

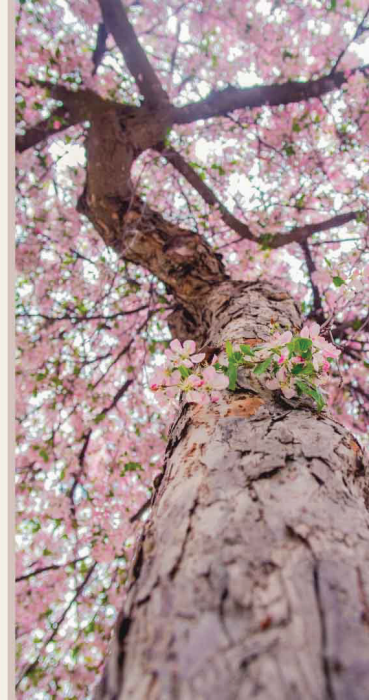
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 1 of 86

- 1- Church Services Today
- 2- Sunday Extras
- 15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column
- 16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 17- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 18- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column
- 19- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 21- SD News Watch: Pandemic threatens fragile rural health-care system in South Dakota
- 27- Groton Swimming Pool accommodates the Aberdeen Swim Club
- 28- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 32- COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLD-WIDE
- 33- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 34- June 27th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 37- Updated Baseball Schedule
- 38- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 39- Weather Pages
- 42- Daily Devotional
- 43- 2020 Groton Events
- 44- News from the Associated Press

“WHEN YOU ARE  
GRATEFUL -  
WHEN YOU CAN  
SEE WHAT  
YOU HAVE -  
YOU UNLOCK  
BLESSINGS TO  
FLOW IN  
YOUR LIFE.”

-SUZE ORMAN



## Church Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont has worship on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m..

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

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent


# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 2 of 86

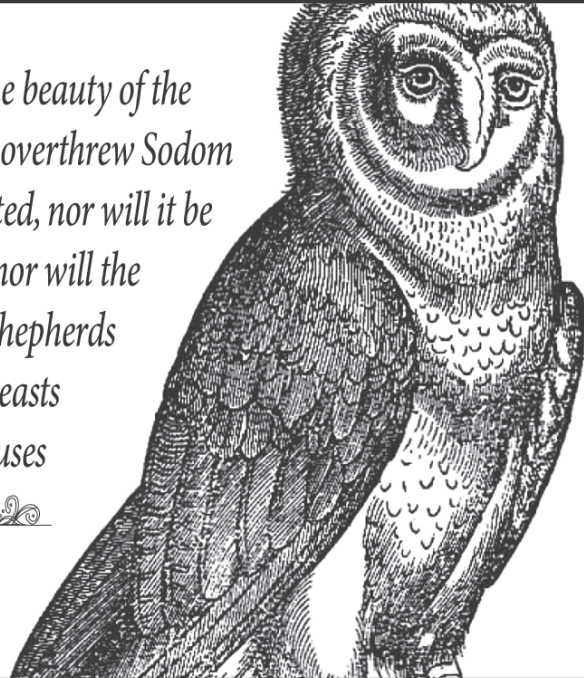
## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, and their houses will be full of owls... ISAIAH 13:19-21* 

*Detail of medieval engraving*



© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Esther 7, who met his death on gallows that he built for another man? *Herod, Haman, Jehu, Ezekiel*

3. In Matthew 14, who tried to walk on water but began to sink? *Thomas, Paul, Peter, John*

4. Which of these cities was destroyed by fire and brimstone? *Jericho, Haran, Paphos, Sodom*

5. What charioteer rode to Jezreel to find King Joram? *Jehu, Omri, Naboth, Jethro*

6. Where did Hagar meet an angel? *Prison, River, Wilderness spring, Temple door*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Haman; 3) Peter; 4) Sodom; 5) Jehu; 6) Wilderness spring

*Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com)*

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Comfort foods

*Made fast  
and  
healthy*



by Healthy Exchanges

### Fresh Peach Pudding Bake

There is nothing quite so sweet as biting into a fresh peach, with juice dripping down your chin with every bite you take. This ultra-easy dessert is a close second, though! One mouthful and you'll "taste" what I mean.

3 cups peeled and sliced fresh peaches

Sugar substitute to equal 1/2 cup sugar, suitable for baking

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons

reduced-fat biscuit baking mix

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

3 tablespoons chopped pecans

1. Heat oven to 425 F. Spray an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.

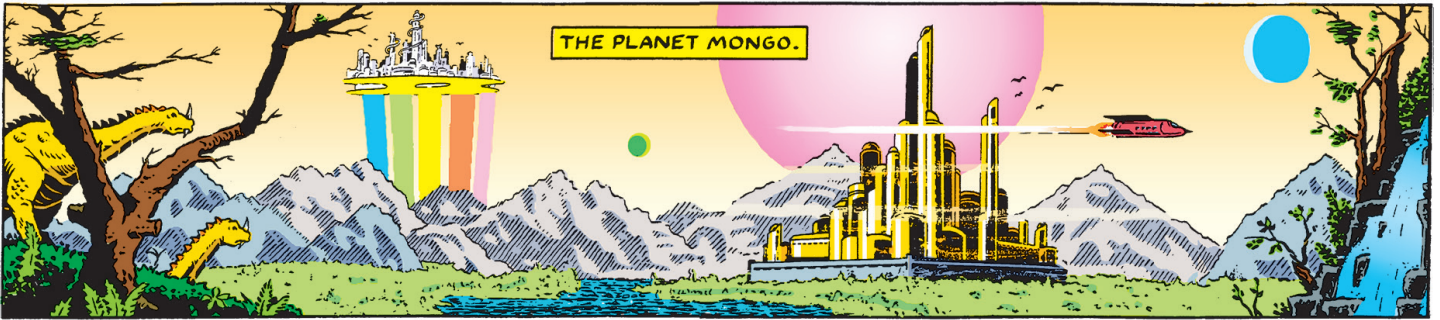
2. In a large bowl, combine peaches and sugar substitute. Let set for 10 minutes. Add baking mix, nutmeg and pecans. Mix well to combine. Spread mixture into prepared baking dish. (Mixture will be dry.)

3. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Place baking dish on a wire rack and let set for at least 5 minutes. Serves 6.

• Each serving equals: 148 calories, 4gm fat, 2gm protein, 26gm carb., 263mg sodium, 2gm fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Fruit, 1/2 Fat.

# Groton Daily Independent

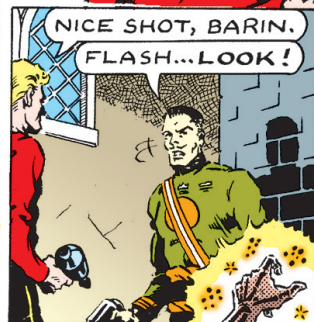
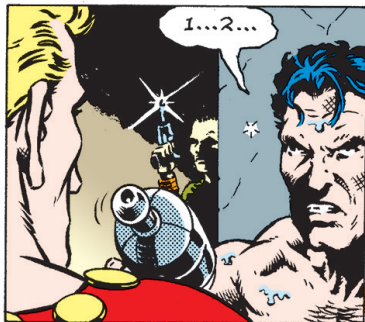
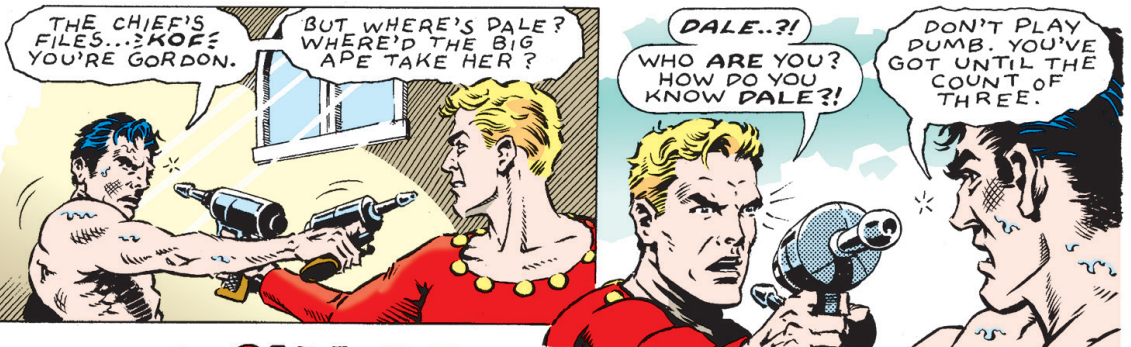
Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 4 of 86



**FLASH GORDON**

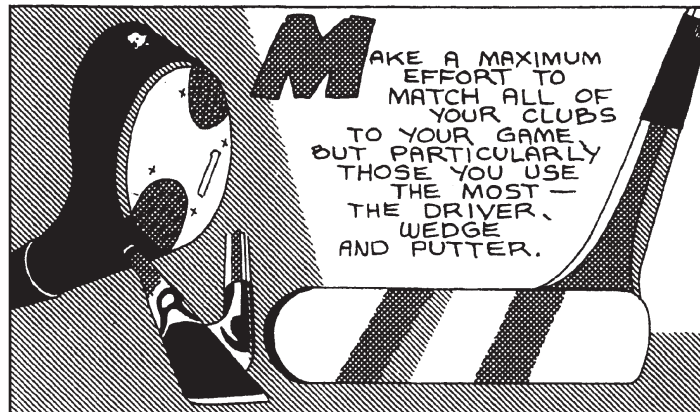
6-21 BY JIM KEEFE

FLASH GORDON AND SECRET AGENT X-9 FACE OFF...



TO BE CONT'D

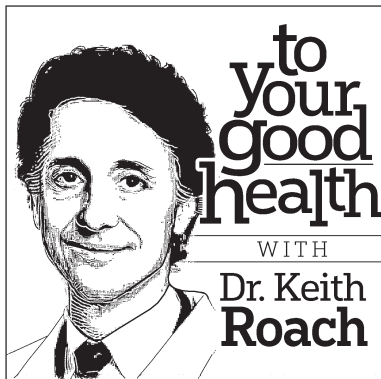
## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



JM



## Raw or Roasted, Go Nuts for Nuts

**DEAR DR. ROACH: I have seen numerous articles extolling the advantages of eating nuts because they are a good fat. I often have wondered if it matters whether the nuts are raw or roasted. Would you please explain the difference and the impact on one's health? — D.O.**

**ANSWER:** Scientists believe that nuts are healthy for us based on three different types of evidence. One is called "epidemiological": People who eat nuts live longer and have less heart disease than people who don't eat nuts. This suggests nuts are good for you, but it's not definitive. People who eat nuts may do other healthy things, which could be the real reason they live longer (this is called "confounding").

A second line of evidence comes from watching what happens to factors that we believe are related to disease. People who add a reasonable amount of nuts to their diet often have improvements in their cholesterol levels. They also help some people lose a few pounds, possibly because the fat and protein in nuts makes them more filling than the (often processed) starches many people eat. This is also not definitive, because there are treatments that lower cholesterol but don't make people live longer or improve health.

The third is evidence from a large, interventional study on diet. A group of people were randomly assigned to either add more nuts to their diet, or to make no change (or some other change) in their diet. At least one study showed that when people changed

their diet to include more nuts and seeds (but also more fruits and vegetables, more healthy oils, like olive oil, and less meat), they had less heart attacks than the group that did not change their diet. This evidence is strong, but it's not clear whether it's one change in the diet (just nuts) or all the changes in the diet that are responsible for the observed benefit.

In none of these kinds of studies were raw nuts compared against roasted. However, the composition of the fats does not change in nuts and seeds when roasted, and most experts believe it does not make a difference. So, I recommend partaking in nuts however you like them best.

Just one serving a day (30 grams or an ounce) makes a difference. They are quite high in calories, so it's wise not to overdo it. If you don't like nuts (and obviously for those allergic), not eating them is not a major risk for developing heart disease.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH: You have mentioned diseases of the blood marrow before, but what does the bone marrow actually do? — T.S.B.**

**ANSWER:** The main job of the bone marrow is to produce the different blood cells: red blood cells to carry oxygen; white blood cells to fight infection and cancers; and platelets to stop bleeding. Diseases of the bone marrow can cause problems by making something abnormal (such as leukemia cells), but also by failing at its job and not making what it is supposed to. Low red cell counts lead to anemia; low white cell counts increase risk of infection; and low platelet counts contribute to abnormal bleeding.

Bone marrow diseases sometimes can be treated directly, but often treatment involves replacing blood products, and possibly using growth factors to make the bone marrow work better.

\*\*\*

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

© 2020 North America Synd., Inc.  
All Rights Reserved



1. Name the band that started out as Soft White Underbelly.

2. Which artist wrote and released "Slip Slidin' Away"? Hint: "Stranded in a Limousine" also appeared on the same "Greatest Hits, Etc." album.

3. Name the song inspired by a TV commercial that had an elderly white-haired woman speeding down the street.

4. What was The Stroll?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "A live wire, barely a beginner, But just watch that lady go."

### Answers

1. Blue Öyster Cult. The group also had short runs as Oaxaca, the Santos Sisters and the Stalk-Forrest Group. The umlaut (dots over the O) in the name was later copied by other groups, including as Mötley Crue.

2. Paul Simon, in 1977.

3. "The Little Old Lady From Pasadena," by Jan and Dean in 1964. The woman would yell out the window, "Put a Dodge in your garage, Hon-ey!"

4. "The Stroll" was a song by The Diamonds and a '50s line dance.

5. "Dance the Night Away," by Van Halen in 1979. Once of the song's co-writers wanted to call it "Dance, Lolita, Dance," but Eddie Van Halen objected. The song ended up in the 2000 film "Mission to Mars."

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 6 of 86

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## GRIN and BEAR IT

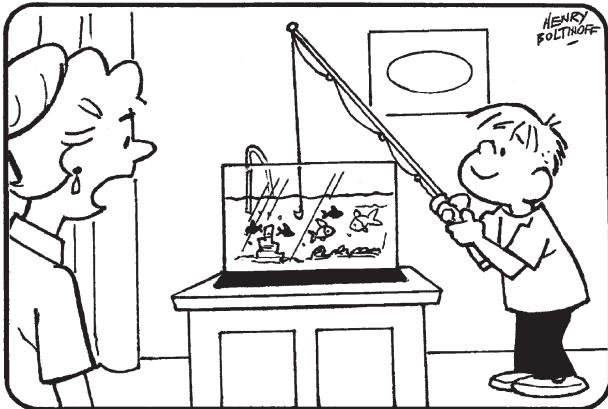
© by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



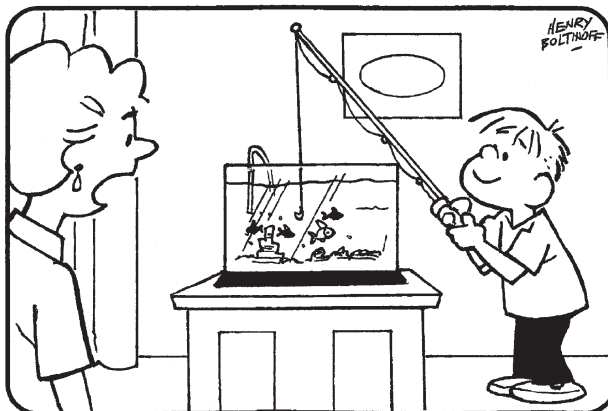
"I'm glad we had this talk, son ...  
I learned a lot!"

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Table is different 2. Picture has moved. 3. Fish is missing. 4. Water level is higher. 5. Woman's hair has changed. 6. Boy's neckline is different.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- Items in the freezer are more likely to get freezer burn if there's water present, so make sure you pat down or otherwise carefully drain meats, fruits and veggies before popping them in the freezer.

- “Nothing is more soothing — and delicious — than plain yogurt on a sunburn. Slather it on thickly to sunburned skin, wait for about 15 minutes, and rinse off in room-temperature water. It feels much better afterward, and it gives immediate relief when it goes on cold.” — *C.L. in Texas*

- Save your tuna cans. You can use them to cook an egg over a campfire, or you can put one under the legs of your camp table and add water. Ants won't be able to climb up the legs of the table to get to your food.

- “If you've never used Skin-So-Soft

to repel mosquitoes, you should. It does an excellent job at that task and smells so good my whole family uses it. I also use it to wipe down the outside of my door to keep bugs from buzzing all over the entrance.” — *A.A. in Florida*

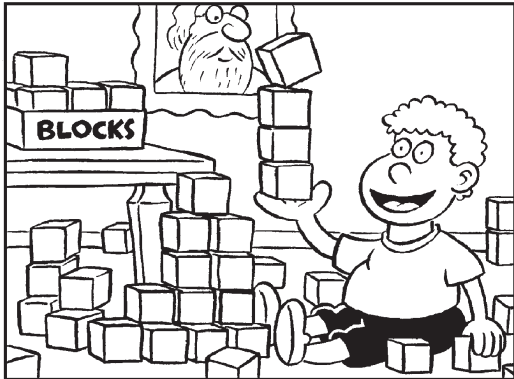
- If barbecue is on the menu, try putting out a few small bowls of water with a lemon slice. You can use it to rinse off your fingers as you eat or when you are done eating. It leaves hands with a nice smell, not a sticky smoky mess!

- “I love to spice up a simple dip by serving it in a green pepper. I just wash it and cut off the top. Then, I core it and spoon in the dip. The top can be set next to it and filled with extra dip, or just used as a garnish. It's fun and makes an attractive presentation.” — *J.L. in New Mexico*

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 8 of 86



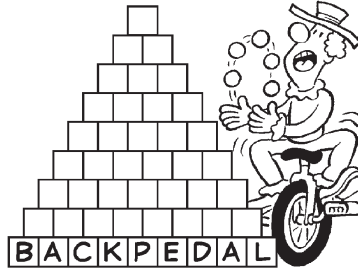
### LET'S SEE HOW YOU STACK UP

at counting! How many blocks are in the above picture?

Answer: We found 37. Did you come close?

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



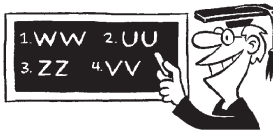
Illustrated by David Coulson

### NO BACKPEDALING HERE!

Try keeping your balance as you ride your way to the top of this word pyramid. Starting with the word BACKPEDAL at the bottom, try dropping one letter at a time, as you pedal your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following hints are from the bottom up:

1. To move backward (BACKPEDAL).
2. Susceptible to compacting.
3. Having ability.
4. A splendid residence.
5. To keep up with.
6. Batman has one.
7. Found in a pod.
8. Father (informal).
9. First letter.

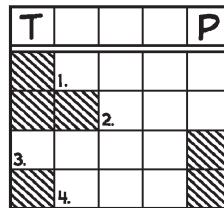
**TANDEM LETTER WORDS!** "See if you can give me four common words, each of which contains one of the double-letter sets written on the board." (Example: YAKKING contains a double KK.)



Answer: 1. Glowworm. 2. Vacuum. 3. Blizzard. 4. Savvy. (There are more besides these four.)

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. An inclined plane.
2. Used in music.
3. A streetcar
4. Used to batter down.



Answers: 1. Ramp. 2. Amp (amplifier). 3. Tram (British). 4. Ram. Mystery word: Tramp (wander aimlessly).

Answers: 1. Backpedal. 2. Packable. 3. Capable. 4. Palace. 5. Apace. 6. Cape. 7. Pea. 8. Pa. 9. A...

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 9 of 86

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 — and call
- 5 Promptly
- 8 Despot
- 12 Verve
- 13 Rd.
- 14 Regulation
- 15 Not yet final, in law
- 16 — -relief
- 17 Blind as —
- 18 Body art
- 20 Pack down
- 22 Half a fluid ounce
- 26 Short
- 29 Swiss canton
- 30 Tokyo, once
- 31 Bergman, in "Casablanca"
- 32 Action star Diesel

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

- 33 One
- 34 Mel of Cooperstown
- 35 Programmer's woe
- 36 Foolish
- 37 Skiers' carriages
- 40 Summertime pest
- 41 Starry
- 45 Honeycomb compartment
- 47 Web address
- 49 Wander
- 50 Met melody
- 51 Dos' neighbors
- 52 Yemeni port

- 53 Helen's home
  - 54 Previous night
  - 55 Saucy
- DOWN**
- 1 Crooked
  - 2 Director Kazan
  - 3 Group of actors
  - 4 Made a sweater, maybe
  - 5 Biz big shot
  - 6 Eggs
  - 7 Oater
  - 8 Chaplin persona
  - 9 Court sum-
  - 10 — carte
  - 11 Pensioned (Abbr.)
  - 19 LummoX
  - 21 "— was saying ..."
  - 23 Playwright Pirandello
  - 24 Valhalla VIP
  - 25 Memo
  - 26 United nations
  - 27 Naomi's daughter-in-law
  - 28 Incised printing method
  - 32 Predatory sort

- 33 Remove a seat belt
- 35 Underwear with underwire
- 36 "Monty Python" opener
- 38 Dental filling
- 39 Untrue
- 42 Took the bus
- 43 State with certainty
- 44 Gave temporarily
- 45 Garfield or Heathcliff
- 46 Blunder
- 48 Gun the engine

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 10 of 86

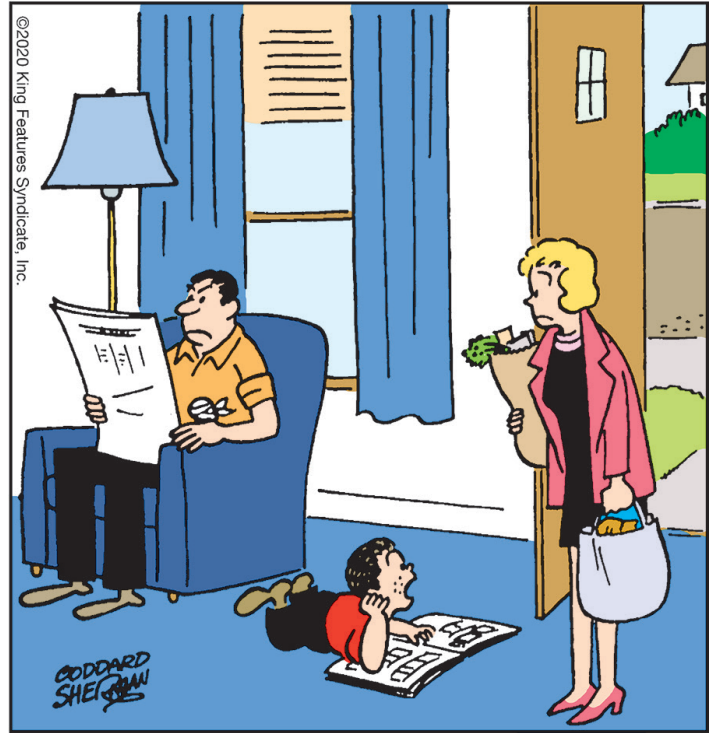
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

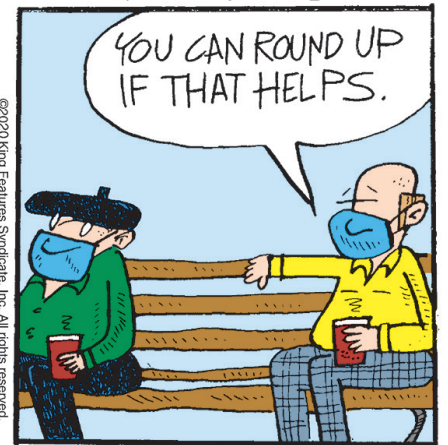
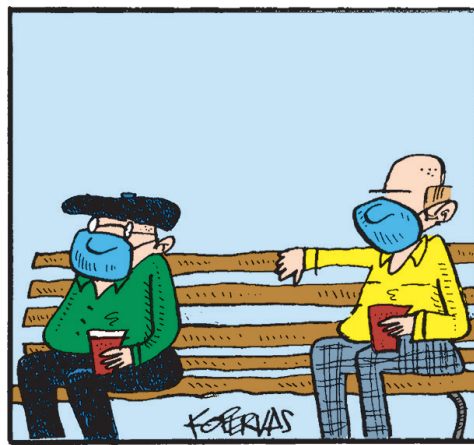
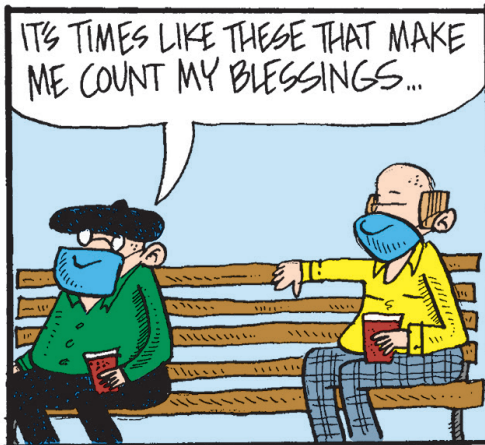
## LAFF - A - DAY



"Daddy talked to a hammer."

