

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 1 of 75

- [1- Flag pole coming to City Park](#)
- [2- Samantha Pappas is GHS's 4th student to qualify for nationals](#)
- [2- City Council Story](#)
- [3- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [7- Sign Up for Prairie Dog Control Programs Enrollment Ends August 15](#)
- [8- Area COVID-19 Cases](#)
- [9- June 16th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [12- Updated Baseball Schedule](#)
- [13- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [14- Weather Pages](#)
- [17- Daily Devotional](#)
- [18- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [19- News from the Associated Press](#)

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

“STOP TRYING TO BE LESS THAN YOU ARE. LET THIS TIME IN YOUR LIFE CUT YOU OPEN AND DRAIN ALL OF THE THINGS THAT ARE HOLDING YOU BACK.”

-JENNIFER ELISABETH



Flag pole coming to the park

The old flag pole at the elementary school is being proposed to be moved the Groton City Park. The circle above shows the proposed location of the flag pole. (Photo by Paul 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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Samantha Pappas is GHS's 4th student to qualify for nationals

by Kristen Gonsoir, GHS Debate Coach- the following was posted on Facebook

I register my fourth student ever for the National Speech and Debate Contest (used to be National Forensic League but that name garnered confusion in multiple ways). For many schools nationals is a yearly event, an expectation for culmination of a year of work.

For small schools, such as ours, nationals are not the year end norm, rather it is a rare and well deserved exception to earn this right to compete with the best of the best. This morning as I register Sam Pappas for Congressional debate she joins the ranks of GHS students who earned the right to represent northern SD at nationals and joins the elite list of Michaela Oleson, Travis Kiefer, Rachel Keimig (Lewis), and Stephanie Herseth (debater before I was coaching). However, this year there was no long car ride or journey on a plane to a new and exciting destination.



I join secure zoom room H to register. Sam will be joining the NSDA Senate and youth from across the nation from her home via her school computer— no plane ride, no hours of bonding in a car with Mrs. G playing word games, solving riddles, listening to the news, debating and of course solving world problems (there sure would have been many) like stereotypical debate nerds.

Thanks to COVID19 the NSDA National Tournament is all virtual. I am thankful that the opportunity for National competition and learning exists. I know I am learning as I navigate the technology! I do believe I was more comfortable navigating downtown Dallas traffic at prior nationals. Thank you Keri Pappas for agreeing to judge in this virtual competition. I will let you all know how virtual nationals goes in a few days, but here we go!

Good luck Sam! You got this! Today you are joining the GHS debate elite list! GHS debate proud!

Council authorizes new flag pole in the park

The Groton City Council authorized the expenditure of \$500 towards the placement of a flag pole in the city park.

David McGannon came before the council to discuss the project. He said the school is looking at getting rid of the old flag pole north of the elementary school. The proposed site for the flag pole is south of the Main Street City Park sign. The 40' pole can handle an 8' flag. The Legion is donating \$500 and the Groton Lions Club is donating \$500 towards the project. A light will also be added so the flag can stay up day and night. KEY construction, the company that is working on the replacement of the power poles that were blown down from a recent storm, has offered to drill a 4' hole for the flag pole.

Glenn Cooper came before the council to discuss water charges. He is being charged for four apartments and a utility room. He said there should be no charge for the utility room. It's the principal that you're charging for five services for four people.

The board set the Legion Coach annual salary at \$3,000 which is reimbursed by the Groton Legion.

After an executive session, the council hired Brooklyn Imrie as a ticket taker, Bradley Penning as an U12 softball coach and Allyssa Locke as a fill-in ticket taker.

#114 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

There were some increases today.

We're at 2,148,600 cases in the US. New case numbers increased by a fair amount, still stubbornly over 20,000. NY leads with 389,349 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a tenth day. NJ has 167,426 cases, holding below 500 for a full week now. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 159,047, IL – 134,866, MA – 105,885, TX – 95,968, PA – 84,077, FL – 80,101, MI – 66,466, and MD – 63,004. 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, 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 6 more states have over 20,000 cases, 10 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 IN, TN, WA, IA, MI, MO, KY, and KS. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, TX, FL, GA, LA, NC, AZ, and AL. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, NJ, IL, MA, PA, MI, MD, and VA. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 116,977 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths increased to over 500 again. NY has 30,683, NJ has 12,727, MA has 7664, IL has 6608, PA has 6337, MI has 6039, CA has 5201, and CT has 4210. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; 5 of them are reporting fewer than 40. There are 1 more state over 3000 deaths, 6 more states over 2000 deaths, 6 more states over 1000 deaths, 8 more + DC over 500, 12 more + PR over 100, and 9 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

Apropos of a conversation about first wave or second wave the other night, it was noted we've lost around 16,000 people to Covid-19 this month—which, it should be pointed out, is only half over. We don't seem to be giving much attention these days to that loss of life, partly I suspect, because with so many states scaling back mitigation measures, we all have the sense that the crisis is fading. In fact, what we're seeing is new surges in many states.

In six states, the seven-day average of new cases is increasing, even while the number of tests being performed has decreased. In 14 more states new cases have increased faster than testing has. In 10 states, the rate of positive tests (percentage of tests performed that are positive) has increased at least two percentage points this month. And in 11 more states, the seven-day average number of deaths has increased. None of these are signs this is about over.

We've talked before about the fact that, for much of this pandemic, the news out of New York and New Jersey has driven the conversation because they had such a gargantuan proportion of the cases; we've also talked about how their relative success in reining this thing in has skewed our perceptions of what's happening in the rest of the country. In late March—just six weeks or so ago—New York had more than half of all the new cases reported in the country; a couple of days ago, it had 4% of them. Meanwhile, over the same time period, the states of Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming, which combined have roughly the same population as New York, have tripled their share of the national total and now report more than New York does.

With existing mortality patterns, about 5% of reported cases end up dying. (Please remember our discussion of how fatality rates are computed; here, we're talking just reported cases.) If we settle for where we are right now—and if things don't get even worse, we appear to be prepared to normalize maybe 20,000-25,000 new cases and around 1000 deaths per day as just the cost of doing business. This is troubling.

The CDC has released to Congress the mandated—and long overdue—report on Covid-19 in the US. It covers the time period between January 22 and May 30, and although data are incomplete, it gives us a picture of how this pandemic is playing out in our country.

Despite missing race and ethnicity data from more than half the cases reported, the disproportionate impact of the infection on minority communities is stark. Reported cases are approaching twice as frequent among Hispanic, black, and Native people as their proportion in the population. Hospitalizations are four times higher for Hispanics, 4.5 times higher for blacks, and five times higher for Natives.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 4 of 75

The presence of an underlying condition as a risk factor was also pointed up in the report. The most common conditions were heart disease at 32%, diabetes at 30%, and chronic lung disease at 18%. We already knew older people are at increased risk, but underlying conditions are a risk factor at any age. 45% of those with such conditions were hospitalized, compared with 7.6% for those without them, and deaths were 12 times higher in this group. It is generally believed the data understate the role these conditions play in contributing to deaths.

As of June 4, the CDC had reports of almost 20 million diagnostic tests, if each person tested was tested just once, this would mean just over six percent of our population has been tested; but, of course, since some folks receive multiple tests, the actual percentage is going to be somewhat lower than this. I'll just point out this is abysmal. For the record, 11% of those tests were positive.

Since yesterday, I've read a set of around eight or nine scientific papers, proposals, and press releases about drugs and treatments currently being evaluated for dealing with the cytokine storm that is responsible for a great deal of damage and many of the deaths seen with Covid-19. You will recall from several of our earlier conversations that the cytokine storm is a massive overreaction to this virus seen in some patients that exhausts the immune system and damages tissues in the lung and elsewhere throughout the body; it may show up after apparent recovery or may be part of a slide into critical condition as part of the active infection. Dealing with this storm is critical to survival for these patients. I thought tonight I'd walk you through some of the more promising among these.

One of the first drugs tried for this purpose was tocilizumab, a monoclonal antibody that blocks a key cytokine called Interleukin-6 (IL-6), a chemical that has been shown to be elevated in Covid-19 patients who are in respiratory failure. Early reports were impressive, but anecdotal reports are not evidence, so in March, the FDA approved trials. One such was a retrospective observational study (review of medical records) of 145 patients who received the drug at varying points in the course of their disease and concluded a "statistically significant mortality differential was characterized by the timing of the tocilizumab administration." Patients on mechanical ventilation were more likely to be discharged if they received the drug within several days of admission or on the day of intubation; those who received it later "were approximately eighteen times more likely to expire." Findings also include that "the likelihood of requiring MV [mechanical ventilation] increased by 21% for every day the tocilizumab therapy was delayed," adding that the "relationship suggests that earlier tocilizumab dosing may prevent the need for MV." While this study was not intended to assess the effect of the drug on clotting disorders that frequently develop in these critically ill patients, the findings do suggest there may be a benefit here as well.

Another study, this one also nonrandomized and observational, but including a control arm, of 154 patients receiving mechanical ventilation also showed the drug was associated with improved survival. One of the worries in giving an immunosuppressive drug to patients suffering from infections is that secondary infections will develop, that is, new infections that occur due to the primary one and coexist with it in the patient. This was seen to occur in these patients, but was not associated with any difference in mortality, perhaps because of efforts made during the study to optimize dosing strategy in order to limit immunosuppression. In addition to increased survival, these researchers also looked at clinical improvement and saw a benefit there as well.

A third study done in Spain, also observational and involving some 1200 patients, found that tocilizumab was associated with lower mortality or ICU admission among patients with elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) levels, but not among those with lower CRP levels. CRP is a protein associated with inflammation, among other things, and correlates well with elevated IL-6 levels, so can be used as an indication of a cytokine storm.

These results are being followed up now. There is a single-arm, Phase 2 clinical trial for tocilizumab enrolling patients now and another for tocilizumab with remdesivir, this one a Phase 3 randomized, double-blind, controlled study also enrolling participants.

Other drugs under investigation include Anakinra, an IL-1 antagonist. IL-1 is another cytokine that plays an important role in the upregulation of the immune response and a key player in inflammatory responses. A retrospective observational study involving 29 patients in Italy back in March showed high-dose treatment

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 5 of 75

appears to be safe and was associated with clinical improvement in 72% of patients receiving noninvasive ventilation—basically the equivalent of one of those CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines people with sleep apnea use.

Phase 3 clinical trials are getting underway with baricitinib, a Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor. JAK1 and JAK2 act as a pair in the transduction of cytokine-mediated signals between cells, JAK1 exhibiting the transducing activity and JAK2 downregulating the activity of JAK1. The JAK1/JAK2 pathway plays a role in hyperinflammatory responses, so inhibiting its activity is expected to be beneficial; additionally, there is some evidence baricitinib may also play a role in inhibiting host cell proteins that assist in viral replication, so it may be beneficial in blocking viral replication as well.

And acalabrutinib, a bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor which is used in the treatment of some cancers is also showing some promise. BTK is a cytokine that regulates signaling and activation of cells called macrophages, gigantic (as the name indicates), amoeba-like cells which are activated by inflammation and whose job is to clean up debris left behind by such responses. When hyperactivated, macrophages proceed to damage healthy tissue instead of confining their efforts to the destruction of damaged and dying cells, so they can be a problem that a BTK inhibitor is intended to resolve. Macrophages are generally not activated until there is substantial damage to the lungs (after all, their job is clean-up), so it makes sense they're involved when patients show sudden deterioration weeks into the course of their disease, that is, after there's tissue damage in the lung. In a small study without a control group, eight of 11 people who had needed oxygen and two of eight on ventilators were able to go home; another two on ventilators were able to wean from the machines. These are considerably better odds than we've seen. The maker of this drug has published plans to run larger trials.

Another approach to therapy for the cytokine storm is a class of blood pressure drugs called α -1 adrenergic receptor antagonists. α -1 adrenergic receptors mediate smooth muscle (like the muscles in the walls of your blood vessels) contraction, so they play a role in blood pressure by contracting to narrow or relaxing to widen blood vessels, thus raising and lowering blood pressure as needed. In a cytokine storm, hormones called catecholamines use α -1 adrenergic receptors to mediate production of IL-6 and other cytokines in a positive-feedback loop that spirals out of control, enhancing the damage done by the inflammatory response. These drugs which inhibit the α -1 adrenergic receptors, should be able to help prevent the cytokine storm.

There had been some evidence this might be a thing when it was noted that patients receiving α -1 adrenergic receptor antagonists, often for their high blood pressure, in the year preceding hospitalization were significantly less likely to require mechanical ventilation or to die from Covid-19. Because these drugs are inexpensive and safe, it is possible they could form the basis for a prophylactic strategy in those at high risk for exposure and also those recently infected. As with most drugs, there can be side effects, so solid evidence of benefit must be established before it makes sense to go off, willy-nilly, giving people these medications. Such a study is enrolling participants now.

There are also a couple of devices receiving trials. CytoSorb is a filter filled with coarse polymers with enormous surface area through which a patient's blood is passed. The polymers in this cartridge filter excess cytokines from the blood, much in the same way a dialysis machine filters toxins, and the blood is then pumped back into the body. A cartridge can run the body's blood volume through about 70 times in a day. It does remove some important proteins as well as cytokines, but the trade-off in a person this ill is keeping the patient alive so he can make more proteins. While expensive, these appear from use in small numbers of patients to improve survival. A similar device called oXiris has also been authorized for use in the critically ill. There are also plans to pair up CytoSorb with tocilizumab, so there are many trials underway, planned, and contemplated. That's how you do science.

Coincidentally, as I was working on this update, a friend (actually three friends) sent me an article with more good news regarding therapeutic interventions for cytokine storm. Amidst all this talk about fancy, high-priced, monoclonal antibody treatments (which is most of the above), a humble, cheap, long-used drug called dexamethasone is showing up to the party. In a controlled trial of this low-dose steroid involving some 6000 patients conducted by researchers from Oxford University, the risk of death for patients

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 6 of 75

on ventilators was reduced from 40% to 28% and for patients requiring oxygen, from 25% to 20%. This is excellent news. Researchers estimate, had the drug been used from the start, some 5000 lives could have been saved in the UK. These results place it ahead of remdesivir which was shown to shorten the course of disease, but not definitively demonstrated to improve survival. The cost is under \$10 per patient.

I saw a nice story today about a family with five children who had been homeless just a couple of years ago. With the help of an organization called Positive Tomorrows, they found housing, got stable, and then recently purchased a home of their own. They'd been doing well until the mother was laid off from her job waiting tables in a restaurant when the pandemic struck. I'm trying to imagine how scary that has to be when you have already experienced homelessness once before. They hung in there, and things have stabilized for them, so they've moved to paying forward the assistance they have received. They have been packing up and delivering meals to homeless people; so far, they've delivered almost 300 of them. Their next project is putting together back-to-school supplies for homeless children. The mother, Rachel, said, "I definitely know being judged . . . and sometimes people can't help their situations." She adds, "So if I can teach my kids to be selfless and to give back, that's what I'm here to do." We have here another example of giving, not from your abundance, but from your scarcity.

I'm thinking most of us who've never been homeless probably have more to spare than Rachel and her family have. Maybe it's time we stepped up too. Find a need, meet a need. Simple really. And when we strengthen one, we strengthen the society. That's good for all of us. I encourage you to seek out opportunities to serve others because service benefits both parties to the transaction.

And keep yourself healthy. We'll talk again.

Sign Up for Prairie Dog Control Programs Enrollment Ends August 15

PIERRE, S.D.—The South Dakota departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Agriculture (SDDA) want to remind South Dakota landowners to register for assistance with prairie dog encroachment. The deadline for enrollment is August 15.

The state's prairie dog control program is cooperatively operated by GFP and SDDA. GFP manages encroachment issues for prairie dogs that move from public lands to adjacent private lands while SDDA manages complaints between private landowners.

"GFP will control prairie dogs that have encroached onto private land from adjacent public land," said GFP wildlife damage program administrator, Keith Fisk. "Landowners who have encroachment problems on their property from adjacent public land must be within one mile of the public land and have at least 10 acres of actual prairie dog colonies to be eligible for assistance."

Landowners must register online at prairiedogcontrol.sd.gov to request assistance with unwanted prairie dogs before Aug. 15, 2020. If landowners have questions about the program, they can contact GFP at 605.773.5913. Once eligibility is verified in September, GFP staff or a department representative will begin control measures on the private land.

Landowners who are experiencing encroachment from adjoining private land should contact the SDDA. If the colony is encroaching from private land, a signed written complaint must be completed in one of two ways:

1. The affected landowner must sign a letter of complaint and mail it to the local county's Weed and Pest Board.
2. The landowner must submit a formal written complaint to the SDDA, as well as mail a copy to the neighboring landowner. Landowners can find the form on the SDDA's website, sdda.sd.gov, or by calling the SDDA at 605.773.3796. Notices of private land encroachment may be sent to the SDDA throughout the year.

The South Dakota Prairie Dog Management Plan is also available online at gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/prairiedog-management-plan.pdf

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 8 of 75

Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16
Minnesota	28,523	28,869	29,316	29,795	30,172	30,471	30,693
Nebraska	15,883	16,025	16,315	16,513	16,633	16,725	16,851
Montana	554	561	563	573	588	601	609
Colorado	28,347	28,499	28,647	28,822	29,017	29,130	29,299
Wyoming	760	768	793	811	832	841	856
North Dakota	2901	2941	2980	3016	3058	3080	3101
South Dakota	5523	5604	5665	5742	5833	5898	+5928
United States	1,979,971	2,000,464	2,023,347	2,048,986	2,074,526	2,094,069	2,111,622
US Deaths	112,006	112,924	113,820	114,669	115,436	115,732	116,114

Minnesota	+299	+346	+447	+479	+377	+299	+222
Nebraska	+131	+142	+290	+198	+120	+92	+126
Montana	+6	+7	+2	+10	+15	+13	+8
Colorado	+164	+152	+148	+175	+195	+113	+169
Wyoming	+12	+8	+25	+18	+21	+9	+15
North Dakota	+21	+40	+39	+36	+42	+22	+21
South Dakota	+52	+81	+62	+77	+91	+65	+30
United States	+19,786	+20,493	+22,883	+25,639	+25,540	+19,543	+17,553
US Deaths	+999	+918	+896	+849	+767	+296	+382

	June 17
Minnesota	30,882
Nebraska	17,031
Montana	614
Colorado	29,442
Wyoming	866
North Dakota	3124
South Dakota	5966
United States	2,137,731
US Deaths	116,963

Minnesota
 Nebraska
 Montana
 Colorado
 Wyoming
 North Dakota
 South Dakota
 United States
 US Deaths

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 9 of 75

June 16th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Two individuals have died in South Dakota from COVID-19. One was a male and one a female. Age groups were one in the 50-59 age group and one in the 70-79 age group. One was in Minnehaha County and the other in Pennington County.

The number of active cases in the state continues to drop and the percentage of recovered cases is continuing to rise in South Dakota. Douglas and Hyde counties are joined with the fully recovered list while Marshall and Walworth counties drop from that list. In South Dakota, 85 percent of the positive cases have fully recovered. That number in Brown County is 91.1 percent as there are only 26 active cases out of 313. In other counties, Minnehaha County has recovered 92 percent of its cases, 58 percent in Pennington County, 72 percent in Beadle County and 90 percent in Lincoln County.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -4 (26)
Recovered: +4 (285)
Total Positive: 0 (313)
Ever Hospitalized: -1 (15)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +73 (2170)
Percent Recovered: 91.1 % (1.3 increase)

South Dakota:

Positive: +38 (5966 total)
Negative: +769 (61236 total)
Hospitalized: +18 (562 total). 92 currently hospitalized (down 1 from yesterday)
Deaths: +2 (77 total)
Recovered: +108 (5069 total)
Active Cases: -72 (820)
Percent Recovered: 85.0% +1.3

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Butte +2 (357), Campbell +1 (59), Haakon 180, Harding 33, Jones +1 (23), Perkins 71, Potter 148, unassigned -260 (5935).

Beadle: +4 positive, +19 recovered (323 of 452 recovered)
Brookings: +2 positive (26 of 38 recovered)
Brown: +4 recovered (285 of 313 recovered)
Buffalo: +1 positive, +2 recovered (25 of 54 recovered)
Clay: +1 positive, +6 recovered (41 of 67 recovered)
Codington: +1 recovered (38 of 46 recovered)
Davison: +2 recovered (26 of 33 recovered)
Dewey: +2 positive (0 of 4 recovered)
Hanson: +1 recovered (2 of 3 recovered)
Hughes: +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 of 23 recovered)
Jackson: +1 positive, +1 recovered (2 of 6 recovered)
Jerauld: +2 recovered (36 of 40 recovered)
Lake: +1 positive, ++1 recovered (12 of 16 recovered)
Lincoln: +1 positive (243 of 271 recovered)
Lyman: +4 recovered (18 of 33 recovered)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 10 of 75

Marshall: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)
McCook: +1 recovered (6 of 8 recovered)
Meade: +2 positive, +1 recovered (21 of 39 recovered)
Mellette: +1 positive (0 of 2 recovered)
Minnehaha: +3 positive, +12 recovered (3222 of 3488 recovered)
Oglala Lakota: +2 positive, +4 recovered (28 of 38 recovered)
Pennington: +10 positive, +29 recovered (234 of 402 recovered)
Roberts: +1 recovered (34 of 40 recovered)
Todd: +1 positive, +2 recovered (34 of 48 recovered)
Tripp: +1 positive (6 of 8 recovered)
Union: +4 recovered (97 of 113 recovered)
Walworth: +1 positive (5 of 6 recovered)
Yankton: +2 positive, +2 recovered (52 o 60 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Gained Douglas, Hyde, Lost Marshall, Walworth): Day 13-13, Deuel 1-1, Douglas 4-4, Edmunds 4-4, Grant 13-13, Gregory 1-1, Hyde 3-3, McPherson 3-3, Sanborn 13-13, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 1,797 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 23 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,124.

State & private labs have reported 135,691 total completed tests.
2,720 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	662	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	947	16%
Hispanic	995	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	758	13%
Other	655	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	1949	33%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
Brown	2
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	54
Pennington	9
Todd	1
Union	1

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 11 of 75

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	33	27	216
Beadle	452	323	1095
Bennett	1	0	240
Bon Homme	9	7	496
Brookings	38	26	1302
Brown	313	285	2243
Brule	10	4	373
Buffalo	54	25	365
Butte	0	0	357
Campbell	0	0	59
Charles Mix	32	17	413
Clark	11	4	254
Clay	67	41	784
Codington	46	38	1571
Corson	11	4	103
Custer	2	1	341
Davison	33	26	1346
Day	13	13	299
Deuel	1	1	245
Dewey	4	0	671
Douglas	4	4	252
Edmunds	4	4	253
Fall River	6	4	453
Faulk	20	16	82
Grant	13	13	369
Gregory	1	1	201
Haakon	0	0	180
Hamlin	11	9	249
Hand	6	4	162
Hanson	3	2	99
Harding	0	0	33
Hughes	23	18	849
Hutchinson	9	6	559

Hyde	3	3	81
Jackson	6	2	254
Jerauld	40	36	212
Jones	0	0	23
Kingsbury	5	3	330
Lake	16	12	542
Lawrence	12	11	1023
Lincoln	271	243	3611
Lyman	33	18	433
Marshall	5	4	169
McCook	8	6	393
McPherson	3	3	153
Meade	39	21	966
Mellette	2	0	121
Miner	3	2	151
Minnehaha	3488	3222	16713
Moody	20	18	394
Oglala Lakota	48	28	1341
Pennington	402	234	5025
Perkins	0	0	71
Potter	0	0	148
Roberts	40	34	806
Sanborn	13	13	161
Spink	5	5	700
Stanley	11	9	111
Sully	1	1	37
Todd	48	34	647
Tripp	8	6	267
Turner	25	23	524
Union	113	97	1031
Walworth	6	5	331
Yankton	60	52	1922
Ziebach	2	1	96
Unassigned****	0	0	5935

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2851	42
Male	3115	35

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	601	0
20-29 years	1217	1
30-39 years	1309	3
40-49 years	981	5
50-59 years	952	12
60-69 years	540	13
70-79 years	187	7
80+ years	179	36

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 12 of 75

2020 Groton Baseball Schedule

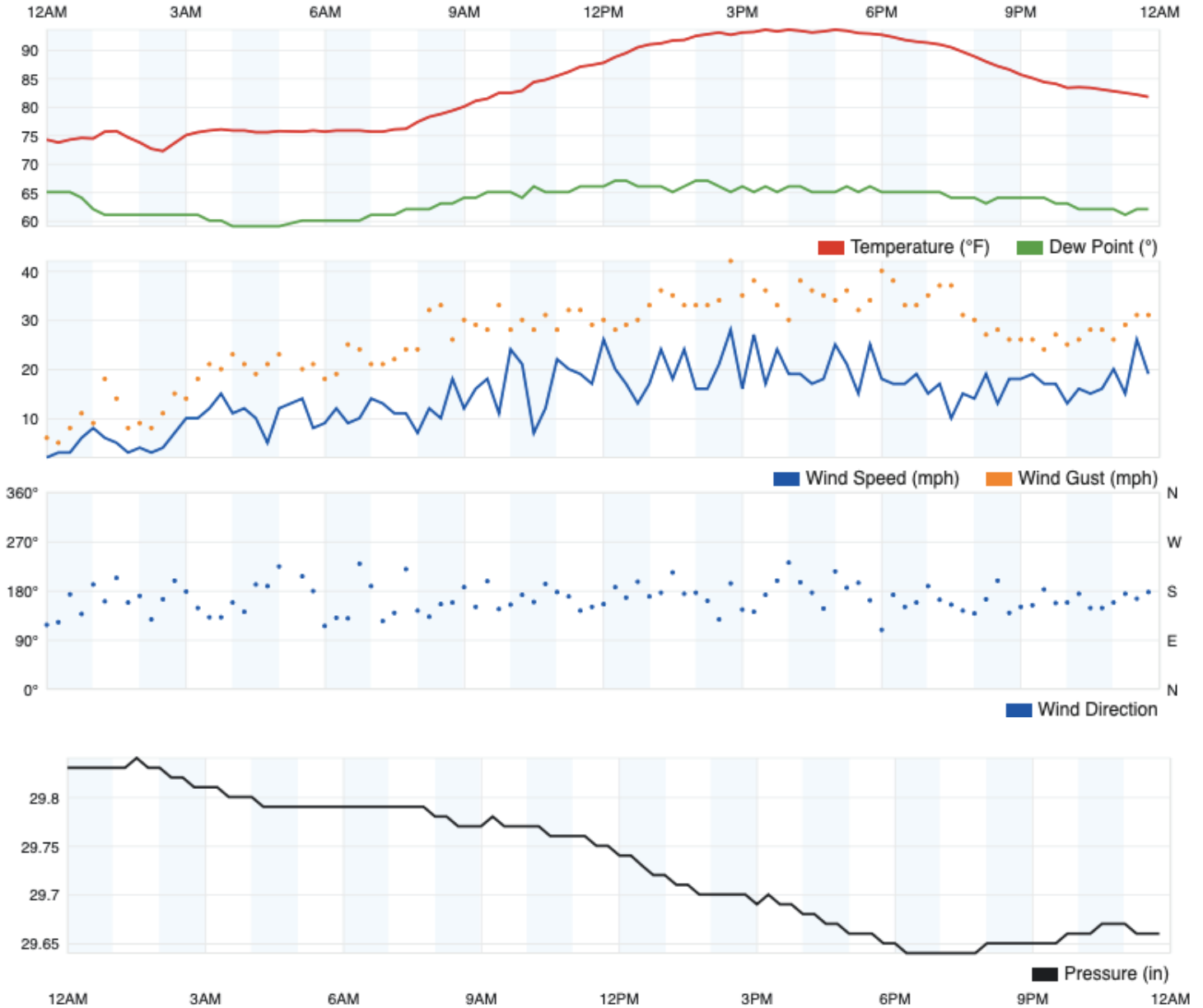
Updated June 13, 2020

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

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 13 of 75

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 14 of 75

Today



Hot and Breezy

High: 94 °F

Tonight



Severe Thunderstorms and Breezy

Low: 65 °F

Thursday



Slight Chance T-storms

High: 79 °F

Thursday Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 53 °F

Friday



Sunny

High: 77 °F

SLIGHT RISK of Severe T-Storms

ISSUED: 3:58 AM - Wednesday, June 17, 2020

WHAT

Scattered severe thunderstorms possible. These storms could produce **wind gusts up to 70 mph and hail up to golf ball size.**

WHERE

Mainly for areas east of the Missouri River, with the highest risk across portions of central and eastern South Dakota.

