

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 1 of 70

[1- Church Services Today](#)
[2- Sunday Extras](#)
[15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
[16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
[17- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
[18- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
[19- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
[21- Baseball Action Begins!](#)
[22- EarthSky](#)
[24- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
[28- Obit: Gregory Clocksene](#)
[29- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
[30- June 13th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
[33- Updated Baseball Schedule](#)
[34- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
[35- Weather Pages](#)
[38- Daily Devotional](#)
[39- 2020 Groton Events](#)
[40- News from the Associated Press](#)



Church Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church: Worship in the church at 8:30 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215332349572015/>)

Groton Christian & Missinary Alliance Church: Worship in the church at 10:30 a.m.: (<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonCMA/>)

St. John's Lutheran Church: Worship in the church at 9 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgroton/>)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church - No corporate service in the church for the month of June:

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

United Methodist Church: Drive-In Worship at 11 a.m. Listen on 106.1 FM at the church site. (<https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc>)

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

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont will have worship at 2 p.m. today. Starting next week it will go to 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 2 of 70

Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*For what man knows the things
of a man except the spirit of the man
which is in him?*

*Even so no one knows the things
of God except the Spirit of God.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:11

“Portrait of a Man” by Erich Heckel (1919)

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis 32, who was “greatly afraid and distressed” about a reunion with a brother he had wronged? *Joseph, Jacob, Esau, Peter*

3. In Numbers 20, who died on a mountaintop after being garment stripped? *Moses, Abraham, Noah, Aaron*

4. What city was beat down and sowed with salt? *Shechem, Caesarea, Gaza, Berea*

5. Who lost all his horse-drawn chariots in a sea? *Ornan, Balaam, Pharaoh, Benaiah*

6. Where did Abraham meet angels? *River, Tent door, Juniper tree, Prison*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Jacob; 3) Aaron; 4) Shechem; 5) Pharaoh; 6) Tent door

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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Comfort foods

Made fast
and
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Layered Chocolate Peanut Butter Dessert

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

12 (2 1/2-inch) chocolate graham cracker squares

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

1 1/3 cups nonfat dry milk powder

2 1/4 cups water

1/4 cup reduced-fat peanut butter

1/2 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping

1/4 cup chopped dry roasted peanuts

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

2. In same bowl, combine remaining package dry pudding mix, remaining 2/3 cup dry milk powder and remaining 1 cup water. Mix well using wire whisk. Blend in whipped topping. Spread topping mixture evenly over chocolate filling.

3. Finely crush remaining 3 graham crackers. Evenly sprinkle crumbs and peanuts over top. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Cut into 8 pieces.

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 4 of 70



FLASH GORDON

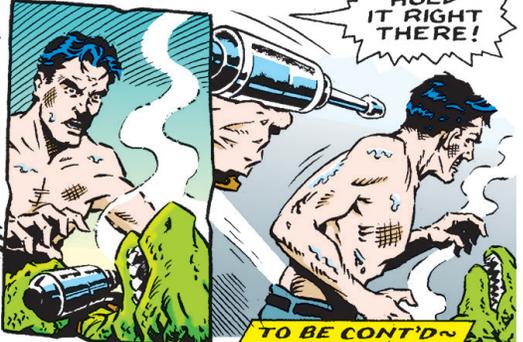
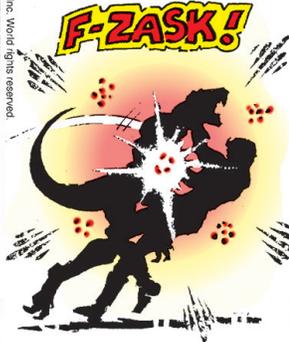
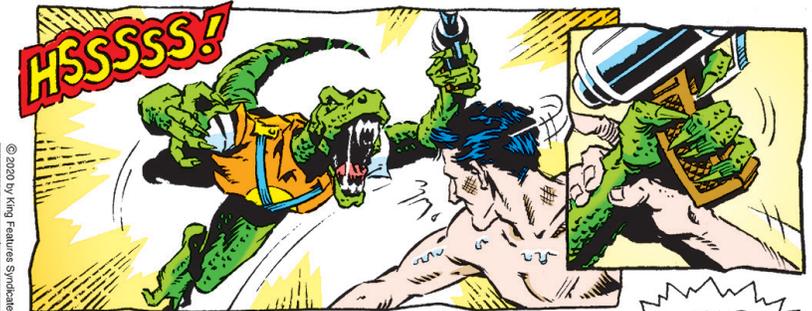
BY JIM KEEFE
6-7

PALACE MEMORANDUM
RE: LIZARD-MEN AS SECURITY PERSONNEL
Though proficient in training procedures and following orders...

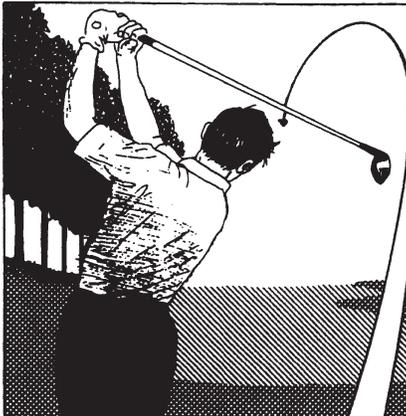


...a thorough study of their ability to curb their baser primal instincts has yet to be concluded.
-Hans Zarkov

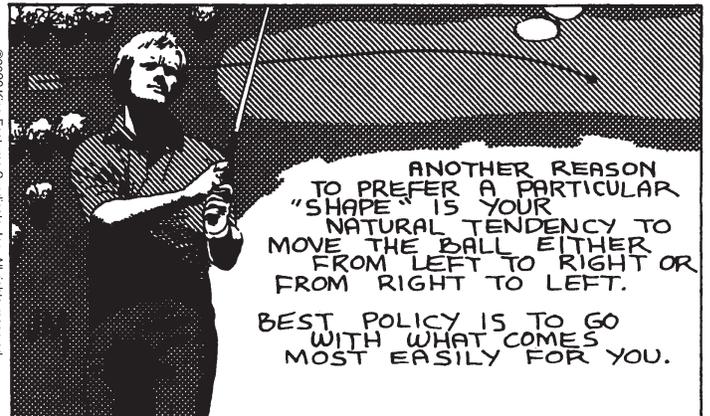
THE SCENT OF BLOOD... SO WARM...



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



CONSISTENTLY HITTING A GOLF BALL DEAD STRAIGHT IS EXTREMELY HARD. THAT'S WHY GOOD PLAYERS EITHER FADE OR DRAW MOST OF THEIR TEE-TO-GREEN SHOTS.



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Rare Disease Causes Hard-to-Diagnose Rash

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter was diagnosed with lymphomatoid papulosis. It's not a bad case, but it's enough to make me worry. I know it's rare for this to turn into cancer, but there is always a chance. Doctors often misdiagnose it, but thankfully I have the best pathologist in the world. My daughter is being treated with UVB light, which worked in the past, but now is not helping. I don't want to do methotrexate. I worry about every dot that pops up on her, and if it doesn't go away, I think the worst. — *M.W.M.*

ANSWER: Lymphomatoid papulosis is a rare disease, most common in people in their 40s, but can happen in children and older adults as well. The cause is unknown, and although a virus is suspected, it hasn't been found. It is not contagious.

The rash of LyP is not specific and needs to be confirmed through biopsy. Spots are relatively large (but less than an inch), and usually red but with a white center that can turn black. The rash comes and goes. A skilled pathologist in combination with an experienced dermatologist is necessary to make the diagnosis.

Adults are treated with methotrexate if the lesions are in a cosmetically important area, especially the face. UVA light is better studied than UVB light, especially in children, but an expert would be the most appropriate to recommend the best treatment.

Your concern about cancer is under-

standable. Rates of associated cancer — specifically, lymphoma, a blood and bone marrow cancer — have been reported in 5% to 50% of people with LyP. Unfortunately, apart from people with a specific gene rearrangement, there's no way yet known to predict who is likely to get lymphoma nor any way of preventing it. She will need to be vigilant. Fortunately, the lymphomas, if they do develop, are usually effectively treated.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I recently opened up some stored tuna that my son had saved for me. He loves to hunt his own food. When I ate it, I realized that when he had gone to Alaska, he had not only hunted tuna but also black bear. He had used the black bear grease to cure the tuna. I was mortified that he had used a protected animal to preserve his tuna. I reluctantly ate it anyway. Now, I am worried about my health. Will anything happen to me health-wise because I have eaten the grease from a black bear from Alaska? The bear was wild, so could it have had a disease, like rabies? I'm sure it has never been vaccinated. — *Anon.*

ANSWER: Black bears are hunted in many states, and although it is regulated (you need a license) in Alaska, they are not a protected species under the Endangered Species Act. Black bears are hunted for both sport and meat. The major health risk from consuming bear meat is trichinella, a muscle parasite. The meat must be heated to a high temperature to be sure of killing the parasite. Grease from the bear should not have trichinella risk.

Another concern is rabies. Rabies is possible but rare in bears. I doubt it could be transmitted from grease, though, as rabies virus lives in nervous tissue, not fat.

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

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1. Which group released an album titled "You Can Tune a Piano, but You Can't Tuna Fish"?
2. Name the lead singer who was born Francesco Stephen Castelluccio.
3. Which Starship song was used as the theme in the 1987 film "Mannequin"?
4. Name the Beatles film that was originally titled "Eight Arms to Hold You."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I want you girl but your wide-eyed innocence has really messed up my mind."

Answers

1. REO Speedwagon, in 1978. It was their first to break the Top 40 charts. Two singles from the album, "Time for Me to Fly" and "Roll With the Changes," became their signature songs.
2. Frankie Valli, of the Four Seasons. Valli decided on a singing career at the age of 7 after seeing Frank Sinatra perform in New York.
3. "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now," in 1986. The song got an Academy Award nom for Best Original Song. Co-writer Albert Hammond wrote it about his long-delayed marriage to his girlfriend.
4. "Help!" in 1965.
5. "Come Back When You Grow Up, Girl," by Bobby Vee and The Strangers, in 1967. Vee, born Robert Thomas Velline, first found international fame with "Rubber Ball" in 1961.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 6 of 70

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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GRIN and BEAR IT

Wagner

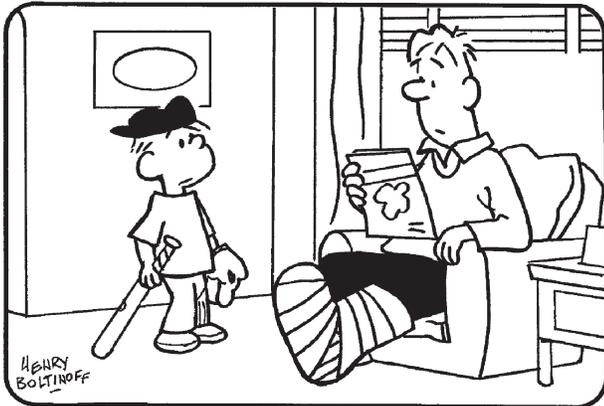


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"Keeping me in the waiting room for 45 minutes was a dirty trick, Mrs. Figby!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Differences: 1. Blinds are longer. 2. Picture is missing from table. 3. Boy's shoes are different. 4. Cap is turned. 5. Pillow is smaller. 6. Boy's shirt has long sleeves.



• “It’s easy to get the stains out of coffee mugs without using a harsh cleaner. Try a little bit of baking soda on a sponge for scrubbing, then rinse with a little bit of vinegar to foam out the smell. I have been able to bring back mugs that looked terrible!” — *Y.S. in California*

• Use a lint roller to remove dust from a lampshade with fabric that is flat but textured. If your lampshade has pleats, your best bet is a clean soft paintbrush.

• “I have perfectly timed the fabric softener cycle on my washing machine. I set a timer for 23 minutes, and it’s just the right time to add liquid softener. Just saying that this has greatly enhanced the quality of my life, because my clothes feel softer and smell nice.” — *L.B. in Georgia*

• Here’s another laundry tip: “Can you believe I miss washing my daugh-

ter’s white softball pants because spring season was canceled? If you have a kid playing sports in white pants — why? — get a bar of Fels Naptha soap. You just rub it into the stained spots, and launder. It takes out grass and clay. It should be issued with the uniform for turf sports.” — *M.*

• A work from home, or work anywhere tip: If you are having trouble focusing, it might be because you are avoiding a difficult task. If there’s a dreaded task on your to-do list, tackle it first. Even if you can’t get it completed, you’ll make progress and it will make everything else seem easy by comparison.

• Lemons and limes last longer in the cooler. Say that three times fast, and stick your citrus in the fridge!

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

Groton Daily Independent

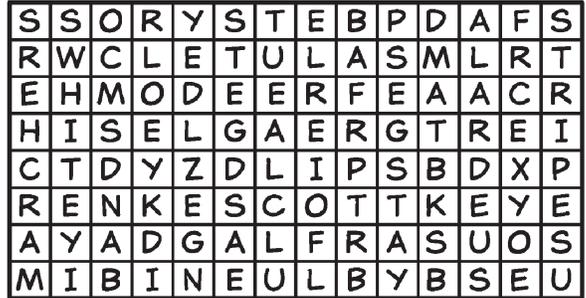
Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 8 of 70



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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



HIDDEN in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "A" in the bottom rail: "A barking dog never bites."

Illustrated by David Coulson

TOMORROW'S FLAG DAY!

Hidden in the diagram above are 18 words or names associated with our flag. They can be read up or down, forward or backward, or even diagonally. The items to look for are:

- AMERICAN
- BANDS
- BETSY ROSS
- BLUE
- EAGLE
- FLAG DAY
- FLAG POLE
- FREEDOM
- MARCHERS
- OLD GLORY
- PARADE
- RED
- SALUTE
- (FRANCIS) SCOTT KEY
- (JOHN PHILIP) SOUSA
- STARS
- STRIPES
- WHITE

ONE WORD!

"One word in our JUNIOR WHIRL feature has been deliberately misspelled. You have one minute to find it."



Answer: The word "misspelled" is misspelled. I hope that you didn't find any others.

SNOW CONE SEASON IS HERE AGAIN! Below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. Type of barge.
2. Single units.
3. Illuminating gas.
4. Start again.



GRID A



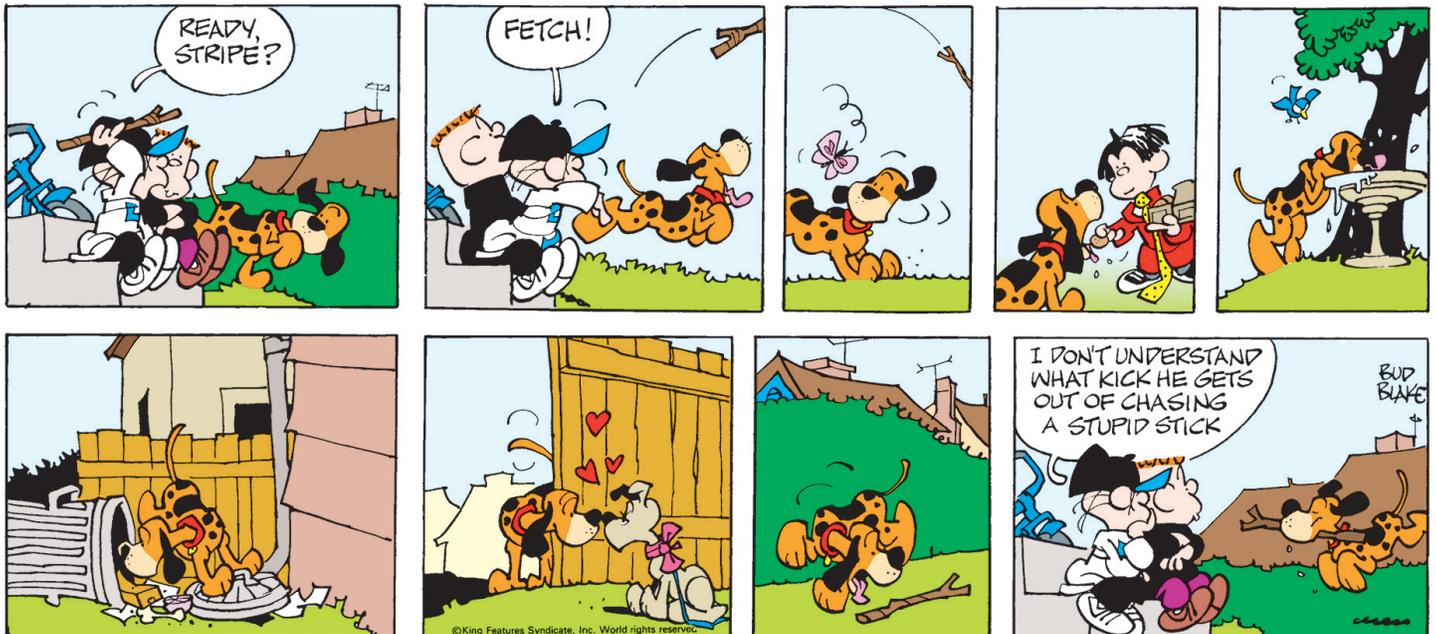
GRID B

1. Biggest are whales
2. Opposite of yeas.
3. Not any.
4. To grow smaller.

Answers: 1. Scow-cows. 2. Ones-noes. 3. Neen-noes. 4. Anew-wane.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 9 of 70

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 St. Louis landmark
- 5 Hostel
- 8 Grime
- 12 Silver salmon
- 13 Kan. neighbor
- 14 Sandwich cookie
- 15 Destruction
- 16 Thrilling
- 18 Passage
- 20 Idles
- 21 Still
- 22 "You've got mail" co.
- 23 Really fun time
- 26 Leave out
- 30 Thither
- 31 Beer cousin
- 32 Queue
- 33 Shout out
- 36 Co-star with Ball, Arnaz and Frawley
- 38 Branch
- 39 Dine
- 40 Larynx output
- 43 Surpasses
- 47 "My bad"
- 49 By word of mouth
- 50 Night light?
- 51 Atmosphere
- 52 Loosen
- 53 Paquin or Quindlen
- 54 Final (Abbr.)

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

- 55 Exam
- 17 Sporty Camaro
- 35 War god
- 36 Carpet cleaner, for short
- 37 Went to a restaurant
- 39 Put forth, as energy
- 40 — cava
- 41 The yoke's on them
- 42 PC picture
- 43 Painter Nolde
- 44 Sea eagle
- 45 June honorees
- 46 Coin aperture
- 48 Water (Fr.)

DOWN

- 1 Land measure
- 2 Sauce thickener
- 3 Stylish
- 4 Sweethearts
- 5 Klutzy
- 6 Adjoining
- 7 Leno's network
- 8 "Is that so?"
- 9 Eye part
- 10 Landlord's due
- 11 Garb

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 10 of 70

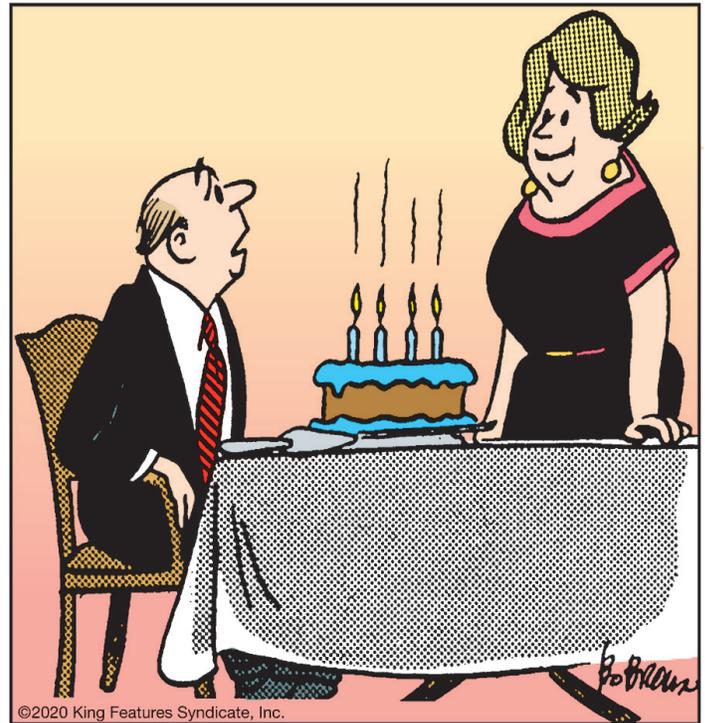
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

LAFF - A - DAY

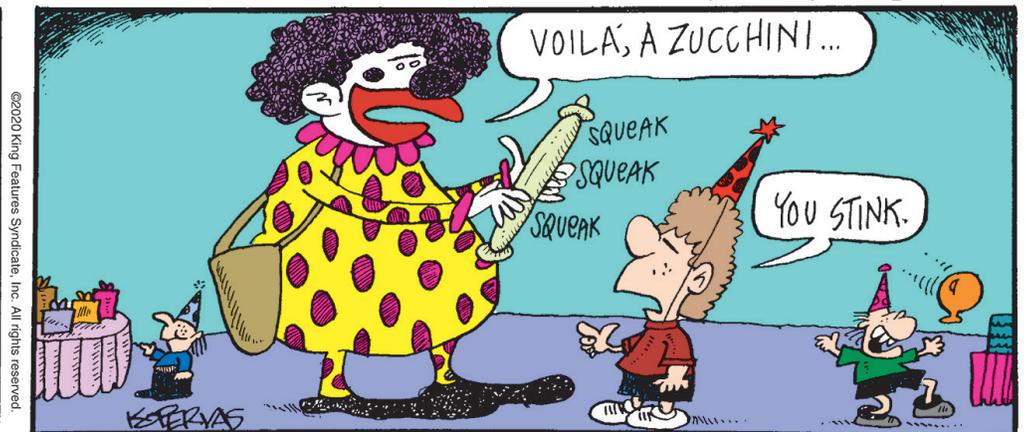


"When are you going to start having birthdays again, Irma? I'm tired of growing old alone."