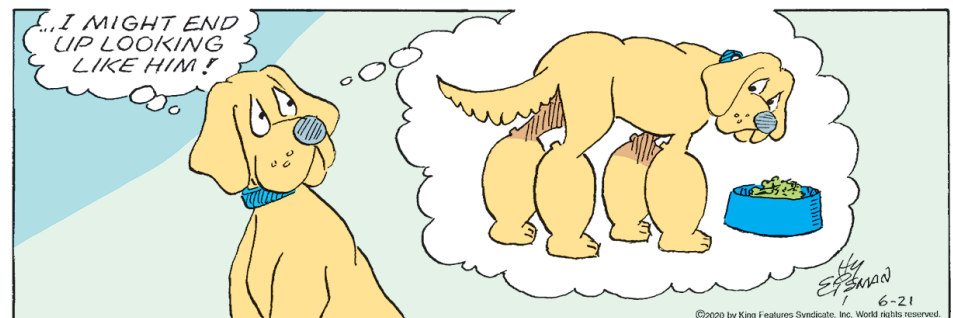
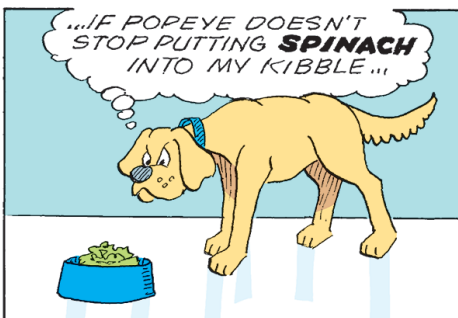
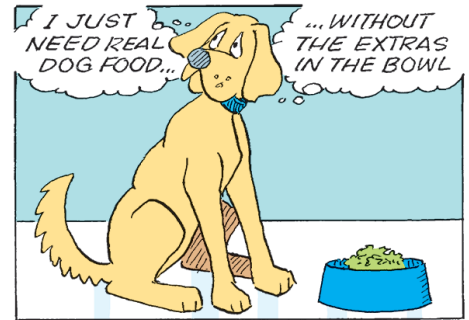
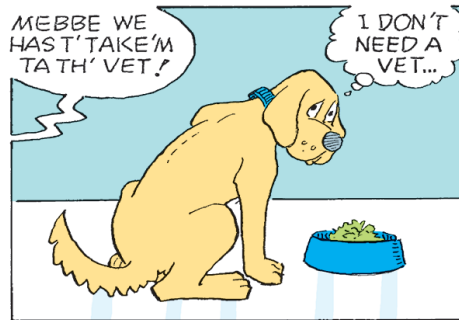
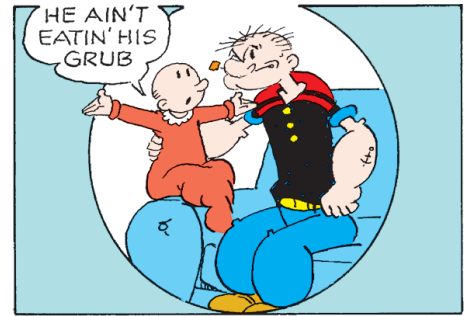
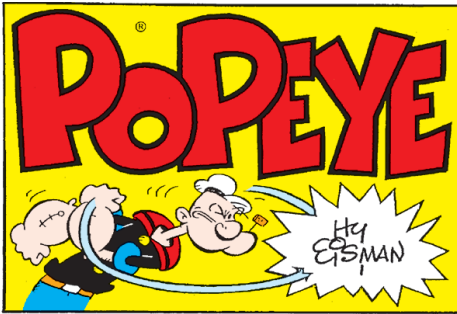
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



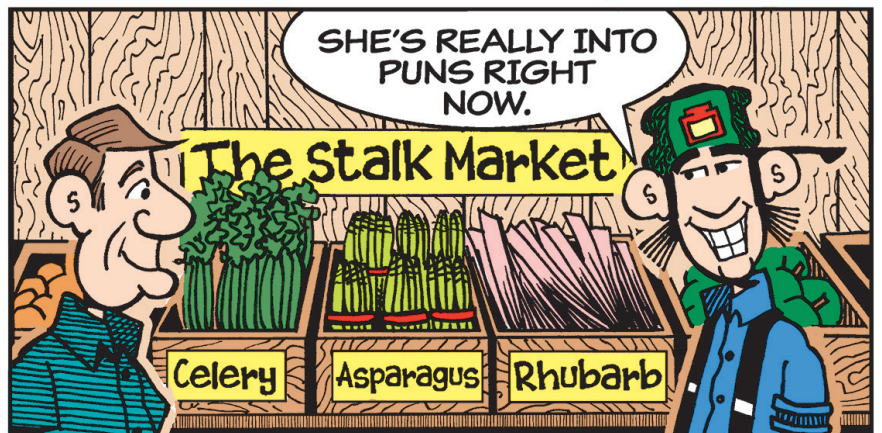
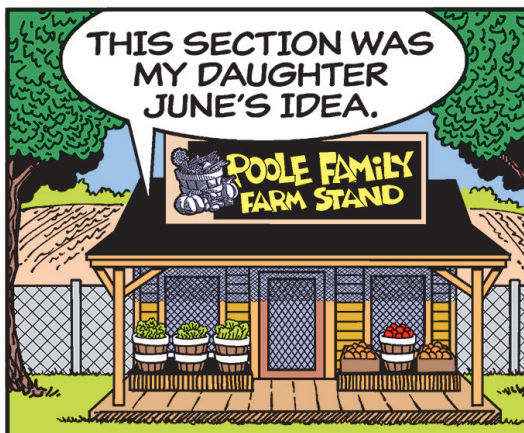
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 11 of 86



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

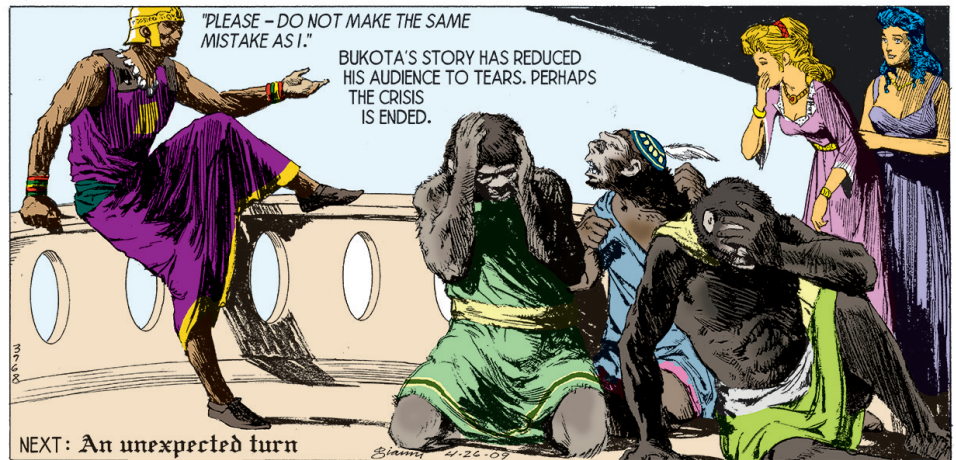
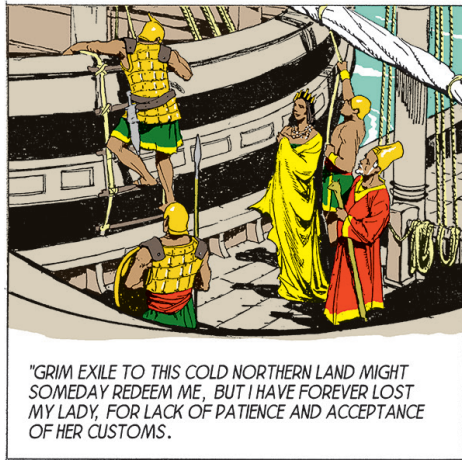


# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 12 of 86

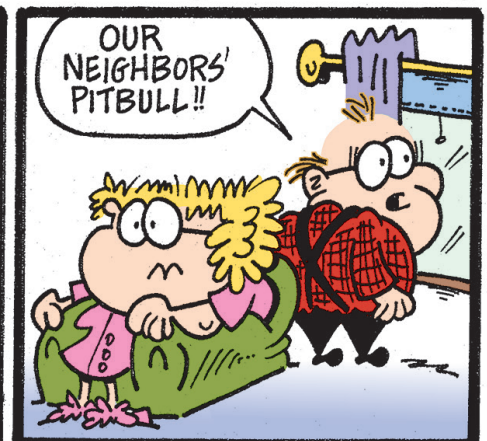
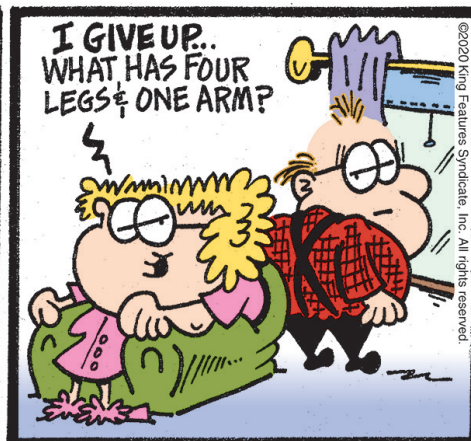
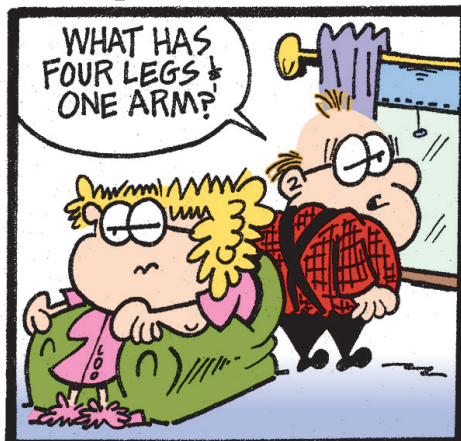
Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ  
**Prince Valiant**  
 Our Story:

SOMETHING TERRIBLE  
 HAS RISEN FROM THE  
 SEA TO RAMPAGE  
 THROUGH TINTAGEL.  
 IT MOVES  
 INEXORABLY INLAND  
 TOWARD ...



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Our Routines Are Out of Sync

The new ways we shop for groceries is only the tip of the iceberg this year. Thanks to the coronavirus, there are a number of other things we will likely end up doing in a different way.

Many of us have put aside one item on our annual to-do list: filing our taxes. The tax due date was pushed back to July 15, and that date is coming up quickly.

If you'll owe taxes and generally send in a cashier's check with your return, you'll need to get that in advance if you don't want to stand in line in your bank. Many banks are providing services through the drive-up window. Call to ask if you can arrange for a cashier's check to be waiting for you at the drive-up. Then, to keep from standing in line at the post office to send it certified mail, check with your UPS store. Many of them can do the

full array of post office services, and they're likely to be less busy.

Something else to consider: When it's time to vote this year, consider whether you'd rather vote by absentee ballot than stand in line. Call your town office and find out how early you need to send in your request for a ballot, as well as return the ballot itself. Ask, too, whether you should return your ballot by mail or if it must be hand delivered to election officials. A number of election offices have secured drop boxes (they look like mail boxes) outside the building. Many states also have in-person early voting during a designated pre-election day period.

If you typically shop the Amazon Prime Day in July, internet rumors say that it likely won't take place until August or September. Keep an eye on Amazon for news about this.

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 14 of 86

1. What 1982 AL Cy Young Award winner portrayed fictional New York Yankees slugger Clu Haywood in the 1989 baseball comedy film “Major League”?

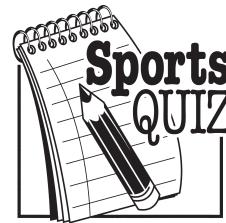
2. What player, selected fourth overall in the 1978 NBA Draft by the New York Knicks, was handed a lifetime ban from the league in 1986 for a third drug policy violation?

3. The Golf Channel, one of the first TV networks dedicated to a single sport, was co-founded by media entrepreneur Joseph E. Gibbs and what golf legend?

4. What ice hockey invitational tournament, first held in 1923, is played each year in Davos, Switzerland?

5. What team won the inaugural NCAA Division I women’s beach volleyball championship in 2016?

6. What former NBA player, whose birth name was Brian Carson Williams, went missing in the South Pacific in 2002 and is presumed dead?



by Ryan A. Berenz

7. What two running backs made up the “Thunder and Lightning” tandem during the 2000 New York Giants NFC championship season?

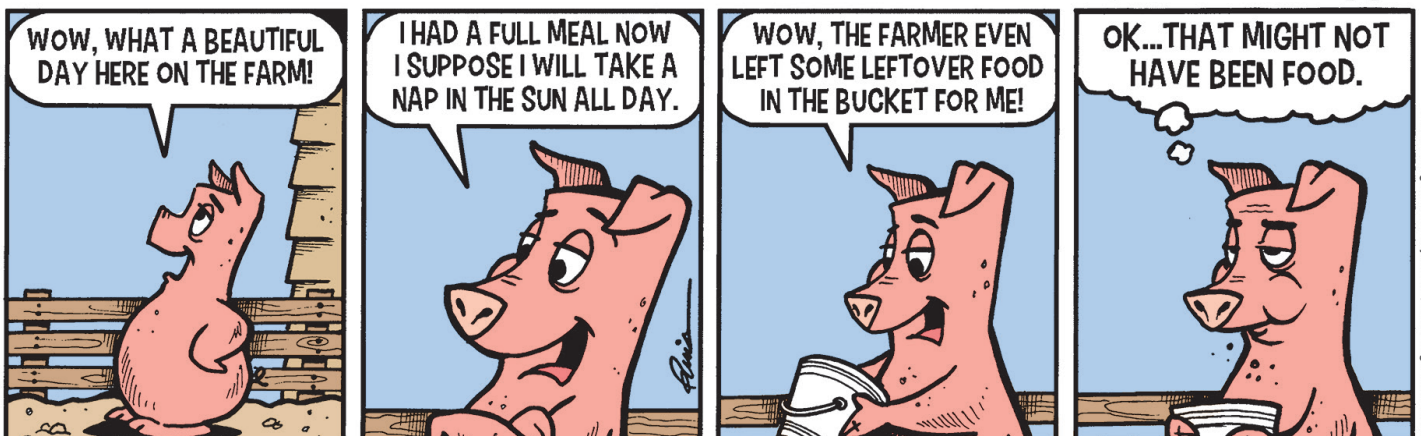
## Answers

1. Pete Vuckovich.
2. Micheal Ray Richardson.
3. Arnold Palmer.
4. The Spengler Cup.
5. The USC Trojans.
6. Bison Dele.
7. Ron Dayne and Tiki Barber, respectively.

© 2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 15 of 86



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



## Putting People First, and Politics Last

In the wake of George Floyd's death, I've spent hours listening and learning from community leaders, as well as law enforcement officials, about how we can bring about a more-just nation. These conversations have been productive and insightful as I prepared to return to Washington this week for police reform debate.

Given that, I understood the need for Congress to come together to make improvements. Unfortunately, H.R. 7120, the bill introduced by House Democrats, was drafted without any bipartisan input. As a result, it overreaches and could cause real problems for our country. For example, the combination of lowering the mens rea standard, lowering qualified immunity, and raising the use of force standards would strongly disincentivize citizens from entering the law enforcement profession. I am worried these provisions of H.R. 7120 would make it extremely difficult to recruit and retain officers, especially in rural areas.

Luckily, there is a better approach, which is why last week, I became a cosponsor of the JUSTICE Act, which I believe offers real solutions to increase transparency and accountability throughout our nation's law enforcement agencies. Let's take some time to walk through the specifics.

Originally introduced by Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), the JUSTICE Act would require annual reporting on use of force, either by law enforcement or against law enforcement. In addition, this bill would require law enforcement agencies to maintain and share disciplinary records for officer hiring considerations. Increasing this transparency will drastically hinder the ability for bad actors to hop around to different cities and departments. It's time for us to keep bad cops off the streets.

The JUSTICE Act also helps give police departments the equipment they need – such as providing \$500 million for state and local law enforcement to purchase body cameras and also store the footage obtained from these cameras.

This bill bans chokeholds except in limited circumstances, mandates "Duty to Intervene" training – which is already provided by the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy, and makes lynching a federal hate crime.

I'm confident the JUSTICE Act could be bipartisan. Are these provisions enough to bring about real change? I'm not sure – but I know they are a step in the right direction. They are provisions worth debating and our country deserves more than a stalemate. Just last week, Speaker Pelosi stated she would like the House and Senate to go to conference to negotiate the differences between the two bills – but with some in the Senate blocking debate, there's little chance of any progress and even littler chance of any reform making it to the president's desk.

The American people are asking Congress to do something – to come together during a time of great need and move this country forward. I'm ready to have the real conversations that move our country toward progress, but I'm not interested in grandstanding or trying to score political points. As I said several weeks ago, we have more to do.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 16 of 86



## On America's Birthday, We Celebrate the Incredible, Flawed Men and Women who Shaped It

I'll never forget the first time we brought our youngest son, Johnny, to see Mt. Rushmore. He was two at the time, and we were on a family road trip. We pulled up to Mt. Rushmore in the evening, after a long day of driving. As we walked up the hill, the older siblings were enthralled at the great faces ahead of them. Johnny, on the other hand, seemed happy just to be out of the car, and unhappy everyone was focused on Mt. Rushmore instead of him.

When we finally got to the top, Johnny stopped in his tracks and stared at the monument. After a long pause, he finally turned to me and asked, "who are those guys?" As a toddler, Johnny didn't see a shrine honoring the many accomplishments of the great leaders that came before us, he simply saw the faces of four men.

Too often, we forget that the men and women that have come together to make our country what it is today were humans. And, like every single one of us, they were not perfect. They made mistakes. But, they also did incredible things to make our country what it is today. They sacrificed their lives, led us through war, fought against slavery, and wrote our Constitution to allow for equality and justice for all Americans. If not for their hard work and sacrifices, we wouldn't have a country to celebrate this Fourth of July. And because of this, we honor them – in statues, monuments, memorials and even mountain carvings – despite their imperfections.

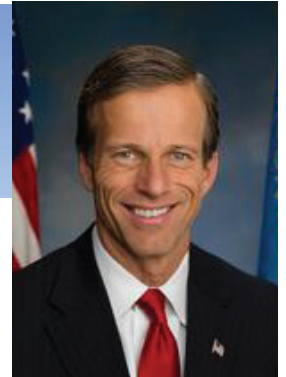
During these difficult times, when some are trying to destroy our sacred symbols of freedom and democracy, we must remember that there are a lot of good people in our history who may not have been perfect, but they did remarkable things in order to create a more perfect union. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. We shouldn't take that away from them because of their flaws. That is not to say no monument or statue should ever be removed. I believe that there are certain circumstances, when done properly, in which it may be appropriate to rename or remove an entity. But the vast majority of our country's leaders deserve to be honored for their roles in creating the greatest, freest, most prosperous country in the world. If we only had monuments of people who are perfect, we would only ever have monuments of statues of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

That doesn't mean we redefine our history. It means we celebrate it for what it is, and learn from it moving forward. Just 15 miles from Mt. Rushmore is the Crazy Horse Memorial. The spectacular carving recognizes Crazy Horse, an Oglala Lakota leader who gave his life defending his people's land. He was a warrior who stood up for what he believed was right. We must continue to honor leaders like Crazy Horse as we learn from our history and work together to make our country even better than it is today.

As Americans, we have so much to be proud of throughout our history. While our country isn't perfect today, it is the most perfect system of government that has yet existed. As we strive to make improvements to our country, succeeding generations will find that even our most sincere efforts to make our country better will fall short. That doesn't mean we shouldn't try, just as those four guys on the mountain tried to do, and just as Crazy Horse tried to do. Everything we have today, we owe to the men and women, including those in uniform, who came before us. Despite their imperfections, we will continue to honor the individuals enshrined on these mountains that tell the story of our country. This is especially important as we celebrate our freedoms and liberties this Independence Day.



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## The Cause of Human Freedom

On July 3, 1986, President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan were in New York to help kick off Liberty Weekend, which celebrated the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and commemorated its 100th anniversary in America.

The next day, on Independence Day, President Reagan addressed the nation from the deck of the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy in New York Harbor. With Lady Liberty in the distance, he said, "All through our history, our presidents and leaders have spoken of national unity and warned us that the real obstacle to moving forward the boundaries of freedom – the only permanent danger to the hope that is America – comes from within."

Seemingly reflecting on what he'd just said, Reagan continued, "It's easy enough to dismiss this as a kind of familiar exhortation. Yet the truth is that even two of our greatest Founding Fathers, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, once learned this lesson late in life."

"'It carries me back,' Jefferson wrote about correspondence with his cosigner of the Declaration of Independence [and former political foe], 'to the times when, beset with difficulties and dangers, we were fellow laborers in the same cause, struggling for what is most valuable to man, his right to self-government. Laboring always at the same oar, with some wave ever ahead threatening to overwhelm us and yet passing harmless ... we rowed through the storm with heart and hand ...'

"It was their last gift to us, this lesson in brotherhood, in tolerance for each other, this insight into America's strength as a nation. And when both died on the same day within hours of each other, that date was July 4th, 50 years exactly after that first gift to us, the Declaration of Independence."

Fourth of July will likely look different this year, but once you strip away the parades, and barbeques, and other festivities, it carries the same meaning it always has: America is the greatest country the world has ever known, not only because of what we have achieved, but, as Adams and Jefferson proved, because we're humble enough to know that we always have room to listen, learn, and grow as we continually strive to live up to the founding principles of the Declaration of Independence.

President Reagan appropriately concluded his remarks in 1986 by saying, "[I]f there's one impression I carry with me after the privilege of holding for five-and-a-half years the office held by Adams and Jefferson and Lincoln, it is this: that the things that unite us ... far outweigh what little divides us.

"And so tonight we reaffirm that Jew and gentile, we are one nation under God; that black and white, we are one nation indivisible; that Republican and Democrat, we are all Americans. Tonight, with heart and hand, through whatever trial and travail, we pledge ourselves to each other and to the cause of human freedom, the cause that has given light to this land and hope to the world."

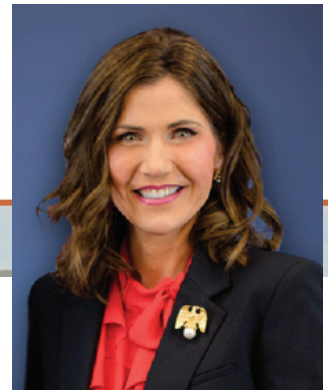
To my fellow South Dakotans, I challenge you to honor that cause, embrace that light, and carry that hope as you celebrate the birth of American freedom in 2020 and beyond.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 18 of 86



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Not on My Watch.

For weeks now, we have been witnessing a troubling turning point in our nation's history. We moved from calls for reform to violent riots and looting. Now, we're witnessing a radical movement committed to undoing our nation's history. Make no mistake, this movement has nothing to do with equality or justice.

In real time, we are watching an organized, coordinated campaign to remove and eliminate all references to our nation's founding and many other points in our history. Rather than looking to the past to help improve our future, the lessons of history - lessons that we should be teaching our children and our grandchildren - are instead being wiped away. This approach focuses exclusively on a person's flaws and fails to capitalize on the opportunity to learn from the virtues that person represents. This is being done deliberately to discredit America's founding principles by discrediting the individuals who formed them, so that America can be remade in a very different political image.

America is the nation that it is because of the ideals that it was built on: "All men are created equal," they have "certain unalienable rights," and that government's purpose is "to secure these rights." Thomas Jefferson, unquestionably a flawed man, gave us this extraordinary statement of purpose. Today, instead of focusing our attention on Jefferson's flaws, as a nation, we should be focusing on what this remarkable statement means.

In recent days, we have seen threats to memorials that honor some of America's greatest leaders. Some vandals have gone so far as to attack statues of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, the very leaders who brought the Union through the Civil War and ushered in the end of slavery in our country. These are the same men who turned Jefferson's ideal into reality.

Now we're seeing threats to Mount Rushmore. To those who would threaten America's Shrine of Democracy, I have one simple message for you: Not on my watch.

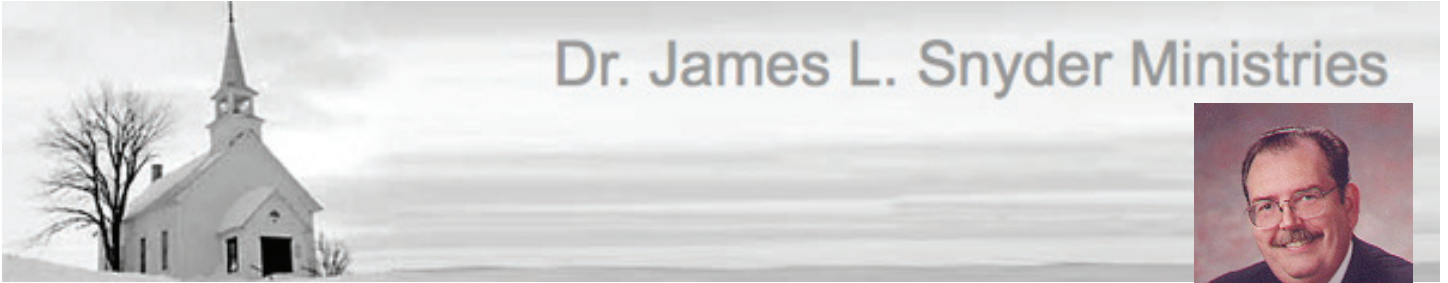
Mount Rushmore is a National Monument, and I am partnering with the federal government and offering the resources of South Dakota to make sure that proper security measures are in place. We will do everything in our power to make sure that Mount Rushmore remains as majestic and inspiring as it is today.

President Trump is visiting Mount Rushmore in just a few days, and it is such an honor to have the President of the United States visit South Dakota, especially to celebrate America's birthday. Security measures will be in full force for the event, but we know that threats to Mount Rushmore may continue after the President leaves. We'll stay diligent about protecting it.

I want to make one thing clear: the men honored on Mount Rushmore weren't perfect; nobody is. They all had flaws. But they all had tremendous virtues as well, and they did incredible things for our country. Today, America is the greatest nation in the history of the world, and that is in no small part thanks to each president memorialized on Mount Rushmore. We can learn from their successes, and we can also learn from their mistakes. And in doing so, we must continue to fight for the American ideal that each of them spent their lives striving for: "All men are created equal."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 19 of 86



## It Was A Week That Was Shot To Pieces

I only made one mistake last week, which is something of a record for me. I try limiting mistakes to one at a time, but not always in sequential order. I once tried to make my mistakes in a logical order, but it turned out to be a mistake.

The one faux pas I made was taking Monday off.

I proposed to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that we take Monday off late Sunday evening, suggesting a contest to see who could sleep in the longest. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage readily agreed to my plan.

This should have been a tip-off for me.

On Monday, we decided to have a "loafing contest" to see who was the best loafer. Up to this point, I assumed superiority in this area. Many things fall into the category of not being able to do by Yours Truly but not this. Therefore, I concluded I had this contest in the bag.

Monday turned out to be a terrific day. Unfortunately, my wife won the best loafer contest, but it was all in good fun, and we certainly enjoyed our day off.

That was Monday.

Starting on Tuesday, my week took a decidedly different turn.

First, my computer crashed, leaving me stranded. Nothing is quite as frustrating as having your computer out of commission for a long time.

I set off to take my computer to the repair shop. On the way, the car radiator broke. How these things break, I have no idea. All I know is, the little red light on the dashboard was on, and I knew I was in trouble.

I barely got the car to the garage. When the mechanic lifted the hood and examined my engine, he rubbed his hands with mischievous glee. When he looked at me with a smile smeared all over his puss. I knew I was in trouble.

"Reverend," he taunted, "Your radiator is shot to pieces."

I had no idea what that meant, but knew it involved lots of money being transferred from my account to his.

I left my car there. What else could I do?

My wife picked me up, and we took my computer to the repair shop. When the repair person looked at my computer, she rubbed her hands with mischievous glee and looked at me with a smile splotched all over her kisser. I knew I was in trouble again.

"Reverend," she sneered, "your hard drive is shot to pieces."

I had no idea what that meant, but knew it involved lots of money being transferred from my account to hers.

I left my computer at the repair shop and we drove to the optometrist to have my eyes checked. When the doctor saw me, he rubbed his hands with mischievous glee and looked at me with a smile glowing all over his face. I knew I was in trouble.

"Reverend," he observed, "your glasses are shot to pieces."

I knew what that meant and perceived it involved lots of money being transferred from my account to his.

I left my glasses at the eye doctor's office to be repaired.

Now I do not have glasses to see.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 20 of 86**

Fortunately, I don't have a car to drive, nor do I have my computer to work with. I do have backup glasses, but they are only good for backing up. Somehow, a theme was developing for my week.

Between my car, my computer, and my glasses, the week was drenched with out-of-pocket expenses of which I had run out of pockets. To make matters worse, or better depending on your perspective, I had a wedding to perform toward the end of the week.

Friday night was the rehearsal and Saturday afternoon at the wedding ceremony.

I could possibly do without my car, but all my wedding information and the ceremony were neatly stored on my computer. If worse came to worse, and it probably will, I can always ad-lib a wedding ceremony.

I've done so many through the years I probably could do it in my sleep. Whether I can do it awake was another story.

Along about Thursday, I was feeling somewhat blue about the whole week. Nothing seemed to go right for me, plus I did not know where I was going to get the money to pay for these unforeseen expenses.

The wedding rehearsal on Friday was set for 6:30, and my computer was ready at 6:15. Now, that's cutting the wedding cake rather close.

Between the car and computer repairs, I did not know how I would pay for both. Have you ever noticed when everything seems to go wrong, something unexpected happens?

While I was bemoaning my unfortunate week, several things happened.

One, I received an unexpected check from a magazine publishing some of my articles.

Two, I received an honorarium for the wedding—something I wasn't expecting.

These two checks covered my unexpected expenses for the week.

Third, the hard drive on my computer had a warranty, and I did not have to pay for it.

Thinking about my week, a wonderful verse of scripture romped through my mind. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Fainting is always an option, but the person who refuses to allow his week to make him weary will reap God's blessing.



## **Pandemic threatens fragile rural health-care system in South Dakota**

**Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch**

Editor's note: This article is the second of three parts of a special report by South Dakota News Watch called "Small Towns, Big Challenges."

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a significant and unexpected financial burden on rural health-care providers who were already struggling to maintain hospitals and clinics that help keep small-town residents — and their communities — alive and well.

A slowdown in patient visits and drop in medical procedures due to fears of spreading the virus have led to a major loss of revenues for medical providers and health-care systems that serve rural areas. While the virus has not led to mass infections in small towns, the drop-off in activity and billable services has put stress on the already fragile financial state of many rural clinics, small hospitals and dental offices.

With the first wave of the pandemic possibly over, more safety measures in place and life returning somewhat to normal, most clinics and hospitals in rural South Dakota have headed off any imminent concern of closure.

Yet in a rural health-care system made up of a patchwork of providers and hospital systems, the losses from the pandemic could curtail the hiring of health-care workers, slow plans to expand services, and further restrict access to health care for hundreds of thousands of small-town and rural residents of the state.

In a state of 885,000 people spread out over roughly 76,000 square miles, and with only nine of 66 counties having more than 20,000 people, South Dakota is among the most rural of all states and home to a heavily diffused population. Even before the pandemic, that equation presented a major challenge for health-care providers to serve small-town and remote populations, and do so in a financially viable manner. Likewise, rural residents have a hard time getting adequate preventive, maintenance, emergency and palliative health care.

"Do I think rural health care is at risk? Absolutely," said Thomas Worsley, president of Spearfish Hospital and Hills Markets for Monument Health, the largest medical system in West River with its flagship hospital in Rapid City and smaller facilities in Hot Springs, Custer, Sturgis, Lead-Deadwood, Wall and Buffalo, among others. "It's always going to be at risk because it's not a profitable endeavor or something that is going to attract big dollars, but it's something that fills a real need in these rural communities."

Worsley, who also serves on the Future of Rural Health Task Force within the American Hospital Association, said the challenge for rural health-care providers and hospital groups is to maintain the highest level of care possible while also protecting the overall financial viability of the health-care system.

"If you polled all these rural health-care CEOs [on the task force], I think they all feel like they're fighting for their lives on a daily and yearly basis," he said.

Horizon Health Care, a rural health provider with more than two dozen medical and dental clinics in small towns across South Dakota, saw its revenue fall by roughly half in the weeks after the pandemic hit and patients began staying home, according to Wade Erickson, chief financial and operations officer.

By early June, patient activity and revenues had returned to about 90% of normal, Erickson said, and the group benefited from receiving about \$3 million in emergency aid from the federal CARES Act pandemic bailout fund.

