

Groton Daily Independent

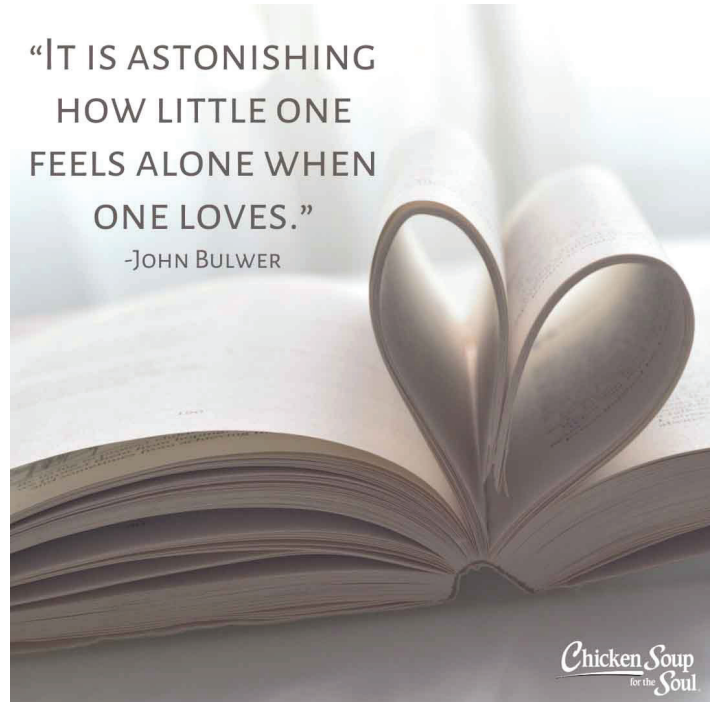
Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 1 of 70

- 1- Summer Fest Ad
- 2- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- Prairie Doc: As Plain as the Nose on your Face
- 4- Lazy Farmers 4-H June Meeting
- 5- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 6- July 5th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 9- Baseball Schedule
- 10- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 11- Weather Pages
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- 2020 Groton Events
- 16- News from the Associated Press

No report from Marie Miller today.

"IT IS ASTONISHING
HOW LITTLE ONE
FEELS ALONE WHEN
ONE LOVES."

-JOHN BULWER



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Congratulations Groton Area Graduates and Families from the Groton Lions & Leos Clubs... To help you celebrate this milestone, we invite you to Summer Fest 2020 in the Groton City Park, Sunday, July 12th. Summer Fest may help you with a fun place for your guests to spend some time between graduation events. See our flyer below or go to Summer Fest 2020 on Facebook.



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

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 2 of 70

As we progress through the Minnesota Vikings' roster, we move on to the defense. Since Mike Zimmer came to town, Vikings have had one of the best defenses in the NFL. 2013, the Vikings were dead last in the league, allowing points per game. Zimmer got to town in 2014 and immediately the team moved up to 11th (21.4ppg). Since then, team hasn't dropped out of the top ten - 5th in 2015 (18.9ppg), in 2016 (19.2ppg), 1st in 2017 (15.8ppg), 9th in 2018 (21.3ppg), last season (18.9ppg). This year will be the biggest challenge of Zimmer's career, however, as the team will be without a starting defensive end (Everson Griffen), a starting defensive tackle (Linval Joseph) and three starting cornerbacks (Xavier Rhodes, Trae Waynes, Mackenzie Alexander). To get an idea how Zimmer will overcome these losses, let's start by looking at the defensive line.



By Jordan Wright

the
I n
3 0
the
6th
5th

Defensive Ends

Danielle Hunter is the unquestioned leader of the defensive line group. Even though this will be his sixth season in the league, he is only 25 years old and is entering the prime of his career. There is no question he'll be starting in 2020, the only thing left to decide is if he'll stay on the left side or move to the right side to replace Griffen.

Ifeadi Odenigbo will get the first shot at the other defensive end starting spot. The third-year player has yet to start a game in his career, but he played in all 16 regular season games last year and racked up 7 sacks.