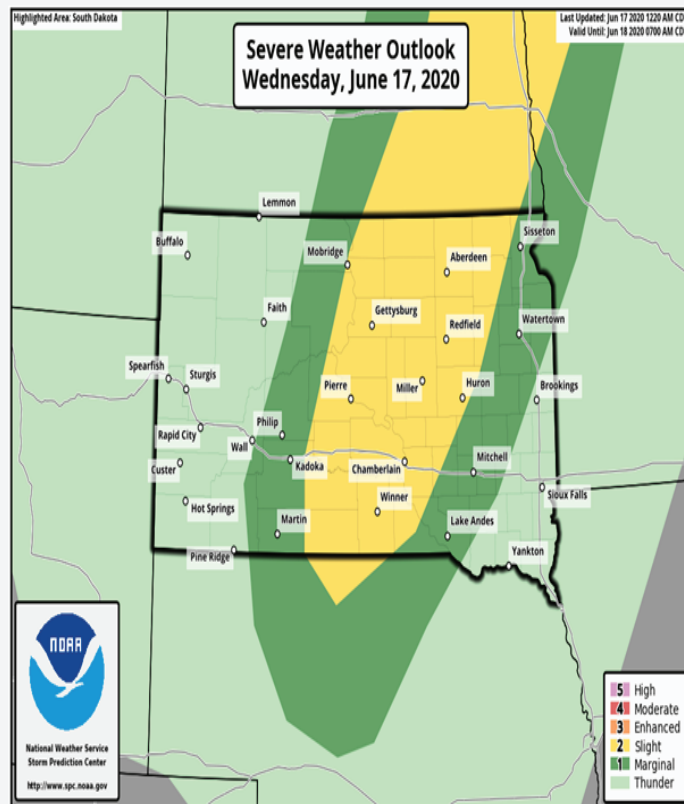
WHEN

This evening into the early overnight hours. **The highest risk period will be from 6 pm - 1 am.**

ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan of action in case storms threaten your area.

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



Strong to severe storms will be possible this evening into the early overnight hours. The best risk area is across portions of central and eastern South Dakota. Large hail and damaging wind gusts up to 70 mph will be possible.

Today in Weather History

June 16, 1915: A tornado swept over a narrow path in Hughes, Hyde, and Hand counties during the afternoon hours. This tornado caused several thousands of dollars in property damage and seriously injured many people. Luckily there were no fatalities reported.

June 16, 1992: An F3 tornado caused significant destruction as it moved northeast across the northwestern side of Ft. Thompson. The tornado virtually destroyed the Lake Sharpe Visitor Center. In Ft. Thompson, the tornado destroyed at least four homes and 15 mobile homes were damaged, leaving about 55 persons homeless. Eight people were injured, two of them seriously. The storm also destroyed other buildings, six 50,000 bushel grain bins, and four high voltage towers from Big Bend Dam. At the Shady Bend Campground, 19 campers and several boats were destroyed.

Also, heavy rains fell over a three-day period beginning on the 15th. The hardest hit area was in Clear Lake where the three-day total was 11.53 inches. As a result, a wall of water up to 15 feet high swept down creeks in the Clear Lake area. The resultant flash flooding went through first floors of many houses and even filled basements of houses on hills. The wave of water hit a car that was occupied by a woman and her son. The water spun them around as they floated about 200 yards. The car finally grounded without any reported injuries. All roads into Clear Lake were cut off as the town became surrounded by water. Officials in Deuel County estimated at least 37 bridges and culverts were destroyed. Other three-day rainfall totals include; 6.35 inches in Conde; 5.99 in Castlewood; 4.91 inches 2NW of Big Stone City; 4.90 in Redfield; and 4.65 inches at Artichoke Lake.

June 16, 2009: An upper low-pressure area brought several supercell thunderstorms which produced severe weather across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to 2 inches in diameter, several tornadoes, along with flash flooding occurred with these storms. Slow moving thunderstorms brought very heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches in and around Aberdeen causing extensive road flooding throughout the city. Dozens of basements were flooded and damaged along with some sewer backups. Many vehicles became stalled with the police sent out to direct traffic. There were also some power outages. A tornado touched down briefly northwest of Lebanon in Potter County with no damage occurring. A tornado touched down southeast of Polo in Hand County, in an open field. No damage occurred. Heavy rains of 3 to over 5 inches caused flash flooding of several roads and crops in north-central and northeast Spink County. Torrential rains from 3 to 6 inches fell across southeast Brown County bringing flash flooding. Many roads were flooded and damaged along with many acres of cropland. A tornado touched down in southeastern Hand County and remained on the ground for nearly 15 minutes before lifting. No damage occurred with this tornado as it stayed in the open country.

June 16, 2010: Very strong winds were observed during the evening hours in Dewey County, South Dakota. Three weather stations near Lantry observed winds from 101 to 142 mph. One station had recorded a 101 mph wind before it was destroyed. The other two stations recorded 131 mph and 142 mph winds. The winds destroyed an airplane hangar and severely damaged another one. Several semi-trailers were also tipped over and damaged by the very high winds.

1806: Great American total solar eclipse occurred from California to Massachusetts with nearly five-minute in duration. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

1896: A tsunami ravages the coast of Japan killing between 22,000 and 27,000 people.

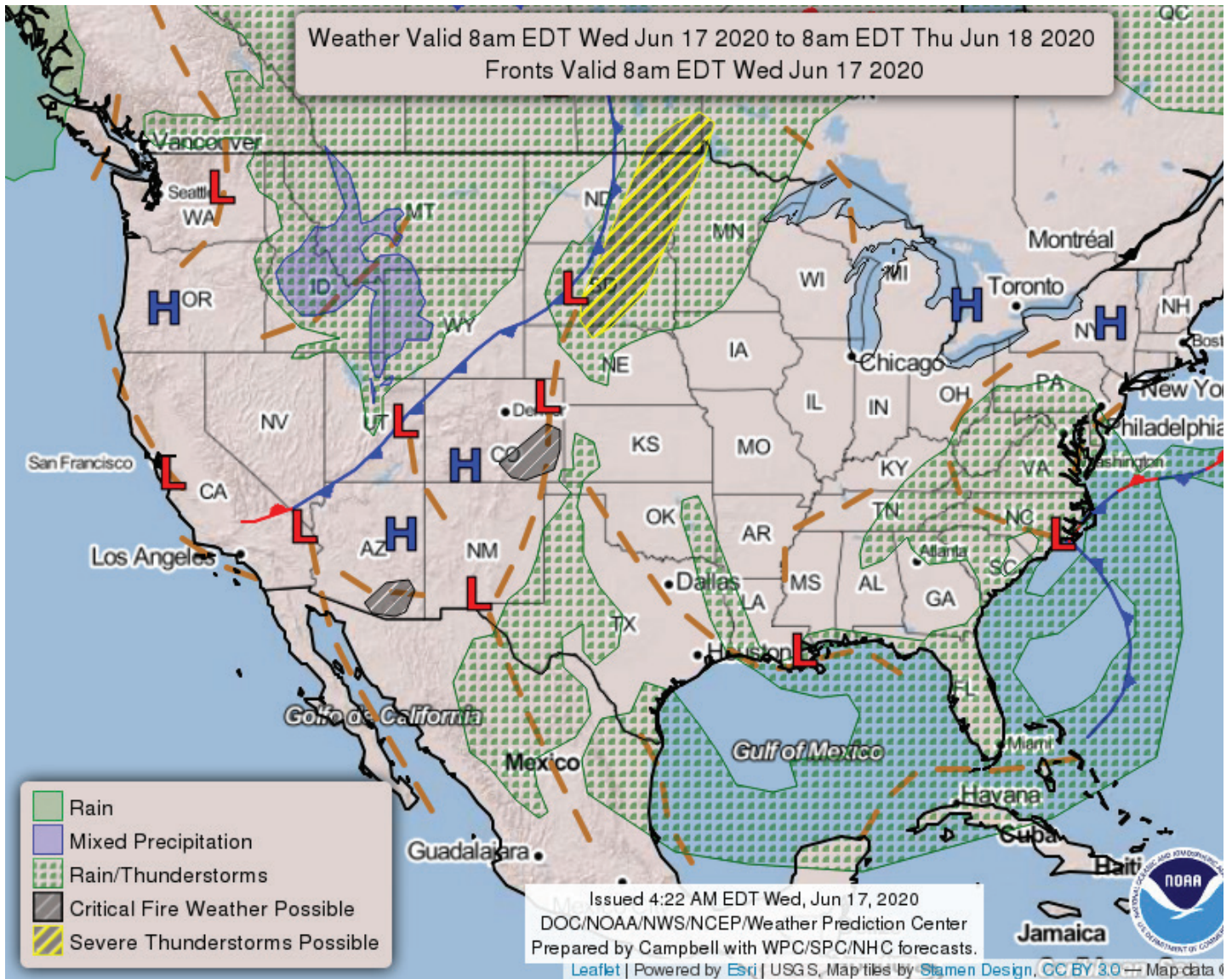
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 16 of 75

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 94 °F at 3:37 PM
Low Temp: 72 °F at 2:22 AM
Wind: 42 mph at 2:34 PM
Precip: .00

Record High: 105° in 1933
Record Low: 40° in 1915, 1912
Average High: 78°F
Average Low: 54°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.94
Precip to date in June.: 1.75
Average Precip to date: 9.08
Precip Year to Date: 6.38
Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 17 of 75



AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

A young boy with braces up to his knees on both legs hobbled into a pet store. Noticing the difficulty he had in walking, the owner approached him and said in a kind voice, "How can I help you?"

"I want to buy the puppy in the window," he said.

"But, son," said the owner, "that puppy has problems. He has a crippled leg and will need someone who can take care of him."

Pulling up the legs of his trousers he said, "I understand. I have the same problem. So no one will love him more or take care of him better than me."

One fact that should fill our minds and hearts with hope and encouragement comes from Hebrews: "This High Priest of ours – Jesus - understands our weaknesses for He faced the same temptations we do, yet He was without sin."

Thank God for the fact that Jesus was as human as we are. We can take great comfort in knowing that He faced everything that we face: hunger, loneliness, abandonment, pain, sorrow, grief, temptation, rejection - even death. And yet He never gave in or gave up His faith in His Heavenly Father. Jesus proved the fact that we do not need to give in to temptation and sin. If He was able to reject sin's power through faith in His Father's power, so can we! He is the only one who ever lived that was faithful and true and lived a life of perfection for us to follow.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the example Your Son, our Savior, set for us to follow. When we face temptation, give us Your strength to stand firm and not sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: This High Priest of ours – Jesus - understands our weaknesses for He faced the same temptations we do, yet He was without sin. Hebrews 4:15-16

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 18 of 75

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

21-23-33-35-42, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 3

(twenty-one, twenty-three, thirty-three, thirty-five, forty-two; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Hundreds still off the job at Smithfield in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of workers are still absent from the Smithfield meatpacking plant in Sioux Falls because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to union leaders.

AFL-CIO secretary treasurer BJ Motley says between 800 and 1,200 of the plant's 3,700 employees are either quarantined, have tested positive for the virus or fall into a high-risk category.

Those in the high-risk category were previously going to be asked to return to work June 15, but after discussions with the union that date was extended to June 29. High risk individuals would be those over age 60 who have a medical condition like diabetes that would make them susceptible to the disease.

Motley tells the Argus Leader Smithfield will continue to pay workers who were either quarantined or had the disease while they stay home until July 31.

State health officials said Tuesday South Dakota has confirmed 38 new cases of the coronavirus for a total of 5,966 individuals who have tested positive. The state's death toll from COVID-19 rose two, to 77.

Trump administration takes Keystone dispute to Supreme Court

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The Trump administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to revive a permit program that would allow the disputed Keystone XL pipeline and other new oil and gas pipelines to cross waterways with little review.

Earlier this year, a Montana judge suspended the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' permit program when environmental groups seeking to block construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline argued the permit process allows companies to skirt responsibility for damage done to water bodies.

The permit program, known as Nationwide Permit 12, allows pipelines to be built across streams and wetlands with minimal review if they meet certain criteria.

Canadian company TC Energy needs the permit to build the long-disputed pipeline from Canada across U.S. rivers and streams. Industry representatives said U.S. District Judge Brian Morris' ruling blocking the program could also delay more than 70 pipeline projects across the U.S. and add as much as \$2 billion in costs.

Morris ruled that Army Corps officials in 2017 improperly reauthorized the program, which he said could harm protected wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Last month, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied an emergency request to block Morris' ruling filed by the U.S. government, states and industry groups.

On Monday, U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco asked the Supreme Court to do what the 9th Circuit court wouldn't: block Morris' ruling and let the permit program operate again while the lawsuit plays out in court.

The government's application to the court says Morris shouldn't have blocked the program, the which has been in effect since the 1970s, and the Army Corps and private companies "rely on it for thousands

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 20 of 75

of activities annually," the solicitor general wrote.

"The district court had no warrant to set aside NWP 12 with respect to Keystone XL, let alone for the construction of all new oil and gas pipelines anywhere in the country," Francisco wrote.

One of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement that the Supreme Court should reject the Trump administration's request.

"Pipelines like Keystone XL are a disaster waiting to happen," senior attorney Jared Margolis said in the statement.

In May, TC Energy built the first piece of the disputed oil sands pipeline across the U.S. border. But with Morris' ruling on the permit program, it would be difficult for the company to complete the \$8 billion project.

The 1,200-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline from Alberta to Nebraska was stalled for much of the past decade before President Donald Trump was elected and began trying to push it through to completion.

Sturgis council votes to go ahead with motorcycle rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The roar of motorcycles will return to the Black Hills this summer with the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, but with some major modifications.

The Sturgis City Council voted Monday night to proceed with preparations for the Aug. 7-16 rally, now in its 80th year.

The event draws hundreds of thousands of motorcycle fans to the area each year and provides a huge boost in tourism spending. Officials estimated the economic impact of last year's rally was about \$665 million.

The council voted 8-1 to allow the rally to take place, but without the usual parade, opening ceremony and B-1 bomber flyover.

The decision comes after weeks of public comment and debate on whether to hold the event amid the coronavirus pandemic. Vendors will be required to wear personal protective equipment. If they don't have any, the city will provide it.

KOTA-TV reports sanitation stations will be scattered throughout the downtown area.

Mass testing is being considered for the safety of residents, but has not been approved. Each test could cost \$75 to \$150 per person.

"If mass testing happens, anyone who was interacting with the tens of thousands of people that come into our community are able to be tested so that they know they would need to self quarantine or also seek treatment," said Daniel Ainslie, Sturgis city manager. "We are continuing to work with the Department of Homeland Security and state emergency office to try to get that done."

During a special City Council meeting last week, Ainslie recommended postponing the rally until 2021, but to prepare for the hundreds of thousands of people likely to make their way to the Black Hills anyway.

If COVID-19 numbers suddenly spike at any time before or during the rally, the Sturgis mayor can cancel all events immediately.

Beijing's new outbreak raises fears for rest of the world

By KEN MORITSUGU, DAVID RISING and ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China raised its emergency warning to its second highest level and canceled more than 60% of the flights to Beijing on Wednesday amid a new coronavirus outbreak in the capital — a sharp pullback for the nation that declared victory over the virus in March and a warning for the rest of the world about how tenacious this virus really is.

New infections spiked in India, Iran and U.S. states including Florida, Texas and Arizona as authorities struggled to balance restarting economic activity without accelerating the spread of the pandemic.

European nations, which embarked on a widescale reopening this week, looked on with trepidation as the Americas struggled mightily to contain the first wave of the pandemic and Asian nations like China and South Korea reported new outbreaks, giving rise to fears of a second wave.

In China, officials described the situation in Beijing as "extremely grave."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 21 of 75

"This has truly rung an alarm bell for us," Party Secretary Cai Qi told a meeting of Beijing's Communist Party Standing Committee.

The party's Global Times said 1,255 flights to and from the capital's two major airports were scrapped by Wednesday morning, about two-thirds of those scheduled. Beijing Capital Airport is traditionally the world's second busiest in passenger capacity.

Since the virus emerged in China late last year and spread worldwide, there have been more than 8.1 million confirmed cases and at least 443,000 deaths, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say the true toll is much higher, due to the many who died without being tested and other factors.

The U.S. has the most infections and deaths in the world, with a toll that neared 117,000 on Wednesday, surpassing the number of Americans who died in World War I. In a worrying development since the U.S. hurricane season began this month, the virus has even sidelined some members of a U.S. team that tracks hurricanes.

Arizona reported a new daily high of nearly 2,400 new infections for a total of more than 39,000, while in Texas, Governor Greg Abbott insisted that the state's health care system could handle the fast-rising number of new coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

Tuesday marked the eighth time in nine days that Texas set a new high for COVID-19 hospitalizations at 2,518. State health officials also reported 2,622 new cases, a single-day high.

"It does raise concerns, but there is no reason right now to be alarmed," Abbott said.

Texas began aggressively re-opening its economy on May 1 and Abbott has continued to relax restrictions. He noted that Texans may have become lax in wearing masks or practicing social distancing and urged people to stay home as much as possible.

In Oregon, a rural northeastern church has become the epicenter of the state's largest coronavirus outbreak, as 236 people tested positive. The outbreak also led to Oregon's second consecutive record-setting daily case count.

Canada and the U.S., meanwhile, decided to extend to July 21 a deal to keep their border closed to nonessential travel, with many Canadians fearing cases arriving from the U.S.

"This is a decision that will protect people on both sides of the border as we continue to fight COVID-19," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

As the U.S. struggles with the first wave of the virus, other countries where it was widely thought to be under control faced disturbing developments.

In South Korea, authorities reported 43 new cases amid increased public activity. Authorities said 25 of them came from the Seoul metropolitan area, where hundreds of infections have been linked to nightclubs, church gatherings, e-commerce workers and door-to-door salespeople. Twelve of the new cases were linked to international arrivals.

Not long after declaring itself virus-free, New Zealand is dealing with a reemergence of the virus. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern assigned a top military leader to oversee the border quarantines after what she described as an "unacceptable failure" by health officials.

They had allowed two New Zealand citizens who had recently returned from London to leave quarantine before being tested to see a dying relative. After the women tested positive, New Zealand began tracing their potential contacts to ensure the virus is contained.

Their cases raised the specter that international air travel could ignite a new surge of the virus just as countries are reopening airports to boost their devastated tourism industries.

The flight cancellations in China were among a number of travel limits placed around the capital. Beijing had essentially eradicated local transmissions until recent days, with 137 new cases since last week.

On Wednesday, the city of 20 million people raised its threat level from 3 to 2, leading to the cancellation of classes, suspended reopenings and stronger requirements for social distancing. China had relaxed many coronavirus controls after the Communist Party declared victory over the virus in March.

India — which has the fourth-highest caseload after the U.S., Brazil and Russia — added more than 2,000 deaths to its tally, after Delhi and Maharashtra states included 1,672 previously unreported fatalities. Its

death toll of 11,903 is now eighth highest in the world. India has been reporting some 10,000 new infections and more than 300 deaths each day for the last two weeks.

In Europe, which has seen over 184,000 virus-related deaths, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced that a ceremony will be held on July 16 to honor the country's more than 27,000 dead.

Denmark's health minister urged anyone who joined a large protest against racial injustice on June 7 to be tested "whether you have symptoms or not" after one person in the crowd tested positive.

"As long as we have the virus in Europe and in Denmark, it will flare up. We are dealing with a very, very contagious disease," said Health Minister Magnus Heunicke.

Rising reported from Berlin and McGuirk reported from Canberra, Australia. Associated Press reporters around the world contributed.

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

Lafayette Square could decide Trump's legacy — and election

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Charlottesville. Helsinki. The children in cages at the Mexican border.

And now Lafayette Square.

Only a few legacy-defining moments have clung to President Donald Trump, who often appears to emerge relatively unscathed from a seemingly endless stream of crises and controversies. But the forceful clearing of demonstrators from the park across from the White House has resonated like few others, prompting top military leaders and usually lockstep Republicans to distance themselves from him.

It's one of those rare images that seems unlikely to be overwritten by tomorrow's headlines, instead claiming a prominent place in Trump's entry in the history books. It also could help shape an election less than five months away. Even the president and members of his inner circle have privately expressed worry that its impact could be lasting.

"It's an indelible moment when the president of the United States ordered the use of force against peaceful protesters using their First Amendment rights in order to walk across Lafayette Square" and hoist a Bible, said Steve Schmidt, senior adviser to John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. "In 10 minutes, he totally disgraced his office and committed sacrilege."

Protests, some violent, had flooded America's streets after the death of George Floyd, a black man who was pinned under the knee of a white Minnesota police officer. Trump had briefly been forced to take shelter in the emergency White House bunker, and flames had risen from St. John's Church across from the executive mansion. Lafayette Square was ordered to be cleared.

What happened was broadcast live to the nation: federal law enforcement officers using batons, shields and chemical agents to forcibly push back peaceful protesters. Trump walked to the church and awkwardly held up a Bible, accompanied by top officials. The White House quickly produced a slick ad celebrating the triumph.

The ad doesn't run anymore. Aides have pointed fingers at each other as to who suggested what while some of Washington's most prominent figures, perhaps with an eye toward the judgment of history, have tried to keep their distance.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he wasn't aware of what Trump had planned before he joined him. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, issued a remarkable public apology for participating. Several Republicans, including Sens. James Lankford of Oklahoma and Ben Sasse of Nebraska, denounced the use of force and the display of religion.

The president has seethed about what transpired, believing he wasn't properly prepared by aides for the blowback and venting that media coverage was unfair, according to three White House and campaign officials not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. He was angered by Milley and Esper's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 23 of 75

rebukes but, for now, doesn't want them dismissed, the officials said.

The Trump campaign, looking at internal polling, is worried about a drop in support for the president coming amid questions about his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed nearly 120,000 Americans and put more than 40 million out of work. And some in Trump's inner circle have privately likened it to other dark days in his presidency.

In August 2017, a clash erupted between white supremacists and anti-racist protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, leaving one demonstrator dead. In the days that followed, Trump suggested there were "very fine people on both sides" of the violence, drawing rebukes from members of his own administration and party.

The next July, the president stood next to Russia's Vladimir Putin at a summit in Helsinki and declined to say he believed his own nation's intelligence services' conclusion that Moscow had interfered in the 2016 election. Before Air Force One had even touched back down in Washington, Trump was faced with the biggest intra-party revolt of his term.