The aid and bounceback in procedures have been critical to Horizon, based in Howard, S.D., but especially



**Shelly Ten Napel**

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 22 of 86



**Thomas Worsley**

**"Do I think rural health care is at risk? Absolutely. It's always going to be at risk because it's not a profitable endeavor or something that is going to attract big dollars, but it's something that fills a real need in these rural communities."**

-- Thomas Worsley, Monument Health

said.

Access to health care remains a serious challenge in much of rural South Dakota, where federal data show that residents tend to have greater rates of serious illness and death from diseases and far less access to doctors, nurses and dentists than in the state's few urban areas.

Rural residents "face a unique combination of factors that create disparities in health care not found in urban areas," according to the National Rural Health Association.

The South Dakota Office of Rural Health has performed a needs assessment that ranks all 66 counties in terms of resident health status, access to health care and other health-risk factors. Ten counties — all rural and several home to Native American reservations — have consistently ranked in the bottom quartile in all health and access categories (Buffalo, Bennett, Corson, Dewey, Gregory, Jackson, Mellette, Roberts, Todd and Ziebach.)

The pandemic has heightened the challenge of providing medical care to rural areas and small towns that the vast majority of South Dakotans call home.

The rural medical system in South Dakota varies by location, but in general, health care is provided through an informal continuum of care in which patients must travel more owing to the remoteness of their residence or as their care needs increase.

The smallest towns and most remote areas likely have no local health-care provider; as towns get larger, they are more likely to have non-emergency clinics that provide basic diagnostics or treatment during regular business hours; medium-size cities often have a "Critical Access Hospital" with 24/7 emergency services and greater diagnostic and treatment capabilities that qualify for significant federal funding; and urban areas are home to full-service hospitals with critical care, extensive diagnostics, multiple surgical options and specialty providers. In major medical emergencies, rural residents can expect to drive hundreds of miles or pay for a ride in an ambulance or a helicopter in order to survive.

During the pandemic, the urban medical centers in South Dakota collectively lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue due to a lack of elective surgeries and routine and preventive care. Though federal emergency funding has helped counter those losses, some staff was laid off and the long-term impacts are still unknown.

Because they already had small staffs, most rural clinics

to its patients in rural communities who are never turned away because of ability to pay, Erickson said. About a third of Horizon's funding comes from the federal government, and about 20% of its patients are uninsured.

"In really rural communities where we are, just about touching every corner of South Dakota, we're really the only access to care that they have," Erickson



**Many small towns in South Dakota, including Faith, are served by small clinics that provide basic preventative, routine and diagnostic care that can be a first step toward receiving more extensive or invasive treatment at hospitals in larger cities. This clinic is operated by Horizon Health Care.**

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 23 of 86

were unable to cut positions or reduce services, though those providers also aren't yet sure what the future may hold as billing cycles close and revenue reductions become fully clear. As a result, the long-range effects of the pandemic on rural health care in South Dakota are not yet known.

"Imagine running an operation that is mostly staff salaries and your revenue is cut in half or by a third, and you still have to try to make that work," said Shelly Ten Napel, CEO of the Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas, which represents rural health providers.

Before and during the pandemic, Ten Napel has lobbied for greater state and federal support for community hospitals and clinics.

"Without help, we would not make it through this, or we would just make it and it would be such a different picture of [which] communities providers can afford to be in," she said.

Even with federal CARES Act aid, however, Ten Napel said elected officials, policymakers and the public must think deeply about the need for rural health care and find ways to continue to support providers who serve small communities.

"It's kind of mind-blowing when you see your revenue crater," she said. "We as a community need to figure out what services we think are important and figure out a way to support that. It's not enough to say, 'Well, this is a small town, it's not economically viable so they're just not going to have health care. We need to collectively figure out a reasonable set of services that can be provided.'"

Ten Napel and others say that if rural health care is allowed to diminish, small towns in South Dakota and across the country — and the cherished way of life they provide — may falter or even cease to exist.

"We talk about the life of a town and a community and we've all seen different exoduses from Main Street, but once you get down to losing your health care, your school, your grocery store, a few of those core entities, at what point does a community become non-viable?"

## Medical access a trade-off in rural areas

Federal data show that rural residents fare worse than their urban counterparts in several health-related categories, such as death rates from cancer, heart and lung disease and from accidents. They also tend to have higher rates of obesity and a lower life expectancy. While attitudes about medical care may play a role, medical experts say a lack of access to preventive care and a variety of treatment options is also a factor.

Conversely, some rural residents, such as farmers and ranchers, tend to be hearty and remain healthy into their elderly years, Worsley said. But they may also eschew preventive treatment and tend to suffer

## IN RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA, SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE MORE COMMON WHILE HEALTH CARE IS LESS ACCESSIBLE

Rural South Dakotans have a higher rate of death from many health conditions, a higher prevalence of poverty and less access to health-care providers than non-rural residents, according to data from the Rural Health Information Hub. The following data show the rate of death per 1,000 residents or the prevalence of diseases in percentages in non-rural (metro) and rural (non-metro) areas.

CONDITION	NON-RURAL RATE	RURAL RATE
Heart disease	47.6 per 1,000	63.4 per 1,000
Cancer	72.3 per 1,000	86.4 per 1,000
Stroke	8.8 per 1,000	12.1 per 1,000
Lung/COPD	16.4 per 1,000	22.6 per 1,000
Accidental death	17.1 per 1,000	25.7 per 1,000
Diabetes	9.1%	10.6%
Obesity	30.7%	32.5%
Poverty	9.3%	16.2%
Child poverty	14.5%	19.1%
Healthy food access	49.7%	25.1%
Life expectancy	80.3 years	78.9 years

Meanwhile, doctors, dentists and nurses are far less accessible to rural residents of South Dakota compared to non-rural residents. The data indicate the number of practitioners available per 1,000 residents in 2018.

PRACTITIONER	NON-RURAL RATE	RURAL RATE
Physician	38.3 per 1,000	12.2 per 1,000
Dentist	8.5 per 1,000	5.4 per 1,000
Physician asst.	20.0 per 1,000	9.3 per 1,000
Nurse pract.	13.0 per 1,000	6.6 per 1,000

Notes: Death rates are rates per 1,000 residents from 2005-2016; illness percentages are from 2018; life expectancy is from 2014. Rural/non-rural designation based on population of counties. Sources of data include National Center for Health Statistics, Health Resources & Services Administration, Kaiser Family Foundation and U.S. Census.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 24 of 86



**Bryan Breitling is the administrator of the Avera hospital in Miller, S.D. In the video, Breitling discussed the financial challenges faced by small-town hospitals but how he expects they will weather the pandemic in strong shape.** Photo/

video: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

from slow-progressing illnesses like skin cancer and orthopedic problems that crop up after years of agricultural work.

Many small-town residents in South Dakota accept the trade-off they make when choosing a remote, rural lifestyle that doesn't include access to immediate or high-level medical care, Worsley said.

"The folks that live in those communities understand that they are not going to have at-the-elbow, immediate access to care, and that's one of the understandings they have about living in those locations," Worsley said. "I'm not sure those small towns need a cardiologist or a surgeon, but they really need strong access to primary care."

Rural clinics and hospitals in medium-size cities are a critical part of the health-care spectrum in rural America, providing basic care in small towns and more advanced diagnostics and treatment in the larger communities, he said.

Monument clinics in towns like Buffalo, Belle Fourche, Hill City, Hot Springs and Wall are able to provide rural residents with routine care but also foster strong relationships between provider and patient that allow for diagnosis and treatment of more serious issues.

In rural clinics, nurse practitioners or physician's assistants are able to provide basic care and can also save lives by referring patients to more well-equipped facilities when the need arises.

Rural providers also may perform a variety of functions in the same community, Worsley said. A small-town physician or provider may manage an emergency room, treat patients as a family doctor and also oversee care at a nursing home, for example.

Worsley said small clinics, even those with only basic care, are critical components of what a rural community needs to retain population, attract new residents and establish a healthy economy. Those factors are crucial to maintaining population and economic stability in small towns that have historically been on the decline in South Dakota.

"Any kind of a business that wants to be located in a small community, they're always going to look at what access to health care do employees have," he said.

"Education, public safety, there's a very short list of things people want to look at when considering a move to small communities, and health care is right there at the top."

A rural clinic or small hospital is also an economic driver and creator of jobs that help rural communities thrive, Worsley said.

"I would say it's vital," he said. "If you think about what are good jobs that folks who grow up in a small community can come back to, health care would surely fall into that category."

Small-town health care in rural areas across the country is supported by the federal Critical Access Hospital program, which provides targeted funding through a federal Medicare reimbursement program for small regional hospitals with 25 or fewer beds.

Bryan Breitling is the regional administrator at Hand County Memorial Hospital in Miller, a critical-access hospital that is part of the Avera Health system. Breitling said critical-access facilities were better-positioned to withstand the revenue drop associated with the pandemic than urban medical centers.

"COVID-19 is going to have less of an impact on critical-access hospitals [than] it will have on our more urban counterparts," Breitling said. "We do have a cost-based reimbursement mechanism in there from Medicare ... and so, from that standpoint, we're going to largely be protected."

Yet despite those protections, the 38 critical-access hospitals in South Dakota — including facilities in Armour, Burke, De Smet, Eureka, Freeman, Mobridge, Parkston, Philip, Viborg, Webster and Winner, among others — have also taken a financial hit, Breitling said.

"The revenues have taken a dive, clearly. So anyone who presents through the emergency room who has



a broken arm or a heart attack, those types of patients are still being seen and being cared for," he said. "It's the patients that used to come in for routine physicals, for screenings, all of those traditional regular health-related issues. Those have essentially ended for the last two months and so we're in the process of restarting those again, and that's where a lot of that revenue issue is."

The drop in people seeking medical treatment during the pandemic may have unexpected consequences, including among patients who miss an annual physical and could be exposed to greater danger from slow-developing illnesses such as skin cancer.

Breitling said one pressing concern is that children may be less protected against other illnesses upon returning to school in the fall.

"There are some stats out there that say over the last couple of months, fewer people have brought their kids in for wellness visits, which translates into fewer vaccinations and things like that," he said. "So we need to get back to the vaccinations to get them protected this fall once the traditional cold or flu season comes into place."

## Recruitment a challenge; tele-health on the rise

Recruiting doctors, nurses and dentists to practice in towns of 2,000 people or fewer has been an ongoing challenge for health-care systems and rural hospitals.

Some practitioners seek higher pay, greater social options, easier access to housing, and the prestige of working in big-city hospitals, and are not interested in living in a small town in the early stages of their careers.

Horizon Health Care is in almost constant need of qualified personnel and tries to highlight the benefits of living and working in a small community when pitching prospective employees, Erickson said.

"It is hard at times because a lot of times they see the money, and money talks, and we try to compete as best we can with salaries," he said.

But Horizon has had success in attracting practitioners who either grew up in a small town or who see the value in providing a service that is absolutely critical to the community and its people, and in living in a safe, quiet community, Erickson said.

"We have this opportunity in rural places to bring back true primary care through the entire life spectrum, and there's great satisfaction in that," he said. "There's this great opportunity to see kids all the way up to our elder populations, and there's a challenge in that you've got to know a lot more things."

Federal programs that allow new practitioners to eliminate part or all of their student debt by agreeing to practice in underserved areas can also be a strong incentive.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an expansion of tele-health services in which patients use computers and an internet connection to visit in real time with a doctor or nurse. Avera Health has been a national leader in providing tele-health, but the pandemic has sped up the transition to tele-health by smaller community health systems as well.

One problem providers have faced is that federal Medicare and Medicaid programs did not in many cases reimburse providers for tele-health appointments and care. During the pandemic, the CARES Act has expanded reimbursement of tele-health and provided \$158 million in funding for providers to engage in tele-health and improve tele-health services. The Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas received about \$450,000 in the latest round of payments on June 24 for computers and videoconferencing equipment to expand services.

Rural health providers are hopeful the tele-health reimbursements may be made permanent once the pandemic subsides.

Another growing gap in rural health is the dearth of behavioral-health options for small-town residents and a lack of follow-up care after surgeries or physical injuries. Small-town clinics sometimes serve as hubs for independent providers who treat rural patients. In Faith, S.D., the Horizon clinic rents space to



Jerilyn Church

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 26 of 86

a private, independent physical therapist who visits weekly and has a strong patient base.

A roadblock to expanding rural health care in South Dakota has been the state's refusal to expand Medicaid coverage as allowed by the Affordable Care Act. Lawmakers have not approved the eligibility expansion that would cover about 43,000 more people under Medicaid and enable the state to receive federal funding to support much of that care. The option to expand protection has been available for several years; it does not appear at this time that the state is moving toward expanding eligibility.

The pandemic has made it even harder for Native Americans in South Dakota to get health care at any level, from preventive and emergency care to treatment for major illnesses or by specialists, said Jerilyn Church, CEO of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board.

Native Americans have access to care at federally supported Indian Health Service facilities, but those hospitals have been underfunded for years, Church said.

"Indian Health Services have been funded at 50% of the need for a really long time," Church said. "So, while facilities are there, they're not designed to meet the need and demand of what is needed."

Meanwhile, a long-range trend has seen IHS hospitals become centralized geographically and offer less services over time by replacing full-service hospitals with local clinics, increasing travel times for Native patients and forcing more into the non-federal health-care system.

During the pandemic, tribal leaders have locked down reservations and taken bold steps to reduce the spread of the virus, generally seeing success in limiting infections.

But Church said tribal health facilities remain woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Native Americans, who suffer high levels of poverty and high rates of chronic illness.

"The ideal situation during a pandemic is that we would have the ability to manage in-patient care on the reservation," she said. "But with Indian Health Services as it is, tribal members are relying more on large health systems to provide care, requiring them to travel great distances."

Church said her organization is working on a long-range solution by increasing the number of Native Americans who enter the health field, thereby building a system in which tribal members become able to live with and treat members of their own communities.

"We hope to accomplish much if we are a healthy people," she said. "It really does begin with growing our own and ensuring that our babies, our children, our new moms all the way up to our elders are receiving the best quality care that they can."



**Rural health-care providers have played a critical role in stopping the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary testing facility was operated by the Horizon Health Care clinic in Alpena in May.**

Photo: Courtesy Horizon Health Care



## ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

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

## Groton Swimming Pool accommodates the Aberdeen Swim Club



**Kileen Limvere (pictured far right) is the head coach for the Aberdeen Swimming Club. She has been the head coach for three and one-half years and she actually swam on the team when she attended school. She is having a short discussion with this group of swimmers after their practice at the Groton Swimming Pool.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

In amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that has flooded the planet with closures and season cancellations, the Groton Swimming Pool is host to the Aberdeen Swim Club.

Aberdeen has closed down its aquatic center and the Aberdeen Family Y has limited access to the pool. That left the Aberdeen Swim Club with no place to practice, even though the season was cancelled.

According to Kileen Limvere, head coach for the Aberdeen Swim Club, "Technically our season is not being held. Our National governing body, USA Swimming, cancelled all meets until July. All major regional competition that is held in August has been cancelled and our state meet this summer is not taking place."

Limvere then explained the outline of the swimming season. "Swimming is a sport with two seasons Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer. One season builds off the next season. The longest break we take is August to mid September, six weeks. Our swimmers had 3 months off. Being a part of a swim team the athletes develop friendships with not only the swimmers but the families. Being isolated from friendships that have been developed over years is hard on anyone, on top of that also being unable to swim for 3 months puts emotional hardships as well as losing their fitness level. When a situation poses itself as hopeless you find goals and unity to bring your team together."

One thing that Limvere never did was give up. "Everyone in the nation was looking for pools. As a coach I saw no option but to look to neighboring communities to see who had pools, were they open, were they going to open and do they have any time available we could use without disturbing the local cities use." Limvere came across the information for the Groton Swimming Pool. She emailed Finance Officer Hope Block who passed on the information to one of the pool managers. "I got a call and drove over to visit and talk about the pool," Limvere said. "I was so grateful for the willingness of the pool managers to help us through this time. The kids have been so strong through the beginning of Covid but once the aquatics center closed it was a blow to our hope. But we just needed to press on."

Kami Lipp, one of the Groton Pool managers, said, "It's good to be a good neighbor. If we can help them,

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 28 of 86

that's great. They have to work around our schedule, though." Lipp said that they practice Saturdays and Sundays and some Fridays, depending on the swimming lesson schedule. "Limvere brings her stuff, sets up the pool and then takes it down at the end," Lipp said. According to Lipp, each swimmer has to have a swim pass and the club also pays an hourly rate for the facility. "The swimmers don't come in the shack," Lipp said. "They enter and exit through the gates." Before the swimmers enter the facility, Limvere takes each person's temperature. Limvere said, "We are so happy not only with the pool; the managers at the pool have truly made this bad situation so easy for us and the team."

Matthew Grebner is in his final year of being on the Aberdeen Swim Team. He attends Aberdeen Christian and he said of practicing in the Groton pool, "I like it."

It is also interesting to note that South Dakota and Hawaii are the only states that do not have high school swim teams.

Practices will continue despite there being no meets. "Right now it doesn't look as though we would host a meet this season," Limvere said. "If we would we would need to do the meet in Aberdeen at the YMCA because they have starting blocks. It would be fun to do something in Groton before we finish for the season. So far hosting any type of meet would be difficult because of social distancing."

There is such a thing as a virtual swim meet where one team would race in their location and another team would swim in another location and place is awarded by time.

The Aberdeen Swim Club will be using the Groton facility through July and possibly a couple of weeks in August and then look to see what happens with the start of school.

- Paul Kosel



**Megan Gustafson of Claremont has been swimming with the Aberdeen Swim Club for three years.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Proper CDC guidelines are being followed. Coach Kileen Limvere takes each person's temperature before they can enter the gate going to the pool. Limvere is taking the temperature of Addisyn Hoven.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 29 of 86

**#125 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

Many people have thanked me for the research I do to prepare these updates for you, and I want to acknowledge tonight the help I receive from my friend and retired librarian, Charlotte Erdmann. Every day for weeks now, she has been inundating me with articles and scientific papers, sources for much of the information I provide here. Without her help, I would be up much later at night and less comprehensive in my coverage of the issues we've discussed, so please extend your thanks to her too if you find value in this work. It really does take a village.

I want to begin tonight with a note about reporting. You will find, when you check what four or five (or ten) sources have to say each day, as I do, the analysis will vary a bit from source to source, depending what time of day they're collecting and analyzing. So when you read an article that says we had X new cases today, X will be different if their cut-off time is 5:00, midnight, or tomorrow morning. That's why sometimes I see one publication telling us a certain state set a record today and another saying yesterday's record still stands. In the end, they're both reporting the same cases, but there's going to be a chunk of cases reported with yesterday's numbers by one publication and reported with today's numbers by another. That's going to be enough sometimes to shift a record from one day to the other.

The data bases I consult for my work here update several times per day, so the time of day I am collecting numbers will affect what I report too. To assure I am reporting each day on something close to a 24-hour period, I generally download the numbers I'm going to use in the day's analysis at around the same time each day—between 7:00 and 9:00 pm. When I have departed significantly from this schedule, I have let you know that we're looking at more or less than 24 hours so you can fairly assess the effect of that timing on the day-to-day change I am reporting. I know most of you are probably not terribly interested in the nitty-gritty of my work, but with the new cases coming in as fast as they are these days, the way I do my work can influence what you hear from me. And so I wanted to lay this out before I get to today's report. You'll see why in a minute.

We broke a quarter of a million cases today and are now at 2,524,800 cases in the US. I have us at 41,900 new cases, which is bad, but not as bad as yesterday. Now, here's where our talk about reporting methods comes in: You will read in some corners of the media universe that today was the second consecutive record-setting day in the US, whereas I don't have it that way. Those folks are not wrong or lying—and neither am I, but when they reported yesterday's numbers, their cut-off was earlier in the day (since most of them aren't typing away close to midnight as I often am), so some of the cases I included in yesterday's total got held off for today's numbers for them. That gave them a record-setting number yesterday with enough saved over for today to give another record-setting day today too. I wanted to give some context to what you're seeing here and maybe in a headline today, so you would understand how that sort of thing can happen. I will point out that we are now in our fifth consecutive day over 30,000 new cases and the second over 40,000. I am showing a 1.7% increase in total cases since yesterday. A sobering thought is that, if we apply the CDC's estimate from yesterday that we have about ten cases for every one detected, nearly half a million new cases are actually turning up per day.

125,521 people have died, 511 of them reported today. We remain above 500 new deaths per day, and I don't see any reason to think that's going to get better soon; those big new case numbers are, with time, going to drive death rates up.

I have 26 states reporting percentage increases in total cases greater than the overall US percentage increase of 1.7%. These are as follows: FL (7.8), NV (6.8), SC (5.3), AZ (4.2), TX (4.3), NM (3.8 – 2 days' reporting), ID (3.3), AR (3.0), MT (2.8), TN (2.6), AL (2.6), UT (2.6), AK (2.6), NC (2.4), OK (2.4), GA (2.2), CA (2.1), PR (2.1), KY (2.0), OR (2.0), MS (1.9), WV (1.9), WY (1.8), OH (1.7), WI (1.7), ME (1.7). All but three of them show  $R_e$  over 1. (Remember that  $R_e$  is reproduction number; this shows evidence of a worsening outbreak when over 1, steady numbers at 1, and declines under 1.) Overall, 34 states are showing  $R_e$  at or over 1, one less than last night. I hope to find time for a weekly look-back for each state tomorrow; that should give us a better assessment where things are going. We're still in a lot of trouble.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 30 of 86

I have a more comprehensive look at where states are over the past 14 days; every state is accounted for tonight. I am listing these, roughly from west to east; I'm hoping that gives you an idea where to look for yours. Twenty-nine states have had increases: Guam, Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida. Fourteen states are pretty stable: Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Alabama, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Puerto Rico. And only ten states have decreased: North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia.

We have seen a 65% increase in cases in the last two weeks with more cases coming every day now than the worst day back on April 24; that's two months' progress wiped out—seriously bad. Florida, Georgia, Nevada, and South Carolina all had record-breaking days. Florida reported almost 10,000 new cases today with a 12.7% positivity rate and had its twentieth consecutive day with a new high for seven-day rolling average. Nevada had more than double its previous high; and South Carolina broke its record for the second consecutive day. Texas has reported its fifth consecutive day of 5000+ new cases with a positivity rate nearly 13.3%. Residents of Harris and Bexar Counties (that I know about—may be more) in Texas, home to Houston and San Antonio, respectively, have received emergency alerts to stay home and cancel gatherings. Waits for testing in Texas and Florida are running in excess of four hours with some residents sent home before being tested as capacity for the day was reached.

Forty-one states had a higher seven-day new case average than a week ago, and 14 of these increased their average by at least 40%. States we haven't been worrying too much about are also seeing increases that are worrying. This week Washington set a record for new cases in a week, and Wyoming's seven-day average set a record that has held since April 27. Five states set records for hospitalizations this week: California, Utah, Arizona, Texas, and South Carolina. There are ICUs in Mississippi running at capacity, and Houston's mayor says their ICUs are nearly at capacity. Texas set a record for hospitalizations for the eighteenth consecutive day. Arizona reports 87% of their ICU beds are now in use.

Something to consider is that a larger proportion of new cases are turning up in young people from 18 to 49 years of age with a large share of those in people under 40; public health officials across the country are noting the trend. In Oklahoma, 70% of new cases are in under-50s. In early March, some 27% of hospitalizations were from this age group, and now we're looking at 35%. So we're seeing more overall infection in the young and more serious disease among them. And, given that a significant percentage of that age group is still going to be asymptomatic, we have more and more silent spreaders too, which is not a happy situation.

The CDC has updated its list of preexisting conditions that may create an increased risk for serious disease. For people of any age, they say the following conditions create such increased risk: chronic kidney disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); immunocompromise from an organ transplant; obesity; serious heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, and cardiomyopathy; sickle cell disease; and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Conditions that may create increased risk include moderate to severe asthma; cerebrovascular disease; cystic fibrosis; hypertension (high blood pressure); immunocompromise from bone marrow transplant, immunologic deficiency, HIV, corticosteroid use, or other medications that may weaken immune responses; neurologic conditions like dementia; liver disease; pregnancy; pulmonary fibrosis; smoking; thalassemia; and type 1 diabetes mellitus. That's quite a list.

We are seeing signs of residual brain damage in Covid-19 survivors, and the outcomes are sometimes quite severe. A study of 153 patients who had severe disease showed that 125 of them had neurologic complications. Stroke was reported in almost 2/3 of patients, most of them over 60 and most of them caused by blood clots, an issue we've discussed in the past, and others from inflammation in the blood vessels in the brain. The rest suffered from brain inflammation, psychosis, or dementia-like symptoms that persisted after they were discharged from the hospital. What's more, some physicians expect those who recover and return to normal life may, as they age, present with worse cognitive issues because of

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 31 of 86

the damage done by this virus. There is some evidence SARS-CoV-2 can infect brain cells, affecting their function. It is also possible the virus is causing widespread inflammation that can damage the brain or cause the blood clots that lead to stroke. Additionally, cytokine storms can kill brain cells or lead to Guillain-Barre syndrome where the immune response damages nerve cells. With further research, it is possible we can identify the mechanisms of action in the nervous system and from that derive treatments targeted at reducing the risk of damage. Meanwhile, cognitive assessments are probably a good idea throughout the course of the disease

Another kind of damage coming to light now is immunologic in nature. A number of things show up, but damage to lymphocytes (white blood cells essential to immunologic function) is an important one. One study shows that T and B lymphocytes, cells essential to proper immunologic functioning, become inactive. While it is difficult at this point to separate damage expected as a result of ICU admission, which has already been demonstrated to depress immunologic functioning, from damage specific to this virus, these are concerning signs. These kinds of damage can lead directly to the cytokine storms we are now aware cause much of the damage done to the body in many cases.

A concept that is gaining ground in the US is something we talked about a few weeks ago as Wuhan, China, attempted to test every one of its 12 million citizens—pool testing. This is a way to stretch the limited testing kits available to cover more people, and it works because a low percentage of the population is infected. Testing individually would require running a great many tests to identify those infected people. What you do in pool testing is combine samples from several people and send the pooled specimen to be tested. If the test is negative, you can conclude none of those folks has the infection and move on to the next sample; if you get a positive, then you retest each of the people individually to determine which of them caused that positive result. You do lose some sensitivity with this method because the viral load in the pooled specimen is going to be lower than when you have a sample from just one infected person; so scientists are working on the optimal number of specimens to pool together. When testing supplies are as limited as they've been throughout this thing in the US, this is a viable alternative to individual testing. It would be particularly helpful when there is a fair-sized group that needs testing, but a fairly low probability any one of them is positive, large-scale screening situations, for example.

Another old drug that may be showing some efficacy against Covid-19 is colchicine. Tried in some 105 patients hospitalized in Greece, it showed "a significant clinical benefit from colchicine in patients hospitalized with COVID-19." While this study was too small to generalize its findings, we do know colchicine is an anti-inflammatory and anti-clotting agent which could reasonably be expected to have some activity against this virus. A clinical trial is currently enrolling patients in the US and Canada to determine whether it has effectiveness in patients before they get sick enough to go to the hospital. This could be a breakthrough if it is demonstrated to work in this context.

In the midst of a pandemic, a group of women in Chicago has started a new business called ChiFresh Kitchen. The five of them met while incarcerated and decided after gaining their freedom to find a way to give themselves and others a second chance. It is a worker cooperative, so the founders and their workers will share equally in both management and profits; they looked for a business model that would enable them to pay a fair wage and to give others a fresh start. One of the founders says, "I feel like it can affect the crime rate when people see that they can do something different, especially the youth, and single parents, when they see our faces attached to what we're doing." The company sells prepared meals to institutions around Chicago, nursing homes and, they hope, to schools. They are starting out by preparing free meals to be distributed to the community by food relief partnerships with private and public funding. So they're doing good on a few fronts: helping themselves after incarceration, aiming to help others in their situation, and providing food to people who need it. They're counting on helping themselves by helping others. Even a business intended to make a profit can serve its community with the right commitment. I wish them well and commend the serving the community portion of their program to you. We can create great things if we seek to serve and work together.