Out on a Limb

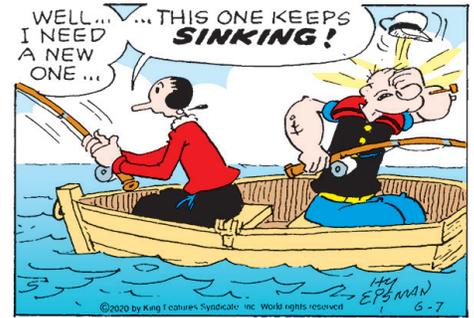
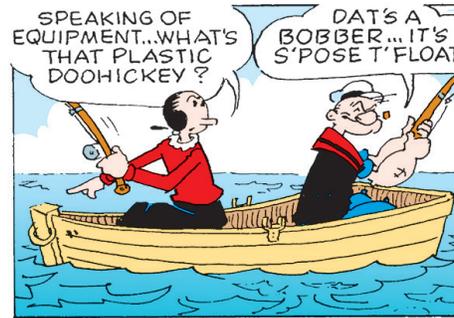
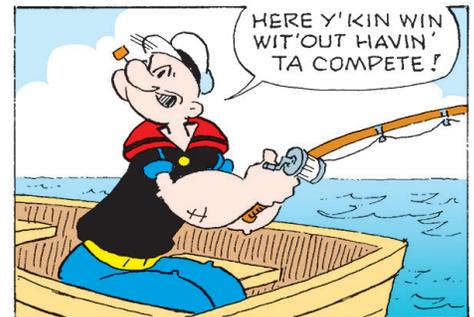
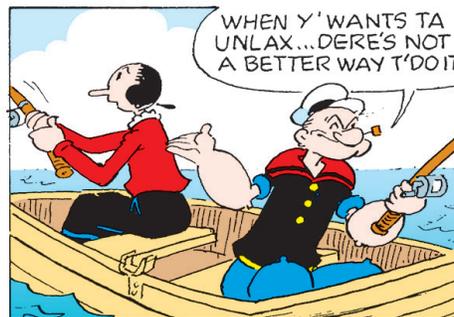
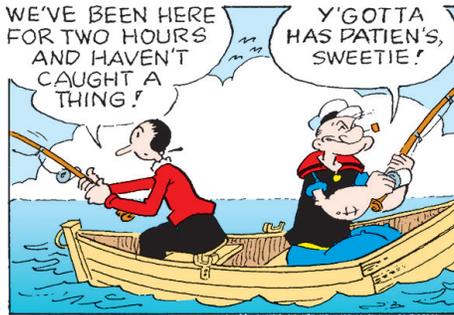
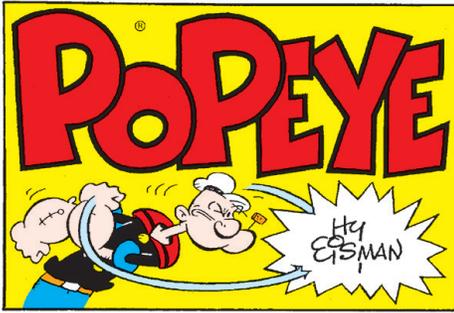
by Gary Kopervas

PIZBO THE PARTY CLOWN SPECIALIZES IN MAKING BALLOON VEGETABLES...



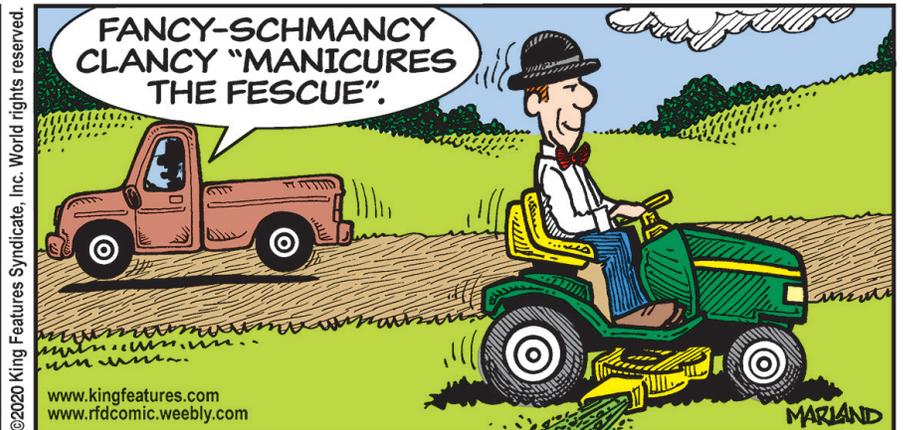
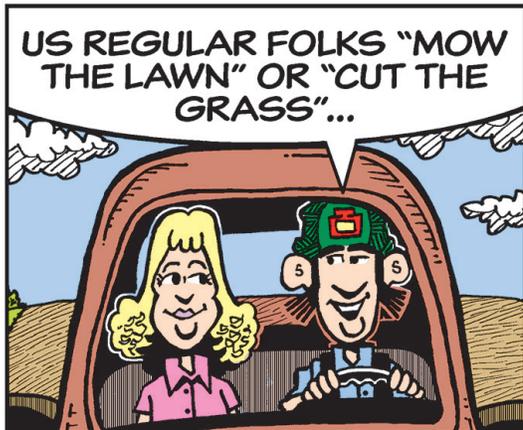
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 11 of 70



R.F.D.

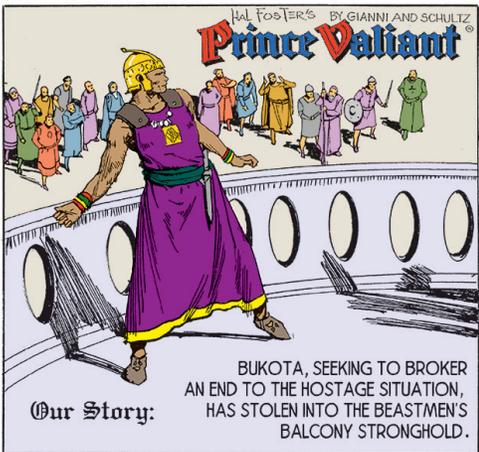
by Mike Marland



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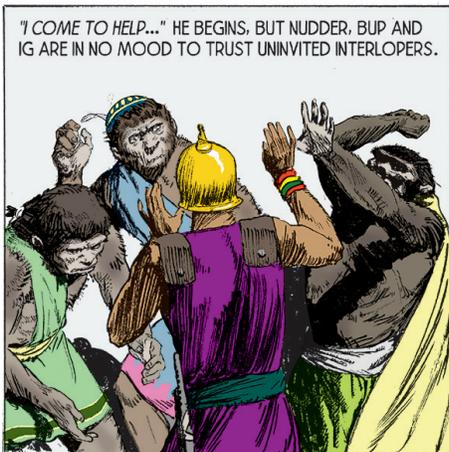
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 12 of 70

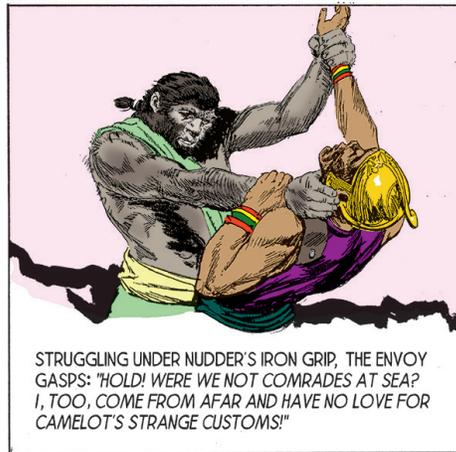


Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ
Prince Valiant

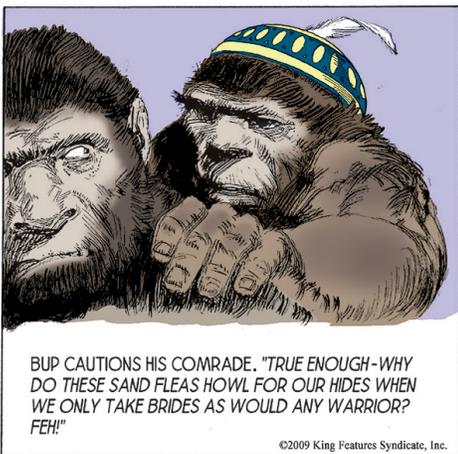
Our Story: BUKOTA, SEEKING TO BROKER AN END TO THE HOSTAGE SITUATION, HAS STOLEN INTO THE BEASTMEN'S BALCONY STRONGHOLD.



"I COME TO HELP..." HE BEGINS. BUT NUDDER, BUP AND IG ARE IN NO MOOD TO TRUST UNINVITED INTERLOPERS.

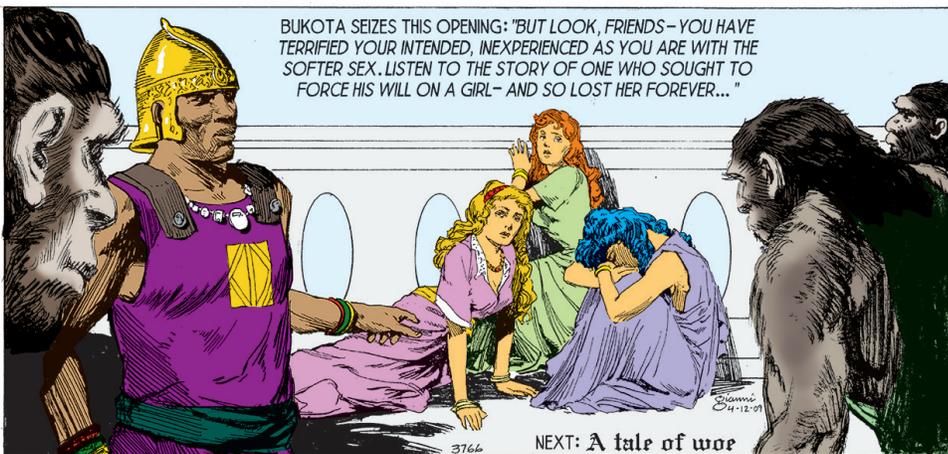


STRUGGLING UNDER NUDDER'S IRON GRIP, THE ENVOY GASPS: "HOLD! WERE WE NOT COMRADES AT SEA? I, TOO, COME FROM AFAR AND HAVE NO LOVE FOR CAMELOT'S STRANGE CUSTOMS!"



BUP CAUTIONS HIS COMRADE. "TRUE ENOUGH- WHY DO THESE SAND FLEAS HOWL FOR OUR HIDES WHEN WE ONLY TAKE BRIDES AS WOULD ANY WARRIOR? FEH!"

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BUKOTA SEIZES THIS OPENING: "BUT LOOK, FRIENDS- YOU HAVE TERRIFIED YOUR INTENDED, INEXPERIENCED AS YOU ARE WITH THE SOFTER SEX. LISTEN TO THE STORY OF ONE WHO SOUGHT TO FORCE HIS WILL ON A GIRL- AND SO LOST HER FOREVER..."

376a

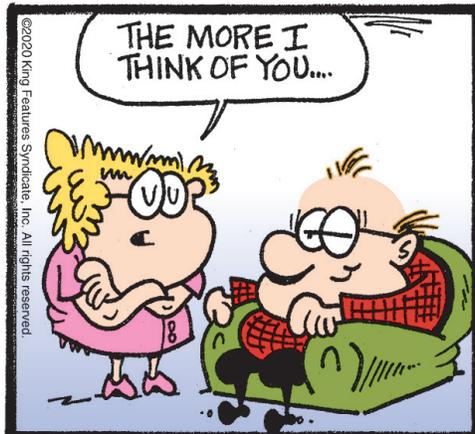
NEXT: A tale of woe

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

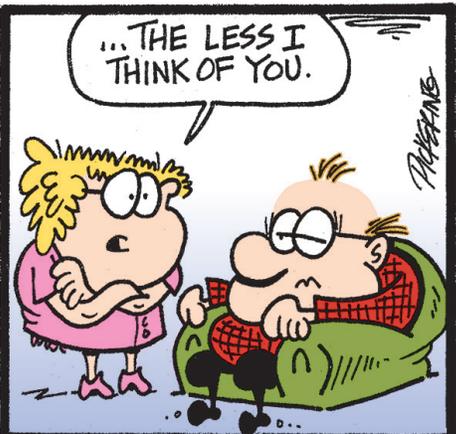


IT'S REALLY STRANGE, HAROLD.



THE MORE I THINK OF YOU...

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...THE LESS I THINK OF YOU.

PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Keep Your Spirits Up

Depending where we live, many of us are still in lockdown. Still, there are ways to keep our spirits up.

Plants can make all the difference in how we feel in our environment. Check your local nursery's website for small plants you can either have delivered or pick up at the curb. Some of the easiest to grow are pothos, spider plant and philodendron. Beware, however, if you have pets. Be sure you can either hang up your plant or put it up on a bookcase where the pet can't reach it.

Books we enjoyed a long time ago can take us back to a time and place that was calm and safe. Look on your own bookshelves or consider getting an e-reader (look for my recent column on using a Kindle) if you don't want to take a chance going into your own library, assuming it's open.

Baking can fill the house with lovely smells. Since finding flour is impossible in many parts of the country, look

online for hundreds of recipes that don't require flour. No-flour banana bread, flourless chocolate cake ... you can even make oatmeal muffins. Just be certain you can acquire all the ingredients before you set your heart on making a recipe.

Zoom is the online conference program that so many companies are using for business meetings. We can learn Zoom, too, and stay in touch with family and friends if we have a computer or device with a camera. Explore the basic free version of Zoom. You'll be limited to 40 minutes in group meetings, with no limit on one-to-one meetings. Your first step will be to read online instructions and get comfortable with the steps to set up a connection. Your second step will be to tell family and friends you're ready to start Zooming!

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 14 of 70

1. In 1982, the California Angels retired No. 26 in honor of the Major League Baseball franchise's first owner. Who was he?

2. In Super Bowl XXVII, the Dallas Cowboys' Leon Lett was enroute to a fumble return touchdown, but he had the ball swatted away before he crossed the goal line, resulting in a touchback. What speedy Buffalo Bills receiver forced Lett's fumble?

3. In the final round of the 1995 Open Championship, what Italian golfer sunk a 60-foot putt on the 18th hole to force a playoff with eventual winner John Daly?

4. In what team sport would you find two "bails" balanced atop three stumps?

5. How many home runs did Jose Canseco's identical twin brother, Ozzie, hit during his 24 Major League Baseball game appearances?

6. Syracuse University basketball standout Rony Seikaly was the first draft pick ever selected by what NBA



by Ryan A. Berenz

expansion team in 1988?

7. In 1999, the New Orleans Saints traded eight draft picks to the Washington Redskins in order to select what Heisman Trophy winner from the University of Texas?

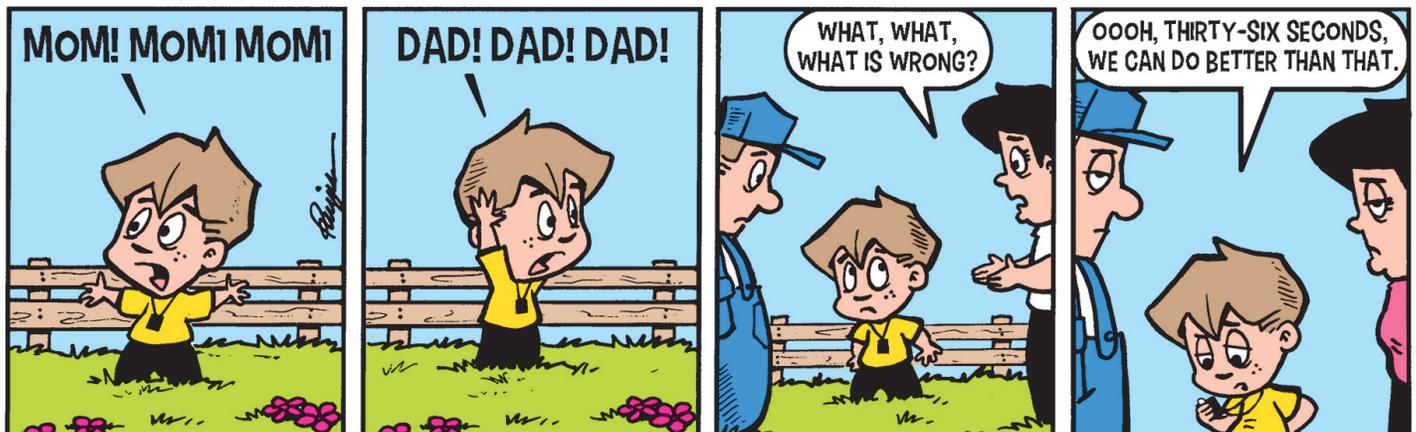
Answers

1. Gene Autry.
2. Don Beebe.
3. Costantino Rocca.
4. Cricket.
5. Zero.
6. The Miami Heat.
7. Ricky Williams.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





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



Called to Serve

Many may not know that Members of Congress are able to nominate students to our nation's military academies. It's a real opportunity to ensure South Dakota values help shape military decisions – and it's also a real opportunity to make sure the military looks like the American people it's responsible to defend.

Saying it is an honor to nominate students from across our great state to serve our nation doesn't do the moment justice. These are not ordinary high school graduates. Some grew up knowing they were interested in attending an academy, some grew up in a family with a long line of military service and some have no family military history at all. But what they do have in common is a good moral character, their commitment to our nation's defense and selfless bravery and courage. They all feel called to serve their country.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to organize a virtual academy reception for some of the students my office nominated. June is quite a transition month for these soon-to-be Cadets and Midshipmen. These students will head to their respective academies in late June and early July – surrendering civilian clothing and belongings (even their cell phones!) – and begin their military training. You can imagine this is also a transition month for their parents as well – who may only speak with their son or daughter three times throughout the summer. Very different than a traditional college drop-off.

It's hard from Day One for a reason. It's hard because these Cadets and Midshipmen will commission as military officers at graduation. It's hard because when called to lead soldiers, airmen, sailors, or Marines, these young Americans will rely on the skills and training gained from experience at the academies. It's hard because the United States is home to the mightiest military in the world, due in no small part to the dedicated young men and women who serve.

While we wish the 2024 service academy class godspeed, we also look ahead to the next round of nominations. Our office is currently accepting applications for nominations to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy until Friday, October 30. Visit my website or call one of my offices if you are interested in learning more about the nomination process.

I look at my three sons and I don't know what the future has in store for them. I don't know if they'll choose to serve in the military like their grandfather, if they'll choose a liberal arts degree, or if they'll choose to pursue a technical trade. What I do know is my conversations with these academy candidates has helped shape who I want to be as a parent and what values I want to instill in my children as they grow older.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 16 of 70



Strengthening our Armed Forces

The United States military is the best in the world. Our all-volunteer force is made up of men and women from different backgrounds and different states, but what they all have in common is a love of country and a desire to serve. We are eternally grateful to them—and their families—for the incredible sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms. One way we can show our thanks is by making sure they have the tools and resources necessary to do their job. In Congress, we do this by passing a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) each year.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, which I've worked on since coming to the Senate in 2015, recently voted to approve the NDAA for fiscal year 2021. It will be debated by the full Senate before we vote on final passage. Our committee put in a lot of work this year on the NDAA and I'm pleased that we were once again able to pass it with strong bipartisan support. In fact, this will be the 60th consecutive year that we will have passed a widely-supported NDAA.

As our near-peer competitors, like China and Russia, continue to grow their own militaries, it's critically important that the U.S. makes sure our troops have better weapons systems, better tools and more resources than our adversaries. We never want to send our men and women into a fair fight—we always want them to have the advantage. The NDAA authorizes Department of Defense (DoD) programs and provides defense policy to make sure the United States maintains irreversible momentum when it comes to implementing the National Defense Strategy. The National Defense Strategy provides clear direction for restoring our military's competitive edge in an era of re-emerging, long-term great power competition. The B-21 Raider bombers coming to Ellsworth Air Force Base in the near future are a part of this long-term National Defense Strategy. As I said earlier, we have the best armed forces in the world, but we need to make sure we remain the best well into the future.

One of the ways we can do this is by improving the way the DoD hires personnel. The NDAA includes language to improve recruitment and retention efforts to maintain the force, while also offering more flexibility to hire civilian talent. In particular, the DoD needs highly-skilled, brilliant cybersecurity professionals to help improve the cybersecurity efforts of our armed forces. In some cases, the most qualified cyber personnel could be private sector cybersecurity personnel serving in the National Guard or Reserve. Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison has been at the forefront of cyber-related research for years. As a National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security Center of Academic Excellence, DSU is preparing its students for government careers in cybersecurity.

Just like the FY 2020 NDAA, this one includes a pay raise for our troops. Military families are recognized in the NDAA as well—we've included language to increase access to high-quality child care for military families and to improve military housing. When a husband or wife is deployed, the last thing we want is for spouses to have to worry about home repair issues or finding a good daycare for their kids when they're at work.

The men and women who wear the uniform of the United States put their lives on the line to protect and preserve our freedom. We're forever grateful to them for their service and sacrifice. Passing the NDAA each year is one way for us to make sure they and their families are taken care of and have all the resources they need as they serve our nation.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Showing Up to Work

For the last few months, essential employees across the country have been showing up for work, often risking their health and safety when they do. We've all heard harrowing stories of doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals who've spent weeks away from home so they could help treat patients and comfort families, sacrificing time away from their own.

We've also heard stories and seen the realities of other heroes who, up until the pandemic, have all been members of the unsung variety: delivery drivers, sanitation workers, grocery store workers, and cable and utility technicians, just to name a few. They're the people we often took for granted on trash day or after placing an Amazon order or when we made a trip down the meat or dairy aisle. Honestly, I'm not sure I'll ever look at a fully stocked grocery store the same way ever again.

Essential workers have helped keep America running, and during a crisis, Congress is an essential industry.

At the height of the pandemic, after Congress passed a massive, multi-trillion dollar coronavirus relief package, the Senate practiced what it was preaching. We spent a few weeks working from our home states to help reduce the risk of spreading the disease. Our top priority was – and is – keeping people safe. During that time, the attending physician and others at the Capitol worked hard to develop a plan for the Senate to safely return to Washington as soon as possible, and we did on May 4.

We've been hard at work monitoring the \$2.4 trillion comprehensive response to the coronavirus pandemic, convening important committee hearings to conduct oversight and prepare legislation for future floor consideration, and walking and chewing gum by passing bills and confirming executive and judicial branch nominees.

I've participated in several Commerce Committee hearings that have examined how the coronavirus crisis has affected transportation in the United States – a critical industry for South Dakota. The committee heard directly from the airline, automotive, and railroad industries about how they've dealt with the pandemic and how they're planning to be part of the reopening. The Commerce Committee has also examined the heightened reliance of broadband – another critical issue in South Dakota – particularly the dependence on keeping America connected over the last few months. And the Finance Committee, of which I'm also a member, has convened hearings to examine unemployment insurance during the pandemic and conduct oversight of certain Food and Drug Administration inspection processes.

As the economy continues to reopen in South Dakota and around the country, the Senate is going to continue to focus on those buckets: monitoring COVID relief efforts, convening hearings and conducting oversight, and passing bills and confirming nominees. All of them are important to our state's and nation's recovery and reopening.

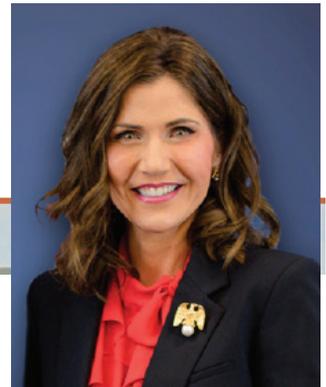
This has been a difficult year. I know it feels like there have been more downs than ups. I think it has highlighted, though, that while our individual struggles might be unique, so too is our shared optimism that tomorrow will be better than today. Despite any obstacles we find in our way, we still wake up every morning in the greatest country the world has ever known. We are American together, and that's why brighter days are always ahead.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 18 of 70



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Gov. Noem Outlines Lessons Learned from COVID-19

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem outlined some of the lessons that South Dakota has learned from our fight against COVID-19. Key quotes from Gov. Noem’s remarks include:

“Perhaps the most significant takeaway so far is that more freedom, not more government, is the answer... Freedom is a better friend of true science than government-centered and government-controlled science. Freedom, not government, is the best friend of innovation. Freedom focuses our politics on persuasion and the intellectual strength of our positions, not on control, coercion or the heavy hand of government. And if someone is interested in the common good in all its iterations and complexities, freedom is the one and only choice.”