That summer, images of his administration's enforcement of a policy to separate immigrant children from their parents stunned a nation and were later cited by many Democratic strategists for being a defining issue in that year's midterm elections.

"There are moments over the last three-and-a-half years that run so contrary to our self-conception that it causes us to pause and to ask the fundamental question: Are we losing ourselves in this moment?" said Eddie Glaude, chair of the department of African American studies at Princeton University.

The president's bungled church photo op has, according to polling, generated widespread sympathy for the demonstrations and sparked fears in Trump's campaign it could be a breaking point for voters who cast their ballots for the Republican in 2016 but are uncertain this time.

Dozens of retired military leaders, including the president's first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, denounced what happened. The campaign of Trump's likely November rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, said it showed Trump felt his "political fortune was more important" than traditional American values.

"When Donald Trump ordered the violent removal of peaceful protesters so he could stage a bizarre and offensive photo op, it didn't project strength as he had intended, but instead reflected profound weakness," campaign spokesman TJ Ducklo said.

Despite closed-door concerns, Trump has continued to lean in on his tough, law and order approach. On Tuesday, during a White House signing ceremony for an executive order on police reform, Trump was surrounded by law enforcement leaders, not the families of victims of police misconduct. And his campaign publicly continued to defend the decision to clear the park across from the West Wing.

"President Trump's visit to historic St. John's Church was a powerful statement to the American people that acts of violence against our cities and neighborhoods will not prevail," said Tim Murtagh, the campaign's communications director. He said Trump was "turning Americans' anger into action" with the executive order.

Trump has shaken off previous controversies that would have crippled other presidencies. The two-year Russia investigation didn't cause his base supporters to waver, and his impeachment last winter was immediately dwarfed by the approaching pandemic. Some observers believe Trump may be able to cast aside Lafayette Square, too.

"There are moments that we will remember, that will be in the first part of his legacy, but don't change his support," said Julian Zelizer, presidential historian at Princeton University. "Considering the pandemic, the protests, and that the country has been shut down for months, it's remarkable his approval isn't lower. Anything can happen between now and November."

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/@JonLemire>.

High court decision spotlights GOP divide over LGBT rights

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats flooded Twitter and email inboxes this week with praise for the watershed Supreme Court decision shielding gay, lesbian and transgender people from job discrimination.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 24 of 75

Republicans — not so much.

The court's 6-3 ruling came just two days after an event that played out in the opposite direction. Freshman GOP Rep. Denver Riggleman, who'd officiated at a same-sex wedding, lost his party's nomination in a conservative Virginia district.

The two developments underscored an election-year challenge facing the GOP: how to reconcile broad national support for LGBT protections, even among many Republicans, with fervent opposition from some of the party's die-hard conservative voters.

On Election Day, that question will be easily overshadowed by the moribund economy, the coronavirus pandemic, the interaction between race and violent police tactics and by Trump himself. Still, the week's events point to a culture-war schism in the GOP that Democrats are happy to exploit, even as Republicans struggle to prevent moderate suburban voters from deserting them.

"This is something suburban voters support," said GOP pollster Glen Bolger. "And that is a group that Republicans are having challenges with."

Polling illustrates the GOP's dilemma.

In a December survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 62% of Americans overall said they backed banning discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people in workplaces, housing and schools.

That included around 3 in 4 Democrats and nearly half of Republicans. That's a turnaround from more negative feelings people had two decades ago.

"Wake up, my Republican friends, the times, they are a-changing," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday.

Yet just 33% of white evangelical Protestants said they supported prohibiting broad LGBT discrimination. In a September 2019 survey by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, 61% of Americans said making same-sex marriage legal was good for society while 72% of white evangelical Protestants said it was bad.

Those voters are a crucial GOP bloc, especially in rural districts, and party leaders cross them at their own peril. The Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that the Constitution ensures a right for same-sex couples to marry.

"It's decided law" but some Republicans are using same-sex marriage as a "divisive political tool," said Jerri Ann Henry, who resigned last year as executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, which represents LGBT members of the party.

Henry, a GOP strategist, said the battle over the issue is "the exact thing that will further alienate suburban and independent voters."

Within hours of Monday's Supreme Court ruling, Democratic lawmakers unleashed a flood of statements hailing it. GOP reaction was harder to find, with top Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., mum.

Notably, praise came from two moderate GOP senators, Alaska's Lisa Murkowski and Maine's Susan Collins.

"All Americans deserve a fair opportunity to pursue the American dream," tweeted Collins, a four-term senator in her toughest reelection race. She called the decision "a major advancement for LGBTQ rights."

Collins' likely Democratic opponent, Sara Gideon, tweeted that the decision showed Collins "will continue to be a reliable vote for Trump's anti-LGBTQ+ nominees." Gideon's focus was Collins' pivotal 2018 vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh, which Democrats consider a major vulnerability for Collins. Kavanaugh voted against this week's court ruling.

Other Republicans were less receptive to the court's decision.

Carrie Severino, president of the conservative Judicial Crisis Network, suggested the ruling would motivate conservative voters eager to ensure that Congress, not courts, control the law.

"The Supreme Court is always a hugely important issue to conservatives," Severino said Tuesday.

If the court's ruling wasn't painful enough for Republicans, the opinion was written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, Trump's first Supreme Court appointee. Trump administration lawyers had argued on the side of employers who opposed lifting the discrimination ban.

Trump has voiced support for LGBTQ rights and appointed openly gay Richard Grenell to be acting direc-

tor of national intelligence, though he's since been replaced.

But Trump has also appointed numerous federal judges who opposed LGBTQ rights and rolled back federal protections for transgender people. And the GOP has embraced its 2016 party platform anew for this year's campaign, a document that "condemns the Supreme Court's lawless ruling" that legalized same-sex marriage.

"Donald Trump has racked up some firsts, and that sets the tone in the Republican Party," said Charles Moran, managing director of Log Cabin Republicans. But he added, "There are definitely battles we still need to fight in some heartland areas" of the country.

Riggleman learned that firsthand last weekend. His short-circuited attempt to be renominated to Congress demonstrated that while religious conservatives have gotten more attention lately for opposing abortion, battling same-sex marriage resonates for many.

A member of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, Riggleman was endorsed by Trump and evangelical leader Jerry Falwell Jr.

But he was defeated Saturday at a GOP nominating convention in rural Virginia that, amid the pandemic, was conducted by delegates who voted by driving up to a church near his opponent's home. It was the only polling location in a district that sprawls from northern Virginia to the North Carolina border.

Riggleman officiated at a wedding last summer of two of his male friends and campaign aides. He said that during Saturday's voting, a constituent asked him to repent for conducting that wedding. He said he responded he had nothing to repent for.

Riggleman said younger Republicans and those who've have served in military like himself don't see gay marriage as an issue. He said if the GOP wants religious liberties protected, it must embrace civil liberties, too.

"If we can't get over how other people live, I think the Republican Party is dead in Virginia," Riggleman said. And he voiced no regrets for officiating at the wedding.

"I wouldn't change a damn thing," he said.

AP writers Emily Swanson in Washington, Alan Suderman in Richmond, Virginia, and Elana Schor in New York contributed to this report.

Months into virus, biggest one-day case spike worries Iran

By NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Months into Iran's fight against the coronavirus, doctors and nurses at Tehran's Shohadaye Tajrish Hospital still don a mask, a disposable hazmat suit and a double layer of latex gloves every day to attempt to contain a pandemic that shows no signs of slowing.

The hiss of high-flow oxygen to wheezing patients, the beeps of equipment monitoring vital signs and the crinkling rustle of passing medics have become a daily symphony here and in other hospitals across the Islamic Republic.

Iran reported its first coronavirus cases and deaths on the same day in February — the Middle East's first and biggest outbreak of the virus — yet it only recently saw its highest single-day spike in reported cases, followed soon by the highest daily death toll in months.

The spikes, which came after a major Muslim holiday last month, have renewed fears about a potential second wave of infections sweeping across Iran. As businesses open and people begin to move around more after weeks of closures of most stores, offices and public spaces, health experts worry that growing complacency among the country's 80 million people may further allow the virus to spread.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said he realized the extent of the challenge when he took a domestic flight. "Many people have become careless, frustrated with wearing masks," he said. "They did not observe (social) distancing in the flight's seating and the airliner's ventilation system was not working."

Iran saw its highest single-day total of reported new cases — 3,500 — on June 5. The number dropped in the days afterward but remain in the low 2,000s a day, around twice the lows in the last week of April

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 26 of 75

and the first week of May.

The daily death tolls in Iran also broke the 100 mark for the first time since mid-April on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday this week.

The spike in cases occurred largely in Iran's oil-rich southwestern Khuzestan province, as well as the western provinces of Kermanshah and Kurdistan. Officials link it to the Eid al-Fitr holiday that came in late May, during which families often travel to visit friends and relatives to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

Ali Reza Zali, who is leading the campaign against the outbreak in Tehran, said last week that "some 60% of hospitalized patients traveled to other provinces before they became sick."

Authorities also have reported concerns about Iran's eastern Sistan and Baluchistan province bordering Pakistan.

The spike also reflects an increase in testing, Health Ministry official Ehsan Mostafavi said. Iran now has 130 labs across the country, running as many as 25,000 tests a day. Some 1.3 million tests have been conducted, up from 500,000 just a month ago.

While the country is opening up, some restrictions still stand. Friday prayers in major cities remain closed, as do schools and universities, except for a few courses. Authorities have imposed rules to keep people spread out at indoor locations and ordered people to wear masks there and on public transportation.

But Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Saturday that only 18% of people are observing social distancing and other measures, down from 80% about a month ago.

Yet Rouhani also said that, starting Saturday, kindergartens, coffee shops and libraries can resume activities while applying protective measures. He said the country still could revert to stricter measures if needed.

Before Iran reported its first cases in February, authorities denied it had reached the country for days, allowing the virus time to spread as the nation marked the 41st anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution with mass demonstrations and then held a parliamentary election in which authorities desperately sought to boost turnout.

Today, the country has reported over 195,000 confirmed cases, with 9,185 deaths.

Even as Iran now acknowledges the crisis, questions remain over its figures from the outbreak.

A parliamentary report in April said Iran's death toll is likely nearly double the officially reported figures. Given undertesting, the report said the number of people infected at the time was probably "eight to 10 times" higher than the reported figures.

Even today, Iranian death tolls remain based on those who died in coronavirus wards in hospitals. However, it's believed that many more died at home, and some families have reportedly asked doctors not to mention their loved ones died of the virus to avoid the stigma associated with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

The Tehran municipality recently said it has prepared an extra grave site with capacity for 15,000 bodies, though it said it was intended in case of a natural disaster. It said Tehran's main cemetery had some 10,000 grave sites ready for use.

But there's a sense that Iran's government, once overwhelmed by the crisis, has adjusted. In a sign of business as usual, Iranian officials have resumed their rhetoric against the U.S., which under President Donald Trump withdrew from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and implemented crushing sanctions.

The public too seems to want some normalcy. On the streets of Tehran, several people who spoke to The Associated Press acknowledged they no longer followed safety measures.

"I stopped wearing a mask," said Soheila Fazli, a 48-year-old mother of two who suffers from diabetes. "I cannot breathe easily when I wear it."

Authorities largely are only enforcing mask wearing and other rules in Tehran's subway.

"I don't like wearing a mask," said Gholam Reza Sarrafi, a 24-year-old air conditioner technician. "Why should I wear one even though I haven't seen anyone get the disease?"

That attitude has health officials worried about a new increase in infections. Health official Mohammad Mehdi Gouya warned the public that Iran has not "passed the first wave."

"We still have a heavy fight with corona," he said recently. "We are not in a position to have an optimistic

view.”

Associated Press journalists Vahid Salemi in Tehran, Iran, and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Senate GOP to propose policing changes in ‘Justice Act’

By LISA MASCARO and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are proposing changes to police procedures and accountability with an enhanced use-of-force database, restrictions on chokeholds and new commissions to study law enforcement and race, according to a draft obtained by The Associated Press.

The JUSTICE Act — Just and Unifying Solutions To Invigorate Communities Everywhere Act of 2020 — is the most ambitious GOP policing proposal in years, a direct response to the massive public protests over the death of George Floyd and other black Americans.

The package is set to be introduced Wednesday by Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the GOP’s lone black Republican, and a task force of GOP senators assembled by Republican leadership.

The 106-page bill is not as sweeping as a Democratic proposal, which is set for a House vote next week, but it shows how swiftly the national debate has been transformed as Republicans embrace a new priority in an election year.

The GOP legislation would beef up requirements for law enforcement to compile use of force reports under a new George Floyd and Walter Scott Notification Act, named for the Minnesota father whose May 25 death sparked worldwide protests over police violence, and Scott, the South Carolina man shot by police after a traffic stop in 2015.

It would also establish the Breonna Taylor Notification Act to track “no-knock” warrants. Such warrants used to be rare, but the 26-year-old was killed after police in Kentucky used a no-knock warrant to enter her Louisville home.

To focus on ending chokeholds, it encourages agencies to do away with the practice or risk losing federal funds. Many big city departments have long stopped their use. It also provides funding for training to “de-escalate” situations and establish a “duty to intervene” protocol to prevent excessive force.

As the contours of the package emerged in recent days, Democrats panned it as insufficient, as their own bill takes a more direct approach to changing federal misconduct laws and holding individual officers legally responsible for incidents.

But the GOP effort seeks to reach across the aisle to Democrats in several ways. It includes one long-sought bill to make lynching a federal hate crime and another to launch a study of the social status of black men and boys that has been touted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The Republican package also includes a bipartisan Senate proposal to establish a National Criminal Justice Commission Act and extends funding streams for various federal law enforcement programs, including the COPS program important to states.

The package includes a mix of other proposals, including tapping the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture to create law enforcement training curriculum on “the history of racism in the United States.” Another closes a loophole to prohibit federal law enforcement officers from engaging in sexual acts with those being arrested or in custody.

Expenditures for the bill would be considered on an emergency basis, so as not to count against federal deficits.

The GOP proposal comes amid a crush of activity from Washington as President Donald Trump announced executive actions Tuesday to create a database of police misconduct.

Trump vowed a “big moment” if lawmakers could act to pass legislation. At a Rose Garden event for his executive actions, he declared himself “committed to working with Congress on additional measures.”

The Senate could vote as soon as next week.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Colleen Long contributed to this report.

China says it agrees with India to peacefully solve tensions

By **SAM McNEIL** and **ASHOK SHARMA** Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China said Wednesday that it is seeking a peaceful resolution to its Himalayan border dispute with India following the death of 20 Indian soldiers in the most violent confrontation in decades.

“Both sides agree to resolve this matter through dialogue and consultation and make efforts to ease the situation and safeguard peace and tranquility in the border area,” foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing.

It wasn’t immediately clear what form talks would take. Earlier, Indian Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Aman Anand did not respond immediately to queries on the situation or whether talks were planned to defuse the tensions.

Indian security forces said neither side fired any shots in the clash in the Ladakh region late Monday that was the first deadly confrontation on the disputed border between India and China since 1975. Some officials said the soldiers were carrying anti-riot gear instead of weapons.

China has not said if any of its troops were injured or killed.

India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country would be proud that the Indian soldier died while fighting.

“Their sacrifices wouldn’t go to waste. For us, the unity and sovereignty of the country is the most important. India wants peace but when provoked, it is capable of giving a fitting reply be it any kind of situation,” he said.

India’s Defense Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted that the loss of soldiers in the Galwan Valley is “deeply disturbing and painful.”

A group of protesters gathered near the Chinese Embassy in the Indian capital condemning the killing of the soldiers and demanding a ban on Chinese goods. They carried placards with crossed photographs of Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Chinese army.

A small group of retired Indian army personnel also marched close to the embassy with placards reading “Chinese army down down,” but they were detained by police.

Zhao, the Chinese spokesperson, repeated Chinese claims that the clashes erupted after Indian forces “provoked and attacked Chinese personnel, which lead to fears, physical confrontation between the two sides’ border troops and resulted in casualties.”

An official Communist Party newspaper said the clash occurred because India misjudged the Chinese army’s strength and willingness to respond. The Global Times, which often reflects nationalistic views within the party’s leadership, said China did not disclose whether it had casualties in the skirmish to avoid comparisons and prevent further escalation.

While experts said the two nations were unlikely to head into a war, they also believe easing tensions quickly will be difficult.

“This will likely be a watershed moment in India-China relations and the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific,” said Abraham Denmark, Asia program director at The Wilson Center. “We’ve already seen the deadliest clash on the China-India border in over 50 years, both countries are led by men who have embraced nationalism, and both countries are facing tremendous domestic and international upheaval as a result of COVID-19 and other long-standing problems.”

The main questions now are if either side can find a path to deescalation and whether India’s allies such as the United States will help. “It is a highly volatile and dangerous situation between two nationalistic, nuclear powers at a time when American influence has badly diminished,” Denmark said.

The editorial published in the Global Times on Wednesday said India’s reaction was largely due to encouragement from the U.S., China’s chief strategic rival which has been steadily building relations with India’s military.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 29 of 75

"The arrogance and recklessness of the Indian side is the main reason for the consistent tensions along China-India borders," the editorial said. China "does not and will not create conflicts, but it fears no conflicts either."

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, while India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau in the Himalayas, a contiguous part of the Ladakh region.

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory while separating it from disputed Kashmir in August 2019. China was among the handful of countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council.

Thousands of soldiers on both sides have faced off over a month along a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control, the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

The Indian army said three soldiers died initially. The 17 others died after being "critically injured in the line of duty and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high-altitude terrain," it said in a statement Tuesday that did not disclose the nature of the soldiers' injuries.

The troops fought each other with fists and rocks, Indian security officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information.

After the clash, the two sides "disengaged" from the area where the the fighting happened, the Indian army statement said.

The United Nations urged both sides "to exercise maximum restraint."

"We are concerned about reports of violence and deaths at the Line of Actual Control between India and China," U.N. associate spokesperson Eri Kaneko said. "We take positive note of reports that the two countries have engaged to de escalate the situation."

Michael Kugelman, a South Asia specialist at the Wilson Center, said that the two countries were unlikely to go to war because they cannot "afford a conflict."

"But let's be clear: It beggars belief to think that they can magically deescalate after a deadly exchange with such a higher number of fatalities," he said. "This crisis isn't ending anytime soon."

Vivek Katju, a retired Indian diplomat, said the deadly violence represented a dramatic departure from the 4-decade-old status quo.

"The political class and the security class as a whole will have to do very serious thinking about the road ahead," he said.

The tense standoff started in early May, when Indian officials said that Chinese soldiers crossed the boundary in Ladakh at three different points, erecting tents and guard posts and ignoring verbal warnings to leave. That triggered shouting matches, stone-throwing and fistfights, much of it replayed on television news channels and social media.

This story has been corrected to show a reference to 17 injured is a description of how some fatalities occurred and not a report of more casualties.

Trump signs order on police reform, doesn't mention racism

By JILL COLVIN, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Following weeks of national protests since the death of George Floyd, President Donald Trump has signed an executive order he said would encourage better police practices. But he made no mention of the roiling national debate over racism spawned by police killings of black people.

Trump met privately with the families of several black Americans killed in interactions with police before his Rose Garden signing ceremony and said he grieved for the lives lost and families devastated. But he quickly shifted his tone and devoted most of his public remarks to a need to respect and support "the brave men and women in blue who police our streets and keep us safe."

He characterized the officers who've used excessive force as a "tiny" number of outliers among "trust-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 30 of 75

worthy" police ranks.

"Reducing crime and raising standards are not opposite goals," he said before signing the order Tuesday, flanked by police officials.

Trump and Republicans in Congress have been rushing to respond to the mass demonstrations against police brutality and racial prejudice that have raged for weeks across the country in response to the deaths of Floyd and other black Americans. It's a sudden shift that underscores how quickly the protests have changed the political conversation and pressured Washington to act.

But Trump, who has faced criticism for failing to acknowledge systemic racial bias and has advocated for rougher police treatment of suspects, has continued to hold his "law and order" line. At the signing event, he railed against those who committed violence during the largely peaceful protests while hailing the vast majority of officers as selfless public servants.

Trump's executive order would establish a database that tracks police officers with excessive use-of-force complaints in their records. Many officers who wind up involved in fatal interactions have long complaint histories, including Derek Chauvin, the white Minneapolis police officer charged with murder in Floyd's death. Those records are often not made public, making it difficult to know if an officer has such a history.

The order would give police departments a financial incentive to adopt best practices and encourage co-responder programs, in which social workers join police when they respond to nonviolent calls involving mental health, addiction and homelessness issues.

Trump said that, as part of the order, the use of chokeholds, which have become a symbol of police brutality, would be banned "except if an officer's life is at risk." Actually, the order instructs the Justice Department to push local police departments to be certified by a "reputable independent credentialing body" with use-of-force policies that prohibit the use of chokeholds, except when the use of deadly force is allowed by law. Chokeholds are already largely banned in police departments nationwide.

While Trump hailed his efforts as "historic," Democrats and other critics said he didn't go nearly far enough.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said, "One modest inadequate executive order will not make up for his decades of inflammatory rhetoric and his recent policies designed to roll back the progress that we've made in previous years."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the order "falls sadly and seriously short of what is required to combat the epidemic of racial injustice and police brutality that is murdering hundreds of Black Americans."

Kristina Roth at Amnesty International USA said the order "amounts to a Band-Aid for a bullet wound."

But Trump said others want to go too far. He framed his plan as an alternative to the "defund the police" movement to fully revamp departments that has emerged from the protests and that he slammed as "radical and dangerous."

"Americans know the truth: Without police there is chaos. Without law there is anarchy and without safety there is catastrophe," he said.

Trump's audience included police officials and members of Congress and came after he met privately at the White House with the families of people who have been killed in interactions with police.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told reporters that many tears were shed at the meeting and "the president was devastated." Trump listed the families' relatives who died and said: "To all the hurting families, I want you to know that all Americans mourn by your side. Your loved ones will not have died in vain."

White House adviser Ja'Ron Smith said it was "a mutual decision" for the families not to attend the public signing.

The White House action came as Democrats and Republicans in Congress have been rolling out their own packages of policing changes. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the sole African American Republican in the Senate, has been crafting the GOP legislative package, which will include new restrictions on police chokeholds and greater use of police body cameras, among other provisions.

While the emerging GOP package isn't as extensive as sweeping Democratic proposals, which are headed

for a House vote next week, it includes perhaps the most far-reaching proposed changes ever from a party that often echoes Trump's "law and order" rhetoric.

It remains unclear whether the parties will be able to find common ground. Though their proposals share many similar provisions — both would create a national database so officers cannot transfer from one department to another without public oversight of their records, for instance — differences remain.

The Republican bill doesn't go as far as the Democrats' on the issue of eliminating qualified immunity, which would allow people injured by law enforcement personnel to sue for damages. The White House has said that's a step too far. As an alternative, Scott has suggested a "decertification" process for officers involved in misconduct.

During the Obama administration, Attorney General Eric Holder opened a series of civil rights investigations into local law enforcement practices that often ended with court-approved consent decrees that mandated reforms. Those included Ferguson, Missouri, after the killing of Michael Brown and Baltimore following the police custody death of Freddie Gray.

Hours before he resigned as Trump's first attorney general in November 2018, Jeff Sessions signed a memo that sharply curtailed the use of consent decrees.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Kevin Freking, Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo, Alexandra Jaffe and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Arab Israeli diplomat says security guards choked him

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Arab Israeli diplomat once deployed abroad to push back against Israel's critics says he was beaten by security guards at Jerusalem's central bus station last week in what he believes was a case of ethnic profiling.

Ishmael Khaldi, 49, said he has filed a police complaint and is going public with his experience to bring attention to what he described as racist behavior in parts of Israeli society.

"This is wrong. This has to stop. This is nothing Israeli," he said, adding that he remains patriotic and proudly serves his country.

The incident trained a spotlight on the ongoing struggles of Israel's Arab citizens, a large minority that makes up about 20% of the population. Israel's Arab citizens have the right to vote and some have enjoyed great success in Israel's judiciary, civil service and business, medical and entertainment worlds. But they still frequently suffer from discrimination.

Khaldi is widely seen as a trailblazer and touted by the government as a success story. From living in a tent and working as a shepherd when he was a boy, he became the first member of Israel's tiny Bedouin Arab community to serve as a diplomat and is among a small number of Arab Israelis to rise to the senior levels of the Foreign Ministry. He served in Israel's Consulate in San Francisco, was an adviser to then-Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and defended Israel against the Palestinian-led boycott movement while posted in London.

The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions campaign advocates boycotts of Israeli institutions to protest Israel's treatment of Palestinians, including its own Arab citizenry. He also has done temporary assignments in Africa and Miami.

But even his advocacy work for Israel and a distinguished career that has put him alongside many Israeli leaders have not been enough to insulate him from the struggles faced by Arab Israelis.

He said his dark skin frequently attracts the attention of jittery security guards in public spaces and that "there is no doubt" this was why he was stopped by two guards and asked to pass through a metal detector when he entered the bus station last Thursday, on his way home from work.

"It happens to me. It happens to everyone" with Arab features, he said. But what happened after that, he said, was a "series of mistakes" by security guards unlike anything he had seen before.

After he was stopped, one of the guards stepped away. Khaldi, who said he frequently takes photos

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 32 of 75

and video clips on his phone, said he asked the remaining security guard if he could turn on his phone to record. He promised not to take any pictures of the guard, and he said the guard consented.

When he walked through the metal detector, the machine beeped and he was instructed to empty his pockets. He put down his wallet and keys but continued to record on his phone for several seconds. Then, as he was about to put the phone down, he said the second security guard returned to the scene and became irate.

