed hospitals to the edge, and millions of workers lost job-based coverage in the economic shutdown to slow the spread, but a new poll suggests Americans have remarkably little interest in big changes to health care as a result of the pandemic.

People are still more likely to prefer the private sector than the government on driving innovation in health care, improving quality and, by a narrower margin, providing coverage, according to the survey by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public

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Affairs Research.

Those views are basically unchanged since February, when an earlier edition of the AP-NORC poll asked the same questions at a time that the coronavirus was still largely seen as a problem in other countries, not the United States.

"It does strike me as odd," said Gaye Cocoman, a retired data processing administrator from small-town Macedonia, Ohio, who has Medicare. "I'm covered, but I look at the millions of people who aren't and wonder what in the world they're going to do if they get sick. There seems to be no appetite for change."

The poll found that people are more likely to trust private entities over government at driving innovation in health care (70% to 28%), improving quality (62% to 36%) and providing insurance coverage (53% to 44%). Americans had more confidence in government's ability to reduce costs, preferring it over the private sector 54% to 44%. All of those preferences are unchanged since before COVID-19 arrived.

Not that long ago Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" plan was at the center of the Democratic presidential debate. But even with an estimated 27 million people losing employer coverage in the economic shutdown, there's been no groundswell of support for the Sanders plan, which calls for replacing the nation's hybrid system of private and government coverage with a single government plan for all.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, asked last month whether waves of layoffs were prompting her Democratic caucus members to reconsider the employer-based system that covers most working families, responded: "That's not our conversation."

Pelosi said Democrats are backing measures to tide over workers who have lost coverage — such as expansions of the Affordable Care Act — but "rather than saying let's take that (employer coverage) away from them, we should say let's get them their jobs back."

It could simply be a reflection of human nature to shelve ambitious schemes during a crisis, said health economist Katherine Baicker, dean of the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. There's only so much available bandwidth.

"I wonder if the short-term crisis dampens people's appetite for health system reform," Baicker said. "The idea of upending the health system at this moment ... it may be that people think, 'No — let's get a vaccine.'"

After the spectacle of coronavirus-related shortages of everything from cotton swabs, to protective gear for nurses and doctors, to breathing machines for desperately ill patients, the poll did find 56% saying the U.S. is spending too little on improving and protecting the nation's health.

That is a significantly bigger share than the 42% who think the government is spending too little in general. Still, views on the need for more health care spending were unchanged since before the pandemic.

Christina Rush, a middle school counselor from Raleigh, North Carolina, is among those who think the U.S. should spend more on health care and cites the virus as a reason.

"Looking at COVID, I didn't realize the huge shortages of material that would be needed," Rush said. "I would have thought we had what we needed in terms of the medical system, but it seems we were so far behind some of these other countries, like South Korea. We could be spending more."

With more than 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 and about 40 million people unemployed, the poll found what may reflect hints of introspection among those who still have jobs and coverage. In May, Americans were less focused on their own complaints.

While about 3 in 5 said they were very or extremely concerned about Americans in general having access to high quality care, people were less likely than in February to say they were greatly concerned about having access to quality care for themselves (46% to 58%) and about their own health care spending (35% to 44%).

Other research is reinforcing that pattern, said Jennifer Benz, deputy director of the AP-NORC center. "Our data are showing that in the midst of a public health and economic crisis, people's assessments of their own situations are holding steady, or even better than they were before the COVID outbreak started to unfurl," she said.

"It feels a little counter-intuitive," added Benz.



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Utility worker Nick Zumbusch said he's noticed that shift, too, since the pandemic. He's seeing it when it comes to workplace gripes.

"In February, people had all sorts of complaints about their jobs — their daily tasks, their hourly pay," said Zumbusch, a father of three from Waconia, Minnesota. "Come May, there wasn't a whole lot of complaining. It was, 'I'm happy to be here, and I'm happy to have a job.'"

The AP-NORC poll of 1,001 adults was conducted May 14-18 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 9, the 161st day of 2020. There are 205 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 9, 2004, the body of Ronald Reagan arrived in Washington to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda before the 40th president's funeral.

On this date:

In A.D. 68, Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide, ending a 13-year reign.

In 1860, what's considered the first dime novel, "Malaeska: The Indian Wife of the White Hunter" by Ann S. Stephens, was published.

In 1940, during World War II, Norway decided to surrender to the Nazis, effective at midnight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Current Tax Payment Act of 1943, which reintroduced federal income tax withholding from paychecks.

In 1954, during the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., asking: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

In 1969, the Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren.

In 1972, heavy rains triggered record flooding in the Black Hills of South Dakota; the resulting disaster left at least 238 people dead and \$164 million in damage.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.

In 1978, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints struck down a 148-year-old policy of excluding black men from the Mormon priesthood.

In 1980, comedian Richard Pryor suffered almost fatal burns at his San Fernando Valley, Calif., home while freebasing cocaine.

In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

In 2008, retail gas prices rose above \$4 per gallon.

Ten years ago: The U.S. and its allies scored a long-sought victory by pushing through new U.N. sanctions over Iran's nuclear program, punishments Tehran dismissed as "annoying flies." The Chicago Blackhawks won their first Stanley Cup in 49 years, as Patrick Kane's overtime goal delivered a 4-3 win over the Philadelphia Flyers in Game 6.

Five years ago: Former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert pleaded not guilty in Chicago to charges that he had violated banking rules and lied to the FBI about promising to pay \$3.5 million in hush money to

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conceal misconduct from his days as a high school teacher. (Hastert later pleaded guilty to violating banking law in a case that revealed accusations of sexual abuse, and was sentenced to 15 months in prison.) President Barack Obama, addressing the annual Catholic Health Association Conference in Washington, declared his health care law a firmly established "reality" of American life.

One year ago: Former Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz was shot in the back in his native Dominican Republic by a man police said was a hired gunman whose intended target was supposed to be another man; Ortiz recovered after surgery in the Dominican Republic and later in Boston. Raytheon and United Technologies announced that they would merge to create a massive aerospace and defense company. "Hadestown," a brooding musical about the underworld, won eight trophies at Broadway's Tony Awards, including one for best new musical. Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem (teen) in the men's final for his record-extending 12th French Open championship.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Jackie Mason is 92. Media analyst Marvin Kalb is 90. Former baseball manager and player Bill Virdon is 89. Sports commentator Dick Vitale is 81. Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin is 81. Rock musician Mick Box (Uriah Heep) is 73. Retired MLB All-Star Dave Parker is 69. Film composer James Newton Howard is 69. Mystery author Patricia Cornwell is 64. Actor Michael J. Fox is 59. Writer-producer Aaron Sorkin is 59. Actor Johnny Depp is 57. Actress Gloria Reuben is 56. Gospel singer-actress Tamela Mann is 54. Rock musician Dean Felber (Hootie & the Blowfish) is 53. Rock musician Dean Dinning is 53. Musician Ed Simons is 50. Actress Keesha Sharp is 47. Country musician Shade Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 46. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) is 45. Actress Michaela Conlin is 42. Actress Natalie Portman is 39. Actress Mae Whitman is 32. Actor Lucien Laviscount is 28.

Thought for Today: "Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he isn't. A sense of humor was provided to console him for what he is." — Horace Walpole, English author (1717-1797).

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