I wish you well too. Please stay healthy, and we'll talk tomorrow.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 32 of 86

## COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLDWIDE

### 3 Weeks Ago

### 2 Weeks Ago

### Last Week

### This Week

Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed
<b>6,916,233</b>	<b>7,807,734</b>	<b>8,809,872</b>	<b>10,004,643</b>
1,920,061 US	2,074,526 US	2,255,119 US	2,510,323 US
672,846 Brazil	850,514 Brazil	1,032,913 Brazil	1,313,667 Brazil
467,073 Russia	528,267 Russia	583,879 Russia	633,542 Russia
286,295 United Kingdom	320,922 India	410,451 India	528,859 India
247,678 India	295,828 United Kingdom	304,580 United Kingdom	311,739 United Kingdom
241,310 Spain	243,605 Spain	251,338 Peru	275,989 Peru
234,801 Italy	236,651 Italy	245,938 Spain	267,766 Chile
191,758 Peru	220,749 Peru	238,275 Italy	248,469 Spain
190,759 France	193,746 France	236,748 Chile	240,136 Italy
185,696 Germany	187,427 Iran	202,584 Iran	222,669 Iran



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 33 of 86

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Minnesota	30,882	31,296	31,675	32,031	32,467	32,920	33,227
Nebraska	17,031	17,226	17,415	17,591	17,707	17,810	17,957
Montana	614	630	655	666	698	717	734
Colorado	29,442	29,673	29,901	30,187	30,349	30,539	30,705
Wyoming	866	884	906	927	930	947	974
North Dakota	3124	3166	3193	3226	3251	3288	3313
South Dakota	5966	6050	6109	6158	6225	6297	6326
United States	2,137,731	2,163,290	2,191,200	2,222,600	2,255,119	2,280,969	2,312,302
US Deaths	116,963	117,717	118,435	119,131	119,719	119,977	120,402

Minnesota	+129	+414	+379	+356	+436	+453	+307
Nebraska	+180	+195	+189	+176	+116	+103	+147
Montana	+5	+16	+25	+11	+32	+19	+17
Colorado	+143	+231	+228	+286	+162	+190	+166
Wyoming	+10	+18	+22	+21	+3	+17	+27
North Dakota	+23	+42	+27	+33	+25	+37	+25
South Dakota	+38	+84	+59	+49	+67	+72	+29
United States	+26,109	+25,559	+27,910	+31,400	+32,519	+25,850	+31,333
US Deaths	+849	+754	+718	+696	+588	+258	+425

	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28
Minnesota	33,469	33,763	34,123	34,616	35,033
Nebraska	18,092	18,221	18,346	18,524	18,775
Montana	743	766	803	829	852
Colorado	30,893	31,155	31,479	31,796	No Update
Wyoming	992	1016	1052	1079	1097
North Dakota	3320	3362	3393	3421	3458
South Dakota	6353	6419	6479	6535	6626
United States	2,347,102	2,381,369	2,422,312	2,467,837	2,510,323
US Deaths	121,225	121,979	124,415	125,039	125,539

Minnesota	+242	+417	+360	+493	+417
Nebraska	+135	+129	+125	+178	+251
Montana	+9	+23	+37	+26	+23
Colorado	+188	+262	+324	+317	
Wyoming	+18	+24	+36	+27	+18
North Dakota	+7*	+42	+31	+28	+37
South Dakota	+27	+66	+60	+56	+91
United States	+34,800	+34,267	+40,943	+45,525	+42,486
US Deaths	+823	+754	+2,439	+624	+500

\* Due to a temporary software issue with the Electronic Lab Reporting System, most of the results from June 22 will be delayed. The issue has been resolved and as the system catches up today, the numbers will be reported out on June 24. Thank you for your understanding.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 34 of 86

## June 27th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

I'm not sure where to go with today's report, but I think it's time to up the alarm setting. South Dakota has 91 positive cases - it's been a while since we've seen that high of a number. Plus we have had three more deaths, two in Pennington County and one in Minnehaha County. Two in the 60-69 age group and one in the 70-79 age group.

Brown County has four more positive cases. Day County got two more positive cases and McPherson County had a positive case as both counties have been removed from the fully recovered list.

The percent recovered has ticked down on both the state level and in Brown County. Mellette County is back on the fully recovered list.

Some alarming numbers: Oglala Lakota County has 15 new cases. Pennington County has 9 new cases. Charles Mix has 10 new cases. Twenty-seven counties in the state have reported positive cases today.

About the only good news for today is hopefully tomorrow's report to prove that we are in a yo-yo situation and not on an upward trend. Again, follow the CDC recommendations. Wash your hands. Keep social distance. Wear masks. If we are seeing these numbers spike up with us being outdoors, what will happen when we all start congregating inside for school, sporting events, etc.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: +3 (22)

Recovered: +1 (315)

Total Positive: +4 (339)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (18)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +59 (2849)

Percent Recovered: 92.9% (down 0.8)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +91 (6626 total)

Negative: +994 (70480 total)

Hospitalized: +6 (645 total). 73 currently hospitalized (6 less than yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (91 total)

Recovered: +65 (5717) total)

Active Cases: +23 (818)

Percent Recovered: 86.3% down .3

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Butte +4 (447), Campbell 61, Haakon +1 (225), Harding 39, Jones +2 (29), Perkins 75, Potter +2 (170), unassigned -61 (4600).

Beadle: +3 positive, +9 recovered (432 of 518 recovered)

Bennett: +1 positive (1 of 5 recovered)

Brookings: +1 positive, +6 recovered (46 of 58 recovered)

Brown: +4 positive, +1 recovered (315 of 339 recovered)

Buffalo: +2 positive (52 of 71 recovered)

Charles Mix: +10 positive (24 of 58 recovered)

Clark: +1 positive (10 of 14 recovered)

Clay: +1 positive, +1 recovered (64 of 80 recovered)

Codington: +2 positive (46 of 53 recovered)

# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 35 of 86

Corson: +2 recovered (14 of 17 recovered)  
 Custer: +1 positive, +1 recovered (4 of 8 recovered)  
 Davison: +1 positive (31 of 37 recovered)  
 Day: +2 positive (13 of 15 recovered)  
 Edmunds: +1 positive, +1 recovered (5 of 7 recovered)  
 Faulk: +1 recovered (17 of 23 recovered)  
 Hanson: +1 recovered (4 of 6 recovered)  
 Hughes: +7 positive, +2 recovered (30 of 49 recovered)  
 Hutchinson: +1 positive (9 of 11 recovered)  
 Lawrence: +1 positive, +1 recovered (15 of 19 recovered)  
 Lincoln: +5 positive, +4 recovered (308 of 337 recovered)  
 Lyman: +2 positive (32 of 57 recovered)  
 McPherson: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)  
 Meade: +1 positive (36 of 47 recovered)  
 Mellette: +2 recovered (3 of 3 recovered)  
 Minnehaha: +9 positive, +14 recovered (3307 of 3586 recovered)  
 Oglala Lakota: +15 positive (41 of 83 recovered)  
 Pennington: +11 positive, +9 recovered (346 of 497 recovered)  
 Spink: +1 recovered (6 of 11 recovered)  
 Stanley: +1 recovered (11 of 12 recovered)  
 Todd: +3 positive, +4 recovered (48 of 56 recovered)  
 Turner: +1 positive (23 of 25 recovered)  
 Union: +1 positive, +1 recovered (108 of 119 recovered)  
 Yankton: +3 positive, +3 recovered (60 of 77 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Day and McPherson, added Mellette) Douglas 4-4, Grant 13-13, Hyde 3-3, Marshall 5-5, Mellette 3-3, Sanborn 12-12, Sully 1-1, Ziebach 2-2.

The NDDoH & private labs report 4,163 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 38 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,458. NDDoH reports no new deaths. State & private labs have reported 173,999 total completed tests. 3,119 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	698	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	967	15%
Hispanic	1071	16%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	951	14%
Other	695	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2244	34%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
Brown	2
Buffalo	1
Faulk	1
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	57
Pennington	16
Todd	1
Union	1

# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 36 of 86

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	34	33	276
Beadle	518	432	1388
Bennett	5	1	410
Bon Homme	11	10	565
Brookings	58	46	1600
Brown	339	315	2849
Brule	18	12	452
Buffalo	71	52	443
Butte	0	0	447
Campbell	0	0	61
Charles Mix	68	24	569
Clark	14	10	311
Clay	80	64	913
Codington	53	46	1802
Corson	17	14	135
Custer	8	4	504
Davison	37	31	1548
Day	15	13	392
Deuel	3	1	279
Dewey	4	0	834
Douglas	4	4	303
Edmunds	7	5	292
Fall River	10	4	676
Faulk	23	17	115
Grant	13	13	520
Gregory	2	1	221
Haakon	0	0	225
Hamlin	11	9	399
Hand	7	6	181
Hanson	6	4	129
Harding	0	0	39
Hughes	49	30	1056
Hutchinson	11	9	664

Hyde	3	3	92
Jackson	6	2	298
Jerauld	39	35	227
Jones	0	0	29
Kingsbury	6	3	396
Lake	19	16	651
Lawrence	19	15	1259
Lincoln	337	308	4201
Lyman	57	32	652
Marshall	5	5	277
McCook	10	6	471
McPherson	5	4	159
Meade	47	36	1216
Mellette	3	3	192
Miner	8	2	172
Minnehaha	3586	3307	18883
Moody	21	19	459
Oglala Lakota	83	41	1994
Pennington	497	346	6232
Perkins	0	0	75
Potter	0	0	170
Roberts	40	38	971
Sanborn	12	12	169
Spink	11	6	871
Stanley	12	11	130
Sully	1	1	42
Todd	56	48	924
Tripp	15	10	372
Turner	25	23	647
Union	119	108	1325
Walworth	9	5	379
Yankton	77	60	2203
Ziebach	2	2	138
Unassigned****	0	0	4600

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3197	51
Male	3429	40

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	684	0
20-29 years	1365	1
30-39 years	1423	3
40-49 years	1072	6
50-59 years	1051	12
60-69 years	605	15
70-79 years	229	12
80+ years	197	42

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 37 of 86

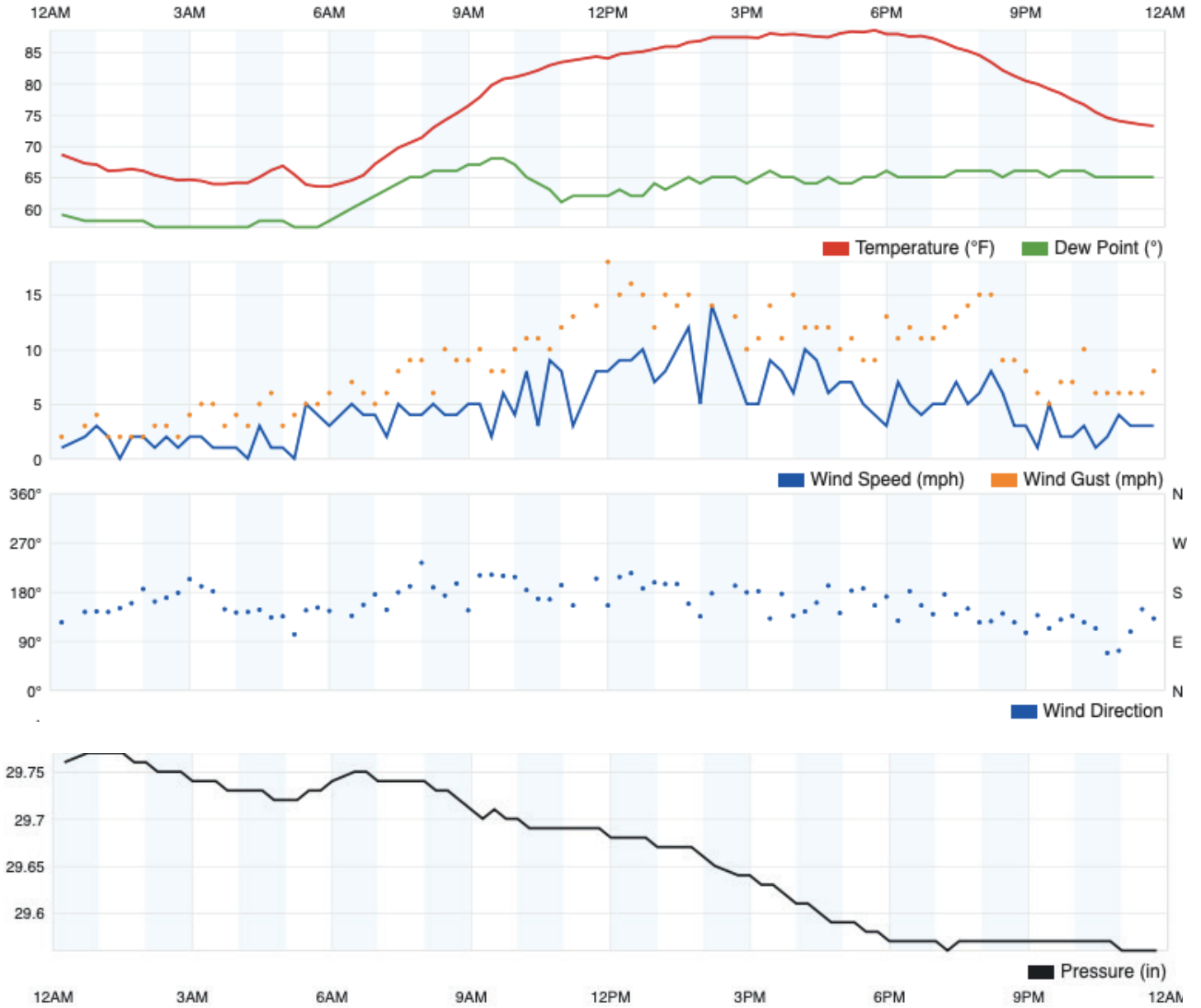
## Baseball Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
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 9	Jr. Legion	Milbank	Milbank	5:30 (1)
July 9	Legion	Milbank	Milbank	7:00 (1)
July 10	Jr. Legion	Faulkton	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 14	Jr. Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	5:30 (1)
July 14	Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	7:00 (1)
July 15	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 15	Legion	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 20	Jr. Legion	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
July 20	Legion	Northville	Groton	6:00 (2)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 38 of 86

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 39 of 86

**Today**

**Tonight**

**Monday**

**Monday  
Night**

**Tuesday**



Breezy.  
Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Sunny

Partly Cloudy

Hot

Slight Chance  
T-storms

Partly Sunny  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms


**High: 92 °F**

**Low: 72 °F**

**High: 96 °F**

**Low: 74 °F**

**High: 93 °F**




NWS ABERDEEN


WEATHER.GOV/ABR


6/28/2020 4:03 AM


	Today	Monday	Tuesday
Temperatures	88 to 94°	90s	88 to 92°
Heat Index Values	90s	97 to 107°	90s



Hot and Muggy!







Scattered showers  
and Thunderstorms  
possible from mid  
afternoon on.

The hot and muggy conditions continue! For those with outdoor plans, heat index values of 97 to 107 degrees will be near dangerous levels Monday afternoon. Drink plenty of water, wear loose fitting clothing, and take frequent breaks. Thunderstorms will be possible Monday night into Wednesday night. The best opportunity of thunderstorms will be mid afternoon Tuesday into Wednesday, when a few storms could become strong or severe.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 40 of 86

## Today in Weather History

June 28, 1961: An F2 tornado skipped ESE from about 5 miles south of Eureka to Lake Mina. About twelve farm buildings were destroyed. A house was damaged when a small shed was smashed against it in Hillsview. The storm struck north of Roscoe where a barn was unroofed. A second F2 tornado hit west of Hoven. On one farm, a barn, and five small buildings were destroyed, although grain bin nearby was untouched. Another farm, across the road, lost four buildings including a house. The Langford area of Marshall County was struck by an EF2 tornado shortly after 8:00 pm. An estimated 15 to 20 farm buildings were demolished or heavily damaged, and a store in town was partially unroofed.

June 28, 1982: An estimated thunderstorm wind gust up to 94 mph knocked down trees and caused minor structural damage to several homes just west of Wheaton, Minnesota.

June 28, 1990: KDIO radio in Ortonville, Minnesota, clocked winds of 80 to 85 mph for several minutes as a thunderstorm passed. There were reports of numerous trees downed and scattered power outages in Ortonville.

1788: The Battle of Monmouth in central New Jersey was fought in sweltering heat. The temperature was 96 degrees in the shade, and there were more casualties from the heat than from bullets.

1892 - The temperature at Orogrande UT soared to 116 degrees to establish a record for the state. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1923 - A massive tornado hit Sandusky, OH, then swept across Lake Erie to strike the town of Lorain. The tornado killed 86 persons and caused twelve million dollars damage. The tornado outbreak that day was the worst of record for the state of Ohio up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1924: An estimated F4 tornado struck the towns of Sandusky and Lorain, killing 85 people and injuring over 300. This tornado is the deadliest ever in Ohio history.

1975: Lightning strikes Lee Trevino and two other golfers at the Western Open golf tournament in Oak Brook, Illinois.

1980 - The temperature at Wichita Falls, TX, soared to 117 degrees, their hottest reading of record. Daily highs were 110 degrees or above between the 24th of June and the 3rd of July. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the north central U.S. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced wind gusts to 70 mph and baseball size hail at Arapahoe, and wind gusts to 80 mph along with baseball size hail at Wolback and Belgrade. Six cities in the Ohio Valley reported record low temperatures for the date, including Cincinnati, OH, with a reading of 50 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Showers and thunderstorms brought much needed rains to parts of the central U.S. Madison, WI, received 1.67 inches of rain, a record for the date, and their first measurable rain since the Mother's Day tornado outbreak on the 8th of May. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms deluged Winnfield LA with eleven inches of rain in four hours and fifteen minutes, and Baton Rouge LA reported 11 inches of rain in two days. Totals in west central Louisiana ranged up to 17 inches. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Northern High Plains. Two inch hail broke windows in nearly every building at Comstock, NE. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced two inch hail at Killdeer, and golf ball size hail at Zap. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

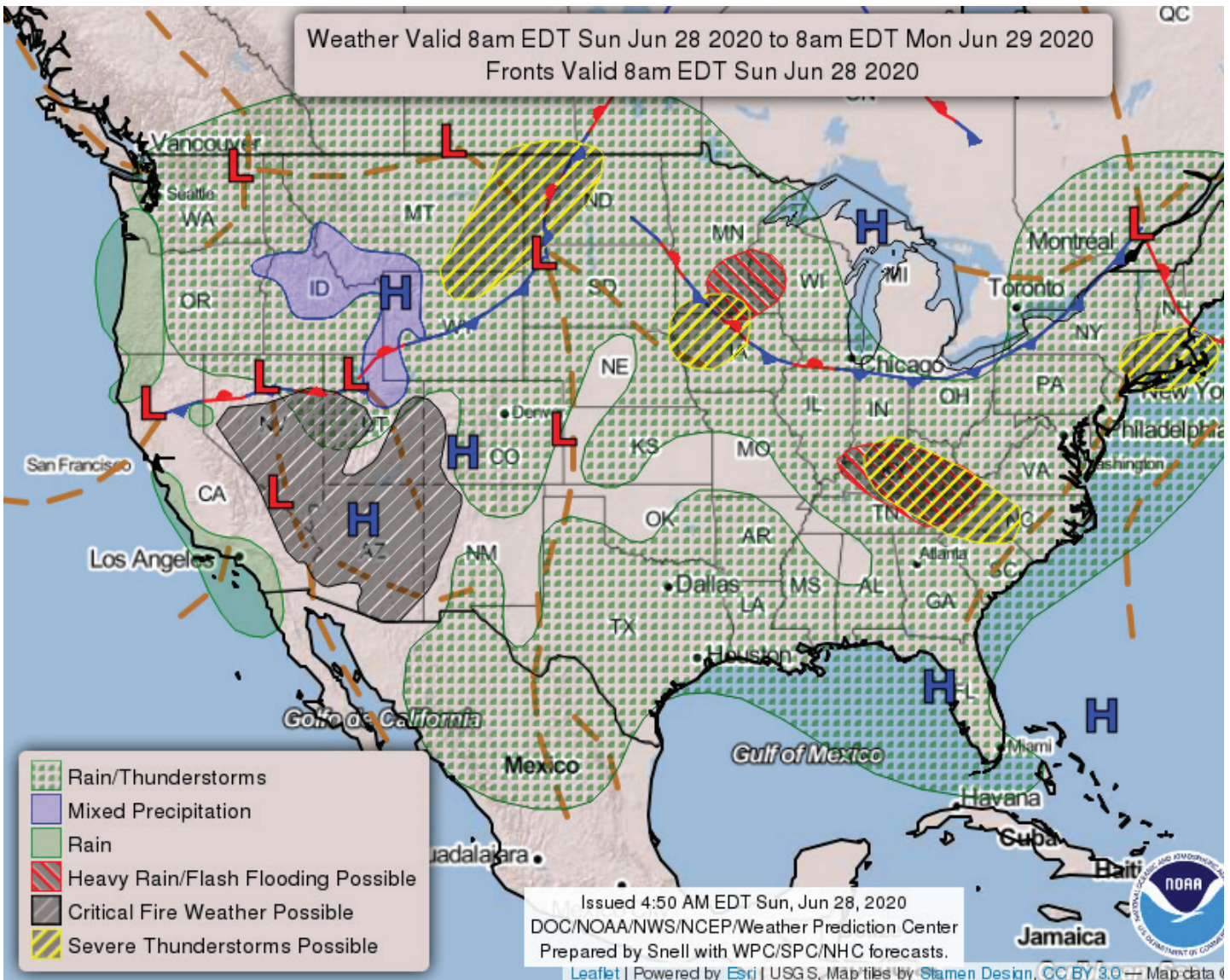
Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 41 of 86

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 89 °F at 5:11 PM**  
**Low Temp: 63 °F at 5:40 AM**  
**Wind: 18 mph at 11:55 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 112° in 1931**  
**Record Low: 44° in 1951, 1895**  
**Average High: 81°F**  
**Average Low: 57°F**  
**Average Precip in June.: 3.34**  
**Precip to date in June.: 2.47**  
**Average Precip to date: 10.48**  
**Precip Year to Date: 7.12**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 42 of 86



## WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A young man, aspiring to become a great philosopher, went to Socrates and said, "I want knowledge. What must I do to get it?"

Socrates asked the young man to accompany him to a beach. After staring at the water for a few moments, he asked the young man to join him and walk with him into the water. They waded slowly into the water until they were neck deep. After pausing for a moment he suddenly pushed him under the water and held him there. The young man struggled and finally, after becoming exhausted, Socrates allowed him to surface and take some deep breaths.

After releasing him, Socrates asked, "While you were struggling underneath the water, what did you want more than anything in the world?"

"Air," came the quick reply.

"When you want knowledge as much as you wanted air," said the philosopher, "then you will get it."

Whatever our hearts truly desire is what motivates us. Throughout the Bible, we are reminded constantly of this irony: If we focus our attention on the things of this world, we will no doubt acquire many "things." If, on the other hand, we "Delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts," and good things will come to us as by-products of His grace and goodness. We have His promise and that's all we need!

Prayer: Lord, we ask for Your Spirit to move in our hearts and create a deep desire within us that will encourage us to take delight in honoring You always. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Take delight in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts. Psalm 37:4

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 43 of 86

## 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
- 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
- **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 44 of 86

News from the  Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

13-16-24-26-28

(thirteen, sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-six, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$34,000

Lotto America

08-27-30-36-47, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 3

(eight, twenty-seven, thirty, thirty-six, forty-seven; Star Ball: eight; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.2 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

Powerball

09-36-49-56-62, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2

(nine, thirty-six, forty-nine, fifty-six, sixty-two; Powerball: eight; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$42 million

## Rally to support law enforcement held in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A rally to support law enforcement drew about 100 people and some protesters in Sioux Falls on Saturday.

Those attending waved American flags and held up handmade signs that encouraged supporting police. Many supporters wore masks and some wore "Make America Great Again" hats. Many passing cars honked and waved back. A pickup towing a trailer with "TRUMP" emblazoned on the side drew cheers as it passed along the street.

Organizer Lloyd Ringrose told the Argus Leader he was pleased with the turnout, which was about five times what he expected.

"I had no idea it was gonna explode like this. I put out an invite on Facebook to let people know and it just blew up. I certainly have nothing to complain about with the turnout," Ringrose said.

Many attendees say they wanted to show their support because they have friends or family who have served in law enforcement.

Some protesters showed up holding signs protesting police brutality and supporting Black Lives Matter. They held up signs reading "No Justice, No Peace" and "The System is Corrupt" and chanted "Say his name/George Floyd," after the handcuffed Black man who died in Minneapolis after a white police officer put his knee on his neck for nearly 8 minutes on May 25.

## South Dakota ban on phone use while driving starts July 1

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Drivers in South Dakota who use their cellphones can be pulled over and ticketed purely for that offense starting Wednesday.

A new state law taking effect July 1 makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor to use a cellphone while driving except in an emergency or to use a GPS app or to read or enter a phone number. Drivers who talk on the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 45 of 86

phone will need to either use a hands-free mode or hold the phone up to their ear. The offense carries a \$122.50 fine.

Texting and driving already was a secondary offense in South Dakota, meaning a driver had to be pulled over for another reason to be ticketed. But the Argus Leader reports the new law makes it a primary offense, meaning drivers can be pulled over for only using a cellphone.

The new law also expands banned cellphone uses to include taking photos, using the internet, posting to social media, reading emails and using phone apps.

According to the state Department of Public Safety, there were 827 crashes in South Dakota last year where distracted driving with cellphones and other electronic devices was a contributing factor.

## The Latest: Confirmed coronavirus cases pass 10 million

By The Associated Press undefined

Confirmed coronavirus infections have surpassed the 10 million mark worldwide.

A tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University registered the grim milestone Sunday, after India and Russia added thousands of new cases. The United States has confirmed more than 2.5 million infections, the most in the world.

Globally, the Hopkins tally has reported nearly 500,000 deaths.

While Hopkins reports only confirmed coronavirus cases, experts believe the true number of people who have been infected could be as much as 10 times that figure, given that so many people can't get tested or may have the virus without showing any symptoms.

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

- China virus cases stabilize as Italy sees drop in deaths
- What to wear: Feds' mixed messages on masks sow confusion
- Nurses, doctors feel strain as virus races through Arizona
- Vice President Mike Pence has called off campaign events in Florida and Arizona for this coming week as the states experience a surge in new coronavirus cases. The White House says Pence will still travel to those states to meet with their governors and health teams.
- European Union envoys are close to finalizing a list of countries whose citizens will be allowed back into Europe once it begins lifting coronavirus-linked restrictions. The United States appears almost certain not to make the list, as new infections surge and given that President Donald Trump has imposed a ban on European travelers.
- New Delhi's acting health minister says the Indian capital is facing a shortage of "trained and experienced" health care workers.

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

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

PRAGUE — The Czech Republic has been registering a steep increase of the number of people infected with the coronavirus.

The day-to-day increase reached 260 new confirmed cases on Saturday, up from 168 the previous day and 93 the day before.

It is the highest number of newly infected people since April 8. It comes amid the government's easing of its restrictive measures and despite a typical lower number of tests over the weekend.

The Czech Republic has had 11,306 confirmed cases while 347 people have died, according to Health Ministry figures released on Sunday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 46 of 86

**ROME** — Italy is honoring its coronavirus dead with a Requiem concert performed in front of the cemetery in Bergamo, one of the hardest-hit provinces in the onetime epicenter of the European outbreak.

President Sergio Mattarella, the 243 mayors of cities in Bergamo province and a representative of families who lost loved ones have been invited to attend the evening concert, which is being transmitted live on RAI state television. It will feature the Requiem Mass composed by Bergamo native Gaetano Donizetti, one of Italy's most important 19th century composers.

Bergamo recorded its first positive case Feb. 23 and by the end of March had registered a 571% increase in excess deaths compared to the five-year monthly average. Images in mid-March of an army convoy hauling caskets away because Bergamo's cemeteries and crematoriums were full came to epitomize the horrific toll of the virus in Italy's north.

Donizetti composed the unfinished Requiem to honor his friend and fellow composer, Vincenzo Bellini, who died in 1835. During the peak of the epidemic, Bergamo's Donizetti Theater and the city government put on social media the recording of a 2017 performance of the Requiem Mass to honor the victims.

**NEW DELHI** — Prime Minister Narendra Modi says India must focus on bolstering the economy as it exits the lockdown phase, even as the number of coronavirus cases continues to climb.

On Sunday, India reported additional 19,906 confirmed cases, taking the total to 528,859 with 16,095 deaths. It says 309,713 people have recovered.

Modi told a radio address that during the post-lockdown period, Indians have to stay more vigilant compared to the lockdown and only alertness can save them from the coronavirus.

He again urged people to wear a mask and observe social distancing norms and other precautions, or else would be putting others at risk, especially the elderly and children at home.

**BERLIN** — Swiss authorities say they've ordered 300 people into quarantine after a so-called "super-spreader" outbreak of the new coronavirus at a Zurich nightclub.

Zurich officials said in a statement that a man who had been at the Flamingo Club a week ago tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday, and that five people who were with him there were then tested and also were positive and reported to authorities on Friday.

Working from a list of guests provided by the club, officials were then able to get in touch with the others who were there and ordered them into quarantine on Saturday for 10 days in order to try and stop any further spread of the virus as they are tested.