"He came like crazy, screaming shouting: 'Put the phone down! Don't take pictures!'" Khaldi said.

He said he tried to calm the security guard down, but he only became angrier. First, he threatened to push Khaldi against a wall. Then he threatened to push him onto the ground.

"He was saying, 'Do you want to see?' And I said, 'Yes. I want to see.'" Khaldi said.

Within seconds, he said he was pinned down by three guards, with the angry leader placing his leg on Khaldi's neck, shoulder and ear. He said the pressure was so strong he feared his neck would break.

"I screamed 'I can't breathe. I can't move,'" he said. The guards eased up on him after bystanders started screaming, but then a supervisor rushed to the scene and joined the others in holding him down. Eventually, they allowed Khaldi, covered in dust, to get up while they held him until police arrived.

Khaldi rejected any comparisons to George Floyd, the black American man whose death at the hands of Minneapolis police has sparked protests around the world. He also said he understands that Israeli security guards have a job to do.

But he said there is an "extreme minority" of security guards who behave like "Rambos," especially when dealing with Arabs. "There is a kind of superiority feeling here and it's reflected in their behavior," he said.

Yossi Mizrahi, the manager of the station, defended the actions of the guards, saying Khaldi refused to identify himself or undergo a routine security check.

"It appears that the visitor's goal was to create an unnecessary provocation. The security guards acted as required in line with the law and procedures," Mizrahi said, adding that one of the guards later filed a countercomplaint against Khaldi to police.

However, Khaldi disputed the account, saying he was never asked for his ID and has never provoked trouble during his countless trips through the station. He says security camera footage will vindicate him and has demanded it be made public. He also is threatening to sue for defamation.

A number of top officials have rallied behind Khaldi.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi said he spoke to Khaldi, calling him a "veteran and esteemed diplomat" and offering his support.

Isaac Herzog, chairman of the Jewish Agency, a nonprofit group that works with overseas Jewish communities, said Khaldi was a "star" advocate for Israel on the international stage. "No more racism," Herzog tweeted.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said both Khaldi and a security guard have been questioned by police. He said the investigation is continuing.

"The incident began after the security guard requested from Khaldi to show his ID, according to security rules and regulations," Rosenfeld said. "Apparently he refused."

Khaldi said he still loves Israel and proudly serves his country but felt a responsibility to speak out about "internal issues" affecting his community.

"Our responsibility is to check where the problems are and fix them," he said.

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. BEIJING SEES SPIKE IN VIRUS CASES Describing a new coronavirus outbreak as "extremely grave," the Chinese capital cancels more than 60% of commercial flights and raises the alert level.

2. TENSIONS RISING ON KOREAN PENINSULA North Korea will redeploy troops to now-shuttered inter-Korean cooperation sites, reinstall guard posts and resume military exercises at front-line areas.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 33 of 75

3. SENATE GOP PROPOSES POLICING CHANGES The legislation would establish an enhanced use-of-force database, restrictions on chokeholds and new training and commissions to study law enforcement and race, AP learns.

4. CHINA, INDIA DEFUSE BORDER CRISIS Beijing says it has agreed with New Delhi to peacefully resolve their Himalayan border tensions following the most violent confrontations in decades.

5. TOP AMERICAN SPRINTER SUSPENDED Christian Coleman, the reigning world champion in the 100-meter dash, was temporarily banned by the Athletics Integrity Unit for missing drug tests.

AP Analysis: North Korea gambling with latest standoff

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Only two years ago the leaders of North and South Korea shared drinks, laughs and vows for peace during three highly orchestrated summits that lowered fears of war that had risen as Pyongyang pursued an arsenal of nuclear missiles.

That's all gone, for now, and it ended this week with a bang.

The North on Tuesday blew up an empty office building that had allowed the two Koreas to talk in person in the North Korean border town of Kaesong. Pyongyang also said it was scrapping a key military agreement aimed at reducing conventional threats along the border.

The largely symbolic, made-for-TV explosion has shattered already fading hopes in South Korea that the basic foundation of cooperation with its rival could be salvaged. It's also stoked public fear that the Korean Peninsula will once again take its place as a global hotspot.

While North Korea's actions may appear abrupt and reckless, the leadership in Pyongyang may be executing a carefully measured plan aimed at winning outside concessions while showing its people a strong face in dealing with its rival.

It's a pattern that has repeated over the decades. When Washington doesn't give the North what it wants, Pyongyang dials up pressure on the South.

The North may be betting that Seoul can be drawn back into dialogue, despite the demolished building and hurt feelings, because of liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in's passion for engagement.

For now, the North seems focused on elevating tensions in phases.

It has declared its intention to send troops to now-shuttered North-South cooperation sites in Kaesong and at the Diamond Mountain resort, and to reinstall guard posts and resume military exercises in front-line areas. That would nullify a bilateral military agreement reached in 2018 that established border buffers and no-fly zones and would increase the risk of clashes.

The public face of the North's recent bashing of the South is Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, who has been confirmed as his top official on inter-Korean affairs.

Once all smiles during meetings with South Korean officials on a rare visit to Seoul, Kim Yo Jong now calls South Korea an "enemy" and has given vent to outbursts over Seoul's failure to stop activists from floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

Although North Korea is sensitive to those leaflets' criticism, it's unlikely the country is rupturing relations with Seoul merely over something that has gone on for years.

Instead, the goal appears to be regaining the world's attention — and especially Washington's — in a bid for much-needed aid and boosting a populace worried about economic hardship.

The North's calculated belligerence comes during long-stalled nuclear negotiations with President Donald Trump's administration that have faltered over disagreements on exchanging sanctions relief for disarmament steps. It also comes as the coronavirus pandemic likely further batters the already broken North Korean economy.

The North could be deliberately censuring the South to build internal unity and shift public attention away from diplomatic failures and economic shortcomings.

Entering the last year of an ambitious five-year national development plan, Kim Jong Un in December declared a "frontal breakthrough" against sanctions while urging his nation to stay resilient in a struggle

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 34 of 75

for economic self-reliance.

But experts say the COVID-19 crisis likely thwarted some of Kim's major economic goals by forcing the country into a self-imposed lockdown that shut the border with major donor China and potentially hampered his ability to mobilize people for labor.

The economic setbacks have left Kim with nothing to show for his high-stakes summitry with Trump. The diplomacy began to implode last year in Vietnam, after their second meeting, when the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

It's impossible for a North Korean leader to admit to his people that he may have got things wrong. It's far easier to transfer the blame to a scapegoat like South Korea, which assumed the mediator role in negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

In her latest statement against the South on Wednesday, Kim Yo Jong accused Moon of betraying the summit agreements he reached with her brother by accepting the "coercion of his master," a reference to Washington.

North Korea for months expressed frustration over Seoul's inability to help extract concessions from the U.S. on its behalf and urged its rival to defy sanctions to restart inter-Korean economic cooperation.

Next, the North will likely continue to raise tensions, possibly resuming artillery exercises and other drills in border areas and deliberately having vessels cross the disputed western sea border between the Koreas.

Those disputed waters have seen past bloody skirmishes, including a 2010 attack on a South Korean naval ship that killed 46 sailors. The North does not recognize the western maritime border drawn unilaterally by the U.N. at the close of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Some think the North could be pressuring the South now in a bid to increase its bargaining power before an eventual return to negotiations with the U.S. after the November presidential election. They say the North likely doesn't want to make any major concessions now when there is a chance U.S. leadership could change.

It's a gamble, though, and North Korea may never get as favorable a political situation as it has now to strike a deal.

Trump, who has taken an engagement approach with North Korea unlike any other U.S. president, is not guaranteed victory in November. And while Moon favors engagement, after decades of bloodshed and animosity, many South Koreans are deeply wary of their northern neighbor.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung has covered the Koreas since 2014.

North Korea says it's sending soldiers to joint border sites

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **KIM TONG-HYUNG** Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Wednesday that it will send soldiers to now-shuttered inter-Korean cooperation sites in its territory and reinstall guard posts and resume military exercises at front-line areas, nullifying tension-reducing deals reached with South Korea just two years ago.

The announcement is the latest in a series of provocations North Korea has taken in what experts believe are calculated moves to apply pressure on Seoul and Washington amid stalled nuclear negotiations. On Tuesday, the North destroyed an empty inter-Korean liaison office in its territory.

Though North Korea's recent actions haven't lead to clashes or bloodshed, it's still raising animosity on the peninsula to a level unseen since Pyongyang entered nuclear talks in 2018.

The North's General Staff said military units will be deployed to the Diamond Mountain resort and the Kaesong industrial complex, both just north of the heavily fortified border. The two sites, built with South Korean financing, have been closed for years due to inter-Korean disputes and U.S.-led sanctions.

The North also said it will resume military exercises, reestablish guard posts and boost military readiness in border areas as well as open front-line sites for flying propaganda balloons toward South Korea. Those steps would reverse agreements reached between the Koreas in September 2018 aimed at lowering

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 35 of 75

military tensions along the border.

South Korea's military expressed regret over the North Korean announcement and warned that the North will face unspecified consequences if it violates the 2018 deals.

Maj. Gen. Jeon Dong Jin at the Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters that South Korea maintains military readiness and will strive to prevent military tensions from rising. Vice Unification Minister Suh Ho warned against destroying South Korean assets that remain at the two cooperation sites.

Under the 2018 agreements, both Koreas halted live-firing exercises, removed some land mines and destroyed guard posts along the world's most heavily armed border.

Some experts argued the moves undermined South Korea's security more than the North's as Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal remained intact.

North Korea will likely next dismantle South Korean-built structures, equipment and other assets at the two cooperation sites before performing military drills and firing missiles and shells toward the sea, said Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst at the Sejong Institute, a think tank in South Korea.

Cheong said the deterioration of ties was now "unavoidable" and South Korea might respond with the resumption of propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts and joint military drills with the United States.

Some analysts see North Korea's provocations as an attempt to get concessions from Washington and Seoul at a time when its economy, already battered by sanctions, has likely worsened due to the coronavirus pandemic. They say North Korea may be frustrated because the sanctions prevent Seoul from breaking away from Washington to resume joint economic projects with Pyongyang.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency on Wednesday said that recent actions were taken to retaliate for South Korea's failure to prevent activists from floating propaganda leaflets across the border.

It said the destruction of the building Tuesday was a "reflection of the zeal of our enraged people to punish human scum who challenged the noblest dignity and prestige of our country and those who sheltered the scum, perpetrators of shuddering crime." It said North Korea will set the intensity and timing for its additional steps while closely monitoring South Korean moves.

North Korea's state TV showed the scene of the building destruction Wednesday and anchors reading previously published statements on South Korea in an apparent bid to solidify anti-Seoul sentiments at home.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, separately revealed that North Korea had rebuffed a recent offer by South Korean President Moon Jae-in to send special envoys to Pyongyang to defuse tension.

Kim Yo Jong, who has spearheaded the North's recent rhetoric against South Korea, called Moon's offer a "petty farce" and a "trick" to tide over a crisis. She also slammed Moon's recent urging of North Korea to return to talks and find a breakthrough with South Korea.

In response, one of Moon's senior presidential advisers, Yoon Do-han, called Kim Yo Jong's statement "very rude," "irrational" and "senseless." Yoon warned South Korea won't tolerate similar statements by North Korea any longer, while expressing regret over North Korea's publicizing of South Korea's offer to send envoys.

The exchange of verbal salvos between the Koreas is highly unusual under Moon's government, which has espoused greater rapprochement with North Korea since taking office in 2017. Moon has faced criticism that he was too soft on North Korea even when it publicly conducted weapons tests targeting South Korea.

South Korea's top official on North Korea offered to resign to take the responsibility for the tensions. It's wasn't immediately known if Moon would accept the offer by Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul.

Moon, who met Kim Jong Un three times in 2018, was a driving force behind the diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington, including the first summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Singapore in June 2018.

Relations between the Koreas have been strained since a second Kim-Trump summit in early 2019 fell apart due to wrangling over the sanctions.

Donations to fight virus, injustice could sustain charities

By SALLY HO Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A recession is expected to curtail Americans' generosity following a record year for charitable donations, but the recent wave of money dedicated to fighting the coronavirus and racial inequality in the U.S. is offering a beacon of hope for nonprofits in 2020.

The Giving USA report, released Tuesday, estimates nearly \$450 billion was donated to charities in 2019, a 2.4% uptick from the previous year when adjusted for inflation. It marked a record year for giving that reflected a booming economy.

Giving amounts by individuals held steady, representing 1.9 percent of total disposable income, and they continue to make up the majority of dollars donated — nearly 70% in 2019. The rest is given by foundations, corporations and estates. Some wealthy people like Bill Gates may give both individually and through their foundations.

The Ford Foundation announced an effort last week to increase its giving by \$1 billion through a bond that aims to help keep afloat donations-dependent nonprofits through the uncertainty ahead, including groups addressing both the pandemic and racial injustice.

"Our challenge is not to save any particular organization; it is to save the soul of our democracy itself," Darren Walker, the foundation's president, said in a statement.

Though there's sure to be disruptions in 2020 after the pandemic forced businesses to shut down and sent the economy into its worst recession in decades, donor confidence remains high, said Rick Dunham, chairman of the Giving USA Foundation board.

Dunham said his consulting firm, Dunham+Company, surveyed 630 U.S. donors in April and 80% said they would keep giving, largely because they felt more optimism about the economy recovering quickly compared with the recession a decade ago.

"I just think donors will rally and are rallying, and anecdotally, we're seeing it with some of the organizations we work with," Dunham said. "We're seeing record giving days. We're seeing a record amount of money given."

United Way, a nonprofit that relies heavily on middle-class donors, said it has raised \$900 million worldwide since mid-March, when many states instituted virus restrictions that disrupted daily life.

The charity is among the largest in the U.S. and has at times seen as much as a tenfold spike in online donations compared with the responses to other disasters in recent history, said Tollie Love, United Way Worldwide's chief investor relations officer. Among its signature programs is the 211 referral and information hotline, which has seen a 300% to 400% increase in calls for help ranging from food and rent payments to health care and mental distress.

Love said United Way also is developing initiatives to address racial inequity as a part of its coronavirus relief efforts.

"As we try to go back to normal, normal wasn't so good for everyone prior to the pandemic," Love said.

The two needs are intertwined given that black people and Latinos have been hit hardest by the virus, said Una O. Osili, a professor at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and a lead researcher on the Giving USA report.

Like with coronavirus relief, to which Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey pledged \$1 billion, individual giving has surged significantly for black civil rights and grassroots social justice groups since George Floyd's death, Osili said.

The black man died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes, sparking protests around the globe.

But the wave of donations is not without growing pains. GoFundMe said Tuesday that it's putting on hold \$350,000 worth of donations for a foundation whose name sounds like the Black Lives Matter organization but isn't related to the group at the heart of the protest movement. The online fundraising platform said it's working with Black Lives Matter to ensure the money gets to the right cause.

The recent demonstrations have drawn parallels to the civil rights movement in the 1960s, when Giving

USA's trends showed an increase in education-related donations that addressed the era's social upheaval. The result of those donations cemented the missions of many black civil rights groups, including what was then known as the United Negro College Fund, Osili said.

Now, that same push for racial justice is seeing a bolder resurgence, forcing companies not just to write checks but to reconsider their vendors, hiring practices and company culture.

"We've seen corporations get involved before, but I think the speed and broad and bold nature of this moment seems very encouraging," Osili said. "And the question, of course, is for how it will be sustained."

Follow Sally Ho on Twitter at http://twitter.com/_sallyho.

As soldiers deploy amid pandemic, they fight 2 battles

By SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Edward Brown has always found a way to deal with his husband's military deployments in the past, but the most recent one felt different. Instead of an endless parade of family visits and last-minute errands, Brown and Staff Sgt. James Clyde were holed up inside their Fayetteville, North Carolina, apartment watching Netflix and making TikTok videos.

When his mandatory two-week quarantine ended last Friday, Clyde made the short drive to Fort Bragg and boarded a plane for a nine-month deployment in the Middle East.

The 34-year-old is among 2,200 paratroopers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team deploying to Iraq and Syria amid the coronavirus pandemic. They'll be supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military battle to defeat the Islamic State.

In 2016, Brown learned ways to keep his worries at bay during his husband's first stint in Iraq. The then-newlywed ignored headlines and prayed without ceasing for Clyde's protection. But the virus has added yet another worry that is hard to ignore.

"He's going to be fighting two wars at the same time," Brown said.

Because of travel restrictions, Spc. Amy Cloud can't say goodbye to her family in Pennsylvania before her predeployment lockdown on Bragg. But the unexpected is what she signed up for.

"I volunteered for this. We don't have a draft. No one forced me to enlist in the military. I did it of my own choice," she said.

Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Defense has been forced to adapt quickly to comply with guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, while maintaining military personnel in a constant state of readiness.

Married soldiers, like Clyde, are allowed to quarantine off base inside private homes and apartments. But those who are single spend their last two weeks in the U.S. at FOB (Forward Operating Base) Patriot, a secluded compound on Fort Bragg.

When paratroopers touch down in the Middle East, they'll immediately be screened for COVID-19. Any soldier who exhibits symptoms will be quarantined again for two weeks in Kuwait.

On bases across Iraq, Syria and Kuwait, physical distancing guidelines were implemented months ago. Dining facilities remain empty as soldiers are required to take meals to go. Workouts are done outside and barbershop appointments are meticulously tracked in case someone gets sick.

Readiness to deploy at a moment's notice has always been a way of life for paratroopers in the 82nd Airborne Division. The division's Immediate Response Force is a rotating brigade-sized entity that can mobilize for a crisis within hours. Even so, they have already been extraordinarily busy this year.

On New Years Eve, President Donald Trump mobilized the force to the Middle East. On June 1, not long after some had just returned from that deployment, they found themselves bound for Washington, D.C., to quell civil unrest in Washington, D.C., in response to George Floyd's death. Floyd was the black man who died last month after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes.

The 1st Brigade soldiers who were mobilized had just two hours to report to Fort Bragg. They were in Washington by that evening.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 38 of 75

Airborne training throughout the Army, suspended since March because of the coronavirus, resumed last month. Soldiers wore protective face masks as they strapped on nearly 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of parachutes and gear, but were allowed to remove their facial coverings before jumping out of an airplane high above Fort Bragg.

Among those in training on a recent day in May was Sgt. Isaiah Solis. Solis waited on a dusty bleacher to climb into a sand-colored mechanical box resembling a Humvee. The press of a button moved the vehicle back and forth until it was upside down, as soldiers chanted "Rollover! Rollover! Rollover!" while suspended by their seatbelts. The exercise is meant to simulate what can happen if an armored vehicle takes a hit from an improvised explosive device.

This will be Solis' second deployment. He doesn't think much about the risk — but his mom does.

"She's always worried about me, she's always calling me," he said.

He admits the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic haven't been comfortable — but he says nothing about the Army is. He's ready to deploy, even if it looks a bit different this time around.

"Mission is the same: Go fight bad guys," he said.

Follow Morgan at www.twitter.com/StorytellerSBM

Near Trump's rally site, black Tulsa lives with fiery legacy

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — In the real world, 74-year-old Donald Shaw is walking on the empty, parched grass slope by Tulsa's noisy crosstown expressway. He's on the other side of the city's historical white-black dividing line from where President Donald Trump will hold a rally Saturday with his overwhelmingly white supporters.

But Shaw can conjure stories and images of so much more — the once-thriving black community that stood on this same ground, destroyed nearly a century ago by white violence and ensuing decades of repression.

"Just imagine, in your mind, all these homes," Shaw said one morning this week, describing the black-built, black-owned houses and churches that once covered dozens of blocks where he's walking, the site of Tulsa's 1921 race massacre. "Just picture that."

"Hotels, movie theater, roller rink," said Shaw, a retired man who spends his mornings sitting in the shade of an engraved stone memorial to the Home Style Café, A.S. Newkirk photography studio, and literally hundreds of other African American-owned bakeries, barber shops, attorney offices and businesses razed in the massacre.

Burned bricks and a fragment of a church basement are about all that survive today of the more than 30-block historically black district. On May 31 and June 1 in 1921, white residents and civil society leaders looted and burned Tulsa's black Greenwood district to the ground, and used planes to drop projectiles on it.

The attackers killed up to 300 black Tulsans, and forced survivors for a time to internment camps overseen by National Guard members.

Historians say the trouble began after a Tulsa newspaper drummed up a furor over a black man who allegedly stepped on a white girl's foot. When black Tulsans showed up with guns to prevent the man's lynching, white Tulsa responded with overwhelming force. A grand jury investigation at the time concluded, without evidence, that unidentified agitators had given Tulsa's African Americans both their firearms and what was described as their mistaken belief "in equal rights, social equality and their ability to demand the same."

"Everything they had downtown," Shaw said of the white-owned business district where Trump will rally, "we had here."

Trump's choice to resume his giant rallies in Oklahoma, a loyal Republican state, and in Tulsa, an oil center, has brought a surge of national interest in the Greenwood district once called Tulsa's "Negro Wall

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 39 of 75

Street." His rally at the 19,000-seat BOK Center will be Trump's first since the coronavirus pandemic shut down much of the U.S. by late March.

Trump's initial plan to hold the rally on Friday — Juneteenth — also sparked interest in the turbulent racial legacy here, although he later pushed back the rally date to Saturday. So has a spring of nationwide street protests over police killings of George Floyd and other black Americans.

Despite the Oklahoma heat, visitors of all races drive up to the site of the destroyed black community. They take photos of themselves in front of the inscribed memorials to what's now called Black Wall Street. They raise a defiant fist in the air for other photos in front of a mural to Black Wall Street painted on the side of the overpass.

For Shawn-Du Stackhouse, a barber from the Washington, D.C., area and one of those visiting the Tulsa massacre memorials, the proof that cellphone videos provide of killings of African Americans today somehow make the killings of the past, like Tulsa's, more real as well.

For black Americans, the cellphone videos "show what they have already known," Stackhouse said. "It gives more confidence" to speak up about all the killings, past and present, he said.

The Tulsa rampage was part of a surge of white attacks on black communities — from Washington, D.C., to Chicago to the Pacific Northwest — at the time, said Scott Ellsworth, a historian who has worked for decades to bring the Tulsa massacre to light. The Ku Klux Klan was surging as well, putting many of its members in public office and other influential positions.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson gave a White House screening and praise to "The Birth of a Nation," a tremendously influential and viciously racist film on the South.

Today, opponents say Trump's statements and actions embolden white supremacist sentiment in the country. That includes Trump's opposition to renaming military bases named after Confederate Civil War figures, and his emphasis on a tough "law and order" response to recent protests. Trump denies any racism, and said his administration has been beneficial to African American citizens.

Asked Monday about any concerns that Trump's rally may fan racial tensions in Tulsa, Oklahoma Republican Party chairman David McLain said, "I would like to invite all nationalities into the Republican Party. ... We are a party of great opportunity for anybody, race, creed or color."

Black community groups are organizing a Juneteenth ceremony and justice rally for Friday on the grounds of the memorial district. The Rev. Al Sharpton will speak alongside family members of Terence Crutcher, a black motorist killed by Tulsa police in 2016 while unarmed, Sharpton's publicists said.

Tulsa's Republican mayor, G.T. Bynum, has formed a commission for marking the 100th anniversary of the massacre next year. Although expressing doubts about calls for reparations to Tulsa's African Americans, Bynum has supported the search for unmarked burials of victims of the massacre.

Next month, experts plan painstaking examination and excavations of an existing Tulsa cemetery to look for such unmarked graves, said Ellsworth, who teaches African American history at the University of Michigan.

After generations of determined public silence on the massacre — long referred to by white Tulsans dismissively as a race "riot" — black and white Tulsans increasingly are trying to tell the story of Black Wall Street, including its fiery, deadly end.

Teaching about the massacre is being added to state and city school standards, so that this fall third graders will learn about it. Even preschoolers in some districts are being told about Black Wall Street — not about how it ended, but what it was, said Danielle Neves, deputy chief of academics for Tulsa public schools.

"Four-year-olds can understand that people like them once owned movie theaters and hotels and ... had a thriving community," Neves said.

At the area's Greenwood Leadership Academy school, classrooms are named after the Dreamland movie theater and other black businesses that white Tulsans burned down, said Kristi Williams, operation manager at the school. Williams' great aunt fled with her date from one theater when the armed whites came to destroy the black part of town in 1921.

Williams, whose family descended from African Americans enslaved by the Oklahoma-based Muscogee

(Creek) Indian nation, emphasizes to pupils the joint power and financial resources that communities like Tulsa's Black Wall Street once embodied.

"I just always imagine — what would Greenwood look like if the massacre never happened? We had an economy within an economy," says Williams. "What could have happened? What would we be?"

Follow @knickmeyerellen on Twitter. AP Writer Sean Murphy contributed from Oklahoma City.

A drug offers hope amid spikes in coronavirus infections

By R.J. RICO, MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS and LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — As nations grapple with new outbreaks and spiking death tolls from the coronavirus, a commonly available drug appeared Tuesday to offer hope that the most seriously ill could have a better chance of survival.

The pandemic has forced countries to impose lockdowns and tough restrictions on daily life and travel, but infections have surged as they eased these rules and reopened their economies. With no vaccine available and much still unknown about the virus, researchers in England announced the first drug shown to save lives.

The drug, called dexamethasone, reduced deaths by 35% in patients who needed treatment with breathing machines and by 20% in those only needing supplemental oxygen, researchers in England said. It did not appear to help less ill patients.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the drug was the "biggest breakthrough yet" in treating the coronavirus, and top U.S. infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci called it "a significant improvement in the available therapeutic options that we have."