“My approach to this virus was to provide South Dakotans with all the information I could and then trust them to exercise their freedom to make the best decision for themselves and their families. We took a unique path - we haven’t locked people up, forced businesses or churches to close, or ordered a statewide shelter in place.”

“The mainstream media attack those who push for freedom and for people to be able to make the best decisions for their families. But politicians who take away people’s freedoms and enforce lockdowns are praised – and shielded from real scrutiny.”

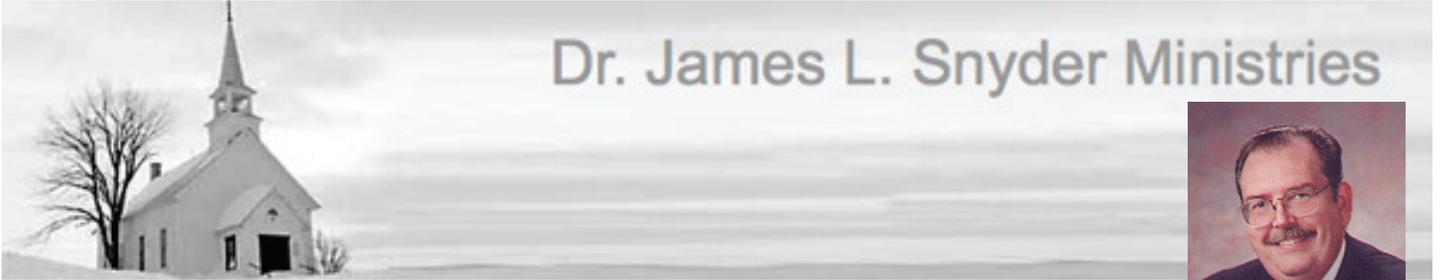
“Some think COVID-19 will accelerate the move of people out of cities. That story is still being written, but one of the few things we know about this virus is that density is one of the key factors contributing to its spread. Because of that, New York and Silicon Valley may look very different in the future.”

“Not all Governors trusted their people, but I did. Different paths mean people have different choices, and South Dakota chose common sense solutions. 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.”

“Our new normal may be very different from the past, but don’t ever forget this one fundamental truth - the windshield is so much bigger than the rearview mirror for a reason. In South Dakota, we always confront adversity and emerge into even greater prosperity. The future – our future – is bright. Hope is in front of us. We will come out stronger than ever before. And to those concerned about what the future might hold for you if you stay where you are right now, come to South Dakota – the air is fresh, the people are free, and the possibilities are endless.”

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 19 of 70



There's Something About A Lazy Summer Afternoon

The past week was an unusually quiet week around the parsonage. It enabled me to do something that I have wanted to do all summer long. Nothing. I am not bragging or anything, but I can do nothing right up there with the best of them.

The week, as all weeks do, started on Monday. For me, there is always something about a Monday morning. And this Monday morning was going to set the tone for the rest of the week.

It all began when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage made one of her announcements. I live for these announcements because I know it will affect my whole week.

"Our daughter and I," she said rather matter-of-factly, "will be going out of town for the entire day on Thursday."

This came as a shock to me, for I had not been forewarned. And you know what they say about being forewarned. However, I'm not one to look a gift horse in the mouth. I will take what I can take when I can take it.

Apparently, our daughter was going to take her daughter to visit friends for an entire week, and she wanted my wife to go along to keep her company. Trying to hide my delight in the whole matter, I soberly said, "Is there anything I can do for you for your trip?"

Evidently, my offer was not heard because the next words out of my wife's mouth were, "Now, here's the list I made for you while I'm away. Make sure you do everything on that list."

I graciously accepted "The List" and glanced at it casually. If I did everything on that list, she would have to be gone for a month. I smiled as I folded "The List" and tucked it into my shirt pocket.

This is what I love about my Beloved. She is always thinking of me. Even when she is planning to be away, she takes the time to plan my day. I could not ask for a better helpmeet in all the wide world. I promised her that I would take special care of "The List" while she was away for the day. Fortunately for me, I did not define what I meant by "special care." After being married as long as I have, there are certain things not appropriate to divulge to your Better Half.

For the rest of the week, she was busy making her plans, and I, for my part, stayed out of her way as much as possible. My motto being, never interrupt somebody who is busy about his or her business.

Finally, the day arrived. Early that morning, the three of them – grandmother, mother, and daughter – loaded up the car and began their journey. I stood in the doorway and waved until I could no longer see the car, and then I waved for three more minutes just to make sure the job was done.

After I shut the door, I sighed very deeply, toddled over to my easy chair with a nice hot cup of coffee, and began my day's activities. Oh sure, I read over "The List" several times and then folded it neatly up and put it back in my shirt pocket. As I patted my shirt pocket, I said to myself, "I plan to take special care of this list."

Knowing all the things I was supposed to do as outlined in "The List," I decided to do something not on that list. After all, I was now captain of my ship, and I decided to live rather dangerously for the day.

After pouring myself another hot cup of coffee, I ventured out onto the patio, sat down to enjoy the morning and watched the birds play in the backyard. This was living. Nobody could ever accuse me of being afraid of work because I had a whole list of work that needed to be done and absolutely did nothing about it. It gave me a real sense of ownership. Right at this moment, I owned the moment.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 20 of 70

I know what you are thinking right now. You're thinking, what are you going to do when your wife comes home? That is the difference between the average person and Yours Truly. I am living in the moment. Whatever happens later on has no bearing whatsoever upon my enjoyment of the moment. Indeed, I may get into some complicated trouble; however, it is a small price to pay for enjoying my moment.

Not many people come to the place where they can enjoy their moment in the sun. Some people have grandiose ideas of life to such an extent that they work all their life and never achieve it. Some people work very hard all their life so that they can come to the place where they can do nothing.

I am miles ahead of the ordinary citizen. I find ways in which to enjoy doing nothing wherever I can find it. I purposefully look for those moments and grab them when I can.

Even Jesus took time to rest. "And he [Jesus] said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat" (Mark 6:31).

I am reminded of another old Pennsylvania Dutch saying, "The hurrier I go the behinder I get."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 21 of 70



Baseball Action Begins!

Baseball action has begun in Groton with the Junior Legion team taking on Northville yesterday. Today, the Junior Legion will play Lake Norden in a single game at 3 p.m. and that will be followed by the Legion Team taking on Lake Norden. (Photo from Joni Groeblichhoff's Facebook Page)

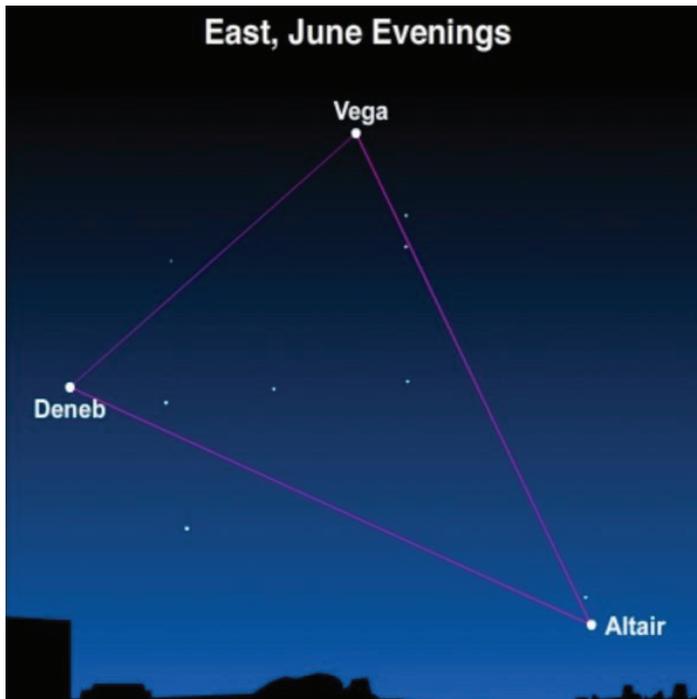


EarthSky

Updates on your cosmos and world

Come to know the Summer Triangle

Posted by Bruce McClure



We in the Northern Hemisphere can see the Summer Triangle for part of the night at any time of the year. But seeing it in summer is the most fun! As suggested by its name, the Summer Triangle is most prominent in northern summer. Seeing it again and again on summer nights is a deep pleasure that adds to the enjoyment of this season. So, as dusk deepens into night on a warm June or July night, look eastward for this great star pattern. It's not a constellation, but instead an asterism made of three bright stars – Vega, Deneb and Altair – in three different constellations.

It's difficult to convey the huge size of the Summer Triangle. At nightfall in northern summer, look for the brightest star in your eastern sky. That's Vega, the brightest star in the constellation Lyra the Harp.

Look to the lower left of Vega for another bright star – Deneb, the brightest in the constellation Cygnus the Swan and the third brightest in the Summer Triangle. An outstretched hand at arm's length approximates the distance from Vega to Deneb.

Look to the lower right of Vega to locate the Summer Triangle's second brightest star. That's Altair,

the brightest star in the constellation Aquila the Eagle. A ruler held at arm's length (30 cm) fills the gap between these two stars.

Summer Triangle as a road map to the Milky Way. If you're lucky enough to be under a dark starry sky on a moonless night, you'll see the great swath of stars known as the Milky Way passing between the Summer Triangle stars Vega and Altair. The star Deneb bobs in the middle of this river of stars that passes through the Summer Triangle, and arcs across the sky. Although every star that you see with the unaided eye is actually a member of our Milky Way galaxy, often the term Milky Way refers to the cross-sectional view of the galactic disk, whereby innumerable far-off suns congregate into a cloudy trail of stars.

Once you master the Summer Triangle, you can always locate the Milky Way on a clear, dark night. How about making the most of a dark summer night to explore this band of stars, this starlit boulevard abounding with celestial delights? Use binoculars to reel in the gossamer beauty of it all, the haunting nebulae and star clusters of a midsummer night's dream!

Some see the Summer Triangle as a great big "V" for vacation, with Altair marking the point of the "V." In summer, the Summer Triangle appears in the east at nightfall, high overhead after midnight and in the west at dawn. All night long on a summer night, the stars of the Summer Triangle – as if school kids on vacation – waltz amidst the streetlights of the Milky Way galaxy.

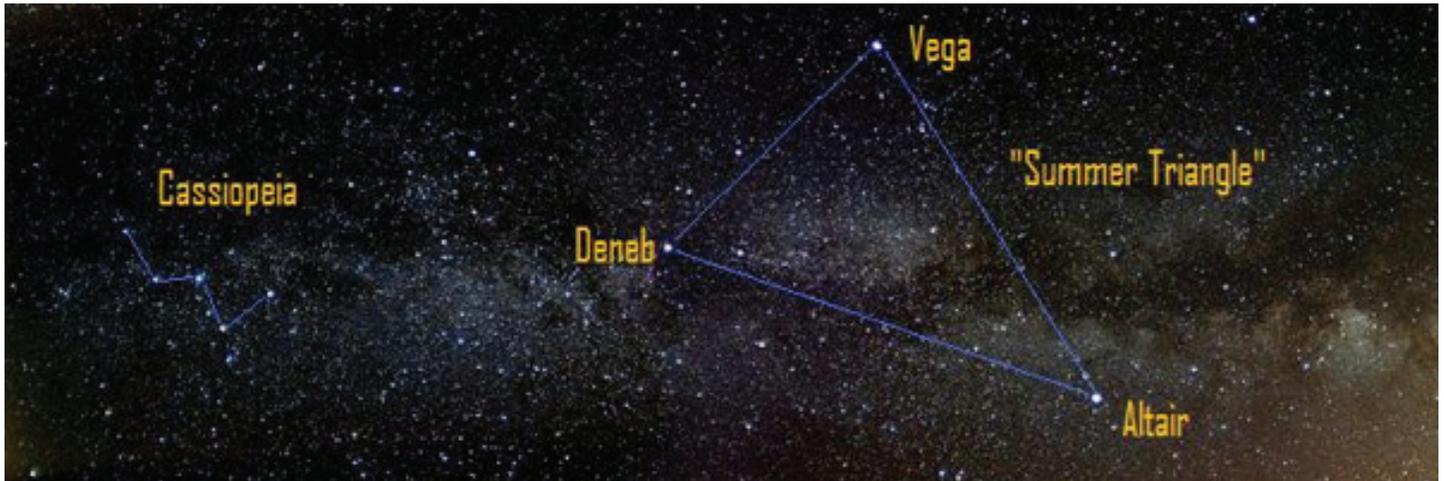
Summer Triangle as nature's seasonal calendar. The Summer Triangle serves as a stellar calendar, marking the seasons. When the stars of the Summer Triangle light up the eastern twilight dusk in middle to late June, it's a sure sign of the change of seasons, of spring giving way to summer. However, when the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 23 of 70

Summer Triangle is seen high in the south to overhead at dusk and early evening, the Summer Triangle's change of position indicates that summer has ebbed into fall.

Bottom line: How to find the Summer Triangle – an asterism, or noticeable pattern of stars – consisting of the three bright stars Vega, Deneb and Altair.



Great Rift of Milky Way passes through the constellation Cassiopeia and the Summer Triangle.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 24 of 70

#111 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

There were some modest increases today.

We're at 2,082,900 cases in the US. New case numbers increased by a fair amount. NY leads with 387,402 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a solid week now. NJ has 166,605 cases, a slight increase, but staying below 500 for a fourth day. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 148,788, IL – 133,117, MA – 105,395, TX – 88,120, PA – 82,988, FL – 73,544, MI – 66,024, and MD – 61,935. These ten states account for 63% of US cases. We have 2 more states over 50,000. 5 more states have over 40,000 cases, 2 more states have over 30,000 cases, 6 more states have over 20,000 cases, 11 more have over 10,000, 5 more + DC and PR over 5000, 6 more + GU over 1000, 3 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 WA, SD, MS, ND, KS, ME, NM, and GU. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, LA, TX, NC, FL, AZ, GA, and TN. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, PA, NJ, MI, IL, MD, MA, and VA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

A huge proportion of the US's cases and deaths have occurred in NY and NJ since early on. Two months ago, these two states accounted for 45% of the nation's cases and over half of the deaths. For most of the time since then, the trends in these two states have driven the picture nationally because they comprised such a large share of the picture; if they had a good day, then the nation had a good day. Ten or twelve other states could all be dropping—or rising—drastically, but the national numbers would barely budge because those other states all together represented such a small proportion of the total in the country. So for a long time to come, maybe forever, their total cases and deaths will dwarf what's happening elsewhere. Even so, because they have been reining in their outbreaks and some other places have not, that picture is shifting. Yesterday, they accounted for only 27% of cases and 38% of deaths.

We see that shift most clearly when we look at new case and death reports, what's happening from day to day irrespective of where we were a few weeks ago. NY and NJ's share of those plummeted. Whereas two months ago, they accounted for 38% of daily new cases and 53% of daily new deaths, they now account for only 5% of new cases and 18% of new deaths. Now, we're still adding in the neighborhood of 20,000 new cases per day, so that means a whole lot of other states have picked up the slack, and they are now driving the increases.

This isn't exactly what we want: We wanted declines across the country, and we're not getting that. We are seeing increases in many localities. I've been highlighting some states where things are getting worse over the past couple of days.

Tonight's focus is on North Carolina, currently experiencing a surge. This was one of the earliest states to reopen with Phase 1 starting over a month ago on May 8. The second phase started on May 22, just about three weeks ago, and the outcomes have not been great. They have increasing cases and a record number hospitalized. They've reported four days with over 1000 new cases in the last week. Hospitalizations are going up. Health care is not at capacity yet, but things are definitely not going in the right direction.

There have been 115,382 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths was steady, still under 1000 for a fourth day. NY has 30,565, NJ has 12,589, MA has 7576, IL has 6491, PA has 6264, MI has 6017, CA has 5003, and CT has 4186. One of these states is reporting just 100 new deaths today; only 1 of them is over 50; the rest are under 40. There are 1 more state over 3000 deaths, 5 more states over 2000 deaths, 7 more states over 1000 deaths, 8 more over 500, 12 more + DC and PR over 100, and 9 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

We've talked about the Moderna vaccine, the first one to clinical trials in the US, currently in Phase 2, and planning for Phase 3 to begin next month. You may recall that, quite a while back, we discussed the approval to sort of skip over the animal trials which are generally a prerequisite to beginning the human trials we're now doing. Well, those animal tests are finally finished; these are done primarily to establish safety and secondarily to gather dosing information. A study was released yesterday with results of trials

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 25 of 70

in mice.

Many weeks ago, we discussed one key issue for safety in a viral vaccine, the possibility of something called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE), a serious condition in which antibodies made during a less robust immune response can actually help the virus bind to cells rather than blocking that process; this would mean the antibodies actually make the person sicker instead of keeping them healthy. This is not a new thing with a coronavirus; we've seen such an effect before with other vaccines against other viruses. The good news is that these mouse trials showed none of this. They also seem to indicate a single dose of the vaccine elicit a strong immune response and will likely be sufficient. The results also indicate that, at least in mice, there was no sign of immunopathology, for example, the cytokine storm that can result from vaccination. They also seem to show that you can elicit excellent neutralizing antibody response. We do want to remember that mice are not people and so it remains to be seen what happens in humans; but so far, the news is good.

We have discussed in the past day or two the university athletes returning to campus for summer workouts only to test positive for Covid-19. I mentioned at that time that there likely would be more such stories. Here's one: University of Houston. After six returning athletes tested positive, the school has suspended workouts. This sort of thing is likely to have an influence on decisions being made now by the major athletic associations about whether and how to resume sports in the upcoming academic year.

I read a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reporting on work done with transmission of Covid-19. This study of infections in Wuhan, China, Italy, and New York City analyzes trends in infection from January 23 to May 9 against mitigation measures implemented to inhibit transmission. By comparing implementation and timing of various measures to shifts in the trajectory of the outbreaks in each location, the team was able to draw some conclusions about how the virus is most frequently transmitted, primary among these that airborne transmission is the most efficient means of spread.

They list factors that make airborne transmission so efficient, including that inhalation of aerosols (tiny particles) enables deposition of virus deep in the lungs where serious disease is initiated. They note that normal breathing leads to shedding of sufficient virus to establish infection and that only a low dose is required to do so. They note that airborne particles potentially contain high numbers of virus particles, travel fair distances, and survive well in the environment and that densely populated environments are particularly problematic.

They also report that simultaneous implementation of face covering and social distancing is optimal and that these steps in conjunction with extensive testing and contact tracing are critical to effective control; but they also point out that, while the other measures complement the use of face coverings, use of those coverings is the determinant in influencing trends in transmission. They conclude that wearing face coverings in public is the most effective means to prevent transmission and point out that this is a very low-cost and accessible intervention. I don't know how much more evidence we need, but it keeps coming in anyhow. Believe it.

It feels like we've been on a merry-go-round about asymptomatic transmission lately. First there was the accumulating evidence indicating asymptomatic transmission is important. Then there was the statement last week by Maria Van Kerkhove from the WHO that was widely interpreted to mean the organization had concluded asymptomatic transmission wasn't really a thing, followed by her walking back that comment. Then there has been all sorts of controversy in the news with dueling experts. It seems to me a great deal of the difficulty may come down to definition of terms.

The Greek prefix, a-, means no or not, so asymptomatic means without symptoms. A person who is infected, but who is feeling fine, is asymptomatic. A problem is that people can mean two different things by it. There are people who never experience symptoms; their infections never develop to the point where they notice something is wrong. And then there are people who don't have symptoms at the moment, but in a day or two or three get sick. Some folks call these people asymptomatic while others call them presymptomatic, that is prior to symptoms. Clearly people who never develop symptoms and people who will develop them later are very different, so throwing them together into one category can cause trouble.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 26 of 70

I think it would help if we all clarified which of these situations we're describing when we throw these terms around because there is some evidence (not enough yet to be sure) accumulating that people who never develop symptoms are not a big threat in terms of transmission, that the presymptomatic are the bigger issue. If so, differentiating between these two kinds of people will be important.

Before we go much farther, we should probably also review the way respiratory viruses spread. You can spread a pathogen from your respiratory tract any time air leaves your mouth or nose. There are basically two sorts of things to worry about here, the large and the small. The large are moist respiratory droplets, little balls of water containing virus. These droplets, being large and heavy, are fairly likely to rapidly sink to the floor. Then those droplets can dry up; this makes them lighter and better able to float around in the air, traveling farther and hanging out longer. And then there are the small, sprays of very tiny bits of moisture, also potentially containing viruses and floating a long time. Forceful expulsions of breath—loud talking, singing, yelling, coughing, and sneezing—generates a fair number of these virus-laden particles, but any time you exhale, something besides just air goes out into the world. That's how these things spread.

Now, with all of that in mind, here's what we (think we) know at the moment:

- (1) There's a lot of virus in the upper respiratory tract of infected people.
- (2) People without symptoms can shed virus, some of them in fair quantities.
- (3) People with symptoms are more likely to expel virus forcefully from their bodies (coughing/sneezing), which probably makes the virus travel farther and increases the production of aerosols.
- (4) Even with that, you are most efficient in spreading virus in the 2-3 days before you develop symptoms. We don't really understand how this works yet.
- (5) A primary driver of transmission is people we call superspreaders, those who transmit to a large number of others. As many as 70% of people who get infected are infected in a superspreading event. We're not sure whether this is because some people transmit the virus more efficiently or because some people go a lot of places where they encounter others and expose a lot of people. Could be some of each.
- (6) Solid contact tracing helps us to spot people likely to be infected before they have symptoms and isolate them until we can be relatively sure they are not a source of infection to others.
- (7) Masks generally available to the public will not protect you from breathing in all virus particles that are in the air around you; they don't filter effectively enough to do that, and there are air gaps at the edges through which comes unfiltered air. What they do is prevent a whole lot of those moist droplets you emit from going into the air around you, trapping those fairly well—some materials better than others.
- (8) Transmission is largely a function of proximity and duration. The closer you are to others and the longer you are close, the more likely transmission is to occur. Keeping as many viruses as possible out of the air between the two of you reduces the risks associated with proximity and duration. Putting the three things together, wearing a mask, maintaining distance, and reducing duration of contact, has the highest effectiveness. While nothing is a guarantee, these things together are very beneficial. And honestly, they're all we have at the moment.