Swiss officials say the incident shows how important it is to stick to hygiene and distance regulations as lockdown measures are gradually lifted. They say if there are more superspreader type events in clubs they will have to resort to closing such facilities again.

Like many European countries, Switzerland had drastically reduced the number of new coronavirus infections, and is now starting to see a slight uptick as it tries to restart its economy.

In its latest report posted Sunday, Switzerland reported 69 new cases overnight from Friday to Saturday for a total of 31,555 cases; 1,681 people have died.

**ISLAMABAD** — Pakistan's minister for science and technology says the country has started producing locally designed ventilators, as authorities reported 83 more deaths from the coronavirus.

In a tweet, Fawad Chaudhry said the first home-made ventilators will be handed over to the national disaster management agency soon. The announcement comes days after Pakistan said it was racing against time to arrange for 1,500 more ventilators as part of a contingency plan.

Currently, 1,503 ventilators are available at government hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

Pakistan on Sunday reported 4,072 new cases of the coronavirus, taking the total to 202,955 with 4,118 deaths.

Pakistan has witnessed a spike in new infections since last month, when Prime Minister Imran Khan

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 47 of 86

lifted lockdown, saying it was necessary to save the economy.

**BEIJING** — China is reporting 17 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, all but three of them from domestic transmission in Beijing, which has seen a recent spike in coronavirus infections.

But authorities in the Chinese capital say a campaign to conduct tests on employees at hair and beauty salons across the city has found no positive cases so far, in a further sign that the recent outbreak has been largely brought under control.

No new deaths were reported Sunday, leaving China's reported total at 4,634 among 83,500 confirmed cases.

Tens of millions of Chinese traveled during the three-day Dragon Boat Festival that ended Saturday, but anti-crowding measures were in force nationwide. Tourist sites were required to cap visitor numbers at 30% of capacity.

**HONOLULU** -- The city of Honolulu has announced that campgrounds will reopen for the first time in three months with limited permits to ensure social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Hawaii News Now reported that the city will issue permits for just over 100 campsites across Oahu.

Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation Public Information Officer Nathan Serota says campsites were limited to physically distance. Regular camp rules still apply.

The Bellows Beach campground northeast of Honolulu will remain closed through Sept. 4 for turtle nesting. All the other campgrounds have reopened.

**ANAHEIM**, Calif. — Data show hundreds of new infections in densely populated neighborhoods that are more likely home to low-income residents in one California county.

Orange County health officials say residents living certain parts of Anaheim and Santa Ana are more likely to live in multi-generational or multifamily households and many of them hold jobs in stores and restaurants.

Cases and hospitalizations in the county have grown significantly in the last couple weeks, reflecting a statewide trend that prompted Gov. Gavin Newsom this week to sound renewed alarm bells. He urged Imperial County to reimpose a stay-at-home order to deal with a high rate of positive cases and hospitalizations.

**LITTLE ROCK**, Ark. — Arkansas on Saturday reported 570 more cases of the coronavirus and 10 more deaths.

The Arkansas Department of Health said that there are now 19,310 reported cases in the state.

The state's total deaths from COVID-19, the illness the coronavirus causes, is now at 259.

**OLYMPIA**, Wash. -- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee says he's pausing moving counties to the fourth phase of his reopening plan as coronavirus cases continue to increase.

Inslee made the announcement Saturday with state Secretary of Health John Weisman.

Inslee says the rising number of COVID-19 cases across the state makes it impossible to move to phase four, which would have meant basically no restrictions.

A tally from Johns Hopkins University shows Washington had more than 30,800 confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Saturday. More than 480 new cases were reported on Friday.

**SPRINGFIELD**, Mo. — Tyson Foods has announced that 371 employees at its chicken processing plant in the far southwestern corner of Missouri have tested positive for COVID-19.

The company said in a news release Friday that it tested 1,142 employees at the plant in Noel from June 17 to June 19, and 291 tested positive for COVID-19. Of those 291, Tyson said 249, or 85%, were asymptomatic. Tyson said an additional 80 Noel employees tested positive for COVID-19 in separate tests that

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 48 of 86

were performed by their health care providers or the state's Department of Health and Senior Services. The announcement confirms suspicions that the large spike in McDonald County's reported COVID-19 numbers starting this past weekend was the result of large-scale testing at the plant, the Springfield News-Leader reports.

**BRASILIA, Brazil** -- The Brazilian government announced on Saturday an agreement with Oxford University and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to produce a promising coronavirus vaccine that is undergoing tests.

Brazilian Health Ministry authorities said in a press conference that the country will pay \$127 million and receive material to produce 30.4 million doses in two batches in December and January, which would allow it to quickly start inoculation efforts if the vaccine is certified to be safe and effective.

The total deal is for 100 million vaccines for a country of about 210 million residents. It will be produced by local vaccine maker Fiocruz.

British researchers started testing the experimental shot in May aiming to immunize more than 10,000 people, including older people and children. The vaccine is one of about a dozen in the early stages of human testing.

Brazil, where coronavirus infections are still on the rise, counts more than 1 million confirmed cases and more than 55,900 fatalities.

**WASHINGTON** — Vice President Mike Pence is calling off a planned bus tour in Florida to benefit his and President Donald Trump's re-election as the state experiences a surge in confirmed coronavirus cases.

Pence is still traveling to the state, the White House confirmed, saying he will meet with Gov. Ron DeSantis and his health care teams.

Pence said Friday during a briefing by the White House's coronavirus task force that he would visit Florida, Texas and Arizona this week to receive a "ground report" on spiking cases of COVID-19 across the sunbelt.

Pence was to appear in Lake Wales at an event organized by pro-Trump group America First Policies billed as the "Great American Comeback tour." The group announced that "Out of an abundance of caution at this time, we are postponing the Great American Comeback tour stop in Florida. We look forward to rescheduling soon."

## France holds municipal elections postponed by virus crisis

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — France is holding the second round of municipal elections in 5,000 towns and cities Sunday that got postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak, amid lingering worries about the pandemic and anger at how French President Emmanuel Macron's government handled it.

Wearing mandatory masks, social distancing in lines and carrying their own pens to sign voting registers, French voters cast ballots to choose the mayor who will lead Paris through the 2024 Summer Olympics and to fill local offices in thousands of other places.

The voting was suspended after the first round of the nationwide municipal elections on March 15, which produced decisive outcomes in 30,000 other mostly small communes. Macron's critics say he shouldn't have allowed the first round to go ahead at all, since it was held just as infections were exploding across Europe and just two days before France introduced sweeping nationwide lockdown measures.

While virus fears clouded the first round of voting, some voters appeared more confident this time around. "I didn't go and vote the first time around because I am an elderly person and I got scared," said Fanny Barouh, voting in a Paris school on Sunday. "I've always voted, so I came to vote this morning and I feel more relaxed now."

The spread of the coronavirus has slowed significantly in France in recent weeks and almost all restric-



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 49 of 86

tions on social and business activity have been gradually lifted over the last month. France has reported nearly 200,000 confirmed cases and 29,781 deaths in the pandemic but experts believe all reported figures are undercounts due to limited testing and missed mild cases.

But the virus is still expected to hurt Sunday's turnout, as it did in March. Only 15% of voters had cast ballots by noon. In the first round, a record low of 44.7% of voters turned out for the whole day.

The elections, though ostensibly focused on local concerns, are also seen as a key political indicator ahead of the 2022 French presidential election.

The main battleground is Paris, where the mayor is an influential figure in French politics and will oversee the 2024 Summer Olympics. Paris Mayor Annie Hidalgo, a Socialist Party member, finished in March with a strong lead ahead of conservative candidate Rachida Dati.

Macron's 3-year-old centrist party is fielding municipal candidates for the first time and still lacks local roots across France. The party, Republic on the Move, doesn't have candidates in every race and in some instances is backing candidates from the left or the right instead.

Macron's government has faced criticism during the pandemic over mask shortages, testing capacity and for going ahead with the first round of elections instead of imposing a lockdown earlier. A government reshuffle is expected in the wake of Sunday's elections.

Recent opinion polls show Macron's popularity rating is hovering around 40%, which is higher than from before the virus outbreak.

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, whose popularity has significantly increased in recent weeks, is running for mayor in his hometown of Le Havre.

The conservative Republicans party, which was the big winner in the 2014 municipal election, is expected to do well again based on its strong network of elected officials.

On the left, the Europe Ecology-The Greens party looks to significantly increase its influence by surpassing a traditional ally, the weakened Socialist Party.

Europe Ecology-The Greens and leftist allies appear to be in a position to win the mayoral races in several big cities, including Marseille, Lyon and Toulouse. The party is backing Hidalgo's reelection in Paris.

The anti-immigration, far-right National Rally is focusing on consolidating its 2014 results, when candidates backed by the party won in 12 towns.

---

Alex Turnbull in Paris contributed.

---

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

## Rolling Stones threaten to sue Trump over using their songs

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Rolling Stones are threatening President Donald Trump with legal action for using their songs at his rallies despite cease-and-desist directives.

The Stones said in a statement Sunday that their legal team is working with music rights organization BMI to stop use of their material in Trump's reelection campaign.

"The BMI have notified the Trump campaign on behalf of the Stones that the unauthorized use of their songs will constitute a breach of its licensing agreement," the Stones said. "If Donald Trump disregards the exclusion and persists, then he would face a lawsuit for breaking the embargo and playing music that has not been licensed."

The Stones had complained during Trump's 2016 campaign about the use of their music to fire up his conservative base at rallies.

The Rolling Stones' 1969 classic "You Can't Always Get What You Want" was a popular song for his

events. It was played again at the close of Trump's recent rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma — an indoor event criticized for its potential to spread coronavirus.

Other artists have also complained about having their music associated with Trump's events.

The family of the late rock musician Tom Petty said that it had issued a cease-and-desist order after Trump used the song "I Won't Back Down" in Tulsa.

"Trump was in no way authorized to use this song to further a campaign that leaves too many Americans and common sense behind," the statement said. "Both the late Tom Petty and his family firmly stand against racism and discrimination of any kind. Tom Petty would never want a song of his to be used in a campaign of hate. He liked to bring people together."

Grammy Award-winning musician Neil Young lashed out at Trump in 2018 after hearing one of his songs played against his wishes during Trump's pre-midterm campaign rallies. The Canadian-born musician admonished Trump for using his 1990 single, "Rockin' in the Free World," in spite of earlier warnings.

## **A divided Poland holds presidential vote delayed by pandemic**

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poles voted in a presidential election Sunday that was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic and was taking place amid deep cultural and political divisions in the European Union nation.

President Andrzej Duda, a 48-year-old conservative backed by the nationalist ruling Law and Justice party, was running against 10 other candidates as he sought a second 5-year term. Whether Duda wins or not will determine whether the ruling party keeps its near-monopoly on political power in Poland.

Most recent polls showed that no single candidate was likely to reach the 50% required to avoid a runoff given the crowded field of candidates, all of whom are male. In that case, the two top vote-getters will face each other on July 12.

The vote had been scheduled for May 10 but was postponed in a chaotic political and legal battle as the ruling party pressed to hold it despite the pandemic.

Exit polls will be announced immediately after polling stations close Sunday at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT, 3 p.m. EDT). The final official results are expected by late Wednesday.

Polling ahead of Sunday's vote suggested Duda was the front-runner but might not reach the 50% needed to win outright. Polls also showed that he would have a more difficult time in a runoff given that many opposition votes would be expected to unite against him.

Duda's strongest challenge comes from the Warsaw mayor, Rafal Trzaskowski, also 48, who is backed by the centrist Civic Platform party. Trzaskowski entered the race late after the May election date was scrapped.

Duda's once-strong support, bolstered by adulatory coverage in state media, began to slip once virus lockdown restrictions were lifted and other candidates could campaign.

Poland has not been as badly hit by the pandemic as many countries in Western Europe, and most people were voting in person, though required to wear masks and observe other hygiene rules. There was also a mail-in voting option, and thousands of voters in some southwestern regions with higher virus infection numbers were required to vote by mail.

As of Sunday, Poland had nearly 34,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among its 38 million people, with over 1,400 deaths.

Stanislaw Tasiemski, a 69-year-old office worker, joined many others voting early in Warsaw. He cast his ballot for Duda, saying he opposed political "experiments" in a time of crisis.

"In the face of what is happening, stability is needed," he said.

Duda's campaign focused on defending traditional values in the mostly Catholic nation while promising to keep raising living standards to Western European levels. He took a position against same-sex marriage and adoption and denounced the LGBT rights movement as a dangerous "ideology."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 51 of 86

That kind of rhetoric — along with laws that have given the Law and Justice party much greater control over the justice system and the party's harnessing of public media to promote the government's image — have raised concerns among some that Poland is following Hungary in eroding democratic norms established after communism collapsed three decades ago.

On the campaign trail, Trzaskowski promised to keep the ruling party's popular social welfare spending programs while vowing to restore constitutional norms.

That message resonated with Iwona Goge, a 79-year-old who voted for Trzaskowski in Warsaw and was encouraged to see so many others voting.

"It's bad. Poland is terribly divided and people are getting discouraged," she said.

Other presidential candidates include Szymon Holownia, a TV personality and journalist who had once studied to be a priest. Holownia is unaffiliated with any party and has generated some enthusiasm among those tired of years of bickering between Law and Justice and Civic Platform, the country's two main parties.

Also in the running are a left-wing politician who is Poland's first openly gay presidential contender, Robert Biedron; the head of an agrarian party, Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz; and a lawmaker with the far-right Confederation party, Krzysztof Bosak.

Rafal Niedzielski contributed reporting from Warsaw.

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

## China virus cases stabilize as Italy sees drop in deaths

KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China has extended COVID-19 tests to newly reopened salons amid a drop in cases, while South Korea continues to face new infections after it eased social distancing rules to lift the economy.

In the U.S., Vice President Mike Pence called off a planned campaign bus tour in Florida following a surge in confirmed cases there. Hard-hit Italy, meanwhile, registered the lowest day-to-day tally of COVID-19 deaths Saturday in nearly four months.

No positive cases were found in Beijing's beauty and barber shops in a further sign that the city's recent outbreak has been largely brought under control.

Beijing officials have temporarily shut a huge wholesale food market where the virus spread widely, reclosed schools and locked down some neighborhoods. Anyone leaving Beijing is required to have a negative virus test result within the previous seven days.

Tens of millions of Chinese traveled during the three-day Dragon Boat Festival that ended Saturday, with no outbreaks reported immediately.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that 40 of the newly reported cases were domestically infected, while 22 others came from overseas. The bulk of the local cases were detected in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, linked to nightclubs, church services, a huge e-commerce warehouse and low-income workers.

In Hawaii, the city of Honolulu announced that campgrounds will reopen for the first time in three months with limited permits to ensure social distancing. In contrast, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee put a hold on plans to move counties to the fourth phase of his reopening plan as cases continue to increase.

In a further sign of the impact on the U.S. economy, Tyson Foods has announced that 371 employees at its chicken processing plant in the far southwestern corner of Missouri have tested positive for COVID-19.

Pence canceled a planned bus tour in Florida to benefit his and President Donald Trump's reelection, as state health officials on Saturday reported more than 9,500 new cases, surpassing the previous day's total by more than 600 confirmed cases. The figures come as officials move to reclose beaches and dis-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 52 of 86

courage bar gatherings.

Kansas, Idaho and Oklahoma were also among U.S. states seeing a sharp rise in case.

While the rise partly reflects expanded testing, experts say there is ample evidence the scourge is making a comeback, including increasing deaths and hospitalizations in parts of the country and higher percentages of virus tests coming back positive.

According to Italy's Health Ministry data, there were eight deaths of infected patients since Friday, raising the nation's known toll in the pandemic to 34,716.

There were 175 new cases, bringing the overall count of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country where Europe's outbreak first exploded to 240,136. In a sign the country was emerging from the crisis, fewer than 100 infected patients were occupying ICU beds nationwide for the first time since the very early days of the outbreak,

European leaders were taking no chances, however. German authorities renewed a lockdown in a western region of about 500,000 people in the past week after about 1,300 slaughterhouse workers tested positive for COVID-19.

Serbia's government says Defense Minister Aleksandar Vulin tested positive for the coronavirus. Known for his highly pro-Russian stance, Vulin was part of Serbia's delegation led by President Aleksandar Vucic that attended a Victory Day parade this week in Moscow. Vucic met face-to-face with Russian President Vladimir Putin, but it was not clear whether Vulin did so as well.

Britain's government is expected to scrap a 14-day quarantine requirement that forced people to self-isolate upon returning home from abroad. India's confirmed coronavirus cases crossed half a million on Saturday with another record 24-hour jump of 18,552 infections.

Egypt has largely reopened. In Cairo, a metropolis of some 20 million people, coffee shops reopened Saturday to receive in-house customers but the smoking of "sheesha" from hookah waterpipes was still on hold.

Deaths in the U.S. are running at about 600 per day, down from a peak of around 2,200 in mid-April. Some experts have expressed doubt that deaths will return to that level because of advances in treatment and because many infections are happening in younger adults, who are more likely than older ones to survive.

The virus is blamed for more than 125,000 deaths and over 2.5 million confirmed infections nationwide in the U.S., by Johns Hopkins' count. But health officials believe the true number of infections is about 10 times higher. Worldwide, the virus has claimed close to a half-million lives with nearly 10 million cases.

The resurgence in the U.S. has drawn concern from abroad. The European Union seems almost certain to bar Americans in the short term from entering the bloc, which is currently drawing up new travel rules, EU diplomats said.

---

Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

---

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

## 2 dead after shooting at California distribution center

RED BLUFF, Calif (AP) — A man drove into a Northern California distribution center and started shooting at people, killing an employee and wounding four others before he was killed by police, authorities said.

The shooting by a 31-year-old man with a semi-automatic rifle started about 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Walmart distribution center south of Red Bluff, a city of about 14,000 people about 131 miles (210 kilometers) north of Sacramento, California.

Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston said at a news conference that the shooter circled the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 53 of 86

parking lot four times before crashing into the building and opening fire with the rifle. Red Bluff Police officers shot and killed the suspect, KHSL-TV reported.

The employee who died was Martin Haro-Lozano, 45, of Orland, California, Johnston said.

Officials did not identify the shooter, but Johnston said he has a history with the Red Bluff workplace.

The shooting victims were taken to St. Elizabeth Community Hospital in Red Bluff, spokeswoman Alison Hendrickson told The Associated Press. She confirmed that four were hospitalized, but declined to provide more details.

Some of the 200 workers inside the facility locked themselves in a room, employees told KHSL-TV.

The suspect was shot in the chest about 3:45 p.m., dispatchers told the newspaper.

Scott Thammakhanty, an employee at the facility's receiving center, told the Redding Record-Searchlight that he heard the shooter fire from the rifle.

"It went on and on — I don't even know how many times he fired," Thammakhanty said. "I just know it was a lot."

Thammakhanty and others started running for their lives, and he saw people lying on the ground as he went, he said.

Fellow employee Franklin Lister told the New York Times he had just started work when a coworker ran down the hallway shouting: "Active gunfire! Active shooter!"

Vince Krick told the Record-Searchlight that his wife and son work at the facility and he was on his way to pick up his wife when he saw the flames. Neither was hurt, but his wife told him not to come to the front entrance, the newspaper reported.

"It was real crazy, because, you know, you can't do nothing," Krick said.

Dispatchers told the Record-Searchlight that at least one woman had been shot. A man had also reported his leg being run over when the shooter rammed a vehicle into the building, but the man wasn't sure if he had been shot, dispatchers said.

Walmart spokesman Scott Pope told the Record-Searchlight that the company was "aware of the situation" and working with law enforcement.

## World leaders, stars unite at event aimed at fighting virus

LONDON (AP) — A summit that included a star-studded virtual concert hosted by Dwayne Johnson has raised nearly \$7 billion in cash and loan guarantees to assist the poor around the globe whose lives have been upended by the coronavirus pandemic.

Global Citizen said its summit with world leaders had raised \$1.5 billion to help COVID-19 efforts in poor countries, along with a promise of 250 million doses of a vaccine for those nations if one is successfully developed.

The group said it had secured \$5.4 billion in loans and guarantees from the European Commission and the European Investment Bank to support fragile economies worldwide.

The event included a Johnson-hosted concert with performances by Jennifer Hudson, Miley Cyrus, Coldplay and Chloe x Halle. Cyrus performed The Beatles' "Help!" in an empty stadium and Hudson performed "Where Peaceful Waters Flow" from a boat in Chicago.

"The \$6.9 billion that was pledged today to support the world's poorest and most marginalized communities is an incredible next step on our journey out of the COVID-19 era, but there is more still to be done, as no one is safe until everyone is safe," Hugh Evans, CEO of Global Citizen, said after the event Saturday.

"As we fight this virus, we also need to take care of the most vulnerable people and address the challenges they're facing right now," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during the event.

Speakers also included the leaders of New Zealand, El Salvador, Sweden, South Africa and Barbados.

Organizers said the show was not just a fundraiser, but aimed to draw awareness to the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on marginalized communities.

French President Emmanuel Macron said shared action was needed to defeat the virus.

"Let's mobilize, let's refuse an 'every man for himself' approach, let's continue to move forward together. France and Europe take their responsibility today and will do so tomorrow," Macron said.

Worldwide, nearly 10 million people have been reported infected by the virus, and nearly a half million have died, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say those figures seriously understate the true toll of the pandemic, due to limited testing and missed mild cases.

About a dozen potential COVID-19 vaccines are in early stages of testing. While some could move into late-stage testing later this year if all goes well, it's unlikely any would be licensed before early next year at the earliest.

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

## Mississippi set to remove Confederate emblem from its flag

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi is on the verge of changing its state flag to erase a Confederate battle emblem that's broadly condemned as racist.

The flag's supporters resisted efforts to change it for decades, but rapid developments in recent weeks have changed dynamics on this issue in the tradition-bound state.

As protests against racial injustice recently spread across the U.S., including Mississippi, leaders from business, religion, education and sports have spoken forcefully against the state flag. They have urged legislators to ditch the 126-year-old banner for one that better reflects the diversity of a state with a 38% Black population.

Legislators are expected to start voting Sunday to remove the current flag from state law. A commission would design a new flag that cannot include the Confederate symbol and that must have the words "In God We Trust."

The state House and Senate met Saturday and took a big step: By two-thirds margins, they suspended legislative deadlines so a flag bill could be filed. Spectators cheered as each chamber voted, and legislators seeking the change embraced each other.

"There are economic issues. There are issues involving football or whatever," Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann said Saturday. "But this vote came from the heart. That makes it so much more important."

Democratic Sen. David Jordan, who is African American, has pushed for decades to change the flag. He smiled broadly after Saturday's vote and said, "This is such a metamorphosis."

Mississippi has the last state flag with the Confederate battle emblem — a red field topped by a blue X with 13 white stars. The flag has been divisive for generations. All of the state's public universities have stopped flying it, as have a growing number of cities and counties.

White supremacists in the Mississippi Legislature set the state flag design in 1894 during backlash to the political power that African Americans gained after the Civil War.

In 2000, the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled that the flag lacked official status. State laws were updated in 1906, and portions dealing with the flag were not carried forward. Legislators set a flag election in 2001, and voters kept the rebel-themed design.

Former Ole Miss basketball player Blake Hinson told his hometown Daytona Beach (Florida) News-Journal that the Mississippi flag played a part in his decision to transfer to Iowa State.

"It was time to go and leave Ole Miss," Hinson said. "I'm proud not to represent that flag anymore and to not be associated with anything representing the Confederacy."

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves said Saturday for the first time that he would sign a bill to change the flag if the Republican-controlled Legislature sends him one.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 55 of 86

Reeves and many other politicians have said people should get to vote on a flag design in another statewide election. The new design — without the Confederate symbol — will be put on the ballot Nov. 3, but it will be the only choice. If a majority voting that day accept the new design, it will become the state flag. If a majority reject it, the commission will design a new flag using the same guidelines.

Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

## 1 fatally shot at Breonna Taylor protest park in Kentucky

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Authorities were investigating a fatal shooting Saturday night at a park in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, where demonstrators had gathered to protest the death of Breonna Taylor.

Reports of shots fired at Jefferson Square Park came in around 9 p.m., Louisville Metro police said in a statement, followed by calls that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department was performing life-saving measures on a male who died at the scene. Shortly after, police were told of a shooting victim across the street at the Hall of Justice. That person was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

Video posted on social media appeared to show a man opening fire into the park as people scrambled for cover. The footage later showed at least one person bleeding profusely on the ground.

Officers cleared the park and police "are trying to gather as much information as possible in order to identify all who were involved in the incident," the statement said. No information about arrests, possible suspects and the victims' identities and ages was immediately released. Officials did not immediately release additional information.

"I am deeply saddened by the violence that erupted in Jefferson Square Park tonight, where those who have been voicing their concerns have been gathered," Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said in a statement. "It is a tragedy that this area of peaceful protest is now a crime scene."

The park has for weeks been the epicenter for protests in the city after the police killings of Taylor and George Floyd. The Saturday night shooting was at least the second during nearly a month of protests in Louisville over Taylor's death. Seven people were wounded May 28 when gunfire erupted near City Hall, prompting a statement from Taylor's mother asking people to demand justice "without hurting each other."

"Praying for our city," tweeted Kentucky state Rep. Charles Booker of Louisville late Saturday. The Democrat is running for his party's nomination to challenge Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell in the fall.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was killed in her Louisville home in March by police who were serving a no-knock warrant. Protesters have been calling for the officers involved in her death to be charged. One of the officers was recently fired.

Kenneth Walker, Taylor's boyfriend, was originally charged with attempted murder after he fired a shot at one of the officers who came into the home. Walker has said he thought he was defending from an intruder.

The no-knock search warrant that allows police to enter without first announcing their presence was recently banned by Louisville's Metro Council.

## Opposition wins historic rerun of Malawi's presidential vote

By GREGORY GONDWE Associated Press

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — The opposition has won Malawi's historic rerun of the presidential election, the first time a court-overturned vote in Africa has led to the defeat of an incumbent leader.

Lazarus Chakwera's victory late Saturday was a result of months of determined street protests in the southern African nation, and of a unanimous decision by the Constitutional Court that widespread ir-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 56 of 86

regularities in the May 2019 election — including the use of correction fluid on ballots — could not stand.

President Peter Mutharika, who had sought a second five-year term, earlier Saturday called the rerun of the election “the worst in Malawi’s history.” He alleged his party’s monitors had been beaten and intimidated during Tuesday’s election, but the Malawi Human Rights Commission, an observer, called the vote peaceful and transparent.

Chakwera won with 58% of the vote, or 2.6 million votes out of 4.4 million cast. Mutharika received 1.7 million. Flag-waving supporters erupted in cheers as the results were read out, and some street celebrations began. Fireworks popped.

“I’m so happy I could dance all night,” Chakwera, former leader of the Malawi Assemblies of God church, told reporters. “This is a win for Malawians, a win for democracy.”

Malawi’s drama was just the second time in Africa that a court has overturned a presidential election, following a ruling on Kenya’s vote in 2017. In Kenya’s fresh election, the president won while the opposition boycotted.

As Malawi prepared for its new vote, incumbent Vice President Saulos Chilima, who split last year’s results with Chakwera, decided instead to stand as his running mate in a bid to maximize chances of unseating Mutharika.

Some celebrations began Thursday night when Malawi’s state broadcaster reported that Chakwera was well ahead with all votes in. But the electoral commission, revamped since the court’s ruling, indicated it was taking time to meet legal requirements in verifying results.

The commission’s new chair, judge Chifundo Kachale, while announcing the results acknowledged that “it has been a very interesting journey.” He said turnout was 64% of 6.8 million registered voters.

An attempt by Mutharika’s government to get Malawi’s chief justice to step down just days before the new election had failed amid an outcry. Now the chief justice is expected to swear in Chakwera on Sunday.

Aware that time was running out, the 79-year-old Mutharika on Saturday asked the country to “move on peacefully” and respect the presidency.

## Mississippi takes step toward dropping rebel image from flag

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Spectators at the Mississippi Capitol broke into cheers and applause Saturday as lawmakers took a big step toward erasing the Confederate battle emblem from the state flag, a symbol that has come under intensifying criticism in recent weeks amid nationwide protests against racial injustice.

“The eyes of the state, the nation and indeed the world are on this House,” Republican Rep. Jason White told his colleagues.

On the other end of the Capitol, Sen. Briggs Hopson declared: “Today, you — Mississippi — have a date with destiny.”

Mississippi has the last state flag with the Confederate battle emblem — a red field topped by a blue X with 13 white stars. Many see the emblem as racist, and the flag has been divisive for generations in a state with a 38% Black population.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves said Saturday for the first time that he would sign a bill to change the flag if the Republican-controlled Legislature sends him one. He previously said he would not veto one — a more passive stance.

“The argument over the 1894 flag has become as divisive as the flag itself and it’s time to end it,” Reeves said.