Britain is making dexamethasone available to patients on the country's National Health Service. The U.K. Department of Health said the drug had been approved to treat all hospitalized COVID-19 patients requiring oxygen, effective immediately. It said the U.K. had stockpiled enough to treat 200,000 patients.

"It's on almost every pharmacy shelf in every hospital, it's available throughout the world, and it's very cheap," said Peter Horby of Oxford University, one of the leaders of the trial that randomly assigned 2,104 patients to get the drug and compared them with 4,321 patients getting only usual care.

Since the virus emerged in China late last year and spread worldwide, there have been more than 8 million confirmed cases and over 441,000 deaths.

The U.S. death toll has exceeded 116,900, according to Johns Hopkins University. That surpasses the number of Americans who died in World War I, when 116,516 were killed — although both tolls are far from precise.

The U.S. has the most confirmed infections and deaths from COVID-19 in the world, and as parts of the economy have reopened in recent weeks, cases have surged in places like Texas, Arizona and Florida, where the virus has sidelined some members of a U.S. team that tracks hurricanes.

For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Countries that appeared to have largely contained the virus are seeing new outbreaks.

In China, authorities have taken drastic action to contain an outbreak in Beijing that has infected more than 135 people. Most of the cases have been linked to the capital's Xinfadi wholesale food market, with several neighborhoods near it and another market locked down and thousands ordered to be tested. The city also has suspended sports games, closed entertainment venues and cut back domestic flights, among other measures.

New Zealand, which hadn't seen a new case in three weeks, was investigating after two women who flew in from London to see a dying parent were allowed to leave quarantine and drive halfway across the country before they were tested and found to be positive.

The reemergence of the virus in the country once praised for how it handled infections raised the specter

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 41 of 75

that international air travel could trigger a fresh wave of contagion just as countries are reopening airports to stimulate tourism.

Canada and the U.S. will extend to July 21 an agreement to keep their border closed to nonessential travel, with many Canadians fearing cases arriving from the U.S.

"This is a decision that will protect people on both sides of the border as we continue to fight COVID-19," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

The U.S. car industry was among the first to reopen, yet the virus began to spread again almost immediately — even with significant safety precautions in factories. Similar spikes have been seen after hair salons, day care centers and restaurants reopened.

Hula Hut, a large Tex-Mex restaurant in Austin, Texas, reopened in May but had to shut down again this month for six days after two employees tested positive for COVID-19 in quick succession.

Texas doesn't require restaurants to close after a positive test, but general manager Elias Chocalas said it gave time to sanitize Hula Hut repeatedly and get his employees tested.

"We follow all the steps and then to see that someone has gotten it is just disheartening," Chocalas said. "It just brought the realization that this is going to happen regardless of how safe we are."

Texas is among the states reporting spikes in cases, setting a single-day high with 2,622 new infections Tuesday and a record for COVID-19 hospitalizations for the eighth time in nine days, with 2,518.

"It does raise concerns, but there is no reason right now to be alarmed," Gov. Greg Abbott said, urging people to wear masks and stay home as much as possible.

The Republican said Texas' health care system can handle the surge as the nation's second-most-populated state pushes forward with reopening one of the world's largest economies.

Florida's confirmed cases also set a daily record, at almost 2,800. With hurricane season underway, the virus has spread to the team that operates the nation's hurricane hunter planes. Five employees at the team's Lakeland, Florida, base tested positive last week, forcing others into quarantine, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials said.

New cases in Arizona hit an alarming daily high of nearly 2,400 — almost double the previous record, health officials said. The state also reported 25 additional deaths, while hospital intensive care units were hovering around 80% capacity.

In Tennessee, the number of infected patients in hospitals has reached its highest level, at more than 400, Vanderbilt University researchers said. A surge in new cases and hospitalizations has led Memphis and Nashville to delay plans to reopen more businesses and increase capacities for restaurants and retail stores.

Nevada, where casinos reopened almost two weeks ago, has reported 379 new cases, its largest daily increase since May 22. Health officials said it can be partially attributed to delayed reporting but is also part of an upward trend in the last three weeks.

Elsewhere around the world:

— Record-high infections were registered in South Africa over the weekend, two weeks after businesses and houses of worship reopened. The country now has more than a quarter of the cases on the 54-nation African continent, with over 73,000.

— Egypt's health ministry reported 97 deaths Monday, the country's highest for a single day. Egypt, which has resisted a full lockdown, has over 46,000 COVID-19 infections and 1,672 deaths.

— Israel's steady rise in infections since restrictions eased last month has increased fears of what a top Health Ministry official said looked like the "beginning of a wave," with 200 new cases daily. That's a tenfold increase from a few weeks ago, and authorities warned of possibly reinstating strict lockdown measures.

— El Salvador, the most locked down country in Latin America, slowly began opening Tuesday after nearly three months of mandatory stay-at-home orders. Back were taxis and ride-sharing services, hair salons, and food delivery and takeout, but schools remained closed.

Hadjicostis reported from Nicosia, Cyprus, Rico reported from Atlanta and Pane reported from Boise, Idaho. Associated Press reporters around the world contributed.

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

Near Trump's rally site, black Tulsa lives with fiery legacy

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — In the real world, 74-year-old Donald Shaw is walking on the empty, parched grass slope by Tulsa's noisy crosstown expressway. He's on the other side of the city's historical white-black dividing line from where President Donald Trump will hold a rally Saturday with his overwhelmingly white supporters.

But Shaw can conjure stories and images of so much more — the once-thriving black community that stood on this same ground, destroyed nearly a century ago by white violence and ensuing decades of repression.

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 43 of 75

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Asked Monday about any concerns that Trump’s rally may fan racial tensions in Tulsa, Oklahoma Republican Party chairman David McLain said, “I would like to invite all nationalities into the Republican Party. ... We are a party of great opportunity for anybody, race, creed or color.”

Black community groups are organizing a Juneteenth ceremony and justice rally for Friday on the grounds of the memorial district. The Rev. Al Sharpton will speak alongside family members of Terence Crutcher, a black motorist killed by Tulsa police in 2016 while unarmed, Sharpton’s publicists said.

Tulsa’s Republican mayor, G.T. Bynum, has formed a commission for marking the 100th anniversary of the massacre next year. Although expressing doubts about calls for reparations to Tulsa’s African Americans, Bynum has supported the search for unmarked burials of victims of the massacre.

Next month, experts plan painstaking examination and excavations of an existing Tulsa cemetery to look for such unmarked graves, said Ellsworth, who teaches African American history at the University of Michigan.

After generations of determined public silence on the massacre — long referred to by white Tulsans dismissively as a race “riot” — black and white Tulsans increasingly are trying to tell the story of Black Wall Street, including its fiery, deadly end.

Teaching about the massacre is being added to state and city school standards, so that this fall third graders will learn about it. Even preschoolers in some districts are being told about Black Wall Street — not about how it ended, but what it was, said Danielle Neves, deputy chief of academics for Tulsa public schools.

“Four-year-olds can understand that people like them once owned movie theaters and hotels and ... had a thriving community,” Neves said.

At the area’s Greenwood Leadership Academy school, classrooms are named after the Dreamland movie theater and other black businesses that white Tulsans burned down, said Kristi Williams, operation manager at the school. Williams’ great aunt fled with her date from one theater when the armed whites came to destroy the black part of town in 1921.

Williams, whose family descended from African Americans enslaved by the Oklahoma-based Muscogee (Creek) Indian nation, emphasizes to pupils the joint power and financial resources that communities like Tulsa’s Black Wall Street once embodied.

“I just always imagine — what would Greenwood look like if the massacre never happened? We had an economy within an economy,” says Williams. “What could have happened? What would we be?”

Follow @knickmeyerellen on Twitter. AP Writer Sean Murphy contributed from Oklahoma City.

Trump signs order on police reform, doesn’t mention racism

By JILL COLVIN, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Following weeks of national protests since the death of George Floyd, President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday that he said would encourage better police practices. But he made no mention of the roiling national debate over racism spawned by police killings of black men and women.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 44 of 75

Trump met privately with the families of several black Americans killed in interactions with police before his Rose Garden signing ceremony and said he grieved for the lives lost and families devastated. But then he quickly shifted his tone and devoted most of his public remarks to a need to respect and support "the brave men and women in blue who police our streets and keep us safe."

He characterized the officers who have used excessive force as a "tiny" number of outliers among "trustworthy" police ranks.

"Reducing crime and raising standards are not opposite goals," he said before signing the order, flanked by police officials.

Trump and Republicans in Congress have been rushing to respond to the mass demonstrations against police brutality and racial prejudice that have raged for weeks across the country in response to the deaths of Floyd and other black Americans. It's a sudden shift that underscores how quickly the protests have changed the political conversation and pressured Washington to act.

But Trump, who has faced criticism for failing to acknowledge systemic racial bias and has advocated for rougher police treatment of suspects in the past, has continued to hold his "law and order" line. At the signing event, he railed against those who committed violence during the largely peaceful protests while hailing the vast majority of officers as selfless public servants.

Trump's executive order would establish a database that tracks police officers with excessive use-of-force complaints in their records. Many officers who wind up involved in fatal incidents have long complaint histories, including Derek Chauvin, the white Minneapolis police officer who has been charged with murder in the death of Floyd. Those records are often not made public, making it difficult to know if an officer has such a history.

The order would also give police departments a financial incentive to adopt best practices and encourage co-responder programs, in which social workers join police when they respond to nonviolent calls involving mental health, addiction and homeless issues.

Trump said that, as part of the order, the use of chokeholds, which have become a symbol of police brutality, would be banned "except if an officer's life is at risk." Actually, the order instructs the Justice Department to push local police departments to be certified by a "reputable independent credentialing body" with use-of-force policies that prohibit the use of chokeholds, except when the use of deadly force is allowed by law. Chokeholds are already largely banned in police departments nationwide.

While Trump hailed his efforts as "historic," Democrats and other critics said he didn't go nearly far enough.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said, "One modest inadequate executive order will not make up for his decades of inflammatory rhetoric and his recent policies designed to roll back the progress that we've made in previous years."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the order "falls sadly and seriously short of what is required to combat the epidemic of racial injustice and police brutality that is murdering hundreds of Black Americans."

Kristina Roth at Amnesty International USA said the order "amounts to a Band-Aid for a bullet wound."

But Trump said others want to go too far. He framed his plan as an alternative to the "defund the police" movement to fully revamp departments that has emerged from the protests and which he slammed as "radical and dangerous."

"Americans know the truth: Without police there is chaos. Without law there is anarchy and without safety there is catastrophe," he said.

Trump's audience included police officials and members of Congress, and came after he met privately at the White House with the families of men and women who have been killed in interactions with police.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told reporters that many tears were shed at the meeting and "the president was devastated." Trump listed the families' relatives who died and said: "To all the hurting families, I want you to know that all Americans mourn by your side. Your loved ones will not have died in vain."

White House adviser Ja'Ron Smith said it was "a mutual decision" for the families not to attend the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 45 of 75

public signing. "It really wasn't about doing a photo opportunity," he said. "We wanted the opportunity to really hear from the families and protect them. I mean I think it's really unfortunate that some civil rights groups have even attacked them for coming."

The White House action came as Democrats and Republicans in Congress have been rolling out their own packages of policing changes. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the sole African American Republican in the Senate, has been crafting the GOP legislative package, which will include new restrictions on police chokeholds and greater use of police body cameras, among other provisions.

While the emerging GOP package isn't as extensive as sweeping Democratic proposals, which are headed for a House vote next week, it includes perhaps the most far-reaching proposed changes ever from a party that often echoes Trump's "law and order" rhetoric.

It remains unclear whether the parties will be able to find common ground. Though their proposals share many similar provisions — both would create a national database so officers cannot transfer from one department to another without public oversight of their records, for instance — differences remain.

The Republican bill does not go as far as the Democrats' on the issue of eliminating qualified immunity, which would allow those injured by law enforcement personnel to sue for damages. The White House has said that is a step too far. As an alternative, Scott has suggested a "decertification" process for officers involved in misconduct.

During the Obama administration, Attorney General Eric Holder opened a series of civil rights investigations into local law enforcement practices that often ended with court-approved consent decrees that mandated reforms. Those included Ferguson, Missouri, after the killing of Michael Brown and Baltimore following the police custody death of Freddie Gray.

Hours before he resigned as Trump's first attorney general in November 2018, Jeff Sessions signed a memo that sharply curtailed the use of consent decrees.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Kevin Freking, Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo, Alexandra Jaffe and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump on an AIDS vaccine that doesn't exist

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seizing on a medical milestone that doesn't exist, President Donald Trump said Tuesday he thinks the same scientific expertise that produced a vaccine for AIDS can deliver one soon for COVID-19, too. There is no vaccine for AIDS.

Trump also accused the previous administration of making no effort to stop abusive policing, ignoring a conspicuous drive by President Barack Obama to do just that.

Trump addressed policing and the pandemic in remarks at the White House for the signing of an executive order encouraging better law enforcement practices. A day earlier, his vice president mischaracterized the state of the pandemic in Oklahoma as Trump gears up for a weekend rally in Tulsa, his first such event in months.

A look at their statements:

TRUMP, on scientists: "These are the people – the best, the smartest, the most brilliant anywhere, and they've come up with the AIDS vaccine. They've come up with ... various things." — Tuesday at the White House.

THE FACTS: No one has come up with a vaccine for AIDS, nor is there a cure. Nearly 38,000 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the U.S. and about 1.7 million globally in 2018, according to the latest totals.

However, powerful medicines have turned HIV into a manageable chronic condition for many patients, prompting major global efforts to get those drugs to more of the people who need them.

In addition, taking certain anti-HIV drugs every day also can work as prevention, dramatically reducing the chances that someone who is still healthy becomes infected through sex or injection drug use. A small fraction of the Americans who might benefit use that so-called "pre-exposure prophylaxis."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 46 of 75

Yet there is “no vaccine available that will prevent HIV infection or treat those who have it,” says the U.S. Health & Human Services Department in outlining efforts to develop one.

Trump may have been trying to correct himself when he followed up with the comment that science has “various things” for AIDS.

As for a vaccine to end the coronavirus pandemic, Trump appears confident one will be ready by the end of the year, but public health authorities warn there’s no guarantee that any of the candidates currently being tested will pan out. Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health says a vaccine by year’s end is conceivable only if everything goes right in final testing this summer.

TRUMP, on police practices: “President Obama and Vice President Biden never even tried to fix this during their eight-year period. The reason they didn’t try is because they had no idea how to do it.” — Tuesday at the White House.

THE FACTS: That is false.

Under the Obama administration, the Justice Department opened 25 wide-ranging civil rights investigations into local law enforcement agencies across the country, including police departments in Chicago, Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri.

Those investigations were aimed at overhauling troubled departments with patterns of civil rights abuses and generally resulted in court-enforceable consent decrees requiring the agencies to commit to a series of fundamental changes with regard to the use of force, stops, searches and more.

Besides that, the Obama White House established a task force to come up with best policing practices and to recommend ways to improve community trust while also reducing crime. That task force released its report in 2015.

That year, Obama barred the government from supplying certain types of military equipment to local police departments, a policy Trump reversed two years later.

Public pressure may be more intense on Congress now to pass sweeping laws on policing, after nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. But the limited steps Trump took Tuesday steered around Congress.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: “Oklahoma has really been in the forefront of our efforts to slow the spread. And in a very real sense, they’ve flattened the curve. ... The number of cases in Oklahoma — it’s declined precipitously.” -- remarks Monday.

THE FACTS: The curve has actually been spiking higher since late May, not flattening.

Oklahoma did report just 41 new coronavirus cases on May 28, a relative low compared with early April. But infections have since increased. Over the weekend, the state posted sharply higher numbers and set a daily record of new cases on Tuesday, at 228.

Oklahoma is among the nearly half the states that have seen coronavirus infections rise since May when governors began loosening social distancing orders.

In Tulsa, where a Trump rally is scheduled for Saturday, the infection rate is also rising steadily after remaining moderate for months. The four-day average number of new cases in the city has doubled from the previous peak in April. The city’s own health department director, Dr. Bruce Dart, has said he hopes the rally will be postponed, noting that large indoor gatherings are partially to blame for the recent spread.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican, said he’s asked the Trump campaign to consider a larger, outdoor venue to help accommodate a bigger crowd.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Luran Neergaard contributed to this report.

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

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Virginia governor to propose Juneteenth as state holiday

By ALAN SUDERMAN and DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced Tuesday that he's making Juneteenth — a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S. — an official holiday in a state that was once home to the capital of the Confederacy.

Juneteenth, which is also called Emancipation Day and Freedom Day, is celebrated annually on June 19. Texas first made it a state holiday in 1980. The holiday would be a paid day off for all state employees. Northam said he thinks Virginia would be only the second state to do so.

"It's time we elevate this," Northam said of the June 19 commemoration. "Not just a celebration by and for some Virginians but one acknowledged and celebrated by all of us."

The Democratic governor is giving every executive branch employee this Friday off as a paid holiday and will work with the legislature later this year to pass a law codifying Juneteenth as a permanent state holiday. The legislation is likely to pass the Democratic-controlled legislature with little trouble.

The holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, when news finally reached African Americans in Texas that President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves living in Confederate states two years earlier. When Union soldiers arrived in Galveston to bring the news that slavery had been abolished, former slaves celebrated.

The announcement came less than two weeks after Northam announced he was ordering the removal of a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee along Richmond's prominent Monument Avenue. It is one of the country's most iconic monuments to the Confederacy. Earlier this year, Northam signed legislation scrapping Lee-Jackson Day, a state holiday named after two Confederate generals.

Nearly forced from office last year after a racist yearbook photo surfaced, Northam has won widespread praise among black lawmakers for his actions in Virginia following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a Minneapolis officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck as he pleaded for air.

President Donald Trump announced last week that he has rescheduled a campaign rally that was planned in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Juneteenth. The announcement of the rally had sparked an outcry because Tulsa was the site of one of the worst instances of racial violence in U.S. history in 1921, when hundreds of African Americans were massacred by a white mob that burned black-owned businesses and homes.

Northam was joined Tuesday at his news conference by musician Pharrell Williams, who is from Virginia. Williams said Juneteenth deserves the same level of recognition and celebration as Independence Day.

"Here's our day, and if you love us, it'll be your day too," Williams said.

In a statement, state House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert echoed the same sentiments.

"July 4th is the birthday of our nation, but Juneteenth is the day where it truly began to fulfill its promise of freedom for all," Gilbert said. "For the first time since enslaved Africans landed at Jamestown in 1619, the chains of bondage were finally cast off."

Joseph Rogers, a 29-year-old activist who has been a regular protester in Richmond during more than two weeks of demonstrations over Floyd's killing, hailed Northam's announcement.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Rogers,

Calls for de-escalation training grow after Atlanta shooting

By KATE BRUMBACK and R.J. RICO Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta in the span of less than three weeks have led to a push in the U.S. for more training of police officers in how to de-escalate tense situations before they explode in violence.

"You've got to get cops to understand that it's not a cowardly act, that backing off could save this person's life," said Tom Manger, a retired police chief in Virginia and Maryland and former president of the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 48 of 75

Major Cities Chiefs Association.

Officers undergoing de-escalation training are taught how to keep their cool, talk to people to calm them down, and use the least amount of force required. Typically the instruction includes exercises in which actors playing members of the public try to provoke officers.

"It's very clear that our police officers are to be guardians and not warriors within our communities," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Monday in announcing she will require officers to continuously undergo such training in the wake of Brooks' fatal shooting Friday.

Calls for increased de-escalation training have also come from politicians on Capitol Hill as well as from California's attorney general, Michigan lawmakers and Houston's police chief.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday that he said would encourage better police practices and establish a database of officers with a history of excessive-force complaints. Officials said the order also would promote certification agencies that teach officers de-escalation techniques.

Such techniques have been around for years but have been embraced more strongly amid the growing movement to stop the killings of black people by police.

Floyd was seized by officers May 25 after being accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store. He died after a white officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Brooks, 27, was shot twice in the back Friday after police tried to handcuff him for being intoxicated behind the wheel of his car at a Wendy's drive-thru.

Brooks was cooperative during more than 30 minutes of conversation before things rapidly spun out control. He wrestled with officers, snatched one of their stun guns and pointed it at one of them as he ran through the parking lot.

The officer who shot Brooks in the back was fired, and prosecutors are weighing charges against him and another member of the force.

Among other measures that have been adopted or are under consideration across the U.S. in the wake of the latest deaths: bans on chokeholds, making police disciplinary records public, releasing body-camera footage of shootings more quickly, and requiring officers to intervene when they see misconduct by fellow members of the force.

Manger said that in situations like the one that ended in Brooks' death, officers should be taught to make high-pressure, split-second decisions that involve alternatives to force — for example, waiting for more backup to arrive, taking cover or retreating.

In the Atlanta case, the officer could have ducked behind a car or put enough distance between himself and Brooks so that the stun gun — which can reach only 15 feet — couldn't hit him, Manger said.

Even in a situation where deadly force can be justified, it's often not necessary, he said. Police officers need to operate from the mindset that deadly force is really a last resort to be used only when they or others are in grave danger, Manger said.

During the last round of protests surrounding the deaths of black people by police in 2014 and later, some departments embraced training on how to defuse tense situations. It got an endorsement from President Barack Obama's task force on 21st century policing.

Some states continued to push for reform. In 2019, a California law allocated \$10 million to use-of-force reforms including de-escalation training. Federal officers, too, have focused on decreasing their reliance on force through such techniques.

In New York City, the nation's largest police department created a three-day de-escalation training program for officers on the job and also an academy seminar for new members of the force. It came after Eric Garner died in a police chokehold in 2014.

The course discourages verbal abuse and needless physical force. The message to every one of the department's 36,000 uniformed officers: Keep cool. Officers learned how the volume of their voice, their presence and the way they address someone can immediately escalate a situation.

Associated Press reporter Colleen Long contributed to this report.

Eiffel Tower to reopen after longest closure since WWII

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Workers are preparing the Eiffel Tower for reopening next week, after the coronavirus pandemic led to the iconic Paris landmark's longest closure since World War II.

France's tourism industry is opening back up, but the 324-meter (1,063-feet) tall wrought-iron tower won't immediately welcome visitors the way it did before the country went into lockdown in March.

Only limited numbers of people will be allowed in when the Eiffel Tower opens again on June 25. Elevators to the top will be out of service, at least at first, and only the first and second floors will be accessible to the public.

"At first, only visits by the stairs will be available," Victoria Klahr, the spokeswoman for the tower's management, said Tuesday.

Everyone over 11 years old will be required to wear face masks, and crowd control measures will be in place.

"We are optimistic that visitor numbers will pick up, even if it will likely be local tourists who visit the monument in the first weeks," Klahr said.

The tower's director told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he hopes access will be back to normal by August.

A stringent cleaning operation is in place and will continue daily from next week.

"There is a new protocol," said Eiffel Tower hygiene consultant Alain Miralles. "The day cleaning teams will be able to clean all the points of contact every two hours, from the opening of the site to its closing,"

Tourists planning trips to the City of Light are advised to book tickets to visit the Eiffel Tower online once the ticket office reopens Thursday.

Paris tourism officials have expressed muted optimism about the city's reemergence as a travel destination. Since confinement measures were imposed in March, tourism levels have dropped by around 80% compared to the same month in previous years, they say.

"To visit Paris now is quite exceptional, as we of course don't have many visitors and we don't expect this summer to be at the same level as previous ones," Corinne Menegaux, the director of Paris's businesses and tourism office, told The AP.

Hotel owners are also keen to welcome visitors again, if realistic about the challenges ahead - and the competition among European countries to draw tourists back in the coronavirus era.

"Everyone in Europe is looking to draw the European clientele. The Italians want to bring in the French, the Germans want to attract the Danes," said Serge Cachan, president of France's Astotel Group. He pointed out the plexiglass protections in the reception area of one of his hotels and arrows to ensure social distancing.

He welcomed the French president's decision Sunday to let Paris restaurants reopen earlier than planned. "Without restaurants, there is no conviviality, there is no tourism, there are no clients in hotels," he said in an interview.

"The message I would like to on-pass to the city of Paris is: Hurry and open up all of the tourist attractions and activities."

Oleg Cetinic, Jeff Schaeffer and Masha Macpherson in Paris contributed.

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

Businesses, colleges plead with Trump to preserve work visas

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 50 of 75

BOSTON (AP) — Gregory Minott came to the U.S. from his native Jamaica more than two decades ago on a student visa and was able to carve out a career in architecture thanks to temporary work visas.

Now a U.S. citizen and co-founder of a real estate development firm in Boston, the 43-year-old worries that new restrictions on student and work visas expected to be announced as early as this week will prevent others from following a similar path to the American dream.

"Innovation thrives when there is cultural, economic and racial diversity," Minott said. "To not have peers from other countries collaborating side by side with Americans is going to be a setback for the country. We learned from Americans, but Americans also learn from us."

Minott is among the business leaders and academic institutions large and small pleading with President Donald Trump to move cautiously as he eyes expanding the temporary visa restrictions he imposed in April.

They argue that cutting off access to talented foreign workers will only further disrupt the economy and stifle innovation at a time when it's needed most. But influential immigration hard-liners normally aligned with Trump have been calling for stronger action after his prior visa restrictions didn't go far enough for them.