And so, one more time, with feeling: Masks help. A lot. Especially in conjunction with distancing and hand-washing. Just in case that message is not yet clear, there's a whole bunch of new studies that all support mask usage. One, published in the *Lancet*, is a meta-analysis of 172 observational studies. The author, Holger Schunemann, an epidemiologist at McMaster University in Ontario, said, "Our findings suggest, in multiple ways, that the use of masks is highly protective in health-care and community settings." While observational studies do not yield as strong conclusions as double-blind, controlled studies, that's still a lot of evidence. Werner Ernst Bischoff, professor of infectious diseases at Wake Forest University who studies respiratory transmission of viruses, says masks are "critical."

I've heard far too many people proclaim, "I ain't scared of no virus. I don't need a mask." What they should be saying is, "I ain't scared of no virus. You don't need a mask." Because, of course, masks prevent putting the virus out into the air; they don't prevent people from inhaling it. Their masks are for you, and yours is for them.

So when I see you without a mask, I don't think, "What a brave person!" Instead, I say to myself, "Now, here's someone who doesn't care about other people." Message received.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 27 of 70

Some of us spend some time and thought on our appearance—how our hair looks, the clothing we wear, how things fit and flatter. We do this because we know, even if we haven't thought much about it, that those things affect how other people perceive us. Most of us care at least a little what others think about us; some of us spend entirely too much time worrying about it. For once, though, I'm going to encourage you to do a little more thinking about yourself, about the message what you wear—or don't—influences how people see you. How often do you get to do that while also doing good in the world? Seems like a fine way to end the week.

Take care. I'll see you next week.

3 Weeks Ago

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

2 Weeks Ago

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

Last Week

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

This Week

Total Confirmed
7,807,734
2,074,526 US
850,514 Brazil
528,267 Russia
320,922 India
295,828 United Kingdom
243,605 Spain
236,651 Italy
220,749 Peru
193,746 France
187,427 Iran

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 28 of 70

The Life of Gregory Clocksene

Memorial services for Gregory Clocksene, 67, of Groton will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 16th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Monday from 5-7 p.m.

Greg passed away June 10, 2020 at his home.

Gregory Kent was born November 16, 1952 in Webster to Darrell and Ella (Hubsch) Clocksene. He attended and graduated from Groton High School in 1971. Greg furthered his education at Lake Area Technical Institute where he studied Building Engineering, graduating in 1973. On June 19, 1976 he was united in marriage to Jeannie Buechler at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton. Together they were blessed with four children. Greg farmed for many years south of Groton.



Greg was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. He was active in the choir, church council and Luther League. Greg was also involved on the East Hanson Township Board and had coached baseball in Ferney. He enjoyed fishing and watching his favorite teams play; the Green Bay Packers and the Minnesota Twins. Greg loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Jeannie of Groton, their children, Becky Clocksene of Groton, Brad (Amber) Clocksene of Central City, Nebraska, Brandon "BJ" (Alicia) Clocksene of Groton, Josh (Tanea) Clocksene of Jamestown, six grandchildren: Jaxon, Logan, Kira, Ella, Cowan and Dresden.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Honorary Urn Bearers will be all of Greg's Grandchildren.

Family requests casual dress for Greg's service.

www.paetznick-garness.com

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 29 of 70

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

	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14
Minnesota	28,523	28,869	29,316	29,795	30,172
Nebraska	15,883	16,025	16,315	16,513	16,633
Montana	554	561	563	573	588
Colorado	28,347	28,499	28,647	28,822	29,017
Wyoming	760	768	793	811	832
North Dakota	2901	2941	2980	3016	3058
South Dakota	5523	5604	5665	5742	5833
United States	1,979,971	2,000,464	2,023,347	2,048,986	2,074,526
US Deaths	112,006	112,924	113,820	114,669	115,436

Minnesota	+299	+346	+447	+479	+377
Nebraska	+131	+142	+290	+198	+120
Montana	+6	+7	+2	+10	+15
Colorado	+164	+152	+148	+175	+195
Wyoming	+12	+8	+25	+18	+21
North Dakota	+21	+40	+39	+36	+42
South Dakota	+52	+81	+62	+77	+91
United States	+19,786	+20,493	+22,883	+25,639	+25,540
US Deaths	+999	+918	+896	+849	+767

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 30 of 70

June 13th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

A female from Pennington County, age 50-59, is the latest casualty from the COVID-19 virus. That brings the state death count to 75.

Mellette County has been elevated to minimal to moderate community spread after having its first positive case. Marshall County is back to the fully recovered list.

South Dakota had more positive cases than recovered ones, 91-73, and the active cases increased by 17 to 930.

Pennington and Beadle county each had 16 cases while Charles Mix, Clay and Minnehaha county each had nine and Buffalo County had eight.

Brown County gained an active case and its recovered percentage dipped by .2 percentage point.

Brown County:

Active Cases: +1 (36)

Recovered: +2 (272)

Total Positive: +3 (310)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (16)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +35 (2102)

Percent Recovered: 87.7% (0.2 decrease)

South Dakota:

Positive: +91 (5833 total)

Negative: +1417 (58680 total)

Hospitalized: +6 (531 total) - 85 currently hospitalized (down 2 from yesterday)

Deaths: +1 (75 total)

Recovered: +73 (4828 total)

Active Cases: +17 (930)

Percent Recovered: 82.8% - No Change

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests (Lost Mellette): Bennett +2 (237), Butte +16 (354), Campbell +1 (57), Haakon 180, Harding 33, Jones 20, Perkins 71, Potter +1 (1445, unsigned +16 (5311).

Aurora: +2 recovered (25 of 33 recovered)

Beadle: +16 positive, +20 recovered (272 of 434 recovered)

Brookings: +3 recovered (23 of 26 recovered)

Brown: +3 positive, +2 recovered (272 of 310 recovered)

Brule: +2 positive (1 of 9 recovered)

Buffalo: +8 positive, +4 recovered (19 of 47 recovered)

Charles Mix: +9 positive, +1 recovered (17 of 30 recovered)

Clark: +2 positive (4 of 9 recovered)

Clay: +9 positive, +6 recovered (24 of 65 recovered)

Codington: +1 positive, +1 recovered (37 of 45 recovered)

Corson: +1 positive (3 of 10 recovered)

Davison: +1 positive, +1 recovered (23 of 32 recovered)

Faulk: +4 recovered (13 of 19 recovered)

Hamlin: +1 positive (6 of 10 recovered)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 31 of 70

Hand: +1 recovered (4 of 6 recovered)
Jackson: +1 positive (1 of 5 recovered)
Kingsburg: +1 recovered (3 of 5 recovered)
Lake: +1 recovered (11 of 14 recovered)
Lincoln: +3 positive, +1 recovered (237 of 265 recovered)
Lyman: +1 positive, +1 recovered (14 of 33 recovered)
McPherson: +1 recovered (2 of 3 recovered)
Meade: +3 positive (19 of 33 recovered)
Mellette: First Positive Case
Minnehaha: +9 positive, +9 recovered (3185 of 3467 recovered)
Pennington: +16 positive, +11 recovered (193 of 378 recovered)
Roberts: +1 recovered (33 of 40 recovered)
Todd: +1 positive (26 of 47 recovered)
Union: +1 recovered (85 of 109 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Marshall): Day 13-13, Deuel 1-1, Edmunds 4-4, Grant 13-13, Gregory 1-1, Marshall 4-4, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1, Walworth 5-5.

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 3,310 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 42 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,058.

State & private labs have reported 129,794 total completed tests.
2,630 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	653	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	940	16%
Hispanic	979	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	727	12%
Other	656	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	1878	32%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
Brown	2
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	53
Pennington	8
Todd	1
Union	1

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 32 of 70

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
▲			
Aurora	33	25	210
Beadle	434	272	1079
Bennett	0	0	237
Bon Homme	8	7	483
Brookings	26	23	1248
Brown	310	272	2102
Brule	9	1	358
Buffalo	47	19	330
Butte	0	0	354
Campbell	0	0	57
Charles Mix	30	17	398
Clark	9	4	252
Clay	65	24	750
Codington	45	37	1513
Corson	10	3	100
Custer	2	1	334
Davison	32	23	1307
Day	13	13	291
Deuel	1	1	242
Dewey	2	0	649
Douglas	4	3	246
Edmunds	4	4	243
Fall River	6	4	448
Faulk	19	13	78
Grant	13	13	361
Gregory	1	1	194
Haakon	0	0	180
Hamlin	10	6	241
Hand	6	4	155
Hanson	3	0	94
Harding	0	0	33
Hughes	21	17	824
Hutchinson	8	6	549

Hyde	3	1	71
Jackson	5	1	252
Jerauld	40	34	209
Jones	0	0	20
Kingsbury	5	3	326
Lake	14	11	518
Lawrence	12	11	1015
Lincoln	265	237	3468
Lyman	33	14	437
Marshall	4	4	164
McCook	8	5	381
McPherson	3	2	126
Meade	33	19	946
Mellette	1	0	120
Miner	3	2	143
Minnehaha	3467	3185	16139
Moody	20	17	380
Oglala Lakota	45	22	1268
Pennington	378	193	4913
Perkins	0	0	71
Potter	0	0	145
Roberts	40	33	795
Sanborn	13	12	160
Spink	5	5	579
Stanley	11	9	107
Sully	1	1	37
Todd	47	26	634
Tripp	7	6	227
Turner	25	23	512
Union	109	85	996
Walworth	5	5	349
Yankton	58	48	1827
Ziebach	2	1	94
Unassigned****	0	0	5311

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
▲		
Female	2789	41
Male	3044	34

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
▲		
0-19 years	586	0
20-29 years	1186	1
30-39 years	1285	3
40-49 years	966	5
50-59 years	934	11
60-69 years	526	13
70-79 years	180	6
80+ years	170	36

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 33 of 70

2020 Groton Baseball Schedule

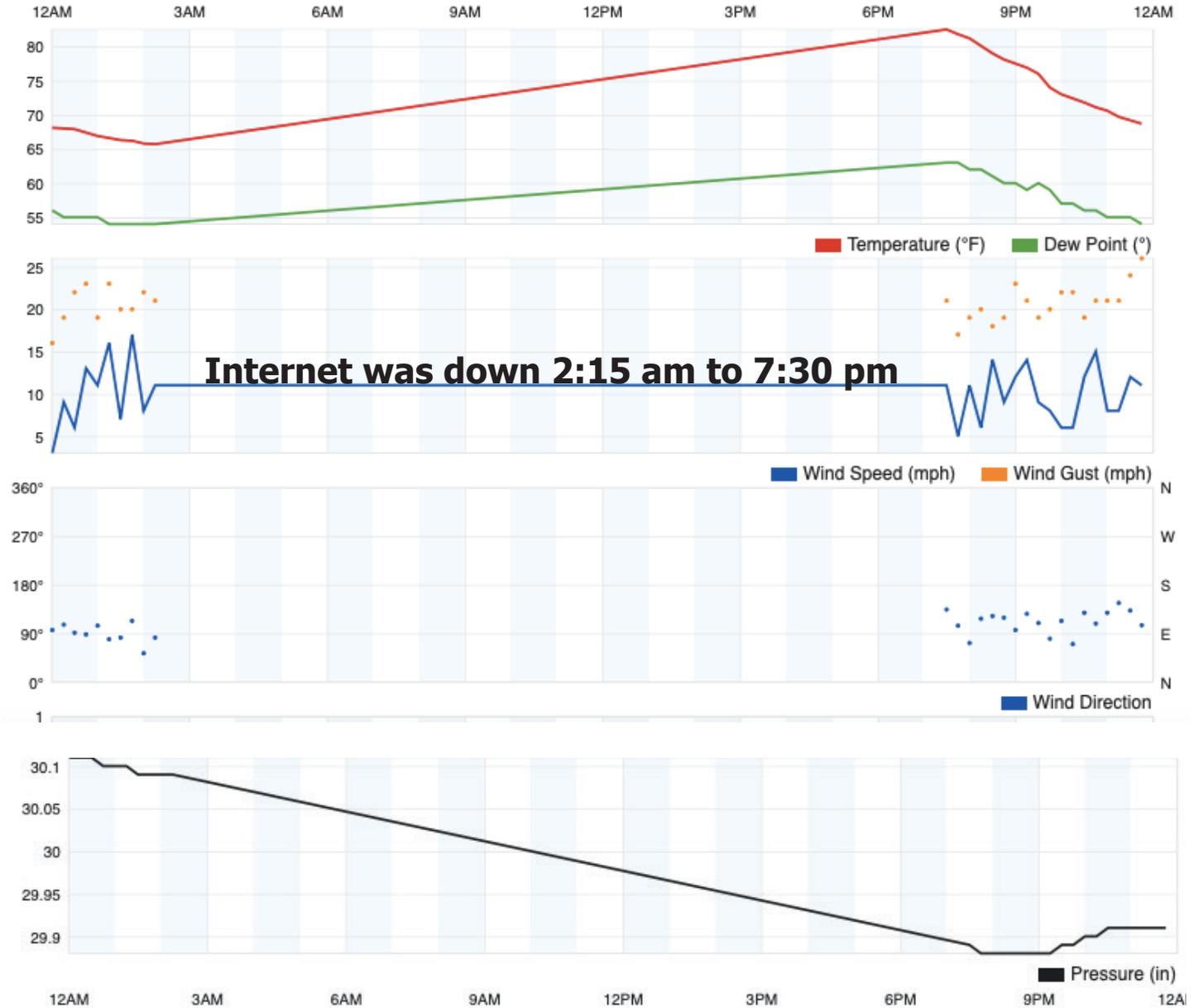
Updated June 13, 2020

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)

Groton Daily Independent

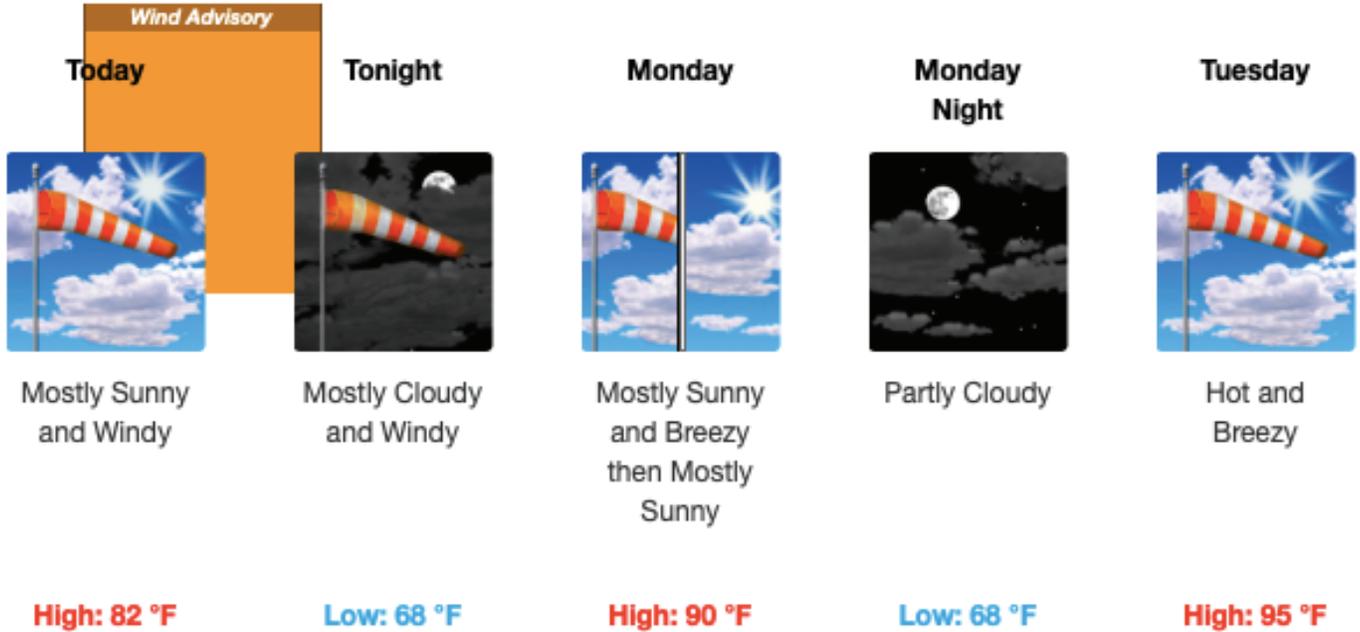
Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 34 of 70

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

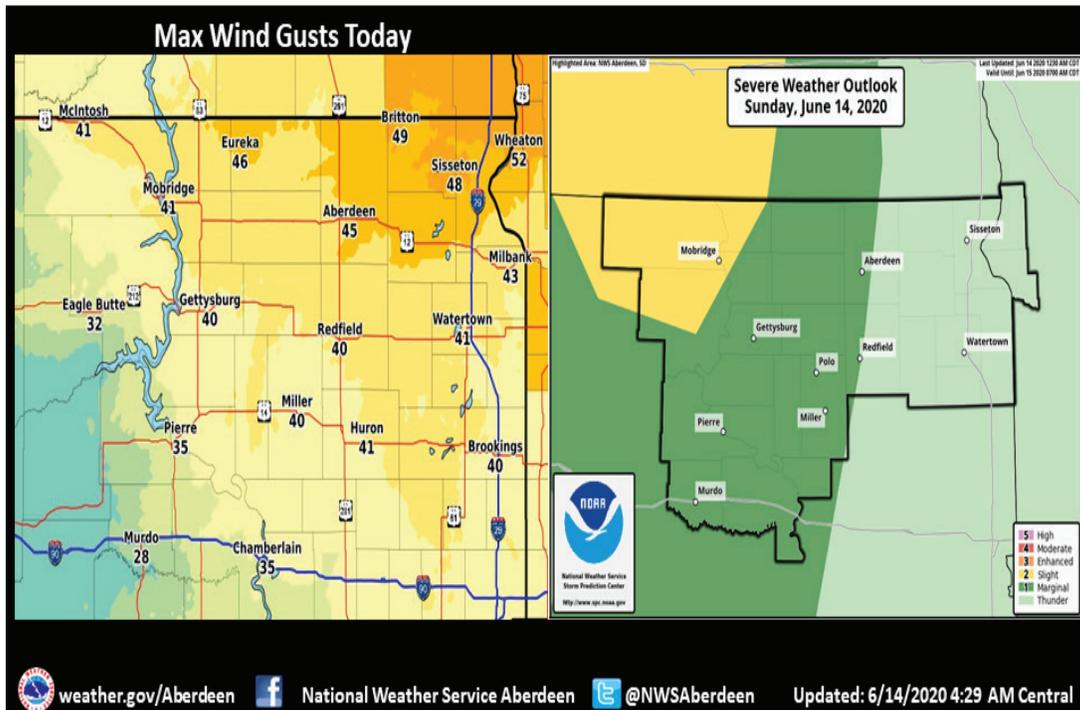


Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 35 of 70



Windy Today With Possible Storms



Gusty winds continue this morning and are expected to increase by afternoon. Wind gusts 40-50 mph are possible, especially in north central and northeast SD. There is also potential for isolated storms today, possibly severe, with the best chances in north central SD.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 36 of 70

Today in Weather History

June 14, 1970: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from just southeast of Mound City. Barns and sheds were said to have been blown away on three farms.

June 14, 1985: A thunderstorm produced golf ball size hail in the Castlewood area causing considerable damage to grain, corn, soybeans, and gardens. Some areas just south of Castlewood had hail piled up to six inches deep. Leaves were stripped from several trees. Wind gusts to 60 mph accompanied the hail.

Another thunderstorm produced high winds and damaging hail in Grant and Roberts Counties. North of Milbank along both sides of Highway 15, crops incurred considerable damage. An area 17 miles northeast of Sisseton into Browns Valley, to Mud Lake, saw crop damage from golf ball size hail.

June 14, 2009: An upper-level disturbance combined with a warm front and very unstable air brought severe thunderstorms to parts of central and north-central South Dakota. Hail up to the size of golf balls, flash flooding, along with several tornadoes occurred with these storms. Heavy rain caused flash flooding on the Moreau River with the bridge on Route 14 being overtopped. The bridge had to be closed west of Green Grass. A basement was also flooded three miles east of Green Grass along with several roads in the area in Dewey County. A tornado touched down west of Hayes in Stanley County and traveled almost a mile before lifting. No damage occurred. A second tornado touched down east of Hayes with no damage occurring.

1903: Major flash flooding along Willow Creek destroyed a significant portion of Heppner, Oregon on this day. With a death toll of 247 people, it remains the deadliest natural disaster in Oregon.

1961 - The temperature in Downtown San Francisco, CA, soared to 106 degrees to establish an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, tied their record for June, and the high of 101 at Milwaukee WI marked their first 100 degree reading in 32 years. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to South Texas, drenching McAllen with 3.2 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm soaked the town of Uncertain with 2.3 inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thirty cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central Gulf States to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region during the day and into the night. There were 62 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds caused 28 million dollars damage in Montgomery County MD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

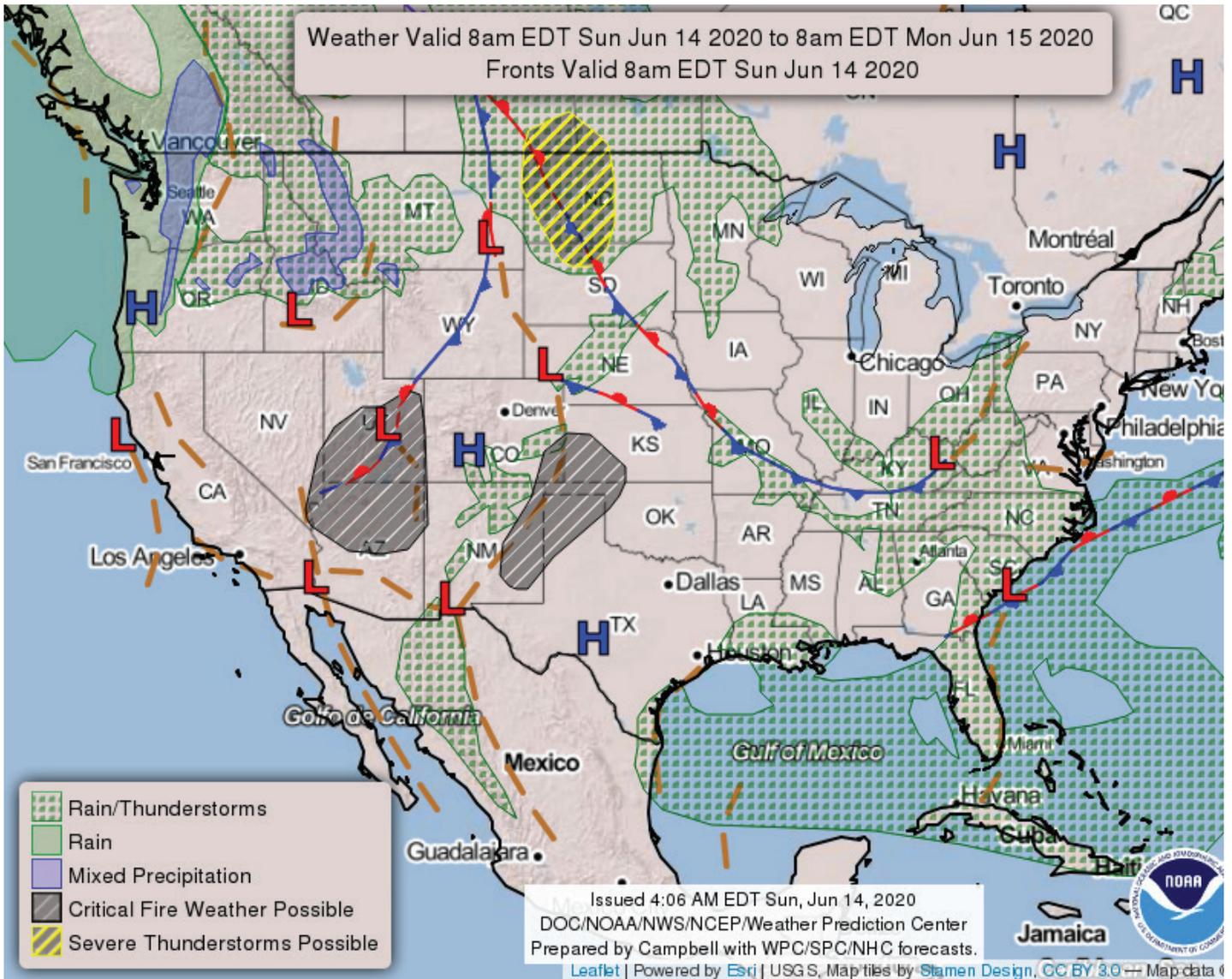
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 37 of 70

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 88 °F at 4:08 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 4:56 AM
Wind: 41 mph
Precip: .00

Record High: 99° in 1933
Record Low: 34° in 1969
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 53°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.56
Precip to date in June.: 1.75
Average Precip to date: 8.70
Precip Year to Date: 6.38
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 38 of 70



WORDS OF WISDOM

Thomas Edison is recognized as being one of the greatest inventors who ever lived. He is credited with over 1,200 inventions, including the light bulb and the first "talking machine"- now what we call movies. He was the founder of General Electric and greatly influenced the quality of life for everyone.