Anthony Zettel is a free agent the Vikings signed this offseason. Entering his sixth year in the NFL, Zettel has an outside chance of becoming a starter, although he'll likely be the team's primary backup.

D.J. Wonnum Jr. was taken in the fourth round of the 2020 NFL draft. In a normal year, I would give him 50/50 odds of grabbing a starting role. However, with the pandemic and no offseason with the team, it's almost a guarantee he'll be coming off the bench in 2020.

Kenny Willekes was a seventh-round pick, giving him even longer odds of cracking the starting lineup.

Eddie Yarbrough was signed off the Buffalo Bills' practice squad and will be competing for a backup role.

Stacy Keely was an undrafted rookie in 2019. He'll be fighting for the practice squad.

Defensive Tackle

The Vikings had a huge hole to fill at defensive tackle with the departure of Linval Joseph, so they went out and signed one of the biggest players in the league. Michael Pierce is entering his fifth year in the league, after spending his first four years in Baltimore.

Shamar Stephen came back to Minnesota after spending a year in Seattle and proceeded to start 15 games for the Vikings. He will be first in line for the starting spot next to Pierce.

Jaleel Johnson will be battling Stephen for the right to start in 2020. He has appeared in 37 games over his first three seasons, starting four.

Hercules Mata'afa will be in his third season with the Vikings. The undersized DT spent his first year on injured-reserve and played in six games in 2019. He's a wildcard, as he could land on the practice squad or he could earn a starting role.

Jalyn Holmes is also entering his third year in the NFL. He's appeared in 11 games over the past two seasons.

James Lynch was taken in the fourth round of the 2020 NFL draft. Many analysts proclaimed him to be a great value in the fourth round, leading many to believe he can push for playing time in his rookie year.

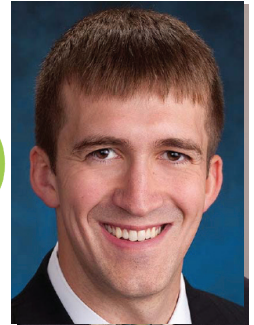
Armon Watts came out of nowhere last season, playing in seven games and even starting one. The sixth-round pick is another tough player to predict.

David Moa is an undrafted rookie out of Boise State. He'll likely end up on the practice squad.

Do you think the Vikings can overcome the loss of defensive linemen Griffen and Joseph? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) and let me know. Skol!

As Plain as the Nose on your Face

My friend broke my nose at an after-prom party in high school. It was nothing deliberate, such as fighting over a girl. Rather, we bumped heads while wearing those big round air-filled sumo wrestler suits. Besides hurting a lot, I remember thinking, "I've never been so aware of my nose before." I was overly cautious of anything that could come close to my nose.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

I think we sometimes take our noses for granted. Despite being right between our eyes, it's not our noses, but our heart, lungs, and other organs that get most of our interest. We brush our teeth daily. We get our eyes checked regularly. We adorn our ears and fingers with rings all the time, but the nose is generally ignored.

Sure, there are some famous noses and some people are more aware of the size of their nose than others, but mostly, outside an occasional bloody or runny nose, we don't pay it much attention.

During annual preventive physical exams, I usually look around for any suspicious spots that could be cancer. One of the most common areas is on the nose. The nose sticks out and is susceptible to getting more sunlight and thus can be prone to getting skin cancer. If you notice a new bump on your nose that won't go away after a month or two, you should get it checked out. Better yet, be proactive and put sunscreen on your nose as well as your ears, cheeks, neck, arms, and legs and anywhere else that will be in the sun. It's best to keep your nose out of it (the sun, that is) and wear a wide-brimmed hat.

Of course, we cannot talk about our noses without expressing appreciation for our precious sense of smell. Smell helps our brains taste all those amazing flavors and when food goes bad, we depend on our nose to warn us before we take a bite of something that we want to thumb our nose at.