Trump, who has used the coronavirus crisis to push through many of his stalled efforts to curb both legal and illegal immigration, imposed a 60-day pause on visas for foreigners seeking permanent residency on April 22. But the order included a long list of exemptions and didn't address the hundreds of thousands of temporary work and student visas issued each year.

Republican senators, including Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Ted Cruz of Texas, argue that all new guest worker visas should be suspended for at least 60 days or until unemployment has returned to normal levels.

"Given the extreme lack of available jobs," the senators wrote in a letter to Trump last month, "it defies common sense to admit additional foreign guest workers to compete for such limited employment."

Trump administration officials have been debating how long the forthcoming order should remain in place and which industries should be exempted, including those working in health care and food production.

But the White House has made it clear it's considering suspending H-1B visas for high-skilled workers; H-2B visas for seasonal workers and L-1 visas for employees transferring within a company to the U.S.

In recent weeks, businesses and academic groups have also been voicing concern about possible changes to Optional Practical Training, a relatively obscure program that allows some 200,000 foreign students — mostly from China and India — to work in the country each year.

Created in 1947, OPT authorizes international students to work for up to one year during college or after graduation. Over the last decade, the program has been extended for those studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics so that they can now work for up to three years.

While congressional Republicans have been some of the strongest supporters of eliminating the program, 21 GOP House lawmakers argued in a letter to the Trump administration this month that OPT is necessary for the country to remain a destination for international students. They said foreign students and their families pump more than \$40 billion annually into the economy even though the students represent just 5.5% of U.S. college enrollments.

Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University, which has one of the largest international student populations in the country at more than 13,000, said opponents of OPT are simply anti-immigrant.

"They don't believe the data. They don't believe the facts," he said. "It's a narrow view. It's an incomplete view about how to drive economic growth."

Critics counter that OPT gives companies a financial incentive to hire foreigners over Americans because they don't have to pay certain federal payroll taxes.

The program also lacks oversight and has become a popular path for foreigners seeking to gain permanent legal status, said Jessica Vaughan, policy director at the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington group advocating for strict immigration limits.

"The government does not require that there be actual training, and no one checks on the employer or terms of employment," she said. "Some of the participants are career 'students,' going back and forth between brief graduate degree programs and employment, just so they can stay here."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 51 of 75

Xujiao Wang, a Chinese national who has been part of the program for the past year, said she doesn't see any fault in trying to build her family's future in the U.S.

The 32-year-old, who earned her doctorate in geographic information science from Texas State University, is working as a data analyst for a software company in Milford, Massachusetts.

She's two months pregnant and living in Rhode Island with her husband, a Chinese national also working on OPT, and their 2-year-old American-born daughter. The couple hopes to eventually earn permanent residency, but any change to OPT could send them back to China and an uncertain future, Wang said.

"China is developing fast, but it's still not what our generation has come to expect in terms of freedom and choice," she said. "So it makes us anxious. We've been step-by-step working towards our future in America."

In Massachusetts, dismantling OPT would jeopardize a fundamental part of the state's economy, which has been among the hardest hit by the pandemic, said Andrew Tarsy, co-founder of the Massachusetts Business Immigration Coalition.

The advocacy group sent a letter to Trump last week pleading for preservation of the program. It was signed by roughly 50 businesses and colleges, including TripAdvisor and the University of Massachusetts, as well as trade associations representing the state's thriving life sciences industry centered around Harvard, MIT and other Boston-area institutions.

"We attract the brightest people in the world to study here, and this helps transition them into our workforce," Tarsy said. "It's led to the founding of many, many companies and the creation of new products and services. It's the bridge for international students."

Minott, the Boston architect, argues that the time and resources required to invest in legal foreign workers, including lawyers' costs and visa processing fees, exceeds any tax savings firms might enjoy.

DREAM Collaborative, his 22-person firm, employs three people originally hired on OPT permits who are now on H-1B visas — the same path that Minott took early in his career.

"These programs enabled me to stay in this country, start a business and create a better future for my family," said the father of two young American-born sons. "My kids are the next generation to benefit from that, and hopefully they'll be great citizens of this country."

Associated Press reporters Collin Binkley in Boston and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this story.

India: 20 troops killed in Himalayas clash with Chinese army

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — A clash high in the Himalayas between the world's two most populated countries claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers in a border region that the two nuclear armed neighbors have disputed for decades, Indian officials said Tuesday.

The clash in the Ladakh region Monday — during which Indian officials said neither side fired any shots — was the first deadly confrontation between India and China since 1975. Experts said it would be difficult for the two nations to ease heightened tensions.

The Indian and Chinese troops fought each other with fists and rocks, Indian officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information.

The Indian Army initially said in a statement that three Indian soldiers had died, but later updated the number to 20 and said 17 "were critically injured in the line of duty at the standoff location and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high altitude terrain." The statement did not disclose the nature of the soldiers' injuries.

China accused Indian forces of carrying out "provocative attacks" on its troops without offering more details and did not disclose if any of its soldiers died.

After the clash, the two sides "disengaged" from the area where the the fighting happened, the Indian Army statement said.

The United Nations urged both sides "to exercise maximum restraint."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 52 of 75

"We are concerned about reports of violence and deaths at the Line of Actual Control between India and China," U.N. associate spokesperson Eri Kaneko said. "We take positive note of reports that the two countries have engaged to de-escalate the situation."

Michael Kugelman, a South Asia specialist at the Wilson Center, said that the two countries were unlikely to go to war because they cannot "afford a conflict."

"But let's be clear: It beggars belief to think that they can magically de-escalate after a deadly exchange with such a higher number of fatalities," he said. "This crisis isn't ending anytime soon."

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, while India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau in the Himalayas, a contiguous part of the Ladakh region.

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory while separating it from disputed Kashmir in August 2019. China was among the handful of countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council.

Thousands of soldiers on both sides have faced off over a month along a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control, the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Vivek Katju, a retired Indian diplomat, said the deadly violence represented a dramatic departure from the four-decades-old status quo of troops from the two countries staring each other down without any fatalities.

"The political class and the security class as a whole will have to do very serious thinking about the road ahead," he said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian gave no details of any casualties on the Chinese side, but said that China had strongly protested the incident and remained committed to maintaining "peace and tranquility" along the disputed and heavily militarized border.

"But what is shocking is that on June 15, the Indian troops seriously violated the consensus of the two sides, crossed the border illegally twice and carried out provocative attacks on Chinese personnel, resulting in serious physical conflicts between the two border forces," Zhao said.

India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that the incident happened "as a result of an attempt by the Chinese side to unilaterally change the status quo" in the Galwan Valley.

Thousands of soldiers from the two countries, backed by armored trucks and artillery, have been stationed just a few hundred meters (yards) apart for more than a month in the Ladakh region that lies near Tibet. Army officers and diplomats have held a series of meetings to try to end the impasse, with no breakthrough.

Indian authorities have officially maintained near-total silence on the issues related to the confrontation.

But two Indian security officials familiar with latest developments told The Associated Press that soldiers from the two sides had engaged in the fistfights and stone-throwing, which led to the casualties. Both said that no shots were fired by either side, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with government regulations.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not comment on the clash in a televised meeting Tuesday with state officials.

The tense standoff started in early May, when Indian officials said that Chinese soldiers crossed the boundary in Ladakh at three different points, erecting tents and guard posts and ignoring verbal warnings to leave. That triggered shouting matches, stone-throwing and fistfights, much of it replayed on television news channels and social media.

China has sought to downplay the confrontation while saying the two sides were communicating through both their front-line military units and their respective embassies to resolve issues.

Though skirmishes aren't new along the frontier, the standoff at Ladakh's Galwan Valley, where India is building a strategic road connecting the region to an airstrip close to China, has escalated in recent weeks.

The two countries have been trying to settle their border dispute since the early 1990s without success.

The last time there were fatalities along the disputed border was in 1975, when Chinese troops killed

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 53 of 75

four Indian soldiers in an ambush in the Twang region of northeastern India's Arunachal Pradesh state, said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, a former head of the Indian military's Northern Command.

"It's a very complicated and serious situation, and it will take real, hard negotiating skills to resolve this," Hooda said.

Indian officials have said Chinese soldiers commit more than 500 border transgressions annually.

Associated Press writer Ashok Sharma contributed to this report from New Delhi.

Follow Aijaz Hussain on Twitter at twitter.com/hussain_aijaz

Delroy Lindo on his titanic performance in 'Da 5 Bloods'

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the jungle of Spike Lee's sprawling and anguished "Da 5 Bloods," Delroy Lindo's titanic performance as a Vietnam veteran rises to a ferocious, even Shakespearean pinnacle.

Lee's film, now streaming on Netflix, follows four African American veterans who decades later return to Vietnam to find the remains of their fallen squad leader (Chadwick Boseman) and lost gold. Lindo plays Paul, the most tragic figure of the bunch, a soldier haunted by PTSD. Mangled by disappointment, xenophobia and rage, he has turned into a supporter of Donald Trump and wears a "Make American Great Again" hat.

In Lindo's intense performance, "Da 5 Bloods" turns almost mythic in its deconstruction of African American history in U.S. combat and in war films. For the 67-year-old Lindo, it's a mountain-peak performance in a career, first established on the stage, that began with a trio of films with Lee (1992's "Malcolm X," 1994's "Crooklyn" and 1995's "Clockers").

Lindo's gravity has long been felt in roles large and small, from "Get Shorty" to "Heist," but "Da 5 Bloods" gives Lindo one of his fullest showcases. If there's Oscar buzz this year, he'll have it.

"I am deeply proud of this work," Lindo said in a recent phone interview from the Bay Area home he shares with his wife and 18-year-old son.

Lindo built his performance on research, meeting with two cousins who served and a number of Vietnam vets. He reread the oral history of African Americans in the Vietnam War, "Bloods," and watched the 1974 documentary "Hearts and Minds." And he attempted to funnel centuries of pain for black American soldiers into a colossal, larger-than-life character.

Lindo felt the role closely enough that, in an interview, he sometimes drifted into referring to his character as himself. Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: It had been 25 years since you worked with Spike. Did you notice anything different about him?

Lindo: He first called me when I was in the car. He said some things that really moved me in terms of his respect for me, his regard for me. That was different. I have to say that there were disagreements that we had. I'm not going to tell you exactly what they were, but there were a couple of bumpy moments when we disagreed about a couple things, a couple very, very important things. But, A, we were able to move on and, B, he apologized. That for me was a manifestation of his regard for me creatively, as a creative worker. The overall experience was enhanced by the 20-plus years that had passed since we worked together. We're both 25 years older but still on a similar track, creatively.

AP: You and Spike initially disagreed about making Paul a Trump supporter.

Lindo: I remember saying to Spike, "Spike, I'm a father and a parent. I don't want my son to see me doing that." But once Spike made it clear to me, "I need this, man. I need this to be a component of the story," then my job was to get my head around it and rationalize it. It had to do with the depth of the betrayal that Paul has experienced, the loss that Paul has experienced. One of the largest betrayals had to do with the betrayal by my country when I got back from the war. My two cousins said to me they were stunned by the reaction, the lack of embrace for them as vets. Cumulatively, these betrayals add up to feeling disenfranchised that could result in this individual coming along in 2016 coming along and saying, "I can make it better." I can see how one could get sucked into drink that particular cup of Kool-Aid. And

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 54 of 75

Paul drank a pitcher of Kool-Aid, man. Not just a cup.

AP: You've spoken about being particularly bothered by the depiction of black soldiers in "Platoon." Why do you think African American veterans are so rarely seen in film?

Lindo: There is a tradition of black soldiers being marginalized at best, expurgated at worst. This film addresses that from the standpoint that we are front and center. We're seeing the Vietnam experience through the lens of these brothers. It's important from a historical point of view to tell these stories. I was born in England and my family is Caribbean. Both in World War I and World War II, Caribbean soldiers fought for the British, with the British, and generally speaking that contribution has been virtually expurgated. Generally, there's this tradition of not focusing on us and our achievements and our contributions.

AP: The scenes toward the end of the film, with Paul alone in the jungle, are remarkable.

Lindo: We shot those scenes toward the end of our time in Thailand, before we went to Vietnam. We were probably six, seven weeks in. That was to my advantage. I was sufficiently plugged in to the work and to Paul. I had enough of a foundation underneath me that there was a connection I felt inside the work. Expressing what I had to express in those scenes was just really rich for me as an actor. And Spike let me go, man. It wasn't long. It wasn't like I was adding a page of dialogue. But he let me go.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

Watchdogs say Trump admin limiting oversight of virus aid

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government watchdogs are warning that a legal determination by the Trump administration could severely limit their ability to oversee more than \$1 trillion in spending related to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a letter to four congressional committees, a panel of inspectors general overseeing a sweeping economic rescue law said an "ambiguity" in the law could block the watchdogs from conducting independent oversight.

The letter from Michael Horowitz and Robert Westbrook, the officials leading the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, cites a May 7 memo by the Treasury Department's legal counsel concluding that disclosure requirements in the rescue law do not extend to more than \$1 trillion in spending — nearly half of the \$2.4 trillion committed to the rescue law by Congress.

"If this interpretation of the CARES Act were correct, it would raise questions about PRAC's authority to conduct oversight" of spending that includes federal loans for small businesses, aid to cities, states and tribes and other programs, the letter says. The CARES Act is the rescue law's formal name.

"This would present potentially significant transparency and oversight issues because (the spending in question) includes over \$1 trillion in funding," the letter says.

Horowitz is the Justice Department inspector general and acting chairman of the PRAC panel, while Westbrook is the group's executive director.

The warning comes as lawmakers complain that the Trump administration has repeatedly blocked efforts to oversee the rescue law, including refusing to turn over detailed information about companies that applied for and received federal loans intended for small businesses.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Congress last week that the names of loan recipients and the amounts disbursed as part of the \$600 billion-plus Paycheck Protection Program are "proprietary information" and do not have to be made public. Democrats and some Republicans say there is nothing proprietary or confidential about businesses receiving millions of taxpayer dollars.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., chairwoman of the House Oversight Committee, said the Trump administration "seems to be arguing that loopholes in the law exempt agencies from producing certain information," even as they express a commitment to transparency and accountability.

"They seem to be saying one thing while doing exactly the opposite," Maloney said. "If the Trump administration is committed to full cooperation and transparency with taxpayer dollars, it is unclear why it is

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 55 of 75

manufacturing legal loopholes to avoid responding to legitimate oversight requests.”

The Treasury Department said in a statement that it is fully committed to CARES Act transparency. Spokeswoman Monica Crowley said spending is subjected to “comprehensive oversight,” including at least three inspectors general, a new congressional panel and the independent Government Accountability Office. The Treasury Department is also briefing Congress and updating its spending on government websites, she said.

A spokeswoman for Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said Shelby would support amending the rescue law to clarify that the inspector generals panel has authority to oversee the law.

“American taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent. Neither the letter nor the spirit of the law limit the accountability committee’s purview in that regard,” said Blair Taylor, a spokeswoman for Shelby.

While Mnuchin has said releasing the names of loan recipients could compromise proprietary and sensitive business information, he tweeted Monday that he is working with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and others to “strike the appropriate balance for proper oversight” of PPP loans.

Rubio, a Republican who heads the small business panel and pushed for creation of the loan program, said Monday that he and Mnuchin are “working through” a way to ensure that the names of some loan recipients are made public.

“There will be disclosure,” Rubio said, adding it will likely be focused on larger loans above \$2 million or some other number to be determined.

“I’m not sure there’s a lot of curiosity about a \$15,000 loan,” he told The Associated Press, “but obviously the bigger numbers at the top end ... it’s hard to argue that information shouldn’t be available.”

President Donald Trump has moved to curb oversight since the rescue law was adopted in late March. Trump suggested the oversight provisions were unnecessary and immediately moved to undercut them, saying even as he signed the law that the administration didn’t have to comply with some of them. He then ousted the official named chairman of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, a board of inspectors general established to monitor the unprecedented spending.

So far, the administration is saying little about where the money is going.

In the 10 weeks after the Paycheck Protection Program was launched, the Small Business Administration says it has processed 4.5 million loans worth \$511 billion. But it has yet to reveal the recipients of taxpayer aid. The agency has only provided general information, such as the total amounts of loans awarded in a given time period.

A House subcommittee overseeing the coronavirus aid demanded Monday that the Trump administration and some of the nation’s largest banks turn over detailed information about companies that applied for and received federal loans.

Cheap drug is first shown to improve COVID-19 survival

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE** AP Chief Medical Writer

Researchers in England say they have the first evidence that a drug can improve COVID-19 survival: A cheap, widely available steroid reduced deaths by up to one third in severely ill hospitalized patients.

The results were announced Tuesday and the British government immediately authorized the drug’s use across the United Kingdom for coronavirus patients like those who did well in the study. Researchers said they would publish results soon in a medical journal, and several independent experts said it’s important to see details to know how much of a difference the drug, dexamethasone, might make and for whom.

But “bottom line is, good news,” said the United States’ top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci. “This is a significant improvement in the available therapeutic options that we have.”

The coronavirus outbreak has killed more than 438,000 people worldwide since it began late last year in China.

The study, led by the University of Oxford, was a large, strict test that randomly assigned 2,104 patients

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 56 of 75

to get the drug and compared them with 4,321 patients getting only usual care.

The drug was given either orally or through an IV for 10 days. After four weeks, it had reduced deaths by 35% in patients who needed treatment with breathing machines and by 20% in those only needing supplemental oxygen. It did not appear to help less ill patients.

Researchers estimated that the drug would prevent one death for every eight patients treated while on breathing machines and one for every 25 patients on extra oxygen alone.

"Those are big effects," said one study leader, Dr. Martin Landray at Oxford. "It's not a cure, but it's certainly a long way forward." It's especially good news that the drug "is remarkably cheap, perhaps \$20 or \$30 for an entire course of treatment," he added.

Steroid drugs reduce inflammation, which sometimes develops in COVID-19 patients as the immune system overreacts to fight the infection. This overreaction damages the lungs and can prove fatal. The World Health Organization and others advise against using steroids earlier in the course of illness because they can impede clearing the virus.

"Early on, you're fighting the virus and you want your immune system to be as intact as possible," Fauci explained. But in the advanced stage of COVID-19, the battle against the virus causes so much inflammation that it "is hurting you more than helping you," he said. The results seen in the Oxford study make "perfect sense" with that notion, he said.

Many hospitals and doctors have been trying steroids to quell the immune system, but there's been no evidence from high-quality studies that it helps for COVID-19.

Although the Oxford researchers talked only about dexamethasone, the detailed plans for the study say that participating hospitals could use two other steroids — prednisolone or hydrocortisone — and there's no reason to think any particular one works better than another, said Dr. Francisco Marty, an infectious disease specialist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

"I assume the majority of people used dexamethasone, but it's not the only one that people could have used," he said. "It will be great to see the data to see if there's a class effect."

Steroids are known to help fight certain fungal and bacterial infections such as meningitis, and a type of pneumonia common in HIV patients, but they have not proved useful against flu or some other viral diseases, he said. The Oxford results would persuade him to try them for COVID-19 patients needing extra oxygen, he said.

Until now, the only drug shown to help fight COVID-19 is remdesivir, an experimental drug from Gilead Sciences that blocks an enzyme the virus uses to copy its genetic material. Remdesivir shortened the time to recovery for severely ill hospitalized patients to 11 days on average versus 15 days for those just given usual care, in a study led by the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

"We don't know yet" if remdesivir could be used with dexamethasone — or before or after it — to give more benefit, Fauci said.

Even though dexamethasone only helps in severe cases, "countless lives will be saved globally," said Nick Cammack, a virus expert at the Wellcome Trust, a British charity that supports research.

"This is the dream," because the drug has been used for decades for other conditions, said Cammack, who had no role in the study. "It's very straightforward to make so there's no reason this can't be rolled out for the entire world."

No information was given on side effects, but researchers said they used a low dose and for a short time, which is generally safe.

"Short-term low dose shouldn't be a problem, but steroids do have a lot of side effects" including weight gain, high blood pressure, water retention, mood changes, sleep problems and rise in blood sugar for people with diabetes, Marty said.

Dr. Peter Bach, a health policy expert at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, noted that in the study 41% of those on breathing machines and 25% on oxygen alone died.

"The mortality rate seems to be way higher than it is in the U.S.," where one recent study found a death rate of 12%, although that was only after two weeks versus four in the UK study, he said.

"We are going to struggle to look at these data and use them for U.S. patients," he said. But he added that "it's good news for science that the right studies got done," and that the drug works and is so affordable and available.

The Oxford study is the same one that earlier this month showed the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine was not working against the coronavirus. The study enrolled more than 11,000 patients in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who were given either standard care or that plus one of several treatments: dexamethasone; hydroxychloroquine; the HIV combo drug lopinavir-ritonavir; the antibiotic azithromycin; the anti-inflammatory drug tocilizumab; or plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 that contains antibodies to fight the virus.

Research is continuing on the other treatments. The research is funded by government health agencies in the United Kingdom and private donors including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Stephen Griffin, of the University of Leeds in England, said treatments that can prevent infection and serious illness are still needed.

"Ideally, we will find something that stops the disease from progressing to a more advanced stage," he said, noting that remdesivir might yet prove to be effective this way. Dexamethasone "is not a wonder pill, but it will lessen some of the nasty effects of COVID-19."

AP medical writer Maria Cheng contributed reporting from London.

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Value of police body cameras limited by lack of transparency

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

In the fatal shooting of a black man by police in Atlanta last week, officers' body cameras captured about 40 minutes of footage, but not the critical moments that end with one of them opening fire.

In Oklahoma City, it took police more than a year to release video from the arrest of a man who died in custody. It came out months after the officers involved were cleared of any wrongdoing, and shows them struggling with the man as he says "I can't breathe." One officer replies: "I don't care."

Nationwide, police departments have rushed to ramp up the use of body cameras, which have been hailed as a potential equalizer that would show the unvarnished truth of an encounter with officers.

But the cases in Georgia and Oklahoma highlight why the technology's benefit has come into question amid protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd and calls for sweeping changes to American law enforcement. With budget crises looming and cries to "defund the police," some are asking whether the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars spent to outfit officers with cameras has provided the accountability and transparency expected.

Advocates and officers agree the technology's broad adoption has been helpful, but its value is dictated by the policies and practices around its use: Cameras improve transparency when departments care about transparency.

"They were going to be a panacea to all of the problems we're facing," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. "Body-worn cameras have their limitations and they're certainly not a panacea, but they do have valuable uses."

This month, four Atlanta police officers were fired and criminally charged over an incident in which officers pulled two college students from a car and hit them with stun guns during protests late last month. The police chief, who resigned Saturday, told her staff she expected the footage to reinforce that the officers did the right thing, but it did the opposite.

But that case was unusual. Cameras have largely failed to deliver swift accountability because the release of video is frequently long delayed or denied entirely, said Harlan Yu, executive director at the civil rights and technology nonprofit Upturn. When footage of a controversial incident is released, Yu said, it's often

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 58 of 75

only after intense public outcry.

That was the case in Oklahoma City last week, when police put out video of the deadly May 2019 arrest of Derrick Elliot Scott.

Officers arrested Scott, who was black, because he matched the description of an armed suspect, Capt. Larry Withrow said. Scott had a loaded gun in his pocket, Withrow said.

The video shows an officer confronting Scott and then tackling him after he takes off running. As officers hold Scott down, he can be heard saying he can't breathe. He appears to go in and out of consciousness and the officers eventually call for an ambulance. He was later pronounced dead; an autopsy showed the encounter with police was a factor.

A prosecutor cleared the officers of any wrongdoing last August. The video was released after media requests and demands from activists.

The Rev. T. Sheri Dickerson, executive director of Black Lives Matter OKC, said police held the footage back because it would have changed how the case was handled. Had it been public "there would have been collective power in demanding justice," Dickerson said.

Oklahoma City police spent roughly \$750,000 on cameras and servers, and pay another \$150,000 annually for software and maintenance.

Their use has grown nationwide since a 2013 federal court ruling that New York City police wrongly targeted minorities with the stop-and-frisk program. The court ordered the nation's largest police department adopt body cameras. On Tuesday, the mayor announced police will release footage within 30 days of shootings and other instances when force results in injury or death.

"Body-worn cameras are only as powerful as the transparency that comes with them," said Mayor Bill de Blasio.

In the last five years, a Justice Department program awarded 420 grants worth nearly \$83 million to help agencies pay for body cameras, according to a spokeswoman. Local governments spend many millions more for cameras and costly video storage.

The cameras also raise privacy issues, especially for those worried their public-facing lenses could be combined with facial recognition technology. Often, however, the videos that show the public grim realities of policing don't come from body cameras at all. They're made by bystanders.

The video that showed the world Floyd crying for air and then going limp under the knee of a white Minneapolis officer was shot by a bystander, who told the officers they were being filmed.

Activists say Floyd's death shows a rolling camera won't stop police abuse when officers believe they are beyond punishment.

"We now see a plethora of daily videos of black people being brutalized, shocked, beaten, choked out," said Damario Solomon-Simmons, a Tulsa civil rights attorney. But, he said, there isn't enough accountability.

How cameras affect officer behavior is an open question. A 2019 analysis by researchers at George Mason University of 70 past studies found cameras have not met police leaders' nor citizens' expectations and there is still a "lacuna of knowledge" around their impact.

In Atlanta, where the police have a five-year contract for the cameras worth nearly \$14 million, the department on Sunday released video showing a sobriety check outside a Wendy's restaurant spin suddenly out of control.

Footage from body and dash-mounted cameras show Rayshard Brooks chatted cooperatively with the two white officers, saying he'd had a couple of drinks to celebrate his daughter's birthday and agreeing to a breath test.