Edison was one who was known to be very conscious of the value of time. On one occasion the person introducing him as a featured speaker at a large gathering did not know when to end his remarks. He spoke endlessly of his creative genius, his ability to see things others did not see, and the great future for his "talking machine."

When he finally stopped talking, Edison stood up and said, "Thank you for your kind words. But I must correct you. God invented the "first talking machine." I only invented the first one that can be shut off."

" Let your conversation be gracious and effective," said Paul, "so that you will have the right answer for everyone." A wise warning for Christians who want to witness the grace of God in a way that will draw others to Christ.

Christians are ineffective if we act offensive and arrogant. We must always be gracious and humble if we want others to hear and accept God's message of salvation and hope.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that the "grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ" will always be obvious in our speech and conduct as we represent You to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive[a] so that you will have the right response for everyone. Colossians 4:5-6

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 39 of 70

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
- 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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 40 of 70

News from the  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

10-12-13-25-33

(ten, twelve, thirteen, twenty-five, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

03-16-26-29-40, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(three, sixteen, twenty-six, twenty-nine, forty; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$3 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Powerball

02-12-32-50-65, Powerball: 5, Power Play: 3

(two, twelve, thirty-two, fifty, sixty-five; Powerball: five; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Rapid City to review business restrictions due to COVID-19

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Council is deciding whether to leave business restrictions due to the coronavirus in place for another month or leave the option open to business owners.

The council passed emergency restrictions at the end of April that required restaurants, bars and other businesses serving customers to engage in certain practices meant to slow the spread of the virus. That includes cutting capacity in half, configuring tables to meet social distancing guidelines and requiring face masks for food service workers.

The council is scheduled to discuss the options Monday, the Rapid City Journal reported. If extended, the restrictions would stay in place until July 10.

Meanwhile, state health department officials reported Saturday that a woman in her 50s from Pennington County is the 75th person in the state to die from the virus. It is the eighth COVID-19 death in the county, which includes Rapid City.

The update showed 91 new positive tests, lifting the state's total to 5,833.

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 infant dies after he was attacked by family dog

HARTFORD, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 6-week-old boy in southeastern South Dakota died after he was attacked by a dog.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office said authorities responded to a call Thursday in Hartford, northwest of Sioux Falls, and discovered the infant with "several bite wounds." The child was taken by helicopter to a hospital, where he died of his injuries.

The dog, a Belgian Malinois, was a family pet, according to the sheriff's office. It was taken by the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 41 of 70

Protesters in US call attention to deaths of more black men

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **ED WHITE** Associated Press

Protests initially ignited by the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police continued over the weekend, as anti-racism protesters in the United States sought to call attention to the deaths of two more black men and Black Lives Matter demonstrations unfolded in London and Paris.

Early Sunday, Atlanta police announced that an officer, Garrett Wolfe, had been fired following the fatal shooting of Rayshard Brooks, 27, on Friday night, and another officer, Devin Brosnan, had been placed on administrative duty. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms has called for the immediate firing of the officer who opened fire on Brooks at a press conference Saturday evening, where she also announced that she had accepted the resignation of Police Chief Erika Shields.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force," Bottoms said.

Roughly 150 protesters marched outside the Wendy's restaurant outside where Brooks was shot, re-igniting demonstrations that had largely simmered in the Georgia capital nearly three weeks after Floyd, another black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck. Both Wolfe and Brosnan are white.

The Wendy's was set aflame at one point Saturday night, although the fire was out before midnight. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said that Brooks, who was seen on body camera video sleeping in a car blocking the Wendy's drive thru, failed a sobriety test and was shot in a struggle over a police Taser.

Stacey Abrams, the Georgia Democrat who gained national prominence running for governor in 2018, tweeted that "sleeping in a drive-thru must not end in death."

In Palmdale, California, hundreds of people on Saturday marched to demand an investigation into the death of Robert Fuller, 24, who was found hanging from a tree early Wednesday near city hall. The protesters marched from where the body was found to a sheriff's station, with many carrying signs that said "Justice for Robert Fuller."

Authorities said the death appeared to be a suicide, but an autopsy was planned. The city said there were no outdoor cameras that could have recorded what happened.

Fuller's death has brought to light the death of another black man found hanging from a tree on May 31 in Victorville, a desert city 45 miles (72 kilometers) east of Palmdale. A sheriff's spokeswoman, Jodi Miller, told Victor Valley News foul play was not suspected in 38-year-old Malcolm Harsch's death but the man's family said they were concerned it will be ruled a suicide to avoid further attention.

Protesters in New Orleans tore down a bust of a slave owner who left part of his fortune to New Orleans' schools and then took the remains to the Mississippi River and rolled it down the banks into the water.

The police did not identify the bust but it was of John McDonogh. Mayor LaToya Cantrell said in a tweet that the city "rejects vandalism and destruction of City property. It is unlawful." The toppling of McDonogh's bust was yet another episode in the rapidly unfolding movement to take down Confederate statues in the U.S. and reassess monuments to historical figures worldwide.

Members of the Clemson University football team led hundreds of demonstrators on the school's campus in South Carolina. The march came a day after Clemson trustees voted to rename its honors college, stripping from the program the name of former vice president and slavery proponent John C. Calhoun.

European protesters sought to show solidarity with their American counterparts and to confront bias in their own countries on Saturday. The demonstrations also posed a challenge to policies intended to limit crowds to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

In Paris, police stopped protesters from confronting far-right activists who unfurled a huge banner from a building denouncing "anti-white racism." The banner was partly torn down by residents in the building, with one raising a fist in victory.

A Black Lives Matter group in London called off a demonstration, saying the presence of counter-protesters would make it unsafe. Right-wing activists and soccer fans descended on the U.K. capital, saying they wanted to guard historical monuments that have been targeted by anti-racism protesters.

Many gathered around the statue of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the Cenotaph war

memorial, which were boarded up Friday to protect them from vandalism. Officials feared far-right activists would seek confrontations with anti-racism protesters under the guise of protecting statues.

The statue of Churchill had been daubed with the words "was a racist." Prime Minister Boris Johnson called Churchill a hero but acknowledged that he "sometimes expressed opinions that were and are unacceptable to us today."

Some activists threw bottles and cans at officers, while others tried to push through police barriers. The mostly white crowd chanted "England" and sang the national anthem while riot police on horses pushed them back.

A rally in Paris drew 15,000, led by supporters of Adama Traore, a French black man who died in police custody in 2016. No one has been charged in his death. Police fired tear gas and blocked people from marching.

An enormous portrait showed one face with images of Floyd and Traore. Banners strung between trees around Republique plaza bore the names of dozens of others who have died or suffered violence at the hands of French police.

Myriam Boicoulin, 31, who was born on the French Caribbean island of Martinique, said she marched because she wanted to be heard.

As a black woman living in mainland France, she said, "I'm constantly obliged to adapt, to make compromises, not make waves — to be almost white, in fact."

"It's the first time people see us," Boicoulin said. "Let us breathe."

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia, and White reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Sylvia Hui in London, Arno Pedram in Paris and Rebecca Santana in New Orleans also contributed to this report.

Atlanta officer fired after fatal shooting of black man

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **BRYNN ANDERSON** The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — An Atlanta police officer was fired following the fatal shooting of a black man and another officer was placed on administrative duty, the police department announced early Sunday.

The move follows the Saturday resignation of Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields, who stepped down as the Friday night killing of Rayshard Brooks, 27, sparked a new wave of protests in Atlanta after turbulent demonstrations following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police had simmered down.

The terminated officer was identified as Garrett Rolfe, who was hired in October 2013, and the officer placed on administrative duty is Devin Brosnan, who was hired in September 2018, according to a release from police spokesperson Sgt. John Chafee.

The police department also released body camera and dash camera footage from both officers.

More than 40 minutes elapses between the time Brosnan first knocks on Brooks' car door while he's in Wendy's drive-thru and when gunshots ring out; Rolfe arrives on scene about 16 minutes in. The shooting is audible in footage from Rolfe's dash camera and both officers' body cameras, but wasn't captured on any of the four recordings provided by police. Both body cameras fall off during the struggle that ensues when Rolfe moves to handcuff Brooks after speaking to him for about 20 minutes, although Brooks is briefly glimpsed being Tased before he's shot.

Protesters on Saturday night set fire to the Wendy's restaurant where Brooks was fatally shot the night before and blocked traffic on a nearby highway. The fire was out by 11:30 p.m., but video from local news stations showed it again aflame around 4 a.m. Sunday. Atlanta police said 36 people were arrested at protests as of midnight.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced the police chief's resignation at a Saturday afternoon news conference, and had called for the immediate firing of the officer who opened fire.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force," Bottoms said.

She said it was Shields' own decision to step aside and that she would remain with the city in an undetermined role. Interim Corrections Chief Rodney Bryant will serve as interim police chief.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 43 of 70

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is probing the shooting, said the deadly confrontation started with a complaint that a man was sleeping in a car blocking the restaurant's drive-thru lane. The GBI said Brooks failed a field sobriety test and then resisted officers' attempts to arrest him.

Rolfe is seen on body camera video administering the field sobriety test, followed by a Breathalyzer test with Brooks' permission. He moves to arrest Brooks after the Breathalyzer test; while he doesn't tell Brooks the result, the machine displays a 0.108 in video captured by Rolfe's own body camera.

The GBI released security camera video of the shooting Saturday, which does not show Brooks' initial struggle with police. The footage shows a man running from two white police officers as he raises a hand, which is holding an object, toward an officer a few steps behind him. The officer draws his gun and fires as the man keeps running, then falls to the ground in the parking lot.

GBI Director Vic Reynolds said Brooks had grabbed a Taser from one officer and appeared to point it at the officer as he fled. The officer fired an estimated three shots.

L. Chris Stewart, an attorney for Brooks' family, said the officer who shot him should be charged for "an unjustified use of deadly force, which equals murder."

"You can't have it both ways in law enforcement," Stewart said. "You can't say a Taser is a nonlethal weapon ... but when an African American grabs it and runs with it, now it's some kind of deadly, lethal weapon that calls for you to unload on somebody."

He said Brooks was a father of four and had celebrated a daughter's eighth birthday Friday before he was killed.

The shooting came at a time of heightened tension over police brutality and calls for reforms across the U.S. following the May 25 death of Floyd in Minneapolis.

Demonstrators, including members of Brooks' family, gathered Saturday outside the restaurant where he was shot.

Among those protesting was Crystal Brooks, who said she is Rayshard Brooks' sister-in-law.

"He wasn't causing anyone any harm," she said. "The police went up to the car and even though the car was parked they pulled him out of the car and started tussling with him."

She added: "He did grab the Taser, but he just grabbed the Taser and ran."

Shields, Atlanta's police chief for under four years, was initially praised in the days following Floyd's death. She said the officers involved should go to prison and told demonstrators she understood their frustrations and fears. She appeared at Bottoms' side as the mayor made an impassioned plea for protesters to go home when things turned violent with smashed storefronts and police cruisers set ablaze.

Days later, Shields fired two officers and benched three others caught on video in a hostile confrontation with two college students whose car was stuck in traffic caused by protests. The officers fired Tasers at the pair and dragged them from the vehicle. When prosecutors later charged six of the officers involved, however, Shields openly questioned the charges.

The shooting of Brooks two weeks later raised further questions about the Atlanta department.

"It is time for the city to move forward and build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve," Shields said in a statement.

Reynolds said his agents will turn over results of their investigation to Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, whose office will decide whether criminal charges are warranted against either officer.

Howard said Saturday his office "has already launched an intense, independent investigation of the incident."

Brooks died after being taken to an Atlanta hospital. One of the officers was treated and released for unspecified injuries.

This story has been corrected to report that the last name of the officer placed on administrative duty is Brosnan, not Bronsan as Atlanta police initially announced.

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. Associated Press writer Pat Eaton-Robb in Hartford, Connecti-

cut, contributed to this report.

The Latest: Italians deface statue tied to colonial past

By The Associated Press undefined

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- Italians deface statue of journalist who had 12-year-old Eritrean bride.
- French police protest in Paris, saying accusations of racism unfair.
- UK police arrest over 100 after violent right-wing protest in London.
- Atlanta police officer fired after fatal shooting of Rayshard Brooks.
- Bust of slave owner torn down, thrown in river in New Orleans.

MILAN — Protesters have scrawled “rapist” and “racist” on the statue of a late Italian journalist who had acknowledged having had a 12-year-old Eritrean bride while stationed in the Italian colony in the 1930s.

The statue of Indro Montanelli, inside a Milan park that bears his name, has been a flashpoint in Italy’s Black Lives Matters protests, which have put renewed focus on Italy’s colonial past. Activists are also pushing for Italy to grant automatic citizenship to those born in Italy to parents who are permanent residents.

Montanelli, who died in 2001 at 92, was one of Italy’s most revered journalists, honored by the Vienna-based International Press Institute in 2000 as among the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes. A noted war correspondent, he chronicled contemporary Italy from its colonial era through fascism, Italy’s postwar reconstruction and the anti-corruption scandals that overturned Italy’s political class in the 1990s. .

In 1977, he was shot four times in the legs by the Red Brigade domestic terror group. He also mentored many of today’s top Italian journalists.

PARIS — French police officers held a small overnight protest at the Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris amid police anger over what they call unfair accusations of racism and brutality.

A few dozen officers lay their handcuffs on the ground and surrounded the landmark with patrol cars, blue lights flashing to call attention to their cause, in images broadcast on French media and shared on social networks. Police unions held similar protests last week.

The Arc de Triomphe action came hours after at least 15,000 people demonstrated across town against racial injustice and police violence targeting minorities. The protest was among many in France in recent weeks inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and George Floyd’s death in the U.S.

In response to those protests, the French government on Monday banned police chokeholds and promised new efforts to root out racism in police ranks.

Police unions have pushed back, saying they need tools to apprehend unruly suspects and that painting the force as systemically racist risks worsening tensions in ethnically diverse neighborhoods. They also say they feel abandoned by a government they defended against violent yellow vest protesters.

The Arc de Triomphe was a flashpoint of tensions between police and protesters during the yellow vest anti-government movement for economic justice in 2018-2019.

LONDON — British police say they have arrested more than 100 people after protesters, including far-right activists, clashed with officers in London.

Hundreds of right-wing activists turned out for demonstrations Saturday in London, with many saying they wanted to “protect” monuments and statues targeted recently by anti-racism protesters for links to slavery and British colonialism.

The protests, which were attended by far-right groups including Britain First, turned violent when some scuffled with riot police and others hurled bottles, flares and smoke grenades at officers. Six police officers suffered minor injuries.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the violence, saying “racist thuggery has no place on our streets.”

An official Black Lives Matter protest, originally planned for Saturday, had been called off over fears of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 45 of 70

conflict with right-wing activists. Some anti-racism protesters demonstrated mostly peacefully in separate locations.

Police said a 28-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of outraging public decency after a protester was pictured apparently urinating on a London memorial dedicated to Keith Palmer, a policeman stabbed to death in a 2017 terror attack.

ATLANTA — An Atlanta police officer has been fired following the fatal shooting of 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks, and a second officer has been placed on administrative leave.

Atlanta police announced the termination of Garrett Rolfe early Sunday, a move that follows the Saturday resignation of Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms had called for the officer who shot Brooks on Friday night to be fired, saying she didn't think it was "justified use of deadly force." The officer placed on administrative leave is Devin Brosnan.

The killing of Brooks sparked a new wave of protests in Atlanta, where demonstrations following the May 25 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis had largely simmered down. The Wendy's restaurant outside where Brooks was fatally shot was set ablaze Saturday night, although the fire was out by 11:30 p.m.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is handling the shooting probe and will turn over results to the Fulton County District Attorney's office to decide if charges against Rolfe or Brosnan are warranted.

CLEMSON, S.C. -- Members of the Clemson University football team led hundreds of demonstrators on the school's campus Saturday as they marched for equality and against police brutality.

The demonstration included a moment of silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time prosecutors say George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was pinned to the ground with his neck under a white Minneapolis police officer's knee before he died last month.

"This is a historic time, and a challenging time," head football coach Dabo Swinney told the crowd. "But as I tell my team all the time, challenge is what creates change. ... Black lives more than matter — black lives significantly matter and equally matter. For far too long that has not been the case for the black community."

The protest was organized by quarterback Trevor Lawrence, linebacker Mike Jones Jr., wide receiver Cornell Powell and running back Darien Rencher, according to news outlets.

The march came a day after Clemson trustees voted to rename its honors college, stripping from the program the name of former vice president and slavery proponent John C. Calhoun.

Calhoun, who was born in South Carolina, declared slavery a "positive good" on the U.S. Senate floor in 1837.

Before the administrators' vote, an online petition by students calling for the name to be changed drew more than 20,000 signatures. Clemson football alumni and one-time Houston Texans teammates DeAndre Hopkins and Deshaun Watson voiced support for the petition on social media.

NEW ORLEANS -- Protesters tore down a bust of a slave owner who left part of his fortune to New Orleans' schools, and then they took the remains to the Mississippi River and rolled it down the banks into the water.

The destruction Saturday is part of a nationwide effort to remove monuments to the Confederacy or with links to slavery as the country grapples with widespread protests against police brutality toward African Americans.

Police said in a statement Saturday that demonstrators at Duncan Plaza, which is directly across the street from City Hall, dragged the bust into the streets, loaded it onto trucks and took it to the Mississippi River where they threw it in. Two people who were driving the trucks transporting the bust were apprehended by police and taken to police headquarters, authorities said. Their names were not given in the statement.

The police did not identify the bust, but local media identified it as one depicting John McDonogh. When he died, McDonogh left a large portion of his money to New Orleans and Baltimore for schools, and many schools in New Orleans are named after him.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 46 of 70

Video on social media showed dozens surrounding the bust, which sat on a pedestal while some people pulled on a rope tied to the bust and another hit it. As the bust tilts and then crashes to the ground the crowd cheers. Another video posted on social media shows a crowd watching as the bust is rolled down the rocky banks of the Mississippi River and into the water.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell said in a tweet that the city "rejects vandalism and destruction of City property. It is unlawful."

Follow all AP coverage of protests against racial injustice and police brutality at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>.

Yankee go home: What does moving troops out of Germany mean?

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — After more than a year of thinly-veiled threats to start pulling U.S. troops out of Germany unless Berlin increases its defense spending, President Donald Trump appears to be proceeding with a hardball approach, planning to cut the U.S. military contingent by more than 25%.

About 34,500 American troops are stationed in Germany — 50,000 including civilian Department of Defense employees — and the plan Trump reportedly signed off on last week envisions reducing active-duty personnel to 25,000 by September, with further cuts possible.

But as details of the still-unannounced plan trickle out, there's growing concerns it will do more to harm the U.S.'s own global military readiness and the NATO alliance than punish Germany.

The decision was not discussed with Germany or other NATO members, and Congress was not officially informed — prompting a letter from 22 Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee urging a rethink.

"The threats posed by Russia have not lessened, and we believe that signs of a weakened U.S. commitment to NATO will encourage further Russian aggression and opportunism," Rep. Mac Thornberry of Texas wrote in a letter to Trump with his colleagues. Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, slammed Trump's move as "another favor" to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But Richard Grenell, who resigned as U.S. ambassador to Germany two weeks ago, told Germany's Bild newspaper that "nobody should be surprised that Donald Trump is withdrawing troops."

Grenell, who declined to comment for this article, said he and others had been pushing for Germany to increase its defense spending and had talked about troop withdrawals since last summer.

"Donald Trump was very clear we want to bring troops home," he said, adding: "there's still going to be 25,000 American troops in Germany."

The suggestion that removing troops will punish Germany, however, overlooks the fact that American troops are no longer primarily there for the country's defense, said retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who commanded U.S. Army Europe from 2014 until 2017.

Gone are the days when hundreds of thousands of American troops were ready to fight in the streets of Berlin or rush into the strategic Fulda Gap, through which Soviet armor was poised to push into West Germany during the Cold War.

"The troops and capabilities that the U.S. has deployed in Europe are not there to specifically defend Germany, they are part of our contribution to overall collective stability and security in Europe," said Hodges, now a strategic expert with the Center for European Policy Analysis, a Washington-based institute.

American facilities include Ramstein Air Base, a critical hub for operations in the Mideast and Africa and headquarters to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa; the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, which has saved the lives of countless Americans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan; and the Stuttgart headquarters of both the U.S. European Command and the U.S. Africa Command. There's also the Wiesbaden headquarters of U.S. Army Europe, the Spangdahlem F-16 fighter base and the Grafenwoehr Training Area, NATO's largest training facility in Europe.

Hodges said the facilities are a critical part of America's global military footprint.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 47 of 70

"What's lost in all this is the benefit to the United States of having forward deployed capabilities that we can use not only for deterrence ... but for employment elsewhere," he said. "The base in Ramstein is not there for the U.S. to defend Europe. It's there as a forward base for us to be able to fly into Africa, the Middle East."