On Saturday, the House and Senate voted by more than the required two-thirds majority to suspend legislative deadlines and file a bill to change the flag. That allows debate on a bill as soon as Sunday.

Saturday’s vote was the big test, though, because of the margin. Only a simple majority is needed to pass a bill.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 57 of 86

"I would never have thought that I would see the flag come down in my lifetime," said Democratic Sen. Barbara Blackmon of Canton, who is African American.

A bill will erase the current Mississippi flag from state law. A commission will design a new flag that cannot include the Confederate battle emblem but must have the phrase "In God We Trust." The new design will be put on the ballot Nov. 3. If a majority voting that day accept the new design, it will become the state flag. If a majority reject it, the commission will design a new flag using the same guidelines.

"I know there are many good people who ... believe that this flag is a symbol of our Southern pride and heritage," said White, the Republican speaker pro tempore of the House. "But for most people throughout our nation and the world, they see that flag and think that it stands for hatred and oppression."

Republican Rep. Chris Brown of Nettleton appeared at a 2016 rally outside the state Capitol for people who want to keep the Confederate emblem on the flag. He said Saturday that the current flag and a proposed new design should both go on the ballot.

"I don't think we can move forward together if we say, 'You can have any flag you want except ... this one,'" Brown said. "If we put the current flag on the ballot with another good design, the people of Mississippi will change it. ... Let's not steal their joy."

White supremacists in the Legislature set the state flag design in 1894 during backlash to the political power that African Americans gained after the Civil War.

The Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the flag lacked official status. State laws were updated in 1906, and portions dealing with the flag were not carried forward. Legislators set a flag election in 2001, and voters kept the rebel-themed design.

Democratic state Rep. Ed Blackmon of Canton — the husband of Sen. Barbara Blackmon — told the House on Saturday that threats were made against him and others who served on a flag design commission in 2000. Ed Blackmon said Mississippi needs a design without the Confederate design so his children and grandchildren can stand at attention when they see it.

"We'll all be proud to say, 'That's my flag, too,'" Blackmon said.

All of the state's public universities and several cities and counties have stopped flying it because of the Confederate symbol.

Influential business, religious, education and sports groups are calling on Mississippi to drop the Confederate symbol.

People for and against the current flag filled the Capitol on Saturday.

Karen Holt of Edwards, Mississippi, was with several people asking lawmakers to adopt a new banner with a magnolia, which is both the state tree and the state flower. She said it would represent "joy of being a citizen of the United States," unlike the current flag.

"We don't want anything flying over them, lofty, exalting itself, that grabs onto a deadly past," Holt said.

Dan Hartness of Ellisville, Mississippi, walked outside the Capitol carrying a pole that with the American flag and the current Mississippi flag. He said the state flag pays tribute to those who fought in the Civil War.

"Being a veteran, that's important to me — that you remember these guys that fought in battle, whether they're on the right side or the wrong side," Hartness said.

---

Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

## Biden slams Trump over reported bounties placed on US troops

By LYNN BERRY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden attacked President Donald Trump on Saturday over a report that he said, if true, contains a "truly shocking revelation" about the commander in chief and his failure to protect U.S. troops in Afghanistan and stand up to Russia.

The New York Times reported Friday that American intelligence officials concluded months ago that a

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 58 of 86

Russian military intelligence unit secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The report said the Russians offered rewards for successful attacks last year, at a time when the U.S. and Taliban were holding talks to end the long-running war.

"The truly shocking revelation that if the Times report is true, and I emphasize that again, is that President Trump, the commander in chief of American troops serving in a dangerous theater of war, has known about this for months, according to the Times, and done worse than nothing," Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, said during a virtual town hall.

The White House said neither Trump nor Vice President Mike Pence was briefed on such intelligence. "This does not speak to the merit of the alleged intelligence but to the inaccuracy of the New York Times story erroneously suggesting that President Trump was briefed on this matter," press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement.

Russia called the report "nonsense."

"This unsophisticated plant clearly illustrates the low intellectual abilities of the propagandists of American intelligence, who instead of inventing something more plausible have to make up this nonsense," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The Times quoted a Taliban spokesman denying that its militants have such a deal with the Russian intelligence agency.

The newspaper, citing unnamed officials familiar with the intelligence, said the findings were presented to Trump and discussed by his National Security Council in late March. Officials developed potential responses, starting with a diplomatic complaint to Russia, but the White House has yet to authorize any step, the report said.

Biden slammed Trump over his reported failure to act.

"Not only has he failed to sanction and impose any kind of consequences on Russia for this egregious violation of international law, Donald Trump has continued his embarrassing campaign of deference and debasing himself before Vladimir Putin," the former vice president said.

Biden called it a "betrayal of the most sacred duty we bear as a nation — to protect and equip our troops when we send them into harm's way."

He said Americans who serve in the military put their life on the line. "But they should never, never, never ever face a threat like this with their commander in chief turning a blind eye to a foreign power putting a bounty on their heads," he said.

"I'm quite frankly outraged by the report," Biden said. He promised that if he is elected, "Putin will be confronted and we'll impose serious costs on Russia."

## **Pence cancels some political events because of virus spikes**

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence called off campaign events in Florida and Arizona this coming week as the states experience a surge in new coronavirus cases.

Pence will still travel to those states, which have set records for new confirmed infections in recent days, the White House confirmed, saying he will meet with governors and their health teams.

Pence said Friday during a briefing by the White House's coronavirus task force that he would be visiting Florida, Texas and Arizona to receive a "ground report" on spiking cases of COVID-19 across the region. The three states' Republican governors have come under criticism for pushing for aggressive reopening after virus-related lockdowns as cases in the states rise.

Pence is traveling to Dallas on Sunday to attend a "Celebrate Freedom Rally" at First Baptist Church Dallas before meeting with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. But planned political events later in the week have been pushed off.

On Tuesday, Pence was supposed to address a Trump-Pence campaign "Faith in America" event in

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 59 of 86

Tuscon, Arizona, before meeting Gov. Doug Ducey in Yuma. The campaign event has been postponed.

In Florida on Thursday, Pence was to embark on a bus tour, including an appearance in Lake Wales at an event organized by the pro-Trump group America First Policies billed as the "Great American Comeback tour." The group announced that "out of an abundance of caution at this time, we are postponing the Great American Comeback tour stop in Florida. We look forward to rescheduling soon."

The Sarasota County Republican Party confirmed in a note to supporters that Pence's campaign event along the Gulf Coast of the state was also postponed. He was still set to meet with Gov. Ron DeSantis.

## Satellite image: Iran blast was near suspected missile site

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An explosion that rattled Iran's capital came from an area in its eastern mountains that analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites, satellite photographs showed Saturday.

What exploded in the incident early Friday that sent a massive fireball into the sky near Tehran remains unclear, as does the cause of the blast.

The unusual response of the Iranian government in the aftermath of the explosion, however, underscores the sensitive nature of an area near where international inspectors believe the Islamic Republic conducted high-explosive tests two decades ago for nuclear weapon triggers.

The blast shook homes, rattled windows and lit up the horizon early Friday in the Alborz Mountains. State TV later aired a segment from what it described as the site of the blast.

One of its journalists stood in front of what appeared to be large, blackened gas cylinders, though the camera remained tightly focused and did not show anything else around the site. Defense Ministry spokesman Davood Abdi blamed the blast on a leaking gas he did not identify and said no one was killed in the explosion.

Abdi described the site as a "public area," raising the question of why military officials and not civilian firefighters would be in charge. The state TV report did not answer that.

Satellite photos of the area, some 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) east of downtown Tehran, showed hundreds of meters (yards) of charred scrubland not seen in images of the area taken in the weeks ahead of the incident. The building near the char marks resembled the facility seen in the state TV footage.

The gas storage area sits near what analysts describe as Iran's Khojir missile facility. The explosion appears to have struck a facility for the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group, which makes solid-propellant rockets, said Fabian Hinz, a researcher at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California.

The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies identified Khojir as the "site of numerous tunnels, some suspected of use for arms assembly." Large industrial buildings at the site visible from satellite photographs also suggest missile assembly being conducted there.

The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency says Iran overall has the largest underground facility program in the Middle East.

Such sites "support most facets of Tehran's ballistic missile capabilities, including the operational force and the missile development and production program," the DIA said in 2019.

Iranian officials themselves also identified the site as being in Parchin, home to a military base where the International Atomic Energy Agency previously said it suspects Iran conducted tests of explosive triggers that could be used in nuclear weapons. Iran long has denied seeking nuclear weapons, though the IAEA previously said Iran had done work in "support of a possible military dimension to its nuclear program" that largely halted in late 2003.

Western concerns over the Iranian atomic program led to sanctions and eventually to Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The U.S. under President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 60 of 86

accord in May 2018, leading to a series of escalating attacks between Iran and the U.S. and Tehran abandoning the deal's production limits.

Iran's missile and space programs have suffered a series of explosions in recent years. The most notable came in 2011, when a blast at a missile base near Tehran killed Revolutionary Guard commander Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, who led the paramilitary force's missile program, and 16 others. Initially, authorities described the blast as an accident, though a former prisoner later said the Guard interrogated him on suspicion Israel caused the explosion.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP).

## As cases surge in US, rural areas seeing increases as well

By DON BABWIN and PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

For many states and counties in the U.S., the dark days of the coronavirus pandemic in April unfolded on their television screens, not on their doorsteps. But now, some places that appeared to have avoided the worst are seeing surges of infections, as worries shift from major cities to rural areas.

While much of the focus of concerns that the United States is entering a dangerous new phase has been on big Sunbelt states that are reporting thousands of new cases a day — like Texas and Florida — the worrying trend is also happening in places like Kansas, where livestock outnumber people.

In early June, Kansas looked to be bringing its outbreak under control, but its daily reported case numbers have more than doubled in recent weeks. On June 5, the seven-day average for daily new cases hovered at around 96; by Friday, that figure was 211. As cases rise, the U.S. Army commander at Fort Riley in the state's northeast ordered his soldiers to stay out of a popular nearby restaurant and bar district after 10 p.m.

Idaho and Oklahoma have seen similarly large percentage increases over the same three-week period, albeit from low starting points. In Oklahoma, the seven-day average for daily new cases climbed from about 81 to 376; Idaho's jumped from around 40 to 160.

Many rural counties in states including California, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Texas and Florida have seen their confirmed cases more than double in a week, from June 19 to Friday, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Lassen County, California, went from just nine cases to 172, and Hot Spring County, Arkansas, went from 46 cases to 415; both spikes were attributed to outbreaks at prisons. Cases in McDonald County, Missouri, more than tripled after Tyson Foods conducted facility-wide testing at a chicken plant there.

Missouri itself is seeing a worrying trend, and Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas ordered employees and patrons of businesses to wear masks, when 6 feet (about 2 meters) of separation isn't possible.

"Case numbers in Kansas City continue to rise, and we are taking all steps we can to ensure public health and safety," the Democrat said Friday.

Across the state line, Kansas City, Kansas, and the county it's in also decided to order masks be worn in public starting Tuesday.

But many politicians, even those in place with spiking cases, have been hesitant to issue such orders, as subject has become a political lightning rod, with Democrats more likely than Republicans to use them.

The daily number of confirmed infections in the U.S. surged to an all-time high of 45,300 on Friday, eclipsing the high of 40,000 set the previous day, according to Johns Hopkins.

The biggest spikes have been seen in the West and South. On Saturday, as officials announced that Vice President Mike Pence's visit to Florida would not include a planned bus tour, state health officials reported more than 9,500 new cases. That total eclipsed the previous day's by more than 600.

Florida and Texas have both recently pulled back on their reopening plans in response to increasing cases. Nevada, meanwhile, reported Saturday that there were nearly 1,100 new confirmed cases in one

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 61 of 86

day, a total that is nearly double the state's previous single-day record.

While the rise in the U.S. partly reflects expanded testing, experts say there is ample evidence the scourge is making a comeback, including rising deaths and hospitalizations in parts of the country and higher percentages of virus tests coming back positive.

Deaths are running at about 600 per day, down from a peak of around 2,200 in mid-April. Some experts have expressed doubt that deaths will return to that level because of advances in treatment and because many infections are happening in younger adults, who are more likely than older ones to survive.

The virus is blamed for about 125,000 deaths and nearly 2.5 million confirmed infections in the U.S., by Johns Hopkins' count. But health officials believe the true number of infections is about 10 times higher. Worldwide, the virus has claimed close to a half-million lives with nearly 10 million cases.

The resurgence in the U.S. has drawn concern from abroad. The European Union seems almost certain to bar Americans in the short term from entering the bloc, which is currently drawing up new travel rules, EU diplomats confirmed Saturday.

But the U.S. is not alone. German Chancellor Angela Merkel cautioned Saturday that the coronavirus pandemic is far from over. India reported more than 18,000 new cases, pushing its cumulative total over the half-million mark, the fourth highest globally behind the U.S., Brazil and Russia.

"The risk posed by the virus is still serious," Merkel said. "It's easy to forget because Germany has gotten through the crisis well so far, but that doesn't mean we are protected."

Elsewhere, Egypt and Britain said they would ease virus controls, while China and South Korea battled smaller outbreaks in their capitals.

Britain was expected to scrap a 14-day quarantine requirement for people returning from abroad in a bid to make summer vacation travel possible. Only travelers from "red" zones, places with a high level of COVID-19, will be told to self-isolate.

Egypt on Saturday lifted many restrictions put in place against the coronavirus pandemic, reopening cafes, clubs, gyms and theaters after more than three months of closure, despite a continued upward trend in new infections.

Authorities in other countries were taking a more cautious approach, with the Indian city of Gauhati, the capital of Assam state, announcing a new two-week lockdown starting Monday, with night curfews and weekend lockdowns in the rest of the state.

China saw an uptick in cases, one day after authorities said they expect an outbreak in Beijing to be brought under control in the near future. The National Health Commission reported 17 new cases in the nation's capital, the most in a week, among 21 nationwide.

South Korea, where a resurgence in the past month threatens to erase the country's earlier success, reported 51 new cases, including 35 in the Seoul metropolitan area.

---

Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.

## American jailed in Spain was unwitting drug mule, US says

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Victor Stemberger wasn't about to ignore the emails inviting him into a multimillion-dollar business opportunity, so he pitched himself as perfect for the job. In a way he was — but for all the wrong reasons.

The 76-year-old Virginia man, whose family says he has cognitive issues, accepted the offer and boasted of his credentials as "an experienced businessman who does what he says he will do, and executes flawlessly, according to plan."

He apparently did follow the plan, but the execution wasn't flawless.

Today Stemberger sits in a Spanish jail, one year after flying into the country with 2.4 kilograms (more

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 62 of 86

than 5 pounds) of cocaine expertly sewn into bubble jackets in a bag. His family says he knew nothing about the drugs. Though Spanish authorities are dubious, the U.S. Justice Department has advised Spain that it believes Stemberger was duped into acting as a drug mule for a West Africa criminal network, and has asked the country for evidence it's gathered, according to correspondence obtained by The Associated Press.

Federal officials have for years warned about scams that lure elderly Americans or those with diminished mental capacity — Stemberger had a significant brain injury nearly 15 years ago — into becoming drug couriers. The frauds work by persuading victims they'll receive payouts if they travel or take some other requested action. The Department of Homeland Security said in 2016 that immigration and border authorities had worked with foreign partners to intercept dozens of unwitting couriers and that more than 30 were believed to still be jailed overseas.

"One of the common characteristics that we find in these scams is that oftentimes the senior is living alone, has lost a spouse and is lonely," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who leads the Senate Special Committee on Aging and helped secure the release of a Maine man jailed in Spain under similar circumstances as Stemberger.

Stemberger, who marks his one-year anniversary in Spanish detention on July 5, faces a trial next month in Madrid. His son says the only explanation for his father's actions is that "these perpetrators really connected with our dad under the veil of what he thought was a legitimate business opportunity."

"With his diminished mental state, he became the perfect victim of a crime syndicate just like this," Vic Stemberger said.

A spokesman for the Madrid judiciary, who agreed to discuss the case only on condition of anonymity, said Stemberger told authorities he had planned to deliver the jackets to United Nations officials in Asia and that he didn't know they contained drugs. Officials did not consider the narrative plausible and sought to have him jailed before trial rather than let him return to the U.S., the spokesman said.

Prosecutors are seeking a prison sentence for Stemberger, whose Spanish lawyer, Juan Ospina, said he plans to argue that there was no way Stemberger could have noticed the extra weight of the drugs because they were cleverly distributed among the jackets.

"It's a pity that it's always the mules that are being snatched, the lowest in the scale of a criminal organization. They are the easiest, weakest target, but there is rarely a police investigation, deep and rigorous, targeting the original sin," Ospina said.

The Drug Enforcement Administration and prosecutors from the Southern District of New York are investigating whether his contacts were part of a West Africa network of money launderers, fraudsters and drug traffickers under scrutiny for scheming the elderly and feeble, according to a Justice Department document sent to Spain last October. It also seeks permission to interview Stemberger, in addition to copies of investigative documents related to his arrest.

The case began in March 2018 with an email from someone purporting to be a financial consultant with Nigeria's Ministry of Finance, inviting Stemberger, of Centreville, Virginia, into a business opportunity that carried the prospect of a lucrative payout. The job entailed traveling abroad to deliver gifts and documents to officials, with a goal of recovering funds that were misallocated.

A flurry of emails and phone calls continued over the next year and a half, but Stemberger concealed the details from his family. He even traveled to South America and Hong Kong when his wife thought he was in Chicago.

"He certainly knew that talking to these folks internationally could be possibly something that our family would question," said Vic Stemberger. "We just never had an opportunity to intervene."

Emails reviewed by AP show Stemberger at times sought reassurance the project was legitimate but also portrayed himself as game for it, saying he could travel provided his expenses were covered "and we have a clear plan in place before I depart."

A Justice Department attorney told Spanish authorities that the emails show Stemberger concerned about being defrauded, undergoing uncomfortable travel conditions and having to pay for travel. But, wrote

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 63 of 86

attorney Jason Carter, "There are no communications reflecting that Stemberger believed or suspected that he would assist in trafficking controlled substances."

Retired DEA agent Robert Zachariasiewicz, whose investigative firm has worked on the case, said the 161 pages of emails he's reviewed make clear that "he's completely unwitting."

"It was very hard to read, quite honestly, because it tells a sad tale in and of itself," he added.

A Vietnam veteran with two master's degrees, Stemberger specialized in corporate executive coaching and prided himself on being a savvy businessman, his son said. But he hasn't been the same since a 2006 brain aneurysm left him with impairments in judgment and critical thinking.

Last July, he traveled to Brazil on a trip that was to take him to Spain and on to Asia. His contacts told him the officials he was supposed to be meet with would be visiting his Sao Paulo hotel room to help transfer gifts into luggage.

Stemberger reassured his son over email the work was legitimate: "Gifts referred to in the message are standard protocol for dealing with government officials in this part of the world. No contraband — be sure of that."

He was arrested the next day on a stopover in Madrid.

As his family works to prove his innocence, even Stemberger, who passed his 50th wedding anniversary in jail, has come around to the idea that he was roped into a fraud, his son said.

The younger Stemberger said he understands how extraordinary the saga may sound, joking that if every drug dealer used his father's defense, no one would be in jail.

But, he said, his father was unquestionably duped.

"There was never any attempt to commit a crime," he said.

Associated Press writer Aritz Parra in Madrid contributed to this report.

## Princeton to remove Wilson name from public policy school

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Princeton University has announced plans to remove the name of former President Woodrow Wilson from its public policy school because of his segregationist views, reversing a decision the Ivy League school made four years ago to retain the name.

University president Christopher Eisgruber said in a letter to the school community Saturday that the board of trustees had concluded that "Wilson's racist views and policies make him an inappropriate namesake" for Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs and the residential college.

Eisgruber said the trustees decided in April 2016 on some changes to make the university "more inclusive and more honest about its history" but decided to retain Wilson's name, but revisited the issue in light of the recent killings of George Floyd and others.

Wilson, governor of New Jersey from 1911 to 1913 and then the 28th U.S. president from 1913 to 1921, supported segregation and imposed it on several federal agencies not racially divided up to that point. He also barred Black students from Princeton while serving as university president and spoke approvingly of the Ku Klux Klan.

Earlier this month, Monmouth University of New Jersey removed Wilson's name from one of its most prominent buildings, citing efforts to increase diversity and inclusiveness. The superintendent of the Camden school district also announced plans to rename Woodrow Wilson High School, one of the district's two high schools.

"Wilson's racism was significant and consequential even by the standards of his own time," Eisgruber said, adding that the former president's segregationist policies "make him an especially inappropriate namesake for a public policy school."

The trustees said they had taken what they called "this extraordinary step" because Wilson's name was not appropriate "for a school whose scholars, students, and alumni must be firmly committed to

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 64 of 86

combatting the scourge of racism in all its forms.”

The school will now be known as the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, he said. Princeton had already planned to close Wilson College and retire its name after opening two new residential colleges currently under construction but will change the name to First College immediately.

Eisgruber said the conclusions “may seem harsh to some” since Wilson is credited with having “remade Princeton, converting it from a sleepy college into a great research university,” and he went on to become president and receive a Nobel Prize.

But while Princeton honored Wilson despite or perhaps even in ignorance of his views, that is part of the problem, Eisgruber said. “Princeton is part of an America that has too often disregarded, ignored, or excused racism, allowing the persistence of systems that discriminate against Black people,” he said.

Four years ago, a 10-member committee gathered input from Wilson scholars and more than 600 submissions from alumni, faculty and the public before concluding that Wilson’s accomplishments merited commemoration, so long as his faults were also candidly recognized. The committee report also said using his name “implies no endorsement of views and actions that conflict with the values and aspirations of our times.”

Princeton will retain Wilson’s name on an award given annually to an undergraduate alumnus or alumna since it stems from a gift that requires that the prize be named for Wilson and honor his “conviction that education is for ‘use’ and ... the high aims expressed in his memorable phrase, ‘Princeton in the Nation’s Service,’” the trustees said.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes even as he pleaded for air and stopped moving.

This story has been corrected to note that Monmouth University action came earlier in the month rather than earlier this week.

## Ireland’s Micheál Martin to lead historic govt coalition

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Centrist politician Micheál Martin became Ireland’s new prime minister Saturday, fusing two longtime rival parties into a coalition four months after an election that upended the status quo.

The deal will see Martin’s Fianna Fail govern with Fine Gael — the party of outgoing leader Leo Varadkar —and with the smaller Green Party. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, bitter opponents whose roots lie in opposing sides of the civil war that followed Ireland’s independence from the United Kingdom, have never before formed a government together.

“I believe civil war politics ended a long time ago in our country, but today civil war politics ends in our parliament,” said Varadkar, who became Ireland’s youngest and first gay prime minister three years ago. “Two great parties coming together with another great party, the Green Party, to offer what this country needs, a stable government for the betterment of our country and for the betterment of our world.”

The Dail, the lower house of Ireland’s parliament, elected Martin by a vote of 93-63, with three abstentions. Martin later met with Irish President Michael D Higgins to receive his seal of office.

Under the plan approved by the parties’ memberships, Martin became taoiseach, or prime minister. He will serve until the end of 2022 and then hand the job back to Varadkar.

The left-wing nationalist party Sinn Fein was shut out of the new government even though an electoral breakthrough that saw it win the largest share of the votes in February’s election. Despite coming out ahead, Sinn Fein was unable to assemble enough support to govern.

The two centrist parties have long shunned Sinn Fein because of its historic links to the Irish Republican Army and decades of violence in Northern Ireland. But in protracted negotiations further complicated by the COVID-19 outbreak, the two rival centrist parties opted for unity.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 65 of 86

Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald said Fianna Fail and Fine Gael conspired to exclude her party and the voices of more than half a million people who voted for her party. She called the coalition a "marriage of convenience."

"Faced with the prospect of losing their grip on power, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael have circled the wagons," McDonald said.

Fianna Fail holds 38 seats in the 160-seat Dail, Sinn Fein has 37 and Fine Gael has 35, while the Greens have 12 seats.

The election campaign was dominated by domestic issues. Ireland has a growing homelessness crisis, house prices that have risen faster than incomes and a public health system that hasn't kept up with demand.

Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the country's problems. Underscoring the changes the virus has wrought, the Dail's session Saturday was held at the Dublin Convention Centre rather than lawmakers' permanent chamber to allow for social distancing.

Martin said that dealing with the pandemic would be the centerpiece of his leadership.

"The struggle against the virus is not over," he said. "We must continue to contain its spread. We must be ready to tackle any new wave, and we must move forward rapidly to secure a recovery to benefit all of our people."

The son of a former Irish international boxer, Martin, 59, had initially embarked on a career as a secondary school teacher before devoting himself to politics.

He's had a number of roles in more than 30 years of public life, including serving in four Cabinet posts. In his speech, he described being named taoiseach of a free republic as being the greatest honor one could achieve. He thanked those who voted for him.

"Most of all I want to thank my family and my community," Martin said. "Without them I could have achieved nothing."

## Nurses, doctors feel strain as virus races through Arizona

By BOB CHRISTIE and JOSH HOFFNER Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — They saw the ominous photos: Crowded hospitals, exhausted nurses, bodies piling up in morgues. It was far away, in New York, northern Italy and other distant places.

Now, after three months of anxiously waiting and preparing, Arizona nurses and doctors are on the front lines as the coronavirus rips through the state, making it one of the world's hot spots. The trickle of a few virus patients in March became a steady stream two weeks after Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey ended a stay-home order in mid-May and allowed most businesses to reopen, and is now a scourge with no end in sight.

An intensive care nurse in metro Phoenix said she cries when she thinks about all the people who have died from the virus in her hospital, or the times she clutched a frightened patient's hands during an intubation. Medical staff describe crowded emergency rooms where patients are put on ventilators waiting for a spot in the intensive care unit to open up. There are tearful goodbyes through a patio window in Tucson.

Angela Muzzy, with 31 years experience, said she tells younger nurses they'll remember their role helping people during a historic national crisis.

"We're caring for physicians who have contracted this, we're caring for mothers. Last week we withdrew life support on a 48-year-old mother and I stood out there with her 17-year-old son as she passed away," said Muzzy, a clinical nurse specialist at southern Arizona's Tucson Medical Center, where all 20 of 36 ICU beds dedicated to virus patients are full.

Hospitals across Arizona, a state of over 7 million people, spent a six-week lockdown and a nearly two-month ban on elective surgeries getting ready for the surge that's appearing now. They polished emergency plans that require them to ensure they can increase capacity by 50%. They stocked up on masks

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 66 of 86

and gowns, and trained professionals who normally work in operating rooms or other areas to care for virus patients. Dr. Lisa Goldberg, director of Tucson Medical Center's emergency department, said her staff did drills, trained, and prepared.

Meanwhile Ducey, a Republican, argued the closures he ordered had slowed the spread of the disease and hospitals were now much better prepared. While he stressed the need for social distancing, he resisted wearing a mask himself in public even as cases mounted, batting away calls by some cities to allow them to require masks.

When the case surge became impossible to ignore, Ducey reversed himself on June 18 and allowed cities and counties to require masks in public, but didn't issue a statewide order. Most have, including Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma and the counties that surround them.

Today, hospitals statewide are filling up with patients, some critically ill. The state had more than 70,000 confirmed cases as of Saturday, up from just over 20,000 on June 1. Thousands more are being reported each day, and 1,535 people have died.

More than 2,400 people are hospitalized with coronavirus this week, up from about 1,000 three weeks ago. More than 600 ICU beds were filled with virus patients this week, two-thirds of them on ventilators and sedated.

Arizona has just over 200 empty ICU beds, out of about 1,600 in the state. More are being added as hospitals brace for a flood of patients as newly infected people slowly get sicker. Traveling nurses are being hired from other states to back up overworked staff.

"This is not a sprint, this is a marathon. In fact it's an ultra-marathon," Goldberg said.

Death is ever-present in ICUs, but with virus patients, it is even more common, and often grueling and drawn out.

Patients on ventilators are put in what is essentially a medically-induced state of suspended animation as machines breathe for their virus-ravaged lungs. They're hooked up to multiple IVs and drains, with a ventilator tube down their throats. They can stay in the ICU for weeks or months.

Nurses walk into their units for 12-hour shifts, gear up in gowns, respirators, gloves and goggles and enter an other-worldly setting. Patients are cut off from their families, and often all reality. They're frequently flipped onto their stomachs for hours at a time, a move called proning that has become a go-to for helping those patients breathe but is a grueling task that can take six to eight nurses, respiratory therapists and doctors to accomplish.

For younger nurses, some of the hardest deaths are those of young, previously healthy patients, including a woman less than 25 years old who died in Scottsdale.

She deteriorated rapidly, said Caroline Maloney, a nurse at HonorHealth's Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center with 28 years' experience working in ICUs. "And it was very emotional," she said. "I know one nurse in particular couldn't even talk about it.