The 27-year-old black man appears to pull away as the officers start putting him in handcuffs. Both officers' body cameras were knocked to the ground in the ensuing struggle over a Taser. It was footage released from a security camera that ultimately captured an officer fatally shooting Brooks in the back. The officer who pulled the trigger was fired; the other one is on leave, and the police chief resigned.

Kenneth Kissiedu, a retired African American New York Police Department sergeant, won a nearly \$200,000 settlement in 2015 after suing police in Yonkers, New York, for allegedly beating him. He sees value in the cameras but said what's really needed is for mayors, police chiefs and police unions to stand

together and say brutality and excessive force won't be tolerated.

"Before even the cameras," Kissiedu said, "it's the culture."

___ Associated Press reporters Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Tom Hays in New York contributed to this report.

___ Follow Jake Bleiberg at www.twitter.com/jzbleiberg

Simple math suggests complex back story at Supreme Court

By **MARK SHERMAN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court watchers were left scratching their heads when they learned Justice Neil Gorsuch was the author of Monday's landmark LGBT rights ruling, but not because the appointee of President Donald Trump might have been expected to side with his conservative colleagues in dissent. Rather, it was a matter of math.

Each of the nine Supreme Court justices usually writes at least one opinion for each month the court hears arguments. Gorsuch's opinion was his second for October while three of his colleagues wrote nothing. That highly unusual lineup suggests something going on behind the scenes.

Gorsuch became the only justice other than retired Justice Anthony Kennedy to author a major high court ruling in favor of LGBT rights when he wrote the decision declaring workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity illegal under federal civil rights law. The 52-year-old justice earlier wrote the ruling requiring unanimous jury verdicts in state criminal cases.

The answer is obvious in one sense. He wrote opinions in both cases that attracted a majority of the court. But how he came to write them is a mystery.

After each month of arguments, which the court calls a sitting, Chief Justice John Roberts assigns the opinions for cases in which he is in the majority. Otherwise, the senior justice in the majority — usually either Clarence Thomas or Ruth Bader Ginsburg — decides who gets to write for the court. The justices work together to ensure there is a relatively even distribution of labor.

It seems unlikely, based on the usual practice, that Gorsuch would have been assigned both majority opinions in October, especially since Roberts and Ginsburg were two justices who didn't write at all from that month. Justice Brett Kavanaugh was the third.

One of those three justices certainly was working on an opinion in a case that settled before the court could issue a decision. But that still leaves two justices with nothing.

Occasionally, positions shift after the initial tally taken just after the arguments, either because a draft majority opinion is unpersuasive to a justice, or a dissent is compelling enough to draw another vote. In rare instances, an opinion originally circulated as a dissent becomes the majority.

Such a shift might have happened here or in the case about unanimous juries, although there is not much evidence to suggest it with either one.

Georgetown University law professor Martin Lederman acknowledged on Twitter that he was speculating when he wrote that Gorsuch may have been undecided at first and that Roberts drafted an opinion siding with the employers. "Gorsuch didn't buy it; drafted this instead, and the Chief came over to it," Lederman wrote.

Or, he added, maybe the change happened in the juries case.

Majority opinions often have fairly lengthy recitations of the facts of the case. Gorsuch's opinion basically devoted one paragraph each to the three fired employees whose cases the court decided Monday.

But the justice offered an explanation for the brevity. "Few facts are needed to appreciate the legal question we face. Each of the three cases before us started the same way: An employer fired a long-time employee shortly after the employee revealed that he or she is homosexual or transgender — and allegedly for no reason other than the employee's homosexuality or transgender status," he wrote.

Among other related questions is, what took so long? More than eight months elapsed between the arguments and Monday's decision. That can happen at the court, but there often is a story behind the delay.

A highly anticipated case on affirmative action involving the University of Texas was argued in October

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 60 of 75

2011 and not decided until late the following June. The 7-1 outcome, in the end, decided very little.

Several years later, author Joan Biskupic wrote in "Breaking In," her biography of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, that Sotomayor had drafted a biting dissenting opinion that appeared to have changed some conservative justices' votes and ended up allowing the university to preserve its admissions policy.

The draft opinion eventually saw the light of day two years later, when the court upheld a constitutional amendment in Michigan that banned the consideration of race in public college admissions.

When Justice Harry Blackmun's papers became public in 2004, they revealed that Kennedy had switched his vote — and the outcome — twice in 1992, in an abortion case that reaffirmed the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling and in a separate case banning clergy-led prayers at public school graduations.

Though he started out on the other side, Kennedy wound up writing or co-writing the majority opinion in both cases.

Yankees president Levine calls for MLB talks to resume

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Yankees President Randy Levine called on the players' association to resume negotiations with Major League Baseball to start the pandemic-delayed season.

Levine said the money difference between the feuding sides was not the primary obstacle but rather issues such as health and safety protocols and determining how to deal with a second wave of the new coronavirus.

"So what I believe needs to happen is that the parties need to get together as soon as possible to resolve those issues so we can get the season going," he said Tuesday. "All 30 clubs want to play. The commissioner wants to play. The players want to play. So let's get these issues solved so we can begin playing baseball. The March agreement said the players would negotiate these issues. The commissioner has assured me he's ready to do so. The players should get in a room and start negotiating so we can get going.

MLB has made three proposals, the last for a 72-game season starting July 14 that would guarantee about \$1.23 billion of salaries that originally totaled roughly \$4 billion and would increase the total to \$1.45 billion if the postseason is completed.

Players insist they get the full prorated salaries called for in the March 26 agreement with MLB. That deal says the season doesn't have to start unless there are no relevant travel restrictions in the U.S. and Canada, and that games can be played before fans in all 30 regular-season ballparks.

The union made offered two plans, the last for an 89-game schedule starting July 10 and salaries of \$2.25 billion.

The sides have exchanged proposals digitally, with an occasional video conference. They have not met in person since March 13-14 in Arizona.

"Everyone here wants to get down to business as soon as possible and play games. From what I've discovered, the holdup is not about the number of games or money at this time," Levine said. "The commissioner has the right under the March agreement to schedule the games as long as the players are paid 100% prorated. The holdup, as I understand it, is about resolving the other items in the March 26 agreement."

"They include final agreement on all of the health and safety protocols, deciding what happens if a season is interrupted by a second wave of the virus, which players can opt out and under what circumstances can they, and a host of issues like that."

Union head Tony Clark said Saturday additional talks would be "futile." Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Monday the season with in jeopardy.

Since Friday, MLB Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer have exchanged letters that appeared to be preparation for possible litigation.

"I've been talking to the commissioner on a daily basis. He has been and continues to be dedicated to play a 2020 season," said Levine, who was MLB's chief negotiator from 1995-97. "We all recognize that the players are the heart and soul of the game. I've called them patriots in the past and I believe that today."

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

North Korea destroys empty liaison office with South

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG** and **HYUNG-JIN KIM** Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office building just north of the heavily armed border with South Korea on Tuesday, in a carefully choreographed, largely symbolic display of anger that puts pressure on Washington and Seoul amid deadlocked nuclear diplomacy.

Although the building was empty and the North had previously signaled its plans to destroy it, the move is still the most provocative act by North Korea since it entered nuclear talks in 2018 after a U.S.-North Korean standoff had many fearing war. It will pose a serious setback to the efforts of liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in to engage the North.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the country destroyed the office in a "terrific explosion" because its "enraged people" were determined to "force (the) human scum, and those who have sheltered the scum, to pay dearly for their crimes," apparently referring to North Korean defectors living in South Korea who for years have floated anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

The news agency did not detail how the office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong was destroyed.

South Korea's government later released military surveillance video showing clouds of smoke rising from the ground as a building collapsed at a now-shuttered joint industrial park in Kaesong where the liaison office stood.

South Korea issued a statement expressing "strong regret" over the destruction of the building, warning of a stern response if North Korea takes additional steps that aggravate tensions.

The statement, issued following an emergency National Security Council meeting, said the demolition is "an act that betrays hopes for an improvement in South-North Korean relations and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula."

South Korea's Defense Ministry said separately that it closely monitors North Korean military activities and was prepared to strongly counter any future provocations. The South's vice unification minister, Suh Ho, who was Seoul's top official at the liaison office, called the demolition an "unprecedentedly senseless act" that shocked "not only our people, but the whole world."

The North said last week that it was cutting off all government and military communication channels with the South while threatening to abandon bilateral peace agreements reached during North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's three summits with Moon in 2018.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern at the latest developments and called for "the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue leading to peaceful solutions that benefit peace and prosperity for all," U.N. associate spokesperson Eri Kaneko said in New York.

Some outside analysts believe the North, after failing to get what it wants in nuclear talks, will turn to provocation to win outside concessions because its economy has likely worsened because of persistent U.S.-led sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic. North Korea may also be frustrated because the sanctions prevent Seoul from breaking away from Washington to resume joint economic projects with Pyongyang.

South Korea's response to Tuesday's demolition was relatively strong compared to past provocations. Moon's government has faced criticism that it didn't take tough measures when North Korea performed a series of short-range weapons tests targeting South Korea over the past year.

Moon, a liberal who champions greater reconciliation with North Korea, shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to help set up the first summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in June 2018.

The liaison office has been shut since late January because of coronavirus concerns. The office, built with South Korean money at a reported cost of \$8.3 million, was opened in September 2018 to facilitate better communication and exchanges between the Koreas. It was the first such office between the countries since they were divided into a U.S.-backed South Korea and a Soviet-supported North Korea at the end of the World War II in 1945. The office was considered a symbol of Moon's engagement policy.

North Korea had earlier threatened to demolish the office as it stepped up its fiery rhetoric over what it

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 62 of 75

called Seoul's failure to stop civilian campaigns to drop anti-Pyongyang leaflets into the North. South Korea said it would take steps to ban the leafleting, but North Korea argued that the South Korean response lacked sincerity.

On Saturday night, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korea's leader, 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 has threatened to dismantle the shuttered Kaesong factory complex completely and abandon a 2018 bilateral tension-reduction agreement, which observers say could allow the North to trigger clashes along the land and sea borders.

Earlier Tuesday, North Korea's military threatened to move back into unspecified border areas that have been demilitarized under agreements with South Korea and "turn the front line into a fortress."

On Monday, Moon urged North Korea to stop raising animosities and return to talks, saying the two Koreas must not reverse the 2018 inter-Korean summit deals.

North Korea has a history of taking highly visual symbolic steps for political gains. It invited foreign journalists to watch the detonation of its underground nuclear testing tunnels in 2018 and the demolition of a cooling tower at its main nuclear complex in 2008. Both events were an attempt by the North to show it was serious about denuclearization amid rampant outside skepticism about its commitment.

"It's hard to see how such behavior will help the Kim regime get what it wants from the world, but clearly such images will be used for domestic propaganda," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The Koreas' neighbors voiced concerns over Tuesday's demolition. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he hopes tensions between the Koreas will not escalate further, adding that Japan will cooperate closely with Seoul and Washington while analyzing the development.

In China, the North's major diplomatic ally, foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that "we always hope that the Korean Peninsula will maintain peace and stability."

Inter-Korean relations have been strained since the breakdown of a second summit between Kim and Trump in Vietnam in early 2019. The summit fell apart because of disputes over how much sanctions relief the North should get in return for Kim's dismantling of his main nuclear complex, which was seen as a limited denuclearization measure.

After the Vietnam summit, inter-Korean relations turned sour again. Kim entered 2020 vowing 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.

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and researcher Liu Zheng in Beijing contributed to this report.

Powell warns that long downturn would mean severe damage

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned Tuesday that the U.S. economy faces a deep downturn with "significant uncertainty" about the timing and strength of a recovery. He cautioned that the longer the recession lasts, the worse the damage that would be inflicted on the job market and businesses.

In testimony to Congress, Powell stressed that the Fed is committed to using all its financial tools to cushion the damage from the coronavirus. But he said that until the public is confident the disease has been contained, "a full recovery is unlikely." He warned that a prolonged downturn could inflict severe harm — especially to low-income workers who have been hit hardest.

Powell delivered the first of two days of semi-annual congressional testimony to the Senate Banking Committee before he will address the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday. Several sena-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 63 of 75

tors highlighted the disproportionate impact of the viral outbreak and the downturn on African-Americans and Latinos. Powell expressed his agreement.

"The way the pandemic has hit our economy... has been a real inequality-increaser," the chairman said, because low-wage service jobs have been hardest hit and are disproportionately held by minorities. "That's who's bearing the brunt of this."

He noted that the pandemic also poses "acute risks" for small businesses and their employees.

"If a small or medium-sized business becomes insolvent because the economy recovers too slow, we lose more than just that business," he said. "These businesses are the heart of our economy and often embody the work of generations."

Several Democratic senators used their questions to Powell to press for a new congressional rescue bill that would provide increased aid for state and local governments, which face the prospect of mass layoffs because of diminished tax revenue, as well as an extension of enhanced unemployment benefits.

Powell agreed that while both Congress and the Fed have supplied record-high support, the severity of the downturn may require more.

"The shock that the economy received was the largest in memory," he said, noting that the congressional response and the Fed's response were also the largest on record. "Will it be enough? I would say that there is a reasonable probability that more will be needed both from (Congress) and the Fed."

Without further help, states and cities could be forced to lay off more employees, Powell said, which also happened after the 2008-2009 recession and which, he added, slowed the recovery after that downturn. Similar layoffs now could "weigh on" the economy, he said.

Powell agreed that Congress should consider extending unemployment benefits beyond their typical six-month period, on the assumption that unemployment would likely still be quite high by the end of the year. He did not weigh in on the debate over whether the extra \$600 in weekly federal unemployment benefits should be extended beyond its current July 31 cutoff date, as House Democrats have proposed.

"Some form of support for those people going forward is likely going to be appropriate," he told the committee. "There are going to be an awful lot of unemployed people for some time," he said, suggesting that workers in the travel and hotel industries, among others, will likely have to find work in different industries.

Kathy Bostjancic, a senior economist at Oxford Economics, noted that Powell reiterated the cautious message he had expressed at a news conference last week.

"While the economy seemingly has turned the corner, the road to full recovery is long and contingent on the public gaining confidence that the virus is contained," Bostjancic said. "The outlook remains cautious despite ... initial signs of rehiring and a bounce-back in consumer spending."

In his remarks to the lawmakers, Powell said he remains confident about the economy's future: "Long run, I am confident we will have a full recovery."

Since March, the Fed has slashed its benchmark short-term rate to near zero, bought \$2.1 trillion in Treasury and mortgage bonds to inject cash into markets and rolled out numerous lending programs to try to keep credit flowing smoothly. On Monday, the Fed announced that it will begin buying corporate bonds as part of a plan to ensure that companies can borrow during the pandemic. The Fed's policymakers have also forecast that their key rate will remain near zero through 2022.

Collectively, the central bank's actions are credited with helping fuel an extraordinary rally in the stock market, which has nearly regained its pre-pandemic highs after a dizzying plunge in March.

On Tuesday, Powell suggested that the drop in economic output during the current April-June quarter, as measured by the gross domestic product, will likely be the most severe on record. Many economists are forecasting that GDP could shrink at a record-setting 40% annual rate this quarter.

While the Trump administration is forecasting a V-shaped recovery with strong growth in the second half of this year, Powell was more cautious and sought to focus concerns on low-wage workers. In a semi-annual monetary report accompanying the testimony, the Fed noted that workers with lower earnings, including minorities, were being hit especially hard by the job market disruptions.

Employment has fallen nearly 35% for workers who were previously earning wages in the bottom fourth of wage earners, the Fed said. By contrast, employment has declined 5% for higher-wage earners. Be-

cause lower-wage earners are disproportionately African-American and Hispanic, unemployment has risen more sharply for those groups.

Powell had said last week at a news conference that a recovery could be painfully slow, with “well into the millions” of laid-off Americans unable to regain their old jobs. That downbeat assessment had helped trigger a plunge in stock prices and prompted President Donald Trump to issue a tweet criticizing the Fed’s views.

“The Federal Reserve is wrong so often,” Trump tweeted. “We will have a very good Third Quarter, a great Fourth Quarter, and one of our best ever years in 2021.”

In its projections, the Fed is predicting that the economy will shrink 6.5% this year before growing 5% next year, an assessment in line with the forecasts of private economists.

AP Economics Writer Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

US shoppers returned with vigor in May in partial rebound

By JOSH BOAK and ANNE D’INNOCENZIO AP Business Writers

BALTIMORE (AP) — American shoppers ramped up their spending on store purchases by a record 17.7% from April to May, delivering a dose of energy for retailers that have been reeling since the coronavirus shut down businesses, flattened the economy and paralyzed consumers during the previous two months.

The government’s report Tuesday showed that consumers’ retail purchases have retraced some of the record-setting month-to-month plunges of March (8.3%) and April (14.7%) as businesses have increasingly reopened. Still, the pandemic’s damage to retailers remains severe, with purchases still down 6.1% from a year ago.

Last month’s bounce-back by consumers comes against the backdrop of an economy that may have begun what could be a slow and prolonged recovery. In May, employers added 2.5 million jobs, an unexpected rise that suggested that the job market has bottomed out. Still, a big unknown is whether early gains in job growth, retail sales and other areas can be sustained in the coming months or whether they may plateau at a low level.

“This may very well be the shortest, but still deepest, recession ever,” said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. But she added that it’s “not likely that we’ll see a repeat in June as this is pent-up demand unleashed in one month.”

The return of shoppers last month was likely aided by the \$3 trillion in rescue money that the federal government has provided to companies and households. Americans’ retail purchases would need to surge by an additional 9% to return to their level before the pandemic.

Any sustained recovery, though, will hinge on an array of factors: The path of the coronavirus, how willing people are to shop, travel and congregate in groups, how many businesses manage to stay open and rehire many workers and whether the government provides additional support.

“While the big increase in retail sales in May is encouraging, there is still a huge amount of uncertainty about the strength of the rebound,” said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services. “It depends on a lot of factors outside of the economics.”

The virus-induced recession not only diminished spending in most sectors of the economy. It has also accelerated shifts in where people shop and what they buy. The changes forced by the coronavirus have aided online retailers and building materials stores and other outlets that stayed open during the outbreak. Other businesses are facing persistent financial strains.

Extending an ongoing shift in shopping habits, Americans last month stepped up their purchases at non-store retailers, which include internet companies like Amazon and eBay, by 9% after boosting such purchases nearly 10% in April. This category of sales is up a sizable 31% from a year ago.

When consumers do make purchases at physical stores, they’re increasingly doing so for such items as buildings materials and groceries. Building materials stores posted a monthly gain of 11% last month and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 65 of 75

year-over-year growth of 16%. Shoppers have increased their grocery purchases by an annual 14%, with fewer of them dining at restaurants because of the pandemic.

Shoppers last month vastly increased their spending in other categories, too, though some of these sectors still face a dim future given the blows they absorbed in March and April. Clothing purchases soared 188% from April to May but remain down 63% over the past 12 months. Though consumers ramped up their spending at furniture stores by 90% last month, sales remain down more than 21% year over year. The same pattern holds for restaurants, electronics stores, department stores and auto dealers.

Americans' retail purchases account for roughly half of all consumer spending, which fuels about 70% of total economic activity. The rest of their spending includes services, from cellphone and internet contracts to gym memberships and child care.

Nearly 80% of small retailers and restaurants tracked by the scheduling tool Homebase that were closed in mid-April have since reopened. Yet these smaller businesses remain under pressure. Their stresses in part reflect changes emerging as social distancing has become essential and shopping habits evolve.

One such retailer, CPW, a women's clothing store, has been in business for 30 years on Manhattan's Upper West Side. A three-month shutdown resulting from the virus meant the store retained only 20% to 30% of its sales as the owner, Linda Wolff, packed and delivered orders to customer homes. Though CPW reopened for curbside pickup a week ago, Wolff said she hasn't rung up a single such sale.

"This is my heart and soul," she said. "I am exhausted from all the worrying."

Some national chains, by contrast, say they have so far avoided their worst fears. Macy's CEO Jeff Gennette has said that his company's reopened stores are regaining 50% of their typical business. Teen retailer American Eagle Outfitters is faring even better, averaging roughly 95% of its normal sales levels.

But analysts caution that some of the gains in Americans' retail spending thus far probably reflect the impact of temporary government aid and expanded unemployment benefits in the face of a deep recession. The jobless rate is a historically high 13.3% by the government's standard measure and an even worse 21.2% by the broadest gauge of unemployment. For now, Americans are spending disproportionately more on essentials and less on luxuries.

The lockdowns sent many mall-based chains further into peril. These retailers furloughed workers, slashed costs to preserve dwindling cash reserves and, in the cases of Neiman Marcus, J.Crew and J.C. Penney, filed for bankruptcy protection.

These troubles have contrasted with renewed strength for Walmart, Target and Home Depot, which were deemed essential businesses from the start and were allowed to remain open.

Coresight Research, a retail research firm, expects between 20,000 and 25,000 stores in the United States to close this year, about 60% of them in malls. That's up from the firm's previous estimate in mid-March of 15,000 closings, and it would surpass the record 9,000 stores closures last year. In the past week, Zara, Children's Place and Signet Jewelers all announced hundreds of store closures and stressed the rising importance of their online presence.

D'Innocenzio reported from New York.

Don't ask Tulsa's mayor about Trump rally plans

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — For most mayors in deep-red states like Oklahoma, the prospect of hosting the first rally for President Donald Trump in months would be a delight. It would showcase the city on an international stage and draw revenue for local businesses that have been shuttered for months amid the coronavirus outbreak.

But G.T. Bynum, the first-term mayor of Tulsa, isn't celebrating Trump's planned rally Saturday at the city's 19,000-seat downtown BOK Center arena. While other Oklahoma GOP officials are hailing the event, Bynum finds himself in a precarious position, balancing partisan politics, the city's deep racial wounds and a COVID-19 infection rate that is suddenly spiking.

Trump announced the rally in Tulsa as the kick-off of a tour to rev up his political base and show the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 66 of 75

nation's economy reopening after the long quarantine. Trump said in a tweet that almost 1 million people have requested tickets, although party officials haven't announced the total. Oklahoma has followed a Trump-friendly aggressive schedule for its economic reopening, ticking through a series of phases that now have almost all businesses free to resume operations.

But the announcement comes as Tulsa's infection rate is rising steadily after remaining moderate for months. The four-day average number of new cases in the city has doubled from the previous peak in April. The city's own health department director, Dr. Bruce Dart, has said he hopes the rally will be postponed, noting that large indoor gatherings are partially to blame for the recent spread.

Meanwhile, many leaders in the city's black community have lashed out at Trump's visit as provocative after the death of black Minneapolis resident George Floyd and mass protests around the world. Tulsa was the site of the nation's deadliest race massacre in 1921, when up to 300 black residents were killed by a white mob and the city's thriving Black Wall Street district was burned to the ground.

The massacre was covered up in subsequent years, "and I'm not sure we've ever really even gotten over the hump," said state Rep. Monroe Nichols, an African American Democrat who represents the city's largely black north side. "I think the fact that the president is coming annoys folks in the African American community just as much as other folks in the community who don't subscribe to his brand of politics."

Bynum has maintained an awkward balancing act — not joining Dart's plea to postpone the rally to avert a health emergency, even though both have been strident about avoiding large groups, and not joining other Republican officials in celebrating with the popular Trump. Bynum said he would not attend the rally.

"I think he's trying to bring people together to find that middle ground and common purpose. And that's never going to be satisfying for the people at the ideological extremes, and they tend to be noisy," said David Holt, the mayor of Oklahoma City and a friend of Bynum's.

Bynum did not respond to a request for an interview but released a statement on his Facebook page Tuesday indicating he had no plans to stop the rally by invoking civil emergency authority. He also said he was unaware of plans for a rally until the BOK Center management reached out to the city regarding police support.

"Do I share anxiety about having a full house at the BOK Center? Of course," he wrote. "As someone who is cautious by nature, I don't like to be the first to try anything. I would have loved some other city to have proven the safety of such an event already."

Bynum, 43, is part of a political dynasty in Tulsa. His uncle, grandfather and great-great-grandfather all served as mayor. The city of 400,000 has long been Republican country, and he served as a staff member for GOP U.S. Sens. Don Nickles and Tom Coburn before defeating a fellow Republican in the nonpartisan mayor's race in 2016.

He campaigned on public education but also on investing in the black community, traditionally a Democratic cause. After the shooting of Terence Crutcher, an unarmed black man, by a Tulsa police officer in 2016, Bynum pushed for independent oversight of the police department, but was thwarted by fierce opposition from the police union. He has also pushed for publicly coming to terms with the race massacre, earning him credit in the black community that may have helped the city avert violence after Floyd's death at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis.

Bynum did draw the ire of many for comments in a national interview in which he blamed drug use, not race, for Crutcher's death. Bynum later walked back the comments, writing in a post on social media: "When your friends start calling you and repeatedly using the phrase, 'I know your heart,' it's a good indicator you've screwed up.

"I would hope that my work during 8 years on the City Council and 4 years in the Mayor's Office would speak louder than one dumb and overly-simplistic answer to a complex question, but I understand if it doesn't."

Other Oklahoma Republican officials insisted the Trump rally can be good for the black community — Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt said he has invited Trump to join him on a walking tour of the Greenwood district, where the massacre occurred, to build understanding. And the head of the Oklahoma Republican Party, David McLain, insisted the rally can be safe. He said all rally goers will be provided with masks,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 67 of 75

although there will be no mandate to wear them. He said party officials would like to see every seat filled. Holt said he's confident Bynum will navigate the situation because he's "very collaborative."