Trump indicated last summer that he was thinking of moving some troops from Germany to Poland, telling Poland's President Andrzej Duda during an Oval Office meeting: "Germany is not living up to what they're supposed to be doing with respect to NATO, and Poland is."

Duda has been trying to woo more American forces, even suggesting Poland would contribute over \$2 billion to create a permanent U.S. base — which he said could be named "Fort Trump." In the current plan, at least some Germany-based troops are expected to be shifted to Poland.

Following Trump's comments last June, U.S. Ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher tweeted Aug. 8 that "Poland meets its 2% of GDP spending obligation towards NATO. Germany does not. We would welcome American troops in Germany to come to Poland."

Grenell then tweeted: "it is offensive to assume that the U.S. taxpayers will continue to pay for more than 50,000 Americans in #Germany, but the Germans get to spend their surplus on #domestic programs."

In response, Chancellor Angela Merkel reiterated Germany's commitment to "work toward" the 2% NATO defense spending benchmark — a goal it hopes to meet in 2031.

"There is a lot invested here, and I think that we, in very friendly talks, will naturally always continue to heartily welcome these American soldiers, and there are also good reasons for them to be stationed here," she said.

NATO members agreed at a 2014 summit to "aim to move toward" spending 2% of GDP on defense. Since then, the year Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, overall NATO defense spending has grown annually.

Since his election in 2016, Trump has pushed for the 2% as a hard target, and repeatedly singled out Germany as a major offender, though many others are also below the goal.

NATO figures put Germany's estimated defense spending for 2019 at 1.4%, and Poland's at 2%. In dollar terms, however, Germany committed nearly \$54 billion last year — NATO's third-largest budget after the U.S. and Britain — while Poland spent slightly less than \$12 billion.

Germany does need to spend more, Hodges said, but U.S. and NATO interests would be better served if Washington pushed Berlin to spend on broader military needs, like transportation infrastructure, cyber protection and air defense, that would be easier for Merkel's government to justify to a largely pacifist population.

"We don't need more German tanks, we need more German trains," he said. "Why not be a little bit more strategic and think about what the alliance really needs from Germany?"

Russia's low virus death toll still raises questions in West

By DARIA LITVINOVA and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — When Leonid Shlykov's father, Sergei, died in a Moscow hospital last month after 11 days on a ventilator, the death certificate listed the coronavirus as an underlying condition but not the actual cause of death.

"Yes, he was suffering from impaired kidney function and diabetes, but if it hadn't been for COVID-19, he would've been alive," the son wrote on Facebook. "If we had known the real number of infections and deaths ... it would have helped us make the decision to hospitalize (dad) earlier."

The way Russia counts fatalities during the coronavirus pandemic could be one reason why its official death toll of 6,948 is far below many other countries, even as it has reported nearly 529,000 infections, behind only the United States and Brazil.

The paradox also has led to allegations by critics and Western media that Russian authorities might have falsified the numbers for political purposes to play down the scale of the outbreak. Even a top World Health Organization official said the low number of deaths in Russia "certainly is unusual."

Russian authorities have bristled at the suggestions.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 48 of 70

"We have never manipulated the official statistics," said Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova.

Finding the true numbers during the pandemic is difficult, since countries count cases and deaths in different ways and testing for the virus is uneven.

Still, several factors could contribute to Russia's low virus mortality rate, including the way it counts deaths, a tendency among some officials to embellish statistics, its vast geography and the shorter life expectancy of its population.

An autopsy is mandatory in Russia in every confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, with a determination on the cause of death made by a commission of specialists, said Dr. Natalia Belitchenko, a pathologist in the medical examiner's office in the region around St. Petersburg.

She deals with coronavirus deaths almost daily, but said only about 20% of them have been attributed to COVID-19. In other cases, the virus was determined to be an underlying condition.

"In the vast majority of cases, the pneumonia itself wouldn't have led to death, had the underlying conditions not flared up to a point of becoming fatal," she told The Associated Press.

Unlike Russia, some countries' official death count includes those who had COVID-19 but died from other causes, said Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Program.

"It will be important that the Russian authorities review the way in which death certification is done to reassure themselves that they are accurately certifying deaths in the appropriate way," he said.

Death counts vary around the world because countries underreported the number of COVID-19 deaths early on, said Ali Mokdad, professor at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. They ascribed virus deaths to other causes due to insufficient testing or initially only counted deaths in hospitals, he added.

Some countries also are overcounting by including "presumptive deaths" — those who likely died of COVID-19 but were never tested for it, Mokdad said.

What sets Russia apart, however, is a habit of obscuring embarrassing truths, said Judy Twigg, a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The way mortality data is recorded in Russia is affected by a Soviet-era tradition of setting future targets for improving public health through efforts to reduce mortality from certain reasons, such as alcoholism or tuberculosis.

Health officials "shift the way they code causes of death in order to try to meet those targets," Twigg said.

Pathologists told AP there is pressure from hospital administrators to produce better-looking reports.

Requests and instructions to obscure certain causes of death in postmortems are "an inevitable part of our job," said a pathologist in Siberia who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Data analysts say inconsistencies in Russia's virus statistics suggest manipulation, such as regions reporting similar numbers of new cases for several days in a row, or the number of deaths in regional reports differing from those in federal reports.

"I don't trust official statistics, and I believe I have reasons not to," Boris Ovchinnikov, director of the Moscow-based Data Insight research agency, told the AP. "But we don't have any good alternative indicators for assessing the real situation."

Among the anomalies:

— The governor of the Lipetsk region in southwestern Russia was recorded telling subordinates last month that "numbers need to be changed, otherwise our region will be judged poorly."

— In the Altai region in southern Siberia, a task force posted a daily infection update containing the words "for approval" addressed to the provincial governor. It quickly erased the words after it was reported on social media.

— Unusual spikes in pneumonia deaths indicate possibility more virus deaths than officially reported by mid-May: St. Petersburg reported 694 pneumonia deaths, with 63 from coronavirus; the North Caucasus republic of Dagestan reported 657 pneumonia deaths and 29 from coronavirus.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 49 of 70

"Without doubt, there have been manipulations with statistics on the regional level," said Gleb Pavlovsky, an independent analyst and former Kremlin political consultant, adding that it seems they did it "on their own initiative."

At the same time, he noted that a decrease in cases was a key factor for holding two big events on the Kremlin agenda that were postponed by the virus: a massive Red Square parade for the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II and a vote on constitutional amendments that could extend President Vladimir Putin's rule until 2036.

Citing a slowdown in infections, Putin ordered the parade for June 24 and the vote for July 1. Most regions, including Moscow, also recently lifted tight lockdowns imposed in March even though daily numbers of new infections have remained high, hovering around 9,000.

In a bid to dispel claims of underreporting mortality, the government released updated statistics for April showing patients who died of other causes while testing positive for the virus, as well as those who tested negative but likely died of it.

If those were counted as coronavirus deaths, mortality would have been 60% higher than announced. Authorities insist they shouldn't be included in the official toll, but even if all extra deaths recently reported by federal and Moscow officials were added, it would still be around 11,000.

Russian officials credit early quarantine measures and quick expansion of hospital capacity that prevented the health care system from being overwhelmed. They also cite more than 14 million tests that helped spot asymptomatic cases that account for more than 40% of all recent infections in the country of 146.7 million.

Officials noted that infections in Russia peaked later than in Europe, and deaths are now climbing more quickly.

Experts say Russia's statistical gaps may result from its outdated system of collecting mortality data: In many regions, a death certificate must be delivered by a relative to a local civil registry office. Many of those offices were closed or had limited hours due to coronavirus lockdowns.

"So what we're seeing now is insufficient data in many regions," said Alexei Raksha, an independent demographer.

He said data from civil registries he studied showed that some regions reported fewer deaths in April than in previous years. Deaths were five times lower in the southern republic of Ingushetia, while in Krasnodar, they fell by about 1,500 from the monthly average, a record low.

"Some people just bury their relatives without going to the civil registration office," Raksha said.

Researchers expect most of these gaps to be filled in next year, when the Russian State Statistics Service issues its annual report.

Raksha said Russia's few virus deaths could also be due to less-frequent travel across the vast country, its low population density and lower social mobility. He also said because the country has a much lower life expectancy than the West, it has fewer elderly targets for the virus.

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

China, Korea, Egypt report rise in virus cases as curbs ease

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China reported its highest daily total of new coronavirus cases in two months on Sunday and infections in South Korea rose, showing how the disease can come back as curbs on business and travel are lifted.

Elsewhere, governments including Egypt, Ukraine and North Macedonia have reported their highest single-day totals of new infections since Friday. In the United States, case numbers are rising in some states as President Donald Trump pushes to reopen businesses despite warnings by public health experts.

The world is seeing more than 100,000 newly confirmed cases every day, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 50 of 70

China had 57 new confirmed cases in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday, the National Health Commission reported. That was the highest since mid-April and included 36 in the capital, Beijing, a city of 20 million people.

Beijing's cases all were linked to its biggest wholesale food market, which was shut down Saturday, the official China News Service reported, citing the city's disease control agency. It said 27 worked there and nine had direct or indirect exposure to it.

The Xinfadi market was closed after 50 people tested positive for the virus in the Chinese capital's first confirmed cases in 50 days.

China, where the pandemic began in December, and other countries that suffered early on including South Korea, Italy and Spain have seen numbers of new infections decline. Brazil, India, the United States and other countries are seeing large increases.

China responded to the outbreak with the world's most intensive anti-disease controls, isolating cities with some 60 million people and shutting down much of its economy. Those steps were later imitated by some other governments.

The ruling Communist party eased most limits on business and travel after declaring victory over the disease in March. Some curbs still are in place including a ban on most foreign travelers arriving in the country.

On Saturday, authorities in Beijing locked down 11 residential communities near the Xinfadi market. White fencing sealed off a road leading to apartment building. Drivers were required to show identification to enter the area.

South Korea's government reported 34 more cases, adding to an upward trend in infections.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 30 were in the greater Seoul area, where half of the country's 51 million people live. New cases have been linked to nightlife establishments, church services, an e-commerce warehouse and door-to-door sellers.

On Saturday, Egypt's Health Ministry announced 1,677 new confirmed cases. The Arab world's most populous country has its highest coronavirus death toll at 1,484 among 42,980 confirmed cases.

Also Saturday, Ukraine reported 753 new cases, more than double the daily count earlier this month. Authorities in North Macedonia reported 196 cases.

In the United States, the number of new cases in Arizona in the southwest has risen to more than 1,000 per day from fewer than 400 when the state's shutdown was lifted in mid-May, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

Gov. Doug Ducey is not requiring Arizona residents to wear masks in public despite warnings by public health experts outside the government.

Elsewhere, bar owners in New Orleans were preparing to reopen. San Francisco restaurants resumed outdoor seating Friday and the California government allowed hotels, zoos, museums and aquariums to reopen.

The states of Utah and Oregon suspended further reopening of their economies due to a spike in cases.

The latest Chinese cases raised the mainland's total to 83,132, with 4,634 deaths, according to the Health Commission. South Korea has reported 12,085 cases and 277 deaths.

Also Sunday, China's air regulator announced China Southern Airlines was required to suspend flights between Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the southern city of Guangzhou for four weeks after 17 passengers on Thursday's flight tested positive for the virus.

Beijing allows each airline to make one flight per week on each route. Under rules announced June 4, a route will be suspended for one week if five passengers on a flight test positive and four weeks if the number rises to 10.

In Europe, France's highest administrative court ruled Saturday that virus concerns no longer justify banning public protests.

The Council of State's decision allows for demonstrations and marches as long as health protections are respected. Events must be declared in advance to local authorities and not deemed a risk to public order.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 51 of 70

The ruling came as an unauthorized protest against police violence and racial injustice wound down in Paris. Police had stopped at least 15,000 protesters from a planned march through the city Saturday, citing virus-related restrictions on any gathering of more than 10 people.

Associated Press writer Hyung-Jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, and AP journalists worldwide contributed to this report.

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

S Korea urges North to uphold deals amid rising animosities

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea on Sunday convened an emergency security meeting and urged North Korea to uphold reconciliation agreements, hours after the North threatened to demolish a liaison office and take military action against its rival.

There's concern that North Korea could turn to provocation to bolster its internal unity and wrest outside concessions as nuclear talks with the United States remain deadlocked. Observers say North Korea desperately needs sanctions relief in the face of harsh U.S.-led sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic.

South Korea's national security director, Chung Eui-yong, held an emergency video conference with ministers in charge of security and military generals on Sunday morning to discuss the latest situation on the Korean Peninsula and the government's possible steps, the presidential Blue House said in a statement.

The Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, later said that both Koreas must strive to abide by all agreements they have reached. The Defense Ministry said separately it closely monitors North Korea's military and maintains a firm military readiness.

Both ministries said the South Korean government "views the current situation as grave."

On Saturday night, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, warned that Seoul will soon witness "a tragic scene of the useless North-South liaison office (in North Korea) being completely collapsed." She also said she would leave to North Korea's military the right to take the next step of retaliation against South Korea.

North Korea earlier suspended communication lines with South Korea and threatened to nullify 2018 agreements that led the Koreas to halt firing exercises, remove some land mines and tear down guard posts in front-line areas.

The North has linked its recent series of threats to Seoul's failure to prevent activists from launching propaganda leaflets across their border. But some experts say North Korea is deeply frustrated that South Korea hasn't done enough to revive lucrative joint economic projects as well as over a lack of progress in its nuclear talks with Washington.

The negotiations have made little progress since a second summit between Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump in early 2019 fell apart because of disputes over how much sanctions should be lifted in return for Kim's dismantling his main nuclear complex.

Kim later vowed to expand his nuclear arsenal, introduce a new strategic weapon and overcome the U.S.-led sanctions that he said "stifles" his country's economy.

He also pushed South Korea to resume the operations of the two big inter-Korean projects — a factory park and a tourism site, both in North Korea — but South Korea was unable to do so due to the sanctions.

Kim's struggle to address economic woes has likely faced setbacks as the coronavirus pandemic forced North Korea to close its border with China, its biggest trading partner. North Korea says it hasn't reported a single outbreak but foreign experts question that claim and warn a pandemic in the North could be dire due to its fragile health care system.

Some observers say the end of the 2018 deals could allow North Korea to send ships across the disputed sea boundary, float down mines on a border river or take other provocative steps at the border area. The

South Korean Defense Ministry statement said the 2018 deals must be maintained to prevent accidental armed clashes and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula.

But it's still unclear if the North would go ahead with its threat to destroy the liaison office, which was built at a North Korean border town following a 2018 summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Such a move could deepen anti-Pyongyang sentiments and make it difficult for the North to restore ties with South Korea when needed.

Atlanta police chief resigns after fatal police shooting

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **BRYNN ANDERSON** The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta's police chief resigned Saturday hours after a black man was fatally shot by an officer in a struggle following a field sobriety test. Authorities said the slain man had grabbed an officer's Taser, but was running away when he was shot.

Police Chief Erika Shields stepped down as the killing of 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks sparked a new wave of protests in Atlanta after turbulent demonstrations that followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis had simmered down.

Protesters on Saturday night set fire to the Wendy's restaurant where Brooks was fatally shot the night before and blocked traffic on a nearby highway.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced the police chief's resignation at a Saturday afternoon news conference. The mayor also called for the immediate firing of the unidentified officer who opened fire at Brooks.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force and have called for the immediate termination of the officer," Bottoms said.

She said it was Shields' own decision to step aside as police chief and that she would remain with the city in an undetermined role. Interim Corrections Chief Rodney Bryant would serve as interim police chief until a permanent replacement is found.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is investigating the shooting, said the deadly confrontation started with officers responding to a complaint that a man was sleeping in a car blocking the restaurant's drive-thru lane. The GBI said Brooks failed a field sobriety test and then resisted officers' attempts to arrest him.

The GBI released security camera video of the shooting Saturday. The footage shows a man running from two white police officers as he raises a hand, which is holding some type of object, toward an officer a few steps behind him. The officer draws his gun and fires as the man keeps running, then falls to the ground in the parking lot.

GBI Director Vic Reynolds said Brooks had grabbed a Taser from one of the officers and appeared to point it at the officer as he fled, prompting the officer to reach for his gun and fire an estimated three shots.

The security camera video recorded Brooks "running or fleeing from Atlanta police officers," Reynolds said. "It appears that he has in his hand a Taser."

The footage does not show Brooks' initial struggle with police.

L. Chris Stewart, an attorney for Brooks' family, said the officer who shot him should be charged for "an unjustified use of deadly force, which equals murder."

"You can't have it both ways in law enforcement," Stewart said. "You can't say a Taser is a nonlethal weapon ... but when an African American grabs it and runs with it, now it's some kind of deadly, lethal weapon that calls for you to unload on somebody."

He said Brooks was a father of four and had celebrated a daughter's eighth birthday Friday before he was killed.

The shooting came at a time of heightened tension over police brutality and calls for reforms across the U.S. following the May 25 death of Floyd in Minneapolis. Atlanta was among U.S. cities where large crowds of protesters took to the streets.

Demonstrators, including members of Brooks' family, gathered Saturday outside the restaurant where

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 53 of 70

he was shot.

Among those protesting was Crystal Brooks, who said she is Rayshard Brooks' sister-in-law.

"He wasn't causing anyone any harm," she said. "The police went up to the car and even though the car was parked they pulled him out of the car and started tussling with him."

She added: "He did grab the Taser, but he just grabbed the Taser and ran."

Shields, Atlanta's police chief for less than four years, was initially praised in the days following Floyd's death last month. She said the Minnesota officers involved should go to prison and walked into crowds of protesters in downtown Atlanta, telling demonstrators she understood their frustrations and fears. She appeared at Bottoms' side as the mayor made an impassioned plea for protesters to go home when things turned violent with smashed storefronts and police cruisers set ablaze.

Days later, Shields fired two officers and benched three others caught on video May 30 in a hostile confrontation with two college students whose car was stuck in traffic caused by the protests. The officers fired Tasers at the pair and dragged them from the vehicle. When prosecutors later charged six of the officers involved, however, Shields openly questioned the charges.

The shooting of Brooks two weeks later raised further questions about the Atlanta department. In a statement, Shields said she chose to resign "out of a deep and abiding love for this city and this department."

"It is time for the city to move forward and build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve," Shields said.

Reynolds said his agents will turn over results of their investigation to Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, whose office will decide whether criminal charges are warranted against either of the unidentified officers.

Howard said Saturday his office "has already launched an intense, independent investigation of the incident" without waiting for the FBI's results.

Brooks died after being taken to an Atlanta hospital. One of the officers was treated and released for unspecified injuries.

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. Associated Press writer Pat Eaton-Robb in Hartford, Connecticut, contributed to this report.

18 dead, 189 hurt as tanker truck explodes on China highway

BEIJING (AP) — A tanker truck exploded on a highway in southeastern China on Saturday, killing 18 people and injuring at least 189 others, authorities said.

The explosion caused extensive damage to nearby buildings. One photo showed firefighters hosing down a row of buildings with blown-out facades well into the night.

The truck carrying liquefied gas exploded around 4:45 p.m. on the Shenyang-Haikou Expressway south of Shanghai in Zhejiang province, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing local authorities.

A second explosion followed when the truck fell onto a factory workshop, Xinhua said.

The Wenling city government information office said on its social media account that houses and workshops collapsed and 189 people were treated at six hospitals.

A worker at a nearby restaurant told Xinhua that the blast shattered the windows of her home, but that her mother and brother were unharmed.

Baseball players say talks futile, tell MLB to order return

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball appears headed to its shortest season since the 1870s.

Continuing a contentious back-and-forth in a bitter dispute over pay, baseball players told the commissioner's office on Saturday night that additional talks to start the season during the coronavirus pandemic are pointless and said owners should order a return to work.

The union's action might lead to a season of about 50 games rather than the 82 initially proposed by

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 54 of 70

MLB. The Major League Baseball Players Association could respond by filing a grievance that would be heard by arbitrator Mark Irvings, arguing players are owed hundreds of millions of dollars in damages due to a shorter season.

Overall, this all could spark lengthy litigation over money and a renewal of the sport's labor wars. It could even prompt some star players to sit out.

"It unfortunately appears that further dialogue with the league would be futile," union head Tony Clark said in a statement. "It's time to get back to work. Tell us when and where."

MLB responded with a statement accusing the union of not negotiating in good faith and cited the March agreement that called for prorated salaries but did not obligate teams to play in empty ballparks. Clubs could file a grievance claiming the union did not meet its "good faith" obligation.

"The MLBPA's position that players are entitled to virtually all the revenue from a 2020 season played without fans is not fair to the thousands of other baseball employees that clubs and our office are supporting financially during this very difficult 2020 season," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "We will evaluate the union's refusal to adhere to the terms of the March agreement, and after consulting with ownership, determine the best course to bring baseball back to our fans."

While the NBA, NHL and MLS have figured out deals to return in this summer of the coronavirus, baseball has descended into the fractious labor strife that led to eight work stoppages from 1972-95. The union has seethed followed a collective bargaining agreement in late 2016 that led to relatively flat salaries for five straight years, an unsuccessful grievance accusing the Chicago Cubs of manipulating third baseman Kris Bryant's service time to delay his eligibility for free agency and a grievance accusing teams of improperly using revenue sharing proceeds, a process the union calls "tanking."

These raw negotiations heighten the chance of a spring training lockout after the current collective bargaining agreement expires on Dec. 1, 2021.

"Given your continued insistence on hundreds of millions of dollars of additional pay reductions, we assume these negotiations are at an end," union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer wrote in a letter to Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem on Saturday that was obtained by The Associated Press. "If it is your intention to unilaterally impose a season, we again request that you inform us and our members of how many games you intend to play and when and where players should report. It is unfair to leave players and the fans hanging at this point, and further delay risks compromising health and safety. We demand that you inform us of your plans by close of business on Monday."

Players and MLB agreed to a deal on March 26 calling for prorated salaries, \$170 million in salary advances and a guarantee of service time for 2020 even if no games are played.

That deal agreement gave baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred the right to start the season provided there were no travel restrictions and games could be played before fans in regular-season ballparks. It called for "good faith" negotiations to play in empty ballparks or neutral sites.

Players insist they should not have to accept additional cuts. A unilateral decision to start play could mean the playoffs would remain at 10 teams and not expand to 16, as both sides have proposed. High-risk players can opt out and still receive salary and service, but others who sit out would lose both.

"The solidarity of the players has never been more concentrated in years," said Scott Boras, baseball's most high-profile agent, who has three clients on the union's eight-man executive subcommittee.

MLB made three economic offers, the last Friday, and the union proposed two. The executive subcommittee held a call Saturday followed by a larger group of about 100 players, including the full executive committee and others.

The sides remain far apart on how much players should get of the \$4 billion in salaries they originally were set to earn: MLB has offered to guarantee \$1.27 billion and increase the total to \$1.45 billion if the postseason is completed. Players want \$2.25 billion and an 89-game season.