"They're seeing this first-hand, and it's unnerving for them to see when their peers are in a hospital bed and they have to take care of them," Maloney said.

She said, however, that her hospital is seeing "amazing outcomes" and most of her ICU patients are recovering.

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

Families of virus patients generally aren't allowed bedside visits, leaving it to caregivers to arrange phone calls and FaceTime links via tablet computers. The hospital in Tucson is a rare case where families can visit their loved ones — at least through a window. That's because it is an older facility and primarily one-story, with all its ICU rooms on the ground level. Each has a small patio with windows.

It's where Muzzy often leads family members as they say goodbye to their loved one after making the decision to end care.

"I say it's physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually draining," she said. "Our nurses, the ones

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 67 of 86

that do the 12½ hour shifts, they endure this day in and day out. They are amazing. They're very strong." But not unbreakable.

An ICU nurse who emotionally recounted holding a frightened patient's hands during an intubation described conditions to The Associated Press about her overwhelmed Phoenix-area ICU on the condition her name not be used because her employer restricts talking to the media.

She's facilitated FaceTime calls with faraway family, and dealt with a constant crush of patients, shuttled from the packed emergency room to the ICU, then back to the general nursing floor if they show improvement, or to the morgue if they don't.

Like Maloney and Muzzy, she said her managers have installed robust safety procedures for staff and have plenty of protective equipment, but she says the toll of the sick and dying patients is becoming a strain.

"I don't think there's a shift where people don't die," she said. "It's horrible. The nurses are just numb from it."

"I've never seen so many people die. Every day."

In one case, a woman in her 40s went to the emergency room with coronavirus symptoms, was tested, and then sent home. Her family got sick as well, and she came back to the ER as her condition worsened. Then she was taken to the ICU. She initially resisted being intubated, and the nurse called the patient's sister and boyfriend to provide updates.

"She said 'I'm really scared to get intubated.' I said I know. She said, 'Will you stay here, hold my hand? Promise me I'll be OK.'" the nurse said. "And then she lasted two and a half weeks and we did everything ... We did all the things and she ended up dying. It's stuff like that, all the time, all the time."

Hoffner reported from Yankton, South Dakota.

## Critics question 'less lethal' force used during protests

By ACACIA CORONADO Report for America/ Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When a participant at a rally in Austin to protest police brutality threw a rock at a line of officers in the Texas capital, officers responded by firing beanbag rounds — ammunition that law enforcement deems "less lethal" than bullets.

A beanbag cracked 20-year-old Justin Howell's skull and, according to his family, damaged his brain. Adding to the pain, police admit the Texas State University student wasn't the intended target.

Protesters took to the streets in Austin and across the nation following the May 25 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. In some instances, police reacted with force so extreme that while their intent may not be to kill, the effects were devastating.

Pressure has mounted for a change in police tactics since Howell was injured. He was not accused of any crime. He was hospitalized in critical condition on May 31 and was discharged Wednesday to a long-term rehabilitation facility for intensive neurological, physical and occupational therapy. His brother has questioned why no one is talking about police use of less lethal but still dangerous munitions.

"If we only talk about policing in terms of policies and processes or the weapons that police use when someone dies or when they are 'properly lethal' and not less lethal, we're missing a big portion of the conversation," said Josh Howell, a computer science graduate student at Texas A&M University.

The Austin Police Department said in a news release that, before June 1, its officers used Def-Tec 12-gauge beanbag munitions on protesters. According to the manufacturer's website, they have a velocity of 184 mph (296 kph)

The growing use of less lethal weapons is "cause for grave concern" and may sometimes violate international law, said Agnes Callamard, director of Global Freedom of Expression at Columbia University and a U.N. adviser.

From 1990 to 2014, projectiles caused 53 deaths and 300 permanent disabilities among 1,984 serious injuries recorded by medical workers in over a dozen countries, according to Rohini Haar, an emergency

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 68 of 86

room doctor in Oakland, California, and primary author of the 2016 Physicians for Human Rights report.

Ishia Lynette, a spokeswoman for the Austin Justice Coalition, said her group had been organizing a rally with an expected 10,000 attendees, but that was canceled after Howell was shot. With anger flaring on both sides, the organization that advocates for racial justice feared confrontations could arise.

"I feel safe in some sense, but it is always in the back of my head, the what if? Other people can incite violence, whether that be other protesters or the police," Lynette said.

The Austin City Council has since begun an overhaul of the Police Department, banning the use of less lethal munitions and tear gas in crowds participating in free speech, and prohibiting the use of chokeholds. The attack on Howell is one of more than 100 under investigation.

Lynette hailed the city's efforts to change, but said more needs to be done. Her organization also has been calling for Austin Police Chief Brian Manley to resign.

"They recently banned chokeholds, rubber bullets, beanbags," she said. "These are small things, but we need them to take more actions to not hurt any more protesters. Since then, I have seen videos of them operating in the same way. If they would uphold what they said, it is not enough, but it is a start."

David Foster, who captured on video the moments after Howell was shot, said he saw protesters throwing fist-sized rocks and water bottles at the line of police on an overpass. Then he saw Howell fall. He was bleeding heavily and went into a seizure, Foster said.

As medical volunteers with red crosses on their arms helped Foster to move Howell to a safe place, officers again opened fire. Foster's video shows the police firing towards them.

Manley said at a news conference that Howell was not the intended target, insisting that the officer was aiming for the person who he said attacked the police line near the Austin Police Department headquarters.

"One of the officers fired their less lethal munition at that individual, apparently, but it struck this victim instead," Manley said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and we hope his condition will improve quickly."

Howell was not the first person at the Austin rallies to be injured by police. A day earlier, 16-year-old Brad Levi Ayala, who was watching a protest from a distance, was also shot in the head with a beanbag.

"We can't really take comfort in the phrase 'less lethal,'" Josh Howell said. "Because if what we mean is less lethal than a bullet, that's not a high bar to clear."

He declined to comment on the changes the city and police chief said they are making because he doesn't live in Austin.

---

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

## Bar owners worry as virus surges in their workplaces

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The din of conversation and music that normally fills The Cottonmouth Club in downtown Houston fell silent last Friday when the owners shut it down for a second time during the coronavirus pandemic — a week before the Texas governor ordered all bars to follow suit amid a surge in infections.

Co-owner Michael Neff — questioning what he saw as a rush to reopen by the state and wondering if his industry was making things worse as some bars flouted rules on occupancy limits — said he felt he could no longer provide a safe environment for his staff or customers at the neighborhood bar with a rock 'n' roll vibe.

He and his staff had started hearing of workers at other bars getting sick.

"Texas was a terrible, terrible experiment because it experimented with people's lives and this is where we are," Neff said.

That ended Friday, with Gov. Greg Abbott's announcement that bars would again be shuttered, a day

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 69 of 86

after the state reported a record high of nearly 6,000 confirmed cases and on the day that Texas surpassed 5,000 hospitalizations for the first time.

Neff said while he faulted bars that ignored the rules, he also lays blame on local and state officials for what he says was a lack of guidance and support, a lack of a statewide mask order and, until recently, a lack of enforcement.

It's a sentiment shared by other bar and restaurant owners across the state and beyond who have been deeply hurt financially by anti-virus measures and are also struggling with tough decisions, with some shutting down again after workers became infected or closing as a precaution because of rising cases in their areas.

In a nearly eight-minute video he posted online earlier this month, Neff vented his frustration, beginning with a message directed at Abbott: "You're leading us to die."

An email seeking comment from a spokesman for Abbott was not immediately returned Friday. During a news conference Monday, Abbott said the goal has always been to reduce cases and keep people out of hospitals.

"Texans have already shown that we don't have to choose between jobs and health," he added. "We can protect Texans' lives while also restoring their livelihoods."

From the time bars and clubs in Texas could reopen on May 22 with indoor service, social media has been filled with photos and videos showing packed businesses that were obviously not following rules on capacity and social distancing. But the first operation by the state to suspend the alcohol permits of establishments that ignored rules didn't happen until a week ago.

In closing bars again on Friday, Abbott said the rise in confirmed cases was "largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars." Abbott also ordered restaurants to scale back to half capacity starting Monday.

He added that "every Texan has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask" — but he has not mandated their use statewide. Last week, he did say cities and counties could order businesses to require that their customers wear masks.

A similar clampdown is happening in several states where confirmed infections are spiking. In some places, owners are doing it voluntarily, as Neff did. On Friday, Florida banned alcohol consumption at bars after confirmed coronavirus cases neared 9,000.

"What we realize is that despite exceeding the required protocols and with very little federal or state guidance, that more needs to be done," Daniel Wright, the owner of five Cincinnati restaurants and bars that he shut down as a precaution, said in a Facebook post this week.

Houston's Saint Arnold Brewing Company, which has a popular beer garden that remained mostly closed even before Friday's order, has also had difficulty navigating what it sees as inconsistent messaging on how to operate, said company spokesman Lennie Ambrose.

"We're going to follow the laws or the ordinances. But even if something is allowed, maybe that's not the right thing for Saint Arnold to do from a public health standpoint," Ambrose said.

That feeling of uncertainty is echoed elsewhere. Sean Kennedy, a spokesman for the National Restaurant Association, said his organization has told officials that the hospitality industry is "just looking for consistency, transparency and forward-looking rules." The association has pressed local governments to increase efforts to educate customers on their responsibilities when going out, Kennedy said.

An ongoing survey by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston of restaurants and bars in the Austin area found that many are frustrated that the governor has left it up to cities and counties to decide if they would mandate masks, said Mark Jones, one of the research fellows involved in the study.

Neff said he is worried about losing his bar and has worked to find other revenue streams, including selling cocktails to go, starting a podcast and holding a nightly virtual bar livestream. But he said he also feels a responsibility to let people know what went wrong and to help ensure that this doesn't happen again.

"We are not going to be successful in reopening our economies if we do it the way we've been doing

it," he said. "And no one wants that kind of sacrifice both in business and in lives."

Associated Press video journalist John Mone contributed to this report.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

## Governors face competing voices as reported virus cases rise

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — As Nevada prepared to start reopening parts of its economy last month, a team of medical experts recommended to Gov. Steve Sisolak that he require people wear masks in public to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The governor promoted masks but resisted making them a requirement, saying he feared the rule could create a backlash for businesses trying to enforce the order on customers.

With reported coronavirus cases rising the past four weeks, Sisolak on Wednesday finally decided to take their advice and impose the mandate, saying it was necessary to protect people and keep businesses open.

"People aren't wearing these," he said, holding up and waving a cloth face mask. "It is troubling and it is really discouraging that this has become a partisan issue about whether or not people want to wear a mask."

Sisolak's slow-stepping into the mask requirement reflects a fraught decision-making process among many governors as they listen to a variety of sometimes competing voices on how to respond to the spreading virus outbreak. The result is sometimes confusing and creates mixed messages for the public.

With reported coronavirus cases rising rapidly in many states, governors are getting lots of advice on what they should do. Unions want to be sure workers are protected on the job. Many business owners say they can't afford another forced shutdown. Public health officials urge them to make mask-wearing a statewide requirement. At the same, governors are facing blowback on the right over business restrictions and mask regulations.

Dr. Brian Labus, an assistant professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Public Health and a member of the medical team advising Sisolak, said he knows the governor has to weigh public health advice against political and economic considerations.

"We were told not to think about all those other things. Don't make political decisions. There will be other groups that will do that," Labus said.

Nevada's governor has a panel of rural and urban county officials and economic advisers giving him input, along with his medical advisory team. Labor groups, politicians and businesses also bend his ear with unsolicited feedback.

The competing voices on how to reopen their state's economy and what restrictions to impose have led to similar push-and-pulls for governors across the U.S. The decision-making has taken on new urgency as reported cases of the virus continue to rise and governors consider whether to pause or backtrack on their loosening of restrictions. The number of confirmed new coronavirus cases per day in the U.S. hit an all-time high of 40,000 Friday.

Some states, including Texas and Florida, have begun reversing some earlier steps intended to reopen their economies.

In Utah, coronavirus cases have been surging since most businesses were allowed to reopen in May. Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, has paused lifting any more restrictions and has strongly encouraged people to wear masks.

He faces strong opposition if he tried to make it a mandate. An interest group founded by a conservative activist to push back against coronavirus restrictions, Utah Businesses Revival, has actively campaigned against mask wearing or any renewed restrictions on economic activity. They and others have held pro-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 71 of 86

tests that included an anti-mask demonstration at the Utah Capitol.

North Carolina's governor, Democrat Roy Cooper, earlier this week announced a statewide mask rule and three-week pause on further reopenings, moves that were supported by a nurses association. But Cooper has faced pushback from Republican lawmakers and small businesses that are still shuttered, including bars, gyms and bowling alleys, which have tried to overturn the governor's orders through legal action or legislation.

South Carolina's top infectious disease expert this week said a statewide requirement that people wear masks indoors would be a great help in what she said was a "critical juncture" in fighting COVID-19.

That advice from state Epidemiologist Dr. Linda Bell runs against the public stance of Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, who continued to say this week that a mask requirement would step on personal liberties and be too hard to enforce. McMaster has largely sided with business interests throughout the pandemic.

"If we could go to the epidemiological extreme, we would close everything down and have everyone stay inside and have everyone wear masks. But the country would fall apart," McMaster said Friday in his first news conference with health officials in more than two weeks.

As West Virginia has seen a spike in reported virus cases, Gov. Jim Justice fired his public health commissioner Wednesday. While the departure was over a data dispute, the move exposed a philosophical rift between Dr. Cathy Slemp's plea to "stay true to the science" as new outbreaks emerge and the Republican governor's aggressive schedule to reopen businesses to get the state economy moving again.

National Nurses United, an umbrella organization for nurses unions across the country, called on governors in states with rising cases to reimpose strict limits on businesses until stronger protections are in place, including more protective equipment for health care workers and more robust testing and contact tracing.

Stephanie Roberson, the director of government relations for the California Nurses Association, an affiliate of the national group, said Gov. Gavin Newsom's office has heard her group's concerns but didn't seem to be listening.

"We need to look at the science, and the science is telling us that we have a significant uptick and we've got to pull back," Roberson said.

Newsom and state health officials have said the goal of the stay-at-home order imposed in mid-March was to prepare the state's hospitals for a surge. Earlier this week, he touted the importance of opening businesses to ensure the health of California's economy while warning that if health conditions grow dire, the state could be forced to shut them back down.

"We don't intend to do that, we don't want to do that," he said.

But on Friday, Newsom was forced to act. He urged Southern California's Imperial County to reimpose stay-home orders amid a surge in cases.

---

Associated Press writers Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina; John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia; Gary D. Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California; and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## Spanish colonial monuments fuel race strife in US Southwest

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

RIO RANCHO, N.M. (AP) — Statues of Spanish conquistador Don Juan de Oñate are now in storage after demonstrators in New Mexico threatened to topple them. Protesters in California have pulled down sculptures of Spanish missionary Junipero Serra, and now schools, parks and streets named after Spanish explorers are facing uncertain futures.

As statues and monuments associated with slavery and other flawed moments of the nation's history come tumbling down at both the hands of protesters and in some cases decisions by politicians, the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 72 of 86

movement in the American Southwest has turned its attention to representations of Spanish colonial figures long venerated by some Hispanics but despised by Native Americans.

Protesters say figures such as Oñate, who led early Spanish expeditions into present-day New Mexico, shouldn't be celebrated. They point to Oñate's order to have the right feet cut off of 24 captive tribal warriors after his soldiers stormed Acoma Pueblo. That attack was precipitated by the killing of Onate's nephew.

They say other Spanish figures oversaw the enslavement of Indigenous populations and tried to outlaw their cultural practices.

Some Hispanics who trace their lineage to the early Spanish settlers say removing the likenesses of Oñate and others amounts to erasing history — a complicated history both marred by atrocities against Indigenous people and marked by the arduous journeys that many families made for the promise of a new life or to escape persecution in Spain.

That history remains tightly woven into New Mexico's fabric as many Native American Pueblos still are known by the names given to them by the Spanish and many continue to practice Catholicism — something even Pueblo leaders acknowledge.

"New Mexico is a special place for all of us. We are all neighbors. We share food, we work together, and in many cases, our family relations go back generations," said J. Michael Chavarria, chairman of the All Pueblo Council of Governors and governor of Santa Clara Pueblo.

Earlier this month, demonstrators tried to tear down an Oñate statue outside an Albuquerque museum using chains and a pickax. A fight that broke out resulted in gunfire that injured one man. The next day, Albuquerque removed the statue and placed it in storage.

Another Oñate statue was removed by Rio Arriba County officials ahead of a planned protest that sought its removal, drawing praise from activists and some Pueblo leaders.

Albuquerque City Councilor Cynthia Borrego, who is Hispanic, acknowledged the sordid aspects of history during a city-sponsored prayer and healing event prompted by the protests.

"We also have to remember, those were times of war ... but we can't go back 500 years," she said.

Daniel Ortiz, 58, a retired financial adviser in Santa Fe, can trace his family's roots over 14 generations. He said the statues' removals amount to anti-Hispanic sentiment and a dismissal of Hispanics' unique contribution to area.

"This is the work of a small, radical Native American group, not our Pueblos," Ortiz said. "They've hijacked the Black Lives Matter movement and our Anglo leaders are too scared to stand up to them."

Ortiz is leading a online petition calling for the monuments' return.

Others have taken to social media to call the vandalism an act of "Hispanicphobia," linking it to anti-immigrant sentiment.

Even the Spanish Embassy in the U.S. has weighed in, saying that defending the Spanish legacy is a priority and educational efforts will continue for "the reality of our shared history to be better known and understood."

Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to set foot in the present-day American Southwest. It started with expeditions in the 1540s as the Spanish searched for the fabled Seven Cities of Gold. Decades later, colonization ramped up and Santa Fe was established as a permanent capital in 1610.

Spanish rule over the New Mexico territory lasted for about two centuries until the area briefly became part of the Republic of Mexico before it was taken over by the U.S.

Spain's enduring hold over the territory made it unlike other areas in the Southwest and opened the door for memorializing the Spanish influence.

Some scholars say the phenomenon of commemoration is linked to efforts that originated more than a century ago as Hispanics tried to convince white members of Congress that New Mexico should become a state.

During the 19th Century, white people moved into the territory and held racist views toward the region's Native American and Mexican American population, according to John Nieto-Phillips, author of "The Lan-



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 73 of 86

guage of Blood: The Making of Spanish-American Identity in New Mexico, 1880s-1930s.”

“They derided particularly the Mexican population as mongrels and mixed-blood who were incapable of governing themselves,” said Nieto-Phillips, the diversity and inclusion vice provost at Indiana University.

As a result, Nieto-Phillips said elite Hispanics in the region took on a solely Spanish American identity over their mixed heritage as a means to embrace whiteness. Some Hispanics adopted notions about “pure” Spanish blood as part of the eugenics movement that peaked in the 1920s and ‘30s to argue they were racially different than other ethnic Mexicans in Texas and California, he said.

It’s an identity that continues today. The conquistador image has appeared on university emblems, moving truck companies, and once was the mascot of Albuquerque’s minor league baseball team. Meanwhile, Latinos in other southwestern states often identify as Mexican American or mestizo, a mixture of Spanish and Native American ancestry.

Yet, in recent years, the Spanish conquistador and all the effigies connected to it have seen intense criticism thanks to a new politicized coalition of Native American and Latino activists. Protests have forced the cancellation of Santa Fe’s annual “Entrada” — a reenactment of when the Spanish reasserted themselves following the Pueblo Revolt.

In California, people have been defacing Serra’s statues for years, saying the Spanish priest credited with bringing Roman Catholicism to the western United States forced Native Americans to stay at the missions after they were converted or face brutal punishment. Protesters in Los Angeles and San Francisco recently brought down statues of Serra.

The recent violence in New Mexico has forced some elected officials to consider removing public art and renaming schools linked to Spanish conquistadors.

Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez, who grew up in Grants, New Mexico, and is the author of an upcoming book on colonial legacies in the Southwest, said she understands how Hispanics can be excited about being able to trace their history to early New Mexico settlements that predate even the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

But along with those prideful reflections should come a critical examination of colonial legacy and the anger spurred by those monuments.

“These incidents didn’t happen in a vacuum,” said Fonseca-Chávez, an assistant English professor at Arizona State University. “This has been building for more than 20 years ... people are really getting frustrated at the lack of historic and social consciousness about New Mexico’s history.”

---

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP’s Race and Ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

## Young novice protest leaders help drive US wave of dissent

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

Before George Floyd stopped pleading for air beneath a police officer’s knee, 19-year-old Weidmayer Pierre was planning to work at Wal-Mart during his summer break from Palm Beach State College.

Now his days look completely different. Pierre has quit his retail job to focus on organizing Black Lives Matter protests every few days in Florida, determined to channel the groundswell of energy around the world into meaningful reform in his hometown.

“Every time someone gets killed by police brutality we protest once or twice and it’s done,” said Pierre, who wants to help police improve the system from within. “This time, I’m not planning on stopping until we have a change.”

Pierre is part of a grassroots, decentralized wave of young organizers across the U.S. helping drive the outpouring of protest against racism and police brutality in cities and towns around the nation.

Many are new to organizing, but have seen a drumbeat of deaths of police-brutality cases captured on video since they were children. Social media is second nature for many, and they’re showing how small

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 74 of 86

groups can translate online information quickly into real-life action.

Now, in big cities and small towns, both liberal and conservative, they are taking matters into their own hands and bringing together hundreds of thousands of people to press for change.

The novice organizers' visions for the future differ, but they all hope their voices are helping create a historic turning point in dismantling racism and inequity.

Tiffany Medrano Martinez had just graduated from eighth grade when she decided to organize a peaceful demonstration in her hometown of Redwood City, California. The 14-year-old had watched protests sweep the country in the wake of Floyd's death, some accompanied by unrest in the form of smashed windows, stolen goods and burned buildings.

She said she understands the roots of anger but wanted to keep the focus on reforms. So she put together an online flier setting the event for June 2, and wrote "don't take anger out on small businesses."

Within an hour, someone had altered the flier so it said the opposite. As word spread online, local leaders got worried. So she and her friends called the mayor and the police department to reassure them they didn't want any property damage.

The event came together as she had intended, with nearly 3,000 demonstrators gathered in the center of town. The sea of peaceful protesters brought her to tears.

"When I voice out my opinions it usually doesn't get heard. It was crazy that people were actually hearing it for once," she said. "As youth, we have a much bigger voice than we expect we have."

She wants more police training and more testing of officer candidates to weed out those who might become violent. And like many others, she also wants more taxpayer money spent on social programs instead of police militaristic gear — an effort often called defunding the police.

Halfway across the country in Detroit, 16-year-old Stefan Perez said his only real public speaking experience was on his school's debate team before early June, when he was handed a megaphone and asked to help lead a protest at the city's police headquarters.

That night, he also stepped into the no man's land between the lines of protesters and police, putting his hands behind his back in a silent appeal for calm.

"At the end of the day, I wanted people to get home safe," he said. "The people who are with me and watching are the voice of Detroit."

Protesters have skewed younger demographically, with a median age of 30 or younger, at several major demonstrations since Floyd's death, said Dana R. Fisher, a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland and author of the book "American Resistance."

Many older adults are staying home due to their increased risk of the coronavirus and the pandemic has left younger people with more free time by forcing the cancellation of everything from internships to beach plans.

"These are young people who have been trapped inside, which is increasing anxiety, increasing social isolation," Fisher said. "This call for solidarity has rung really true for them."

Most of the protesters she has surveyed report hearing about the rallies from decentralized sources, like their family, friends or the social-media platform Instagram, which is popular among younger people.

In Oakland, California, a flier posted on Instagram by two 19-year-olds for a George Floyd Solidarity March drew 15,000 people.

One of them, Xavier Brown, said he was determined to transform the social media attention into real-life action. "I was very tired of seeing every single police brutality case get turned into a hashtag."

In the tiny town of Wimberley, Texas, two high school friends spent a day creating and posting fliers on Facebook and Instagram for a Black Lives Matter demonstration that brought 100 people to the town square.

"I was kind of worried about any kind of backlash, because we are still going to be in this town," said co-organizer Jasmine Racine Belleau, 17. "But in the end, we felt like it was really important."

Belleau, who is Black, and her Hispanic co-organizing friend Isabella Perez, 16, said they have heard racist comments from kids they grew up with — including "we hate Mexicans" and "go back to the cot-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 75 of 86

ton fields.”

The comments began around the time of President Donald Trump’s election and Perez and Belleau thought their classmates were emboldened by Trump, who has referred to immigrants as “animals” and “criminals.”

The Wimberley protest also drew a few young detractors, who laughed at them and posted videos online.

But Perez said realizing she and Belleau could draw many more like-minded people to protest in public within a matter of hours was empowering and satisfying.

“There’s a lot of loving people in our community who will stand by us,” she said.

While many of the newly minted organizers around the country are first-time protesters, others have been leading similar efforts for years. Eva Maria Lewis, 21, is an activist in Chicago who has been speaking out since she was 16.

Now, she runs a network of people helping deliver groceries and household goods to people living in neighborhoods on the south and west sides of Chicago, where access has become more difficult during the protests and corresponding police presence amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s also an all hands on deck moment. I have never in my life seen or heard of something like this,” she said.

Lewis has a sweeping vision of the future, one where everyone has access to food, healthcare and quality education.

“When we create space to have conversation we create space to transform,” she said. “Don’t let nobody tell you you don’t have enough experience. It’s not that difficult to get started, you just have to do it.”

---

Associated Press writer Corey Williams in Detroit contributed to this report.

## Virus visitor bans renew interest in nursing home cameras

By SUSAN HAIGH and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Visitation bans at nursing homes have renewed interest in legislation that would allow families to put remote cameras inside the facilities to help see how loved ones are doing.

Before the pandemic, cameras were seen as a way to identify elder abuse and neglect. But now, many hope they could bring comfort after visitation bans imposed to stem the devastating tide of COVID-19 inside nursing homes left many families struggling to get information.

“That visitation ban, it was really, really upsetting to people. And I think understandably, Some facilities aren’t great about sharing information about what’s going on,” said Anna Doroghazi, the associate state director for AARP in Connecticut. She has heard stories about people calling a nursing home five times before someone finally picked up the phone and families unable to get an update on a loved one’s condition.

“For me, this isn’t about a gotcha game with nursing home staff. I think especially now, people are doing their best. They’re showing up. They’re doing a good job,” Doroghazi said. “But for me, cameras are really about peace of mind for family members.”

About a dozen states already have laws or regulations in place allowing residents and their families to install video cameras, subject to certain rules.

Last month, Missouri lawmakers passed legislation allowing families to request cameras to connect with loved ones in a nursing home. The state’s governor is reviewing the legislation.

Camera bills have also gained new life in other states, including Ohio and Connecticut.

Vicki Krafthefer said cameras might have helped alleviate frustration at not being able to see firsthand what has been happening this spring to her 65-year-old sister, Christy Buzzard, in an Ohio long-term care facility.

Since March, Buzzard, who suffered brain damage as toddler, has a childlike personality and is now partially paralyzed from a stroke, has fallen seven times, been hospitalized for a serious head injury and

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 76 of 86

was isolated after testing positive for COVID-19.

Through phone calls and window visits, she also described being kicked and having her hair pulled, allegations the facility has denied.

"If I could get a camera in her room, I could look at it and see who's coming in and who's going out. I could tell who's the ones being mean to her," said Krafthefer. "The cameras are so badly needed. I mean, if we had that, it would help the workers a lot. It would help the families. It would help the residents. There's so much good a camera can do."

Ohio House Rep. Juanita Brent, a Democrat from suburban Cleveland who introduced a bill late last year that would allow cameras, said she's heard from numerous families since the pandemic hit who haven't been able to see their relatives for months and now want to install them.

"People are now understanding the urgency of why we need this implemented," she said. "You feel kind of helpless."

The cameras allow families to monitor loved ones in real time or make recordings. In most cases, residents can ask that they be turned off for privacy. There are safeguards to protect roommates from being filmed unknowingly. Signs in rooms alert staff and visitors that the cameras are operating.

Both Connecticut's Department of Public Health commissioner and the state's nursing home industry have voiced privacy concerns.

"The public disclosure of the very private material concerning nursing home residents can be devastating, especially given the impossibility of a foolproof assurance that the data or streaming material cannot be compromised," Matthew Barrett, president and CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, said in testimony submitted to Connecticut lawmakers.

Hidden cameras should only be allowed as part of a criminal investigation, he said.

Liz Stern of Stonington, Connecticut, has been among family members of nursing home residents pressuring the Connecticut General Assembly to pass a camera bill.

Stern took up the cause after the private aides she hires to provide extra care for her 91-year-old mother had to stop seeing her because of COVID-19 visitor restrictions.