"I think mayors across the country have got a lot on their plates, and we're all challenged right now to find the right balance of a lot of competing interests in the midst of generational crises happening one after the other, but I think obviously in Tulsa you have an even more complicated history with race," Holt said.

VIRUS DIARY: 'The meaning of abiding love in all its guises'

By MARK GILLISPIE Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Loss and its many guises have been constants during the pandemic. Loss of loved ones. Economic loss. Loss of contact with family and friends.

My pandemic experience is one of unalterable loss and enduring love in the time of coronavirus with the death of my wife, Mary Lou.

Her death from cancer in late April came as no surprise. A young oncologist, with complete certainty, told us last fall that Mary Lou had six to nine months to live.

Thus, we knew it would be our last Thanksgiving and Christmas together, giving those holidays an unspoken poignancy for us, our two grown children and our families. Discussions about death are difficult; we chose to live in the moment and ignore how time was being so cruelly tolled.

Mary Lou and I were the quintessential journalist couple. We met at a small paper outside Cleveland and snagged the big-city newspaper jobs we dreamed about. Not so quintessentially, we flew to Las Vegas the morning after a champagne-soaked dinner where a man in a green leisure suit and a bad pompadour married us in a forlorn chapel.

Two years ago, Mary Lou's breast cancer returned after more than a decade. Treatment couldn't stop those insidious cells from traveling to her brain. Surgery and radiation only slowed them. In February, with no treatment options left, her care was turned over to a hospice team to guide us through her remaining days.

Then the pandemic struck.

When bosses said in March we could abandon our offices, I fled for home. When Ohio locked down, I practically barred the doors. A hospice nurse would stop by a few times a week. Otherwise, only our children, Sam and Martha, were allowed inside our home. Mary Lou's daily care was left to me.

She had always been the glue that held our family together. Now it was my turn. Summoning welcome reserves of energy and patience, I managed as best I could. It was difficult watching the health of a vibrant, intelligent woman decline so rapidly. Still, there were good days that I cherish.

Mary Lou did not want to die at home. When the time came, her consciousness drifting away, Sam, Martha and I stood at the end of the driveway, our hearts breaking, as we watched attendants place her in an ambulance knowing she'd never come home again.

The people at hospice house were kind and caring but would not alter their pandemic rule of only two visitors, which would be Sam, who lives and works in the area, and me. Despite my pleas, Martha, finishing her degree in Columbus, wouldn't be allowed a final visit.

Five days after being admitted, Mary Lou was no longer responsive. That final morning I whispered into her ear and asked for forgiveness. For everything. I watched as this life's journey ended peacefully, and what I'm certain would be a fantastically wonderful voyage began.

Martha and I spent that evening drinking and telling stories in a father-daughter Irish wake. I knew it was best for Sam, a man of few words, to grieve with his longtime girlfriend.

A different kind of isolation soon took hold: life without my best friend and love of my life. I so desperately needed to hear her voice.

Friends and family asked in calls and texts when there would be a service. I said I didn't know. Perhaps when a vaccine becomes available.

Until then, I must grieve alone.

The pain endures, yet the darkness is slowly lifting. I comfort myself with thoughts of how our final

weeks in isolation were the most poignant of our 30 years together.

The pandemic helped teach me the meaning of abiding love in all its guises. For that, I will be forever grateful.

Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus saga through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Follow Cleveland-based AP journalist Mark Gillispie on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/markgillispie1>

Kimmel to host Emmys, first major awards show of pandemic

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jimmy Kimmel will host the first major Hollywood awards ceremony of the coronavirus pandemic — but just how the Emmys will be held remains cloudy.

Kimmel, who is also producing the Sept. 20 ceremony on ABC honoring TV's best, acknowledged that in Tuesday's announcement.

"I don't know where we will do this or how we will do this or even why we are doing this, but we are doing it and I am hosting it," the ABC late-night host said in a statement.

The network said details on the show's production will be announced soon. Choosing Kimmel to emcee the ceremony reverses course from last year's no-host Emmys.

The entertainment industry is just beginning to restart production following a months-long shutdown aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. Orchestrating an awards ceremony during the ongoing pandemic with its crowd of presenters, nominees and guests is a daunting prospect, whether done virtually or otherwise.

While the Emmys are plunging ahead as scheduled, other ceremonies are bowing to the pandemic's pressures. The 93rd Academy Awards will be held April 25, 2021, eight weeks later than planned, and the British Academy Film Awards is shifting its originally announced February 2021 ceremony to April 11.

The Emmy Awards are considered a kickoff for the new TV season that traditionally begins in September, although virus-caused production delays have raised questions about whether shows will be ready to air as planned.

Nominations for the 72nd prime-time Emmys will be announced by the TV academy on July 28.

Report: Russia-linked disinformation operation still active

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

A Kremlin-linked social media disinformation operation that sought to interfere with the 2016 U.S. election has continued its work to divide and discredit Western democracies, a new report finds — but its effectiveness has been limited by its own cautious tactics.

Dubbed "Secondary Infektion" by researchers, the network was part of Russia's bid to use social media to polarize Americans ahead of the 2016 elections. It's been linked to similar efforts in Ukraine, France, Britain and elsewhere. Since 2014 it has posted thousands of times on more than 300 internet platforms.

Content from Secondary Infektion includes posts denigrating Muslims and immigrants, accusing Hillary Clinton of murder and calling German Chancellor Angela Merkel an alcoholic. Some posts have used forged documents or bogus commentary, such as a fake tweet supposedly sent from U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio accusing Britain of spying on President Donald Trump.

Graphika, a New York City firm that analyzes social media, published a report Tuesday that traces the network's operations. Compared with other Russian disinformation networks operated by Russian military intelligence or the country's Internet Research Agency, Secondary Infektion worked hard to cover its tracks — even if that hindered its work, the report found.

"They were putting a lot of emphasis on staying hidden, rather than quick virality," said Ben Nimmo, Graphika's director of investigations and one of the report's lead authors.

Many of Secondary Infektion's posts came from "burner" accounts discarded after a single use, before

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 69 of 75

they have time to grow an audience. While that made it harder for analysts to track the network, it also prevented the operation from building accounts with the kind of large, legitimate audiences that are needed to weaponize disinformation.

"Almost none of those efforts achieved measurable impact," Graphika's report concluded. "Another enduring mystery around the operation is what the operators thought they were doing and why they kept on doing it across six years of activity when their stories so often died unnoticed."

Ukraine was the network's top target, with many posts portraying the country as corrupt. Other posts attacked the U.S. as belligerent, or Europe as weak. Some posts sought to debunk allegations of doping by Russian athletes.

While the group's work has slowed, it was operational as of this year. One recent post included a claim that the U.S. created the coronavirus as a bioweapon.

The identity of those behind the operation remain unknown, though researchers have used technical and linguistic clues to link it to the Russian government.

Secondary Infektion emerged last year after Facebook removed several accounts later linked to the operation. Researchers at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab named the network after Operation Infektion, a Soviet disinformation campaign that spread the conspiracy theory that the U.S. created HIV.

Reddit removed several dozen accounts linked to Secondary Infektion last year after concluding they were used to leak confidential government documents days before a general election in the U.K.

Klepper reported from Providence, R.I.

Penn State ex-president argues conviction properly tossed

By MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A federal appeals court grilled lawyers Tuesday about whether Penn State's former president deserved to have his misdemeanor child endangerment conviction, related to his response to a complaint about Jerry Sandusky, overturned last year.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals focused on whether Graham Spanier was wrongly convicted under a 2007 law for acts that occurred in 2001. The three judges did not say when they might rule.

Spanier's attorneys say the 2007 version expanded the child endangerment law to apply to those who employ or supervise underlings, while the attorney general's office said it simply put into words and clarified what already was the law — and that he was prosecuted under the 1995 version.

"This jury was never told, never, that it could convict the defendant solely on the basis that he supervised other people that were supervising the welfare of children," argued Ronald Eisenberg for the attorney general's office.

The judges are reviewing a decision by U.S. Magistrate Judge Karoline Mehalchick in April 2019 that Spanier was improperly convicted under the 2007 version. She gave prosecutors three months to retry him.

In early 2001, two of Spanier's top lieutenants notified him about a report from an assistant football coach that he was highly disturbed by seeing retired football team defensive coach Sandusky alone and naked in a team shower with a boy. The police were not called.

"Spanier submits that this retroactive application is unreasonable and far more extensive than anyone in 2001 would have been able to reasonably foresee," Mehalchick wrote. "The court agrees."

Her decision came less than a day before Spanier had been due to report to jail to start serving a minimum sentence of two months with work release, followed by two months of house arrest.

Spanier, 71, was forced out as university president shortly after Sandusky was arrested in 2011 on child molestation charges. A year later, Spanier was himself charged in an alleged criminal cover-up, although many of those charges were subsequently dismissed by a state appeals court.

The jury acquitted him of what remained by the time of his trial, except for the single count of child endangerment.

"Why shouldn't we be concerned with the jury instruction that was given, which mirrored the 2007 lan-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 70 of 75

guage?" asked 3rd Circuit Judge Mike Fisher on Tuesday. "Because how do we know that the jury didn't find Dr. Spanier guilty because of the language that was added in 2007 rather than the original language?"

Spanier attorney Bruce Merenstein said the 2007 changes broadened the law to provide for "liability, criminal liability, against people who were not covered before 2007."

Then-graduate assistant Mike McQueary, prosecutors wrote in a recent brief, said he heard "a rhythmic, slapping sound. Glancing in a mirror he saw a naked boy, 10 or 12 years old, and also a naked man — Sandusky. He was pressed up behind the boy, stomach to back, skin to skin."

Spanier has said the incident, whose victim has not been conclusively identified, was characterized to him as horseplay.

"If he really thought this was innocent 'horseplay,' why did Spanier at first agree to report the matter for possible criminal investigation?" prosecutors argued in a brief. "If he really thought there was nothing at all sexual, why did Spanier believe Sandusky needed 'professional help?'"

Spanier wrote in a 2001 email to his vice president and athletic director that "the only downside for us is if the message isn't 'heard' and acted upon, and we then become vulnerable for not having reported it."

Spanier did not testify at his trial and told the judge at sentencing that he regretted not intervening more forcefully.

He remains a tenured professor of human development and family studies, sociology, demography and family and community medicine. He is on administrative leave from Penn State and has not taught any classes since the scandal broke nine years ago.

Sandusky is serving a lengthy state prison sentence and maintains he was wrongly convicted of the sexual abuse of 10 boys.

EU authorities open twin Apple antitrust investigations

By **KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer**

LONDON (AP) — European Union regulators opened two investigations on Tuesday into Apple's mobile app store and payment platform over concerns its practices distort competition, opening a new front in the EU's battle against the dominance of big tech companies.

The EU's executive Commission said it formally launched the investigations over concerns that Apple's way of doing business hurts consumers by limiting choice and innovation and keeping prices high. Apple dismissed the complaints as "baseless."

The commission is examining whether Apple Pay's rules require online shops to make it the preferred or default option, effectively shutting out rival payment systems. It's also investigating concerns that it limits access for rival payment systems to the "tap and go" wireless function on iPhones.

The Commission opened a second investigation into the App Store over concerns Apple forces developers to use the company's own in-app purchasing system, which charges them a 30% commission, and restricts them from telling iPhone and iPad users about other ways to pay for digital services like music subscriptions. The investigation follows complaints from music streaming service Spotify and an e-book distributor on the impact of the App Store's rules on competition.

"It appears that Apple obtained a 'gatekeeper' role when it comes to the distribution of apps and content to users of Apple's popular devices," EU Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager said. Regulators want to make sure Apple's practices don't affect competition in markets where it competes with other app makers, she said, citing its music streaming service and e-book services.

It's also "important that Apple's measures do not deny consumers the benefits of new payment technologies, including better choice, quality, innovation and competitive prices," she said. Vestager noted that the coronavirus crisis has accelerated the growth in mobile payments as more people make online payments or "contactless" payments in stores.

Apple rejected the allegations, saying it has created new products and services in the world's most competitive markets.

"We follow the law in everything we do and we embrace competition at every stage because we believe

it pushes us to deliver even better results," the company said in a statement.

"It's disappointing the European Commission is advancing baseless complaints from a handful of companies who simply want a free ride, and don't want to play by the same rules as everyone else," it said.

Spotify welcomed the EU's investigation, accusing Apple of creating an "unlevel playing field" and depriving consumers of choice. It refuses to use Apple's payments system, which it says makes its subscriptions more expensive than Apple Music's.

Vestager, the EU's competition commissioner, has earned a reputation as one of the world's toughest technology regulators. Four years ago she ordered Apple to pay 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in back taxes linked to a deal it made with the Irish government - a ruling that the company is challenging. She has also led antitrust investigations into other Silicon Valley giants including Google, which resulted in multibillion dollar fines.

Apple is perhaps best known for the iPhone but sales have been slowing lately as the smartphone market hits a plateau and the EU commission's focus on Apple Pay and the App Store also highlights the tech giant's efforts to expand revenue in its services business to offset the weakness in hardware.

Follow Kelvin Chan at twitter.com/chanman

Poll: Americans are the unhappiest they've been in 50 years

By TAMARA LUSH Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — It's been a rough year for the American psyche. Folks in the U.S. are more unhappy today than they've been in nearly 50 years.

This bold — yet unsurprising — conclusion comes from the COVID Response Tracking Study, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. It finds that just 14% of American adults say they're very happy, down from 31% who said the same in 2018. That year, 23% said they'd often or sometimes felt isolated in recent weeks. Now, 50% say that.

The survey, conducted in late May, draws on nearly a half-century of research from the General Social Survey, which has collected data on American attitudes and behaviors at least every other year since 1972. No less than 29% of Americans have ever called themselves very happy in that survey.

Most of the new survey's interviews were completed before the death of George Floyd touched off nationwide protests and a global conversation about race and police brutality, adding to the feelings of stress and loneliness Americans were already facing from the coronavirus outbreak — especially for black Americans.

Lexi Walker, a 47-year-old professional fiduciary who lives near Greenville, South Carolina, has felt anxious and depressed for long stretches of this year. She moved back to South Carolina late in 2019, then her cat died. Her father passed away in February. Just when she thought she'd get out and socialize in an attempt to heal from her grief, the pandemic hit.

"It's been one thing after another," Walker said. "This is very hard. The worst thing about this for me, after so much, I don't know what's going to happen."

Among other finding from the new poll about life in the pandemic:

— The public is less optimistic today about the standard of living improving for the next generation than it has been in the past 25 years. Only 42% of Americans believe that when their children reach their age, their standard of living will be better. A solid 57% said that in 2018. Since the question was asked in 1994, the previous low was 45% in 1994.

— Compared with surveys conducted after President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963 and after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Americans are less likely to report some types of emotional and psychological stress reactions following the COVID-19 outbreak. Fewer report smoking more than usual, crying or feeling dazed now than after those two previous tragedies, though more report having lost their temper or wanting to get drunk.

— About twice as many Americans report being lonely today as in 2018, and not surprisingly given the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 72 of 75

lockdowns that tried to contain the spread of the coronavirus, there's also been a drop in satisfaction with social activities and relationships. Compared with 2018, Americans also are about twice as likely to say they sometimes or often have felt a lack of companionship (45% vs. 27%) and felt left out (37% vs. 18%) in the past four weeks.

What is surprising, said Louise Hawkley, a senior research scientist with NORC at the University of Chicago, was that loneliness was not even more prevalent.

"It isn't as high as it could be," she said. "People have figured out a way to connect with others. It's not satisfactory, but people are managing to some extent."

The new poll found that there haven't been significant changes in Americans' assessment of their families' finances since 2018 and that Americans' satisfaction with their families' ability to get along financially was as high as it's been over nearly five decades.

Jonathan Berney, of Austin, Texas, said that the pandemic — and his resulting layoff as a digital marketing manager for a law firm — caused him to reevaluate everything in his life. While he admits that he's not exactly happy now, that's led to another uncomfortable question: Was he truly happy before the pandemic?

"2020 just fast forwarded a spiritual decay. When things are good, you don't tend to look inwards," he said, adding that he was living and working in the Miami area before the pandemic hit. As Florida dealt with the virus, his girlfriend left him and he decided to leave for Austin. "I probably just wasn't a nice guy to be around from all the stress and anxiety. But this forced an existential crisis."

Berney, who is looking for work, said things have improved from those early, dark days of the pandemic. He's still job hunting but has a little savings to live on. He said he's trying to kayak more and center himself so he's better prepared to deal with any future downturn in events.

Reimagining happiness is almost hard-wired into Americans' DNA, said Sonja Lyubomirsky, a psychology professor at the University of California, Riverside.

"Human beings are remarkably resilient. There's lots and lots of evidence that we adapt to everything. We move forward," she said, adding that she's done happiness studies since the pandemic started and found that some people are slightly happier than last year.

Melinda Hartline, of Tampa, who was laid off from her job in public relations in March, said she was in a depressed daze those first few weeks of unemployment. Then she started to bike and play tennis and enrolled in a college course on post-crisis leadership.

Today, she's worried about the state of the world and the economy, and she wonders when she can see her kids and grandkids who live on the West Coast — but she also realizes that things could be a lot worse.

"Anything can happen. And you have to be prepared," she said. "Whether it's your health, your finances, whether it's the world. You have to be prepared. And always maintain that positive mental attitude. It's going to get you through it."

The survey of 2,279 adults was conducted May 21-29 with funding from the National Science Foundation. It uses a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.

Coronavirus tracing app a test for privacy-minded Germany

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany launched a coronavirus tracing app Tuesday that officials say is so secure even government ministers can use it, though developers acknowledge it isn't perfect yet.

Smartphone apps have been touted as a high-tech tool in the effort to track down potential COVID-19 infections. Experts say finding new cases quickly is key to clamping down on fresh clusters, especially as countries slowly emerge from lockdowns and try to avoid a second wave of infections and deaths.

But governments in Europe have run into legal and cultural hurdles trying to reconcile the need for effective tracing with the continent's strict data privacy standards.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 73 of 75

Germany, where a person's right to their own data even after death is rooted in the constitution, has proved a particular challenge. Early government suggestions to use cell tower information and GPS coordinates for the app prompted a swift backlash.

"Tracking where a person is in real time, that does remind us of China and its surveillance system," said Frederick Richter, who heads the independent Foundation for Data Protection.

It also recalls Germany's own history of dictatorships. Both the Nazis and East Germany's communist regime amassed vast amounts of information to persecute dissidents and undesirables.

"That's why we have always been very sensitive in Germany when it comes to the state collecting information on its citizens," Richter said.

Like many other European tracing apps, Germany's system now relies on low-energy Bluetooth technology that's standard in modern smartphones. The app scans the user's surroundings and records which other smartphones with the app are nearby and for how long.

If someone using the "Corona-Warn-App" tests positive for COVID-19, they can inform others who were in close proximity for at least 15 minutes that they, too, might be infected.

Developers say their most recent tests correctly identified 80% of people's contacts. That still leaves 20% who were either not recognized as having been close to an infected person or deemed exposed even though they were more than 2 meters (6.6 feet) away.

"This app is no cure-all, it doesn't give you a free ride," said Germany's health minister, Jens Spahn, noting that face masks and manual tracing will still be required. "But it's an important tool to contain the pandemic."

He acknowledged that there would likely be an increase in people seeking to get tested because of the app. "I'd rather a test too many than a test too few," said Spahn.

Concerns have also been raised about the hotline some users will need to call in order to get their positive test result recorded in the app. This opens the door to trolls who could try to trick hotline staff, setting off a cascade of consequences for everyone they were close to in restaurants, supermarkets or public transport.

Opposition parties, meanwhile, have called for a law to ensure that private businesses don't try to push customers or employees into using the app, either through incentives or sanctions.

The German government insisted Monday that "voluntary means voluntary" and the app would be continually improved.

Asked whether the app meets security standards for top-tier officials, a spokesman for the German Interior Ministry said the country's IT security agency has been involved from the start.

"I presume that from their side there can be an unreserved recommendation to members of the federal government to use this app," said the spokesman, Bjoern Gruenewaelder.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife Elke Buedenbender, a judge, announced they were using the app.

Die-hard skeptics are more likely to be reassured by Germany's Chaos Computer Club, which bills itself as Europe's largest hackers association. The group has a history of punching holes in government and corporate IT systems and of campaigning against surveillance technology.

Linus Neuman, a club spokesman, praised the German app developers' transparency for using the coding site Github to let the public look over their shoulder and recommend improvements.

He also suggested that choosing to store data only on people's phones, rather than on centralized servers the way France has done, would help minimize privacy risks.

"We can't guarantee that someone won't find a weak spot in (the code) tomorrow," said Neumann. "But we can say that these weak spots will have a lower overall risk than if the German government had pursued a centralized approach."

Still, the group won't officially endorse the app.

"What we want is for every user to make an informed decision," said Neumann. "And this decision might be different for an investigative journalist than for a teenager who spends most of the day on WhatsApp, Facebook, Google or YouTube."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 74 of 75

The German government says its app cost 20 million euros (\$22.7 million) to develop and will require 2.5 million to 3.5 million euros per month to operate. It's available in German and English, with Turkish and other languages to follow.

So far, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has been praised for its handling of the pandemic, which has resulted in a death toll about one-fifth of Britain's and one-fourth of Italy's. Germany has recorded almost 190,000 cases of COVID-19 and just over 8,800 deaths to date, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

A poll this month published by public broadcaster ARD found that slightly more Germans — 42% — said they would use the tracing app than the 39% who wouldn't. The rest either said they didn't have a smartphone or hadn't made up their mind.

The telephone poll of 1,005 had a margin of error of up to 3 percentage points.

A major glitch could hurt uptake. On Monday, Norway suspended use of its track and trace app after a public spat between health authorities and the information watchdog.

At Berlin's Friedrichstrasse train station, commuters appeared cautious when asked whether they would download the German app.

Klaudia Kruczkiewicz said using a smartphone to scan her surroundings felt "a bit creepy," but wouldn't rule out signing up.

"First I'd need to see how it works," she said. "But otherwise, at the moment, I'm keeping my distance. I always wear a mask. I don't need this app."

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

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 17, the 169th day of 2020. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 17, 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside the Democratic headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

On this date:

In 1579, Sir Francis Drake arrived in present-day northern California, naming it New Albion and claiming English sovereignty.

In 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on a trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Wales with pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, becoming the first woman to make the trip as a passenger.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1933, the "Kansas City Massacre" took place outside Union Station in Kansas City, Mo., as a group of gunmen attacked law enforcement officers escorting federal prisoner Frank Nash; four of the officers were killed, along with Nash.

In 1944, the Republic of Iceland was established.

In 1953, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stayed the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, originally set for the next day, the couple's 14th wedding anniversary. (They were put to death June 19.)

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Abington (Pa.) School District v. Schempp*, struck down, 8-1, rules requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or reading of Biblical verses in public schools.

In 1967, China successfully tested its first thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 340 ~ 75 of 75

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan announced the retirement of Chief Justice Warren Burger, who was succeeded by William Rehnquist.

In 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial but held liable in a civil trial.)

In 2009, President Barack Obama extended some benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees. Nevada Sen. John Ensign resigned from the GOP leadership a day after admitting an affair with a former campaign staffer.

Ten years ago: BP chief executive Tony Hayward told a congressional hearing he was "deeply sorry" for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, but infuriated lawmakers as he disclaimed knowledge of any of the myriad problems leading up to the disaster. Israel agreed to ease its three-year-old land blockade of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. The Los Angeles Lakers rallied in Game 7 of the NBA finals, defeating the Boston Celtics 83-79 to repeat as champions.

Five years ago: Nine people were shot to death in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina; suspect Dylann Roof was arrested the following morning. (Roof was convicted of federal hate crimes and sentenced to death; he later pleaded guilty to state murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

One year ago: Iran announced that it was breaking compliance with the international accord that kept it from making nuclear weapons; the announcement meant that Iran could soon start to enrich uranium to just a step away from weapons-grade levels. The Trump administration followed Iran's announcement by ordering 1,000 more troops to the Middle East. Egypt's first democratically elected president, Islamist leader Mohammed Morsi, collapsed in court while on trial and died; Morsi had been ousted by the military in 2013 after a year in office. Gloria Vanderbilt, an heiress and artist who later became a designer jeans pioneer, died at her New York home; she was 95. Gunfire broke out, and a stampede developed, as fans in Toronto celebrated at a rally for the NBA champion Raptors; four people were shot and thousands of others fled, just a block from the rally stage.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 88. Movie director Ken Loach is 84. Actor William Lucking is 79. Singer Barry Manilow is 77. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 77. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 69. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 66. Actor Jon Gries (gryz) is 63. Rock singer Jello Biafra is 62. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 62. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 60. Actor Greg Kinnear is 57. Actress Kami Cotler is 55. Olympic gold medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 55. Actor Jason Patric is 54. Rhythm and blues singer Kevin Thornton is 51. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 50. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 49. Tennis player Venus Williams is 40. Actor Arthur Darvill is 38. Actress Jodie Whittaker is 38. Actor Manish Dayal is 37. Country singer Mickey Guyton is 37. Actor-rapper Herculeez (AKA Jamal Mixon) is 37. Actress Marie Avgeropoulos is 34. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 33. NHL forward Nikita Kucherov is 27. Actor Damani Roberts is 24. Actor KJ Apa is 23.

Thought for Today: "One has two duties — to be worried and not to be worried." — E.M. Forster, British author (1879-1970).

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