"Players want to play. It's who we are and what we do," Clark said. "Since March, the association has made it clear that our No. 1 focus is playing the fullest season possible, as soon as possible, as safely as possible. Players agreed to billions in monetary concessions as a means to that end, and in the face

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 55 of 70

of repeated media leaks and misdirection we made additional proposals to inject new revenues into the industry — proposals that would benefit the owners, players, broadcast partners, and fans alike. It's now become apparent that these efforts have fallen upon deaf ears."

Manfred said last week there is a "100%" chance of a season, adding "unequivocally we are going to play Major League Baseball this year." Yet, it will be the shortest season in more than a century. And Meyer's letter to Halem cited remaining open issues in the health protocols needed before players report for a resumption of training.

Owners must now decide whether to go ahead with a shortened schedule, of perhaps 48 or 50 games. A 50-game regular season at prorated salaries would total \$1.23 billion, leaving the union to claim about \$1 billion plus interest in damages should the case continue to a decision and players prevail.

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

China reports 57 new cases, highest daily number in 2 months

BEIJING (AP) — China on Sunday reported its highest daily total of new coronavirus cases in two months after the capital's biggest wholesale food market was shut down following a resurgence in local infections.

There were 57 confirmed cases in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday, the National Health Commission reported. That was the highest daily toll since mid-April and included 36 in Beijing, the capital.

The new cases illustrated how the virus can come back as anti-disease controls are relaxed.

The Xinfadi market on Beijing's southeastern side was closed Saturday and neighboring residential compounds locked down after more than 50 people in the capital tested positive for the coronavirus. They were the first confirmed cases in 50 days in the city of 20 million people.

China, where the pandemic began in December, had relaxed most of its anti-virus controls after the ruling Communist Party declared victory over the disease in March.

Authorities locked down 11 residential communities near the Xinfadi market. Police installed white fencing to seal off a road leading to a cluster of apartment buildings.

Venezuela demands release of businessman connected to Maduro

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Venezuela on Saturday demanded the release of a government-connected businessman who was detained in Cape Verde on U.S. corruption charges, calling his arrest an illegal act of aggression by the Trump administration aimed at piling new hardships on the crisis-wracked oil nation.

Alex Saab's arrest Friday while en route to Iran was a major blow to President Nicolás Maduro's government. U.S. officials believe he holds many secrets about how the socialist leader, his family and top aides allegedly siphoned off millions of dollars in government contracts amid widespread hunger in the oil-rich nation.

It was unclear how American authorities, who had been targeting the Colombian businessman for years, finally caught up with him. The Justice Department declined to comment as did Saab's American lawyer, Maria Dominguez.

A person familiar with the situation said the 48-year-old Saab was detained in the Atlantic Ocean archipelago when his San Marino-registered jet made a refueling stop on a flight to Tehran, where he was believed to be negotiating deals to exchange Venezuelan gold for Iranian gasoline. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Flight tracking data shows the aircraft, which the once globe-trotting Saab had used in the past, departed Friday from Venezuela's capital, Caracas.

Adding to the intrigue, a private jet belonging to Presidential Aviation, a U.S. government contractor formerly owned by the Blackwater private security firm, was standing ready for a chartered flight Sunday from Cape Verde to Miami's private Opa Locka airport.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 56 of 70

Venezuela's government energetically protested the arrest of Saab, who it said was traveling on a Venezuelan passport and was on a "humanitarian mission" to buy food and medical supplies. In a statement issued Saturday night, it said an Interpol arrest notice for Saab wasn't issued until a day after his detention, violating international norms and disregarding the diplomatic immunity he enjoys as an "agent of a sovereign government."

It said it would initiate all legal and diplomatic actions to secure his release. But coronavirus restrictions frustrated an attempt by Maduro's nearest ambassador, in Senegal, to travel to Cape Verde.

As the Trump administration seeks to regain momentum in its faltering campaign to oust Maduro and install opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's president, it is increasingly going after top officials and business people connected to the embattled leader. In March, it indicted Maduro and more than a dozen other individuals on narcoterrorist, corruption and other criminal charges.

Saab came onto the radar of U.S. authorities a few years ago after amassing a large number of contracts with Maduro's government.

Federal prosecutors in Miami indicted him and a business partner last year on money laundering charges connected to an alleged bribery scheme that pocketed more than \$350 million from a low-income housing project for the Venezuelan government that was never built.

Separately, Saab had been sanctioned by the Trump administration for allegedly utilizing a network of shell companies spanning the globe — in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Hong Kong, Panama, Colombia and Mexico — to hide huge profits from no-bid, overvalued food contracts obtained through bribes and kickbacks.

"Saab engaged with Maduro insiders to run a wide-scale corruption network they callously used to exploit Venezuela's starving population," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at the time of the sanctions. "They use food as a form of social control, to reward political supporters and punish opponents, all the while pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars through a number of fraudulent schemes."

In private, U.S. officials have long described Saab as a front man for Maduro although he is not identified as such in court filings.

The U.S. Treasury Department alleges some of Saab's contracts were obtained by paying bribes to the adult children of Venezuelan first lady Cilia Flores, — Yoswal, Yosser and Walter Flores. Commonly known in Venezuela as "Los Chamos," slang for "the kids," the three men are also under investigation by prosecutors in Miami for allegedly forming part of a scheme to siphon \$1.2 billion from Venezuela's state-owned oil company, two people familiar with the U.S. investigation told The Associated Press.

News of the possible arrest broke late Friday but initially officials in the U.S. and Saab's native Colombia were skittish about discussing the matter. Cape Verde has no extradition treaty with the U.S. and fresh on officials' minds is the 2014 saga involving another high priority Venezuelan target, the late Hugo Chávez's longtime spy chief, retired Gen. Hugo Carvajal.

Carvajal was arrested in 2014 on the Caribbean island of Aruba, where he had been named Maduro's consul, but managed to flee a U.S. drug warrant after intense diplomatic pressure from Caracas. Carvajal remains at large after having been jailed and later released in Spain.

Saab is believed to have expanded his reach into Venezuela's vital oil industry as the OPEC nation's economic crisis has deepened. Iran sent Venezuela several tankers of gasoline last month that government opponents say were purchased with gold and by shell companies controlled by Saab.

Last week, prosecutors in Colombia froze eight properties allegedly belonging to Saab, including a mansion in his Caribbean hometown of Barranquilla valued at more than \$7 million, as part of their own money laundering investigation.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed to this report.

Joshua Goodman on Twitter: @APJoshGoodman

Georgia nursing staff back with family after virus lockdown

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (AP) — Nadia Williams shrieked with surprise and emotion Saturday as she embraced her mother for the first time since agreeing nearly three months ago to live at the elder-care facility where she works.

Park Springs just outside Atlanta took the unusual approach of having roughly 70 employees shelter in place on campus to protect its residents from the coronavirus. It lifted that restriction over the weekend, and Williams and other employees headed home for the first time since March 30.

"It shocked me a lot," Williams, 30, said about seeing her mom. "I didn't think I was going to be able to see them for another few weeks."

Nursing homes — among the hardest hit places by the pandemic — have limited visitors and screened people for the virus. Park Springs' administrators said they feared those strategies might not be enough to keep their more than 500 residents safe. But the staff lockdown was not a measure they could sustain forever, said Donna Moore, chief operating officer of the company that owns Park Springs.

"This is week eleven," Moore said on a Zoom call Wednesday.

Around the country, coronavirus cases are rising in nearly half the states, according to an Associated Press analysis, a worrying trend that could intensify as people return to work and venture out during the summer.

Park Springs was shifting to "personal responsibility and safety measures," Moore said, including requiring staff to take a coronavirus test before coming back on Monday.

The return home Saturday was bittersweet for staff, who gathered at a lunch before their departures to share their experience. Some cried and hugged each other. The company gave each of them a plaque inscribed with their names and a record of their sacrifice: "COVID-19 Shelter-In-Place 2020."

"Sometimes I said, 'I can't do this,'" O'Neil Marriott, a maintenance technician, recalled. But he said the rest of the staff gave him support to stay.

"I appreciate everyone in here because you really made me feel like family," he said.

The staff walked out to meet loved ones to music and applause from Park Springs' administrators. Some had carts loaded with shopping bags of supplies they had brought to sustain them during the lockdown.

Williams, a health care administrator at Park Springs, missed her sister's wedding to shelter in place. She said she also missed laughing with her boyfriend, Lanre Adabale, who was also there to greet her and said the experience had strengthened their relationship.

"This sacrifice that she just gave at her place of work means a lot to me," he said.

Teisha Roberts, a nursing director, embraced her husband, mom and five children, but clung to her youngest, 3-year-old Rojuane.

"Today, I get to hold him, squeeze him," she said. She bought a house while she stayed at Park Springs and said she looked forward to seeing it for the first time, taking a shower in her own bathroom and eating a good Jamaican meal.

The employees who stayed represent a fraction of Park Springs' normal 300-person staff. Another 30 or so worked from home, but the majority were furloughed.

Moore said the senior home was shifting to two, 12-hour shifts instead of three, eight-hour shifts to reduce the number of employees on campus as another safety precaution. It plans to bring 90% of furloughed staff back, but will lay some people off, she said.

Park Springs' lockdown started after four employees and a resident tested positive for the virus. They all recovered. Since the lockdown, the facility has seen two additional cases — both residents. One of those residents — a 96-year-old dementia patient — was visited by her daughter and a caregiver after doctors said she had little time left to live and then tested positive. She later died. The other tested positive after requiring medical care off campus and recovered from the virus.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, and the vast majority recover. But for some others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more

severe illness, including pneumonia or death.

Moore slept on an air mattress in a tent in a community hall while also staying on site at Park Springs. She also went home for the first time since the end of March on Saturday and said the experience had given her a new appreciation of the importance of caring for people. She made a change for her return to work on Monday: a new office location.

"I'm not going back to a quiet place on a hidden-away hallway," she said. "I want to be with these people and engaging with them everyday."

As US seethes over race, Trump calls out 'evil of slavery'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — As the nation continues to grapple with its racial past, President Donald Trump urged West Point's graduating class Saturday to "never forget" the legacy of soldiers before them who fought a bloody war to "extinguish the evil of slavery."

Trump's appeal to remember history came as his own relationship with the military is under strain from the unrelenting criticism he and Pentagon leaders have faced over their response to protests that erupted after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis.

It also came hours after Trump made what amounted to a rare concession for him: He rescheduled a campaign rally planned for Tulsa, Oklahoma, on June 19. The day marks the end of slavery in the U.S., and Tulsa was the scene of a fiery white-on-black attack in 1921.

"What has historically made America unique is the durability of its institutions against the passions and prejudices of the moment," Trump told more than 1,100 graduates at an unusual outdoor ceremony held during a pandemic. "When times are turbulent, when the road is rough, what matters most is that which is permanent, timeless, enduring and eternal."

In the past two weeks, Trump has yelled at Defense Secretary Mark Esper for publicly opposing his call to deploy active-duty troops to quell the protests stemming from the killing of Floyd, who was black, by a white Minneapolis police officer.

Trump also shut down Esper's attempt to begin a public debate on removing the names of Confederate Army officers — some of whom trained at West Point — from military bases, an idea gaining momentum across the country.

Gen. Mark Milley, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, risked Trump's ire Thursday by declaring he had made "a mistake" by accompanying Trump on a June 1 walk through Lafayette Square. It ended with the president posing with a Bible outside a boarded-up St. John's Church.

Milley's comments amounted to an extraordinary expression of regret by Trump's chief military adviser, who said his appearance led to the perception of the military becoming embroiled in politics, which in his view — one shared by Esper — is a threat to democracy.

The events have stirred debate within the military and among retired officers. More than 500 West Point graduates from classes spanning six decades signed an open letter reminding the Class of 2020 of its commitment to avoid partisan politics.

The letter, published this week on Medium, also alluded to the problems Esper and Milley encountered at the White House after Floyd's death.

"Sadly, the government has threatened to use the Army in which you serve as a weapon against fellow Americans engaging in these legitimate protests," they wrote. "Worse, military leaders, who took the same oath you take today, have participated in politically charged events. The principle of civilian control is central to the military profession. But that principle does not imply blind obedience."

During the commencement ceremony, protesters denounced the president from boats and kayaks along the nearby Hudson River.

Trump also used his first West Point address to remind the newly commissioned officers of the academy's history and storied generals like Douglas MacArthur and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"It was on this soil that American patriots held the most vital fortress in our war for independence," Trump

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 59 of 70

said. He said the U.S. Military Academy "gave us the men and women who fought and won a bloody war to extinguish the evil of slavery within one lifetime of our founding."

"This is your history. This is the legacy that each of you inherits," Trump continued, adding that it was bought with American blood spilled in battle. "You must never forget it."

Trump, however, was incorrect to say women had been trained at West Point for the anti-slavery fight; they were not allowed to become cadets until 1976.

His remarks also overlooked numerous West Point graduates who served in the Confederacy, including President Jefferson Davis, Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Braxton Bragg. Some are now seeking the removal of Bragg's name from North Carolina's Fort Bragg.

In the speech, Trump leaned into his "America first" brand of foreign policy without uttering the phrase, telling the Army's newest officers their job is "not to rebuild foreign nations, but to defend and defend strongly our nation from our foreign enemies."

"It is not the duty of U.S. troops to solve ancient conflicts in faraway lands that many people have never heard of." He said America is not the "policeman of the world," but warned adversaries that it will "never, ever hesitate" to act when its people are threatened.

He thanked those in the military who helped the country respond to the coronavirus, once again calling it an "invisible enemy" from China.

The president stressed the unity of a graduating class that came "from every race, religion, color and creed." The class also includes citizens of 11 other countries, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Korea and Tanzania.

Trump highlighted bigger defense budgets under his watch but falsely said he had destroyed 100% of the Islamic State caliphate in the Middle East; the group still poses a threat to the U.S. He noted he had directed the killing of two terrorist leaders and had created the Space Force.

Trump also remembered a cadet who died in an accident last year and whose father is a Secret Service agent, and noted that both he and the Army share a birthday Sunday. Trump will turn 74, while the Army marks its 254th year of existence.

Esper did not attend, but emphasized the principles of duty, honor and country in a video message, saying they will help guide the new officers "in challenging times and in the face of new and emerging threats."

Trump's appearance at West Point had been criticized as a political move that would put the graduates at risk since the academy is located up the Hudson River from New York City, the epicenter of the U.S. coronavirus outbreak.

The Army defended the move, saying the cadets had to return to campus anyway for final medical checks, equipment and training. They had been home since spring break in early March..

For the ceremony, the newly commissioned second lieutenants wore face masks as they marched onto the parade field, but removed them after sitting for the socially distant ceremony required by the pandemic.

Instead of shaking hands with the president, they exchanged salutes. Family and friends were not allowed to attend and had to watch online.

At the end of the ceremony, five hulking helicopters flew low and slow over the field as the graduates tossed their white dress caps into the air.

AP National Security Writer Robert Burns and Associated Press writer Michael Hill in Albany, N.Y., contributed to this report.

Bars reopening in New Orleans. Will tourists come?

By KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Bar owners in New Orleans prepared for a soft opening, and an uncertain one, as they began letting customers in Saturday for the first time in months. Capacity is limited to 25 percent, live music remains prohibited, and nobody knows how many tourists will show on Bourbon Street in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 60 of 70

age of COVID-19.

Pam Fortner, owner of six French Quarter venues, is opening only two of them, both on Bourbon, where the customary blocks-long frat party atmosphere ended in an abrupt shutdown in mid-March.

Now, she's not sure what to expect. She sat at a sidewalk table at Royal and St. Ann on Thursday, eating a Caesar salad and deriving hope from the occasional out-of-state license plate she saw amid sparse traffic.

"I think Saturday will be busy," she said in an interview.

Cherie Boos, manager of Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, in an authentically rustic, creaky floored 18th-century Creole cottage, said she's hoping locals will help keep the bar financially afloat as Bourbon Street revives. But she adds, "We're hoping that, you know, we can start generating some tourists in the city, too, now that the bars are going to be open."

Bourbon Street, which had the ambiance of an empty movie set in April, has experienced a slow re-awakening in recent weeks. Dine-in restaurants have been allowed to reopen at 25% capacity, as have bars with food permits. Still, traffic has been slow and plywood covered numerous tavern windows until Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced the latest easing of restrictions in a city that, in the spring, had become an international hot spot for COVID-19.

Even as they announced the reopenings on Tuesday, city officials admitted they were concerned about a possible recurrence.

"Oh, I'm worried. I am worried," Cantrell said at a news conference. She said city code enforcement officials will watch to make sure social distancing, masking requirements and building capacity limits are enforced.

Customers will have to be mindful, too, said Dr. Jennifer Avegno, the city's health director. "If you're there, with your household group and you're having drinks at a table at a bar, we really need you not to go off and mingle with the other tables," she said Tuesday.

Toward that end, there will be no musicians on stage at Fortner's Tropical Isle bars on Bourbon Street. That prevents people from congregating near the stage and eliminates the possibility that a singer belting out a song could also be unknowingly spreading the virus. That fear that has kept the city from allowing live music performances, including choirs in churches.

Some New Orleans bar owners are critical of the restrictions. "Why are they picking on the musicians?" said Fortner.

And some bars, like the Maple Leaf, a venerable late night haunt in the Carrollton neighborhood, decided not to open.

"While our City leaders have decided to allow bars to reopen ... we will not be allowed to have Live Music and what is the Leaf without our musicians?" read a post on the Maple Leaf's Facebook page.

One of the quarter's best known tourist spots, Pat O'Brien's, also didn't plan an immediate reopening. Manager Shelley Waguespack has numerous concerns as she decides when and how to reopen.

She's hoping the state Legislature will address one concern — liability. She said she worries about getting sued if someone who visits the bar later comes down with COVID-19.

She's also unhappy about the limits on live music.

"We wanted to put a piano player on the patio," Waguespack said. "We thought that would have been lovely."

Officer charged in Floyd's death eligible for pension money

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is eligible to receive pension benefits during his retirement years even if he's convicted of killing George Floyd, according to the Minnesota agency that represents retired public workers.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter in the May 25 death of George. Video of the arrest shows Chauvin, who is white, using his knee to pin down the neck of George, who was black and handcuffed, for several minutes as Floyd pleaded for air and eventually stopped moving. George's death has sparked protests around the world.

The Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association said in a statement that former employees who meet length-of-service requirements qualify for benefits regardless of whether they quit or are fired. Those payments are not affected by criminal charges or convictions, the agency said, citing state law.

A review of police payroll, salary and contract information obtained by CNN estimates that Chauvin's annual payments would be around \$50,000 or more if he elected to begin receiving distributions at age 55. Chauvin was a member of the Minneapolis police force for 19 years.

Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, did not immediately return an email request seeking comment.

Bolivian schoolteacher gives virtual classes as superhero

By CARLOS VALDEZ Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Sometimes, Jorge Manolo Villarroel is Spiderman. Sometimes, he's the Flash, or the Green Lantern.

But he's always a teacher -- one who lives out his childhood dreams by dressing up as superheroes for the locked-down students who attend his virtual classes.

His classes have become so popular that siblings fight for the laptop screen to learn from this costumed teacher. They, in turn, often offer him tech help.

"They arrive to the virtual classes before me and the first surprise is to guess which superhero will appear on the screen," said Villarroel.

At 33, Villarroel speaks with the passion of a child. His modest room is filled with the masks and costumes of his characters, along with images of Christ, several Roman Catholic saints, revolutionary Che Guevara and his parents.

Villarroel, who lives in a poorer neighborhood of the Bolivian capital, teaches art at the San Ignacio Catholic School in a wealthier area. His students range from 9 to 14 years old.

"Hey teacher! You have to anchor the image ... Go to the screen of your cellphone and look for a small one," a student told Villarroel; the teacher, dressed as the Flash, explained to his youngest students how to put together a mosaic of geometric figures using colored leaves.

"For years, they have entered our adult world, now it's time for us to open up to their world, which is chat," he said. "When they speak they can be limited, but in chat they expand, they become the teachers and show me applications."

The class begins with a Zumba-style warm up (Villarroel is also a Zumba instructor), followed by a prayer and then superhero music, to set the proper atmosphere.

Forty-five students follow the online classes. Villarroel himself makes the costumes he wears. "I had to improvise since with the quarantine I couldn't get out."

At times, with his glasses, he looks as much like a disc jockey in front of a computer as a superhero. His tiny dog Coquito sleeps obliviously on his lap.

"Education stagnated in traditional molds. After the pandemic everything will change, including education," he said.

Many schools, especially private ones like Villarroel's, have been teaching online since March.

But in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America, the internet is slow, expensive and available only in large cities and towns. In many poor rural areas, electricity is only just arriving and television still relatively new. Some complain that virtual classes are only available to those who have the money to buy a computer or cellphone, worsening the country's already large spread between the rich and poor.

"Even in my private school there are children who do not have a good cellphone," Villarroel acknowledged. "But we are in a time of change."

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>

Kim Jong Un's sister threatens S. Korea with military action

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened military action against South Korea as she bashed Seoul on Saturday over declining bilateral relations and its inability to stop activists from floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

Describing South Korea as an "enemy," Kim Yo Jong repeated an earlier threat she had made by saying Seoul will soon witness the collapse of a "useless" inter-Korean liaison office in the border town of Kaesong.

Kim, who is first vice department director of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee, said she would leave it to North Korea's military leaders to carry out the next step of retaliation against the South.

"By exercising my power authorized by the supreme leader, our party and the state, I gave an instruction to the arms of the department in charge of the affairs with enemy to decisively carry out the next action," she said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"If I drop a hint of our next plan the (South Korean) authorities are anxious about, the right to taking the next action against the enemy will be entrusted to the General Staff of our army," she said. "Our army, too, will determine something for cooling down our people's resentment and surely carry out it, I believe."

Kim's harsh rhetoric demonstrates her elevated status in North Korea's leadership. Already seen as the most powerful woman in the country and her brother's closest confidant, state media recently confirmed that she is now in charge of relations with South Korea.

The liaison office in Kaesong, which has been shut since January due to coronavirus concerns, was set up as a result of one of the main agreements reached in three summits between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in 2018.

Moon's government had lobbied hard to set up nuclear summits between Kim and President Donald Trump, who have met three times since 2018. At the same time, Moon also worked to improve inter-Korean relations.

But North Korea in recent months has suspended virtually all cooperation with the South while expressing frustration over the lack of progress in its nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration.

Over the past week, the North declared that it would cut off all government and military communication channels with the South and threatened to abandon key inter-Korean peace agreements reached by their leaders in 2018.

They include a military agreement in which the Koreas committed to jointly take steps to reduce conventional military threats, such as establishing border buffers and no-fly zones. They also removed some front-line guard posts and jointly surveyed a waterway near their western border in an unrealized plan to allow freer civilian navigation.

In an earlier statement last week, Kim Yo Jong said that the North would scrap the military agreement, "which is hardly of any value," while calling North Korean defectors who send leaflets from the South "human scum" and "mongrel dogs."