"They would report to us. They would put the phone to her ear. They would take photographs. They would manage anything that went awry there," said Stern, who's worried about neglect, not abuse. She has since been unable to get a camera installed for various reasons, including opposition from the family of her mother's roommate.

When Julie Griffith suspected that her 96-year-old mother was being mistreated at a nursing home near Toledo, Ohio, she and her husband set up an audio recorder behind a picture frame last August.

What they heard left them stunned — a male nurse's aide disguising himself as a woman and verbally and mentally abusing Griffith's mother at night. It was enough to have the aide fired and sentenced on abuse and neglect charges.

Now that they can no longer monitor what's happening inside her room, they are wracked with fear.

"We have been at a loss since then and we can't get any answers," Griffith said.

"They're telling us everything is perfect. We have no way of knowing," said Julie's husband, David. "Everything is a secret."

---

Seewer reported from Toledo, Ohio.

## What to wear: Feds' mixed messages on masks sow confusion

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

Forgive the American people if they're in a fog about face masks. President Donald Trump and the federal government have done a number on them.

First there was the don't-do-it phase. Then the nice-but-not-for-me dissonance. Followed by the local-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 77 of 86

rules-don't-apply exceptions. Topped off by Trump's stated suspicion that some people wear masks just to troll him.

It has all added up to a murky message about one of the critical tools in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. And the politicization of the to-wear-or-not-to-wear debate is clear in recent public polling.

To be clear: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Some states and local communities require them.

But the messaging disconnect from Washington was evident as recently as Friday, when Vice President Mike Pence defended Trump's decision to stage two big mask-scarce gatherings in the past week in states with big surges in infections and, in one case, local rules requiring masks.

"We just believe that what's most important here is that people listen to the leadership in their state and the leadership in their local community and adhere to that guidance whether it has to do with facial coverings or whether it has to do with the size of gatherings," Pence said.

Early on, the government's no-mask message was unequivocal. As the first known COVID-19 infections were identified on U.S. soil, top public health officials insisted masks should be reserved for front-line workers.

Later, the CDC issued its recommendation for cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures were difficult to maintain. But Trump immediately undercut that guidance by flatly stating that he wouldn't be following it.

He told The Wall Street Journal this month that some people wear masks simply to show that they disapprove of him.

Now, the mask debate is heating up in the South and West, where infections are surging to levels the country hasn't seen since April, when the Northeast and Midwest were particularly hard-hit.

In Arizona, Florida, and Texas, with GOP governors and huge spikes in infections, there's been a hesitance to require people to wear masks in public spaces.

But in California, Nevada and North Carolina, - with Democratic governors and increasing infection levels, rules requiring masks took effect this past week.

The divide on masks is stark even within Republican-leaning Sun Belt states, where some big city Democratic mayors have imposed their own mask rules.

Further complicating the messaging is that as Trump questions the effectiveness of masks and refuses to wear one in public, Surgeon General Jerome Adams has taken to Twitter to declare that "I show my patriotism by wearing a face covering in public!"

That would be the same surgeon general who tweeted on Feb. 29: "Seriously people- STOP BUYING MASKS! They are NOT effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus, but if healthcare providers can't get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk!"

The dithering over face masks has unnerved public health experts as studies suggest that the coverings could have a dramatic impact on limiting the virus' death toll.

"The public health community, I think, has been very clear that face masks can help reduce the spread of the virus," said Ayaz Hyder, an epidemiologist at Ohio State University. "The problem is you send mixed messages when the person at the top of the federal government is saying, 'Nah, I'm OK.'"

The political calculations of the debate are playing out all over the country, and evident in public polling. While most other protective measures such as social distancing get broad bipartisan support, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they're wearing a mask when leaving home, 76% to 59%, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

In Texas, GOP Gov. Greg Abbott this month issued an executive order prohibiting municipalities from imposing fines or criminal penalties on people who refuse to wear masks. But he has not opposed efforts by some Texas cities and counties to require businesses to impose face mask rules for their employees.

In Arizona, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey said mayors, not the state, would decide their own mask mandates. Richard Mack, president of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, declared at an anti-mask rally in Scottsdale this past week that mask mandates were government overreach and

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 78 of 86

wouldn't be enforced.

"We do have a pandemic in America and in Arizona," Mack said. "But it's not the coronavirus. The pandemic is one of universal corruption, the pandemic is one of the destruction of our Constitution.

In Florida, which reported nearly 9,000 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has rejected Democrats' pleas for a statewide mask order, saying "you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar."

On Friday, Bruce Owens, 66, of Lakeland, Florida, wore a white surgical mask as he walked around downtown St. Petersburg. He said he's been disappointed by the disparate responses of Florida's elected officials to the outbreak.

In Lakeland, he says, officials opted against a face mask mandate, while the mayor of the larger St. Petersburg signed an ordinance Monday that requires masks inside public places.

"They've handled it extremely poorly," Owens said of state officials. "They haven't really listened to the experts."

Charles Kyle Durr, of Groveland, Florida, said he would wear a mask if required, but questioned the need for a broad government mandate. "I don't think everyone needs to wear a mask," Durr wrote to the AP. "Only a person with symptoms of Covid or someone who's been diagnosed with Covid needs to wear a mask."

The presumptive Democratic nominee, Joe Biden, is eager to turn face masks into a campaign issue. He told a Pittsburgh television he "would do everything possible" to require Americans to wear face masks in public settings where social distance can't be maintained.

Tim Murtaugh, a Trump campaign spokesman, responded that "people should follow CDC guidelines."

But on Tuesday, Trump was in Phoenix for a Students for Trump event at a megachurch, where few attendees wore masks. The president declined to wear one despite the Democratic mayor urging him to do so.

Appearing before a House committee that same day, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, was asked about Trump's refusal to wear a mask.

Fauci avoided taking direct aim at the president but said he personally wears a mask "not only because I want to protect others and to protect myself, but also to set an example."

On Friday, members of the White House coronavirus task force once again urged Americans to practice social distancing, frequently wash their hands, and wear face coverings in public spaces.

But Pence sidestepped questions about whether the president's refusal to wear a mask and his large campaign gatherings were sending conflicting messages.

"Even in a health crisis, the American people don't forfeit our constitutional rights," Pence said.

---

Associated Press writers Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Haleluya Hadero in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Hamilton saddened and hurt by Ecclestone's racism comments

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Auto Racing Writer

PARIS (AP) — Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton has criticized "ignorant and uneducated" comments by former F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone.

Hamilton, a six-time world champion and the only Black driver in F1, was shocked by Ecclestone's claim during an interview with broadcaster CNN on Friday that "in lots of cases, Black people are more racist" than white people.

"Damn, I just don't even know where to start on this one ... so sad and disappointing to read these comments," Hamilton posted on Instagram. "This is exactly what is wrong - ignorant and uneducated comments which show us how far we as a society need to go before real equality can happen."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 79 of 86

Ecclestone made his assertion when he was asked his opinion on Hamilton setting up a commission to increase diversity in motorsport.

"I don't think it's going to do anything bad or good for Formula One. It will just make people think, which is more important," Ecclestone replied. "People ought to think a little bit and say 'what the hell', somebody's not the same as white people and that Black people should think the same about white people. Because I think in lots of cases, Black people are more racist than what white people are."

Challenged to give evidence, Ecclestone replied: "Things over the years I've noticed and there's no need for it."

Hamilton recently attended a Black Lives Matter march in London. He has spoken widely about racism in recent weeks after saying he felt "so much anger, sadness and disbelief" following the killing of George Floyd - a handcuffed and unarmed Black man - by a police officer in Minneapolis last month.

"Lewis is a little bit special. First he's very, very, very talented as a driver and he seems to be now extremely talented when he's standing up making speeches," Ecclestone said. "This last campaign he's doing for the Black people is wonderful. He's doing a great job and it's people (who are) easily recognizable that people listen to."

F1 pledged to increase diversity in a white-dominated series by setting up an initiative called "We Race As One." F1 chairman Chase Carey followed up with a personal donation of \$1 million.

Hamilton has spoken of abuse he received throughout his career, dating back to junior days in karting. In 2008 he was racially abused by fans at the Spanish Grand Prix near Barcelona. Some blacked up their faces while wearing black wigs and T-shirts with "Hamilton Family" written on them.

Ecclestone insisted Hamilton had never discussed this, and was surprised Hamilton took offense.

"Well, he knows people have been against him because he said they have, but I'm surprised that it concerns him even," Ecclestone said. "I'm really unhappy if he took it seriously, I never thought he did. I didn't think it affected him."

Ecclestone was evasive about whether he should have done more to condemn those incidents, considering he was in charge.

"Well, I think I did behind the scenes a little bit," he said. "What else could you do?"

Asked if F1 should have done more over time to fight racism, Ecclestone replied "they're too busy trying to win races or find sponsors, so really other things have little if any interest."

Hamilton said those comments were indicative of a deep-seated problem.

"It makes complete sense to me now that nothing was said or done to make our sport more diverse or to address the racial abuse I received throughout my career," Hamilton said. "If someone who has run the sport for decades has such a lack of understanding of the deep rooted issues we as black people deal with every day, how can we expect all the people who work under him to understand? It starts at the top."

F1 distanced itself from Ecclestone.

"At a time when unity is needed to tackle racism and inequality, we completely disagree with Bernie Ecclestone's comments that have no place in F1 or society," F1 said.

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

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's see-no-evil posture on coronavirus

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's persistent see-no-evil posture on coronavirus testing — if you don't look for the virus, the cases go away — defies both science and street sense. Yet he took it a step further with a comment suggesting that testing be restrained so the pandemic doesn't look so bad.

His aides passed that off as a joke. Trump contradicted them, saying he wasn't kidding. Then he contradicted himself, saying he was.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 80 of 86

So it went over the past week as America's reckoning with disease and racism navigated a fog of falsehoods and distortions from the president. A sampling:

JUST KIDDING?

TRUMP: "You know testing is a double-edged sword. ... Here's the bad part. When you test to that extent, you are going to find more people, find more cases. So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down please.'" — Tulsa, Oklahoma, rally June 20.

THE FACT: First, it's not true that he ordered testing slowed. The government's top public health officials testified one by one to Congress that Trump told them no such thing.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the comment was "made in jest" and other senior aides similarly brushed it off as not serious. Trump didn't play along. "I don't kid," he said Tuesday when asked about the remark.

Then he reversed himself, telling Fox News on Thursday "Sometimes I jokingly say, or sarcastically say, if we didn't do tests we would look great." But holding back on testing is "not the right thing to do."

Trump's broader point — "If you don't test, you don't have any cases," he also said — flips science on its head. No one disputes the fact that testing for the virus is key to controlling it. Testing is only one measure of the pandemic. It is also measured by hospitalization and death, which continue even if authorities were to close their eyes to spreading sickness.

COVID-19 has killed about 125,000 people in the U.S. Infections are far higher than are known because many who get the disease and pass it on are not tested.

VOTING FRAUD

TRUMP: "There is tremendous evidence of fraud whenever you have mail-in ballots." — remarks Tuesday at Phoenix rally.

THE FACTS: No there isn't.

Voting fraud actually is rare and Trump's attempts to show otherwise have fallen flat. Nevertheless, he persists in the assertion, in what can be seen as a pretext to discredit results if he loses in November.

Trump appointed a commission after the 2016 election to get to the bottom of his theory that voting fraud is rampant. The panel disbanded without producing any findings.

Some election studies have reported a higher incidence of mail-in voting fraud compared with in-person voting, but the overall risk is all but imperceptible. The Brennan Center for Justice said in 2017 the risk of voting fraud is 0.00004% to 0.0009%.

When Trump made similar assertions last month, Twitter took the extraordinary step of attaching fact-checking notices.

Richard L. Hasen, an elections expert at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, recently wrote in an op-ed that "problems are extremely rare in the five states that rely primarily on vote-by-mail, including the heavily Republican state of Utah."

Trump himself voted by mail in the Florida Republican primary in March. A half-dozen senior advisers to the president have also voted by mail, according to election records obtained by The Associated Press.

MEMORIALS

TRUMP: "I've also made clear that any rioters damaging federal property and defacing our monuments will face severe and lengthy criminal penalties. Ten years." — remarks Tuesday in Phoenix.

THE FACTS: He has no such authority. A president is not a judge.

TRUMP: "I have authorized the Federal Government to arrest anyone who vandalizes or destroys any monument, statue or other such Federal property in the U.S. with up to 10 years in prison per the Veteran's Memorial Preservation Act, or such other laws that may be pertinent. ... This action is taken effective immediately, but may also be used retroactively for destruction or vandalism already caused. There will be no exceptions!" — tweets Tuesday.

THE FACTS: This action taken "immediately" and "retroactively" is merely words. It has no effect.

The Veterans' Memorial Preservation Act, passed by Congress in 2003, already authorizes fines or prison



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 81 of 86

for up to 10 years for the destruction of veterans' memorials on public property.

The law covers "any structure, plaque, statue, or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the armed forces of the United States."

So all prosecutors got from Trump is a reminder of legal authority they already had.

TRUMP: "They even vandalized — that's right — the Lincoln Memorial. The Lincoln Memorial." — remarks at Phoenix rally Wednesday, prompting boos from the audience.

THE FACTS: No one damaged the memorial housing the statue of Lincoln in protests that unfolded near it. An online photo seeming to show the Lincoln statue and a memorial wall blanketed by graffiti was fake.

The reality: Someone spray painted "y'all not tired yet?" by the bottom of the steps to the memorial May 30 and the National Park Service cleaned it up.

"The only vandalism at the Lincoln Memorial was graffiti at the bottom of the steps at street level, far away from the statue," said national parks spokesman Mike Litterst.

He said vandalism at the Lincoln Memorial is unusual but not unheard of. "Probably most notable was in 2013 when someone splashed green paint on the statue," he said in an email. "And it was vandalized twice in 2017, once in February with black magic marker and again in August with red spray paint on one of the columns."

## VIRUS RISK

TRUMP: "The number of ChinaVirus cases goes up, because of GREAT TESTING, while the number of deaths (mortality rate), goes way down." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: No, increased testing does not fully account for the rise in cases. People are also infecting each other more than before as social distancing rules recede and "community spread" picks up.

"One of the things is an increase in community spread, and that's something that I'm really quite concerned about," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, testified Tuesday.

As for Trump's point about mortality coming down, Fauci said that is not a relevant measure of what is happening in the moment with infections. "Deaths always lag considerably behind cases," he said. "It is conceivable you may see the deaths going up."

Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, testified that "several communities are seeing increased cases driven by multiple factors, including increased testing, outbreaks, and evidence of community transmission."

TRUMP on the pandemic: "It's fading away, it's going to fade away." — Fox News interview June 17.

THE FACTS: It's not fading and not about to.

Coronavirus infections per day in the U.S. surged to an all-time high of 40,000 at the end of the week, eclipsing the previous high of 36,400 on April 24 during one of the deadliest stretches in the crisis. Newly reported cases per day have risen on average about 60 percent over the past two weeks, according to an Associated Press analysis.

Earlier in the week, Fauci told Congress the U.S. is "still in the middle of the first wave" and the imperative is to "get this outbreak under control over the next couple of months." He said the New York City area, once an epicenter, has done notably well but "in other areas of the country we're now seeing a disturbing surge of infections."

The next few weeks "are going to be critical in our ability to address those surgings that we are seeing in Florida, in Texas, in Arizona and other states," Fauci said. "They're not the only ones that are having a difficulty."

Fauci added: "Certainly there will be coronavirus infections in the fall and winter because the virus is not going to disappear."

Said Redfield: "As we get to the fall, we're going to have influenza and COVID at the same time."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 82 of 86

## TESTING

TRUMP: "We have got the greatest testing program anywhere in the world." — remarks Tuesday.

TRUMP: "We've done too good a job." — interview Monday.

THE FACTS: The U.S. is nowhere near the level of testing needed to stem the virus, according to his own health experts.

Redfield testified that health officials are still working to significantly increase testing capacity, calling such expansion a "critical underpinning of our response."

The U.S. currently is conducting about 500,000 to 600,000 tests a day. Many public health experts say the U.S. should be testing nearly twice as many people daily to control the spread of the virus. Looking to the fall, some experts have called for 4 million or more tests daily, while a group assembled by Harvard University estimated that 20 million a day would be needed to keep the virus in check.

Redfield said the U.S. was aiming to boost testing to 3 million daily by "pooling" multiple people's samples, a technique that is still under review by the FDA. He stressed the need for expanded surveillance because some people who get infected may not show symptoms.

"We still have a ways to go," Redfield said.

The U.S. stumbled early in the pandemic response as the CDC struggled to develop its own test for the coronavirus in January, later discovering problems in its kits sent to state and county public health labs in early February.

It took the CDC more than two weeks to come up with a fix to the test kits, leading to delays in diagnoses through February, a critical month when the virus took root in the U.S.

---

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Matthew Perrone in Washington and Beatrice Dupuy in New York contributed to this report.

---

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

---

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## Once again, Congress unable to act during national trauma

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For a moment, Congress had a chance to act on a policing overhaul, mobilized by a national trauma and overwhelming public support. Those efforts have stalled now and seem unlikely to be revived in an election year.

It's latest example of how partisanship and polarization on Capitol Hill have hamstrung Congress' ability to meet the moment and respond meaningfully to public opinion.

Major changes in policing policy appear likely to join gun control and immigration as social issues where even with Americans' overwhelming support, their elected representatives are unable or unwilling to go along, especially when President Donald Trump is indifferent or opposed.

"In this moment, as it was with gun violence and immigration reform, we don't know where the president really is," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., who weeks ago was expressing skepticism weeks ago about a breakthrough. "If this were the first time we were in this situation, I'd be more hopeful," he said then.

The bipartisan outcry over the deaths of George Floyd and other Black Americans appeared to be a chance for Congress to reshape its reputation. Polls showed nearly all Americans in a favor of some measure of change to the criminal justice system, and both chambers moved quickly to draft legislation.

There were common elements in the House Democratic proposal and the Senate Republican bill, including a national database of use-of-force incidents by law enforcement and restrictions on police chokeholds.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 83 of 86

But efforts to bridge the divides bogged down in a predictable fight over process and exposed again how little trust there is between the Senate's leaders, Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

McConnell said Democrats refused to take him at his word that he was willing to negotiate over the final bill, and he pitched a supposedly fair and freewheeling floor debate. Schumer and other Democrats saw little that was genuine in McConnell's overtures, noting that during his tenure as GOP leader, the sharp-elbowed Kentucky Republican has permitted almost no open floor debate on legislation.

The swift rise and fall of prospects for the police bill showed how lawmakers are often driven more by the views of their parties' hard-liners than overall public opinion.

"The incentive structure is misaligned for compromise. That's the reality of it. Members are more likely to be rewarded electorally for representing their base primary voters than for reaching out to voters in the middle," said Michael Steel, who was a top aide to former House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "The giants of yesteryear are remembered as such because voters rewarded them for successfully legislating. And that just seems to be less and less the case."

Public support for some kind of policing overhaul after Floyd's death is overwhelming. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll shows 29% of Americans say the criminal justice system needs a complete overhaul, 40% say it needs major changes and 25% say it needs minor changes.

There are other high-profile examples where public support has been unable to overcome partisanship in Congress — most notably on gun control. An AP-NORC survey from March 2019 found 83% of Americans in favor of a federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers. Trump has also supported the idea.

But gun control legislation has gone nowhere in Washington.

The parties have also failed to make progress in overhauling immigration laws, despite broad public support. The most overwhelmingly popular measure — granting legal protections to young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children — has gotten caught in the fray, with hundreds of thousands of such "Dreamer" immigrants caught in legal limbo.

This gridlock has been exacerbated by Trump's reputation on Capitol Hill as an unreliable negotiating partner on major issues. On policing, he spoke generally about supporting legislation but exerted little political capital when the process hit a roadblock.

"To do really hard things you always need a president leaning in and engaged," said Brendan Buck, a top aide to former Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., during Trump's first two years in office. "And on the really hard things he has not shown a willingness to get engaged."

The police debate also suffered from the realities of the political calendar. With the Congressional Black Caucus, progressive activists and the civil rights community all calling the Republican bill too weak to be salvaged, some Democrats saw little incentive to give ground now when they might be able to get more if their party has sweeping successes in the November elections, now just over four months away.

"Why cut a bad deal now when you could potentially be in the driver's seat to write a real bill that effects real change in just a few months?" said Matt House, a former Schumer aide.

Some veteran lawmakers have found ways to navigate the fierce partisanship on Capitol Hill.

GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander, chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and the committee's top Democrat, Patty Murray of Washington, have shepherded a major education policy rewrite and legislation to combat opioids through a McConnell-led Senate. They did so by building sweeping consensus among lawmakers in both parties before committee or floor action.

Murray said in an interview that there was little attempt to do that kind of behind-the-scenes work on policing.

"This didn't even smell like an attempt to get something done," Murray said. "The feeling that you want to accomplish something, that you want to get something done ... is a very different feeling than we saw with policing reform."

---

AP Director of Public Opinion Research Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

## Milton Glaser, designer of 'I Love NY' logo, dies at 91

By The Associated Press Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Milton Glaser, the groundbreaking graphic designer who adorned Bob Dylan's silhouette with psychedelic hair and summed up the feelings for his native New York with "I (HEART) NY," died Friday, his 91st birthday.

The cause was a stroke and Glaser had also had renal failure, his wife, Shirley Glaser, told The New York Times.

In posters, logos, advertisements and book covers, Glaser's ideas captured the spirit of the 1960s with a few simple colors and shapes. He was the designer on the team that founded New York magazine with Clay Felker in the late '60s.

"Around our office, of course, he will forever be one of the small team of men and women that, in the late sixties, yanked New York out of the newspaper morgue and turned it into a great American magazine," the magazine's obituary of Glaser said.

Soon city magazines everywhere were sprouting and aping its simple, witty design style. When publishing titan Rupert Murdoch forced Felker and Glaser out of New York magazine in a hostile takeover in 1977, the staff walked out in solidarity with their departing editors, leaving an incomplete issue three days before it was due on newsstands.

"We have brought about — however small — a change in the visual habits of people," he told The Washington Post in 1969. "Television conditions people to demand imagination."

But he said he had to work to keep his style fresh.

"There's an enormous pressure to repeat past successes. That's a sure death." Referring to a beloved '60s design motif, he added that he couldn't do another rainbow "if my life depended on it."

His pictorial sense was so profound, and his designs so influential, that his works in later years were preserved by collectors and studied as fine art.

But he preferred not to use the term "art" at all.

"What I'm suggesting is we eliminate the term art and call everything work," Glaser said in an Associated Press interview in 2000, when the Philadelphia Museum of Art hosted an exhibit on his career. "When it's really extraordinary and moves it in a certain way, we call it great work. We call it good when it accomplishes a task, and we call it bad when it misses a target."

The bold "I (HEART) NY" logo — cleverly using typewriter-style letters as the typeface — was dreamed up as part of an ad campaign begun in 1977 to boost the state's image when crime and budget troubles dominated the headlines. Glaser did the design free of charge.

Nearly a quarter-century later, just days after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, he revised it, adding a dark scar to the red heart and "more than ever" to the message.

"I woke up Wednesday morning and said, 'God, I have to do something to respond to this,'" he told The New York Times. "When you have a heart attack, part of your heart dies. When you recover, part of your heart is gone, but the people in your life become much more important, and there is a greater awareness of the value of things."

Glaser actually had done design work for the restaurants at the destroyed World Trade Center complex.

His 1966 illustration of Dylan, his face a simple black silhouette but his hair sprouting in a riot of colors in curvilinear fashion, put in graphic form the 1960s philosophy that letting your hair fly free was a way to free your mind. (For him, though, it wasn't a drug-inspired image: He said he borrowed from Marcel Duchamp and Islamic art.)

The poster was inserted in Dylan's "Greatest Hits" album, so it made its way into the hands of millions of fans.

"It was a new use of the poster — a giveaway that was supposed to encourage people to buy the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 85 of 86

album," Glaser told The New York Times in 2001. "Then it took on a life of its own, showing up in films, magazines, whatever. It did not die, as such forms of ephemera usually do."

Among Glaser's other noteworthy projects were cover illustrations Signet paperback editions of Shakespeare; type designs such as Baby Teeth, first used on the Dylan poster, and Glaser Stencil; and a poster for the Mostly Mozart Festival featuring a colorful Mozart sneezing. His designs also inspired the playbill for Tony Kushner's "Angels in America"

Glaser was born in 1929 in the Bronx and studied at New York's Cooper Union art school and in Italy.

In 1954, he co-founded the innovative graphic design firm Push Pin Studios with Seymour Chwast and others. He stayed with it 20 years before founding his own firm.

The Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum awarded him a lifetime achievement award in 2004. In 2009, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts.

"I just like to do everything, and I was always interested in seeing how far I could go in stretching the boundaries," he said.

Polly Anderson, a former staffer of The Associated Press, was the principal writer of this obituary.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 28, the 180th day of 2020. There are 186 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 28, 1919, the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') was signed in France, ending the First World War.

On this date:

In 1838, Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot to death in Sarajevo (sah-ruh-YAY'-voh) by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip (gavh-REE'-loh PREEN'-seep) — an act which sparked World War I.

In 1939, Pan American Airways began regular trans-Atlantic air service with a flight that departed New York for Marseilles (mar-SAY'), France.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Alien Registration Act, also known as the Smith Act, which required adult foreigners residing in the U.S. to be registered and fingerprinted.

In 1964, civil rights activist Malcolm X declared, "We want equality by any means necessary" during the Founding Rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity in New York.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, which moved commemorations for Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Veterans Day to Monday, creating three-day holiday weekends beginning in 1971.

In 1975, screenwriter, producer and actor Rod Serling, 50, creator of "The Twilight Zone," died in Rochester, New York.

In 1978, the Supreme Court ordered the University of California-Davis Medical School to admit Allan Bakke (BAH'-kee), a white man who argued he'd been a victim of reverse racial discrimination.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton became the first chief executive in U.S. history to set up a personal legal defense fund and ask Americans to contribute to it.

In 2000, seven months after he was cast adrift in the Florida Straits, Elian Gonzalez was returned to his native Cuba.

In 2013, tens of thousands of supporters and opponents of President Mohammed Morsi rallied in Cairo,

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, June 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 351 ~ 86 of 86**

and both sides fought each other in Egypt's second-largest city of Alexandria, where two people — including an American — were killed and scores injured. The four plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot, just hours after a federal appeals court freed gay couples to obtain marriage licenses in the state for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

Ten years ago: Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the longest-serving senator in the nation's history, died in Falls Church, Virginia, at 92. The Senate Judiciary Committee opened its confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan. The Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that Americans had the right to own a gun for self-defense anywhere they lived. The FBI announced the arrests of 10 suspected deep-cover agents, including Anna Chapman, the chic 28-year-old daughter of a Russian diplomat. (All 10 were later returned to Russia in a swap.)

Five years ago: Authorities in upstate New York captured David Sweat, one of two convicted murderers who'd escaped from the Clinton Correctional Facility on June 6; Sweat was apprehended two days after his fellow escapee, Richard Matt, was shot and killed in a confrontation with law enforcement. After 18 straight successful launches, SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket broke apart minutes after soaring away from Cape Canaveral, Florida, while carrying supplies for the International Space Station. Comedian Jack Carter, 93, died in Beverly Hills, California.

One year ago: Avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields, who deliberately drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing a young woman and injuring dozens, apologized to his victims before being sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime charges. President Donald Trump joked with Russian President Vladimir Putin about interfering in U.S. elections as the two met on the sidelines of an international summit in Japan. The U.S. team advanced to meet England in the semifinals of the Women's World Cup soccer tournament with a 2-1 victory over France. Thousands converged on New York's Stonewall Inn for the 50th anniversary of a clash between patrons and police; the rebellion served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-movie director Mel Brooks is 94. Former Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., is 86. Comedian-impressionist John Byner is 83. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 82. Rock musician Dave Knights (Procul Harum) is 75. Actor Bruce Davison is 74. Actress Kathy Bates is 72. Actress Alice Krige is 66. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Elway is 60. Record company chief executive Tony Mercedes is 58. Jazz singer Tierney Sutton is 57. Actress Jessica Hecht is 55. Rock musician Saul Davies (James) is 55. Actress Mary Stuart Masterson is 54. Actor John Cusack is 54. Actor Gil Bellows is 53. Actress-singer Danielle Brisebois is 51. Jazz musician Jimmy Sommers is 51. Actress Tichina Arnold is 51. Actor Steve Burton is 50. Entrepreneur Elon Musk is 49. Actor Alessandro Nivola (nih-VOH'-luh) is 48. Actress Camille Guaty is 44. Rock musician Tim Nordwind (OK Go) is 44. Rock musician Mark Stoermer (The Killers) is 43. Country singer Big Vinny Hickerson (Trailer Choir) is 37. Country singer Kellie Pickler is 34.