Her comments on Saturday came hours after a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official said that Seoul should drop "nonsensical" talk about the North's denuclearization, and that his country would continue to expand its military capabilities to counter what it perceives as threats from the United States.

In response to North Korea's anger over the leaflets, South Korea's government has said it would press charges against two defector groups that have been carrying out border protests.

The South also said it would push new laws to ban activists from flying the leaflets across the border, but there's been criticism over whether Moon's government is sacrificing democratic principles to keep alive his ambitions for inter-Korean engagement.

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

While Seoul has sometimes sent police officers to block the activists during sensitive times, it had previously resisted North Korea's calls to fully ban them, saying they were exercising their freedom. Activists

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 63 of 70

have vowed to continue with the balloon launches.

But it's unlikely that North Korea's belligerence is about just the leaflets, analysts say.

The North has a long track record of dialing up pressure on the South when it doesn't get what it wants from the United States. Its threats to abandon inter-Korean agreements came after months of frustration over Seoul's refusal to defy U.S.-led sanctions and restart joint economic projects.

Some experts say North Korea, which has mobilized people for massive demonstrations condemning defectors, is deliberately censuring the South to rally its public and shift attention away from a bad economy, which likely has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's unclear what kind of military action the North would take against the South, although weapons tests are an easy guess. Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said North Korea could also be "planning something" near the countries' disputed western maritime border, which has occasionally been the scene of bloody clashes over the years.

Nuclear talks faltered at Kim Jong Un's second summit with Trump in Vietnam in February last year after the United States rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Trump and Kim met for a third time that year in June at the border between North and South Korea and agreed to resume talks. But an October working-level meeting in Sweden broke down over what the North Koreans described as the Americans' "old stance and attitude."

On the two-year anniversary of the first Kim-Trump meeting, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son Gwon said Friday that the North would never again gift Trump with high-profile meetings he could boast as foreign policy achievements unless it gets something substantial in return.

Floyd's death hastens shift in police pop culture portrayals

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary Phillips, a prize-winning crime novelist from Los Angeles, grew up on TV shows that showed a world nothing like the one he lived in.

"I watched them all, 'Dragnet,' 'Adam 12,' 'The Wild, Wild West,' 'Mannix,' 'Cannon,' 'Peter Gunn' reruns and on and on. Now these were white guys and they were tough but fair and even-handed," he told The Associated Press in a recent email, referring to popular programs mostly from the 1960s and 1970s.

"I remember a 'Dragnet' episode where tight-ass Joe Friday solved racism among black and white officers in a weekend retreat. But I was a kid growing up in South Central and even then some part of me knew a lot of this was jive. We knew the cops out of Newton and 77th Division policed the 'hood a lot different than shown on TV."

The May 25 killing of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck, has set off protests worldwide and transmitted images of law enforcement that long remained far outside the narratives of crime stories — beatings and lethal chokeholds of handcuffed suspects, firing mace and rubber bullets at peaceful protesters, harassing and cursing at journalists.

Police stories have evolved far from the prime of Sgt. Friday. But the idealized crime fighter remains a cultural touchstone even when countered by such recent narratives as Ava DuVernay's Netflix series "When They See Us," about the wrongfully convicted Central Park Five, and Angie Thomas' "The Hate U Give," a best-selling novel about a black teen murdered by police that was adapted into a feature film of the same name.

"Hopefully what we're seeing on TV now, and on social media, is that bubble being popped," Thomas told the AP.

Protests have already changed television. "Cops," which for 33 seasons helped shape an authorized narrative that allowed viewers to sympathize and identify with real police on patrol, was dropped this week by the Paramount Network. A&E did the same with a similar show, "Live PD," one of its mostly highly rated programs. Earlier this year, five police procedurals were consistently in the Nielsen company's top 20 ratings, including NBC's "Chicago PD" and CBS's "FBI." Now, even those portraying law enforcement

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 64 of 70

officials are pulling back: Griffin Newman, who appeared as a detective on the CBS series "Blue Bloods," announced he was donating his earnings from the show to help raise bail for arrested protesters.

The divide between crime fiction and real life dates back to the genre's origins, more than 200 years ago. Law enforcement violence and corruption were extreme in the mid-19th century and some police forces were rooted in the patrols that used to chase down runaway slaves. Meanwhile, "The police in early crime fiction were depicted as good, courageous, and brilliant," says Otto Penzler, the crime fiction publisher and bookseller.

In the 20th century, shows such as "Dragnet" and "Highway Patrol" were collaborations between law enforcement and the entertainment business, to the point where J. Edgar Hoover was permitted to vet the politics of the actors appearing in "The FBI," the long-running series starring Efrem Zimbalist Jr. Otherwise, police and other officials were portrayed as jaded and self-contained in the fiction of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett, comical and bumbling like the Keystone Kops or the misfits of "Police Academy," ruffled and savvy like Peter Falk's Columbo, or witty and indomitable like Bruce Willis' New York City detective John McClane in the "Die Hard" movies.

Walter Mosley, known for his "Easy Rawlins" novels about a black detective in Los Angeles, noted that even if the plot included a bad cop "it wouldn't be institutionalized. It would be that cop is bad because he or she is a bad person."

For Gary Phillips and many others, it took years to find stories in which they could see themselves. Naomi Hirahara, the Edgar Award winning author of the Mas Arai detective novels, remembered the "fantasy" or watching the white male protagonists in "Columbo," "The Rockford Files" and other shows. As an adult, she was drawn to African American crime writers such as Mosley and Chester Himes, and now admires Rachel Howzel Hall's novels about the African American LAPD homicide detective Elouise "Lou" Norton, books "revealing the complexity of a black woman in a system that has traditionally disempowered minorities."

Penzler and others cite Joseph Wambaugh's 1971 novel "The New Centurions" as a turning point in showing a more realistic portrait of police, although no single trend has prevailed. Over the past 50 years, the image of law enforcement has sometimes mirrored debates between liberals and conservatives. Sidney Lumet's 1973 film "Serpico" dramatized the corruption of New York City police and the heroism of the real-life title character's willingness to speak out. Around the same time, Clint Eastwood's "Dirty Harry" movies positioned Eastwood's San Francisco lawman as a needed rule-breaker in a system too permissive of crime. Spike Lee's landmark 1989 release "Do the Right Thing," in which a black man is choked to death by police, was released two weeks after the premiere of "Lethal Weapon 2" and the crowd pleasing defiance of Mel Gibson's Sgt. Martin Riggs.

"Cops," which allowed the departments it covered significant control over its content, has been contrasted by the tougher perspective of Lena Waithe's Showtime series "The Chi." But even shows like "The Wire," and "The Shield" that take frank looks at police abuses can end up making the audience identify with officers.

"At first it's 'police are dirty bums' and it's 'look at the awful thing they did,'" says Miki Turner, a professor at the University of Southern California who specializes in diversity and controversial topics in the entertainment industry and television. "And then there's something in the script that makes you flip your mentality, and sympathize."

AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton contributed to this story from Los Angeles.

Fans savor return of stadium sport in virus-free New Zealand

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

DUNEDIN, New Zealand (AP) — They call one section of the stadium The Zoo, and it's easy to see why: thousands of university students in team colors standing on their seats, steadying trays of beer, swaying to music and erupting with joy when their team scores.

"Craziness," is how 20-year-old student Charlotte Power described the scene. "Dancing, partying. Hopefully no fights."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 65 of 70

New Zealand on Saturday became one of the first nations in the world to welcome hordes of fans back into a packed sports stadium, thanks to the country's remarkable success in eliminating the coronavirus.

As countries try to reopen after lockdowns, the evening rugby match marked a milestone of sorts, and its importance wasn't lost on fans.

After instituting a strict lockdown in March, New Zealand has not reported any new cases of the coronavirus for more than three weeks, and says all those who contracted the disease have now recovered. Earlier in the week, the country removed just about every remaining virus restriction, with the notable exception of keeping the border closed.

That meant there were no masks or social distancing required when more than 20,000 fans poured into the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin to watch Saturday's match between the local Highlanders and the Chiefs, who had traveled from Hamilton.

"It's massive," the country's sports minister, Grant Robertson, said on the sidelines. "It's a world first and it's a payoff for all the hard work of 5 million New Zealanders."

Robertson said he's been fielding calls from India and beyond from people curious to know how professional sports can proceed without virus restrictions. He said there's something special about being at a game.

"Anyone who's a fan of live sport or even live music knows that if you're there, it's totally different," he said.

For fan Iki Uele, it was a pleasure just seeing all the people.

"Everyone has been dying for this moment," he said. "Being locked down, we just needed something to vent out."

Uele said he did have concerns that somebody in the crowd might have the virus without knowing it. But he was willing to take the chance.

German exchange student Johanna Lindner said she'd never watched a rugby match before, and people back home were both curious and perhaps a little envious.

"It's a great opportunity to socialize again," she said. "To bring the country together since New Zealand is turning into one bubble. I think it's really important to lift people's mood a little bit."

Peter Miskimmin, the chief executive of government agency Sport New Zealand, said the return of stadium games is enormously significant, and that sports are part of the nation's DNA.

"I don't think anyone has yet replicated that sense of excitement of being in a crowd, and the passions that flow from that," he said. "To be in a stadium and to feel it, and to even influence the game. The players know that the crowd is there."

Taiwan's professional baseball league began allowing a very limited number of fans into games in May, but loosened restrictions last weekend after the government eased coronavirus measures. Fans no longer have to wear masks when they're seated, food and drinks are now allowed in the stands, and stadiums can be filled up to half capacity.

During Saturday's rugby match, the momentum, and the lead, swung back and forth. The crowd got a laugh and a break from the mounting tension when a streaker wearing nothing but shoes braved the frigid winter weather and burst across the field. Then, with 2 minutes left on the clock, the home team scored a go-ahead drop goal.

As the final hooter sounded and the Highlanders kicked out the ball to win 28-27, the fans screamed and hugged. The players slapped each other on their backs and embraced.

All thoughts of social distancing were long gone.

Body camera video could offer more detail in Floyd encounter

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Video recorded by a bystander showed the world George Floyd's horrifying last minutes, capturing his cries and pleas for air as a Minneapolis officer used his knee to pin down Floyd's neck.

But the footage recorded by body cameras that officers wore on their chests as they were arresting

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 66 of 70

Floyd is expected to show even more about what the officers and Floyd were doing and saying during that fateful encounter, and it could shape how the officers' cases play out in court.

"A video camera, when properly authenticated, is an eye witness. It can testify," said Michael Primeau, an audio and video forensics expert at Michigan-based Primeau Forensics.

Floyd, a black man who was handcuffed, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white officer, used his knee to pin Floyd to the ground. Chauvin, who kept his knee on Floyd's neck even after Floyd stopped moving, has been charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter.

The three other officers, Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao, have been charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter. All four officers were fired.

The widely seen video recorded by a bystander shows Chauvin's actions and Floyd's anguish as he gasps for air. It also shows Thao, who was facing the bystanders. Some surveillance videos that have been released show bits and pieces of what happened before Floyd ended up on the ground, but a complete video picture of what happened from start to finish hasn't emerged. Body camera videos are not expected to be made public until a trial or until the cases are otherwise resolved.

Police spokesman John Elder said he was told that all four officers had their body cameras on, which is department policy. Minneapolis police officers are required to activate their body cameras well before they arrive to a scene under rules put in place after the 2017 fatal shooting of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, an Australian native who called 911 to report hearing a possible sexual assault behind her home. The two officers who responded to her call didn't activate their body cameras until after one of them shot her.

In the Floyd case, Bruce Gordon, a spokesman for the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, confirmed that body camera video captured portions of the incident. He said there is no squad car video that shows what happened.

John Stiles, a spokesman for Attorney General Keith Ellison, the lead prosecutor in the case, said prosecutors are reviewing all available evidence. He said he couldn't comment further.

Mel Reeves, a longtime community activist in Minneapolis, said he doesn't think the body camera video will matter because the bystander video should be enough to convict the officers.

"We saw what we saw," Reeves said. "We don't need any more evidence. We saw a man murdered. ... If the system that we live under — if this so-called democracy — can't find a way to punish people that caused a human being's death, we will have to pack up our bags and try something else."

But body camera videos are expected to give a more complete picture, particularly in the cases of Kueng and Lane, whose actions are not seen in the bystander video because they are obscured by a squad car.

"From the one bystander video ... you see Chauvin, which is obviously very damning, but you don't see what the other two are doing, or hear what they are saying," said Mike Brandt, a Minneapolis-area defense attorney who is not involved in the case. "I think all the body cameras are going to be key in explicating exactly what was said and what was done."

Lane's attorney, Earl Gray, said he has seen his client's body camera video and in his view, "it pretty much exonerates him." Without getting into detail about what it shows, Gray said the recorded audio and video is favorable to his client and reaffirms what is outlined in the criminal complaint: that Lane raised concern and suggested rolling Floyd onto his side.

Attorneys for Chauvin and Kueng said they weren't making statements or answering questions about the case. An attorney for Thao didn't respond to messages seeking comment.

According to the criminal complaints, the officers were arresting Floyd for suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a nearby store. At one point, they struggled to get him into a squad car, Chauvin pulled him out and Floyd "went to the ground face down and still handcuffed."

Brandt said body camera video will be key in showing what happened in the squad car. If Floyd was agitated or acting out, the defense could argue that Floyd was acting erratically and the officers' actions were reasonable. But even if that's the case, he said, that argument is problematic because once Floyd is subdued, prosecutors can point to the bystander video and make the argument that there was no longer a threat and that Chauvin crossed the line.

Andrew M. Stroth, a Chicago civil rights attorney, said video evidence, no matter the source, is critical in any case because it tells a story objectively and plays a role in getting officers charged in the first place. Minneapolis police initially said Floyd "appeared to be suffering medical distress" after he resisted arrest and was handcuffed, but police realized that was wrong after they saw the video, which sparked widespread protests in Minneapolis and beyond.

"But for the (bystander) video, there's no way all those officers would've been charged that swiftly," Stroth said.

Primeau, the forensics experts, cautioned that video needs to be properly analyzed and sometimes supported by other evidence. For example, he said, additional information about the use of force on Floyd's neck is going to be imperative to determine whether Chauvin's act was deadly, and autopsy reports will need to back those claims up.

"Your moral perspective wants to say that" it was deadly, he said. "Your bias wants to say that ... but we don't know how much force was used ... there's no numerical value that pops up on the screen that says, 'That's 20 pounds of pressure on his neck for eight minutes and that's what it was (that killed him).'"

The county's autopsy shows Floyd's heart stopped while he was being restrained; an autopsy commissioned by the family shows he died of asphyxiation due to neck and back compression.

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/amyforliti>

Dear white people: Being an ally isn't always what you think

By DEEPTI HAJELA and LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In one video clip, a black man kneels in front of a line of police, then one by one young white men move in as shields, human barriers between him and the law.

In another, a black woman yells at two white women spray-painting a Starbucks shop with "BLM," — Black Lives Matter — telling them to stop, that vandalism isn't helping.

Variations of both scenes have played out around the country many times in the more than two weeks of protests following the killing of George Floyd by police. They raise the issue: For white people wanting to be part of an anti-racist movement, what does it mean to be an ally?

As a new generation steps up, activists and historians believe there's important work to be done for white people: Listening to black voices and following rather than trying to lead, for one, and undertaking the deep introspection required to confront unconscious bias and the perks of privilege that come just from being white.

White people have played necessary roles in racial justice movements through time, from abolition to the civil rights era of the 1950s and '60s, said Mark Warren, a professor of public policy and public affairs at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

But "unfortunately, most white people still don't have any extensive or real experience in multiracial organizations and settings that are led by black people in their lives," he said. "So now they want to show up as allies, which is terrific, but are coming into that situation with not a lot of experience about how to act."

Much has been made of the multiracial crowds that have surged into the streets around the country and the globe after video surfaced of the handcuffed Floyd face-down on a Minneapolis street under the knee of a white police officer, along with the recent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia, and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky.

While the diverse crowds have made for good television, some activists are skeptical that the show of support will produce long-term commitment among many white people, and they question whether surface-level activism and how it plays out on social media does more harm than good.

Ernest Owens, a 28-year-old black journalist, questions the concept of whites as "allies."

While many have good intentions, he said true allyship — supporting black businesses, deeply exploring personal bias and ferreting out ways that white privilege contributes to persistent racism — must happen in order to genuinely stand in solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 68 of 70

That, Owens said, requires more empathy and compassion, more accountability and a more humble approach.

"I really don't think allies and the self grandeur is useful for conversations around racial change," he said.

Tanya DePass, 47, the black founder of an organization that promotes diversity in the video gaming industry, posted a Twitter thread with tips for white people looking to help that was retweeted more than 19,000 times. Among them: "Educate yourself before you engage."

DePass pointed to something other African Americans have noted amid the recent unrest: White acquaintances suddenly popping up, ostensibly to check on them, then engaging in conversations about how bad "they" feel.

That, DePass said, puts the onus on her to deal with their emotions.

"Stop making it into a white guilt thing," the Chicago resident told The Associated Press. "I've gotten a lot of messages of 'I'm so sorry, I know you're scared,' and this is from people I haven't talked to in a few years. And it's like what is driving this sudden reach out? ... I feel like they're a step away from saying, 'I'm sorry I'm white.'"

She added: "Stop apologizing for being white. That doesn't do anything except re-center us back on having to convince, 'No, no, no, you're an OK white person.'"

Carla Wallace, who is white, doesn't like the term "ally." She's a co-founder in Louisville, Kentucky, of Showing Up for Racial Justice, an activist organization focused on mobilizing whites to work for an end to racism and white supremacy.

She's been doing the work for a decade. Since protests began after Floyd's death, she has heard from thousands more white people looking to get involved.

"In this moment, white silence is the greatest impediment to those in power making the changes that are needed," Wallace said. "I don't use the word 'ally' because that tends to create a situation where I'm helping someone else."

It's not her help that's needed, she said.

"It's about me joining whatever power I have with the power that black and brown people have. It's about, what is our mutual interest in working for a different society? ... We must move from it being something that we do when we have time on a Saturday to something that we do because our lives depend on it."

For 37-year-old Amanda Alappat in New York, her journey to rooting out bias within herself started two years ago when she was scrolling through Instagram and ran across the 28-day Me and White Supremacy Challenge aimed at fostering a better understanding of privilege.

"I married a brown man. I have a mixed-race child. I have black friends. I don't feel racist, so I thought I was excused," said Alappat, who is white and married to an Indian man. "I functioned 35 years of my life without even a glimpse into my own privilege. I benefited. I was complicit."

Alappat now seeks out black businesses to support and plans to give a portion of her earnings as a yoga instructor to a black cause.

"We can't proclaim ourselves as allies," Alappat said. "It's really up to black people to decide, 'Yes Amanda is an ally. I see her as that.'"

The outpouring of protests in recent weeks on just about every continent are evidence that systemic racism and inequality does not begin and end at the U.S. borders.

Holiday Phillips, a sociologist in London, recalls the days after Arbery's Feb. 23 shooting death and how the arrests of a white father and son more than two months later were heralded as a win for the power of social media after video of the attack on the black man surfaced.

"Looking through my feed, I wanted to say to my white friends, 'You're here now, but where are you the other 364 days a year when anti-racism isn't trending? When racism isn't tucked safely behind the screen in your hand, but right there in front of your face?'" she wrote on Medium, a popular blogging site.

True commitment means calling out your boss when he routinely mixes up your two Indian colleagues, or taking on a racist relative, Phillips said. It also means acting with your wallet, asking friends about their experiences of racism and sincerely listening.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 69 of 70

"You can't just say stuff," she said, "and tick your activist box."

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Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 14, the 166th day of 2020. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 14, 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis began transporting prisoners to the Auschwitz (OWSH'-vitz) concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

On this date:

In 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created.

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the design of the original American flag.

In 1811, Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was born in Litchfield, Conn.

In 1846, a group of U.S. settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the Republic of California.

In 1919, John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown embarked on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. (Flying a Vickers Vimy ((VIH'-mee)) biplane bomber, they took off from St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada and arrived 16 1/2 hours later in Clifden, Ireland.)

In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1982, Argentine forces surrendered to British troops on the disputed Falkland Islands.

In 1985, the 17-day hijack ordeal of TWA Flight 847 began as a pair of Lebanese Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim extremists seized the jetliner shortly after takeoff from Athens, Greece.

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 6-3, police checkpoints that examined drivers for signs of intoxication.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2017, a rifle-wielding gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, wounding House Whip Steve Scalise (skuh-LEES') and several others; the assailant died in a battle with police. Fire ripped through the 24-story Grenfell Tower in West London, killing 71 people.

Ten years ago: During his latest visit to the Gulf Coast, President Barack Obama promised that "things are going to return to normal" and that the region's fouled waters would be in even better shape than before the catastrophic BP oil spill. A judge in Stockton, California, sentenced Sunday school teacher Melissa Huckaby to life in prison without the possibility of parole for kidnapping and murdering 8-year-old Sandra Cantu.

Five years ago: Thousands of Syrians cut through a border fence and crossed over into Turkey, fleeing intense fighting in northern Syria between Kurdish fighters and jihadis. Inbee Park shot a final round 68 and finished at 19-under par to win the KPMG Women's PGA Championship for the third consecutive year and retake the No. 1 ranking in women's golf.

One year ago: Workers at Volkswagen's plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, voted against forming a factory-wide union in a setback to the United Auto Workers' efforts to gain a foothold among foreign auto facilities in the South. Stepping back from comments two days earlier, President Donald Trump told "Fox and Friends" that if a foreign power offered him dirt about an opponent, then "of course" he would report that to the FBI or the attorney general, but he still said he would look at the information being offered to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 337 ~ 70 of 70

see whether it was "incorrect."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marla Gibbs is 89. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., is 81. Country-rock musician Spooner Oldham is 77. Rock singer Rod Argent (The Zombies; Argent) is 75. President Donald Trump is 74. Singer Janet Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 74. Rock musician Barry Melton is 73. Rock musician Alan White (Yes) is 71. Actor Eddie Mekka is 68. Actor Will Patton is 66. Olympic gold medal speed skater Eric Heiden (HY'-dun) is 62. Jazz musician Marcus Miller is 61. Singer Boy George is 59. Rock musician Chris DeGarmo is 57. Actress Traylor Howard is 54. Actress Yasmine Bleeth is 52. Actor Faizon Love is 52. Actor Stephen Wallem is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Steffi Graf is 51. Actor Sullivan Stapleton is 43. Screenwriter Diablo Cody is 42. Actor Lawrence Saint-Victor is 38. Actor Torrance Coombs is 37. Actor J.R. Martinez is 37. Actor-singer Kevin McHale is 32. Actress Lucy Hale is 31. Pop singer Jesy Nelson (Little Mix) is 29. Country singer Joel Crouse is 28. Actor Daryl Sabara is 28.

Thought for Today: "It is the flag just as much of the man who was naturalized yesterday as of the men whose people have been here many generations." — Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. senator and historian (1850-1924).

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