I can't imagine going through summer without the smell of flowers, apple pie, a campfire and fireworks. With Covid-19 around, the smell of peanuts at a crowded baseball game or cotton candy at the fair will have to wait for now, I guess. If you lose your sense of smell talk to your doctor. It could be from allergies or a cold, but it could also be something more serious like the coronavirus.

As much as we'd like to see everyone's nose again, the right thing to do is as plain as the nose on our face. Let's not get our noses out of joint. Let's keep our noses to the grindstone, continue to be mindful of social distancing and wear masks that cover our mouths and our noses!

Andrew Ellsworth, MD is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

Lazy Farmers 4-H June Meeting

The June meeting was called to order on June 7th 2020 at 8 o'clock pm, via Zoom meeting. Tessa Erdmann called the meeting to order and lead the meeting until president Jamesen Stange arrived. Roll call was " where do you hide things?", 9 members answered. 4-H flag pledge was lead by Faith Flihs and the US flag pledge was lead by Jayla Jones. Secretary's report was read by Lane Krueger. Faith Flihs made a motion to approve the report and Lexi Osterman seconded the motion to approve. Treasurer report was read by Jayla Jones. Faith Flihs made a motion to approve the report and Alicia Davis seconded the motion to approve the report. Old business was Cemetery, talks and demonstrations, animals ownership due on June 1st, and DNA due by June 1st for South Dakota State Fair. New business was Fair Entry for South Dakota State Fair and Brown County Fair, read the newshound, next meeting July 6th at 8:00 pm over Zoom. Lexi Osterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jayla Jones seconded the motion. Lane Krueger gave a talk about FFA, Alicia Davis gave a talk about Hobbies and Collections, and Liza Krueger gave a talk about how to make a movie on your iPhone. Liza Krueger gave a demonstration on painting a wall with geometric shapes and Lane Krueger gave a demonstration on FFA.

Lazy Farmers Reporter: Lexi Osterman

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 5 of 70

Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	
Minnesota	36,303	36,716	37,210	37,624	No Update+	38,136	
Nebraska	19,177	19,310	19,452	19,660	19,827	19,929	
Montana	967	1016	1083	1,128	1167	1,212	
Colorado	32,715	33,029	33,352	33,612	33,866	34,065	
Wyoming	1184	1203	1233	1267	1289	1312	
North Dakota	3576	3615	3657	3722	3779	3816	
South Dakota	6764	6826	6893	6978	7028	7063	
United States	2,629,372	2,686,587	2,739,879	2,795,163	2,839,917	2,888,729	
US Deaths	127,322	128,062	128,740	129,437	129,676	129,947	
Minnesota	+442	+413	+494	+414		+512	
Nebraska	+135	+133	+142	+208	+167	+102	
Montana	+48	+49	+67	+45	+39	+45	
Colorado	+204	+314	+323	+260	+254	+199	
Wyoming	+33	+19	+30	+34	+22	+23	
North Dakota	+37	+39	+42	+65	+57	+37	
South Dakota	+48	+62	+67	+85	+50	+35	
United States	+46,475	+57,215	+53,292	+55,284	+44,754	+48,812	
US Deaths	+1149	+740	+678	+697	+239	+271	
	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30
Minnesota	33,469	33,763	34,123	34,616	35,033	35,549	35,861
Nebraska	18,092	18,221	18,346	18,524	18,775	18,899	19,042
Montana	743	766	803	829	852	863	919
Colorado	30,893	31,155	31,479	31,796	32,022	No Update	32,511
Wyoming	992	1016	1052	1079	1097	1121	1151
North Dakota	3320	3362	3393	3421	3458	3495	3539
South Dakota	6353	6419	6479	6535	6626	6681	6716
United States	2,347,102	2,381,369	2,422,312	2,467,837	2,510,323	2,548,143	2,682,897
US Deaths	121,225	121,979	124,415	125,039	125,539	125,799	129,544
Minnesota	+242	+417	+360	+493	+417	+516	+312
Nebraska	+135	+129	+125	+178	+251	+124	+143
Montana	+9	+23	+37	+26	+23	+11	+56
Colorado	+188	+262	+324	+317	+226		+353
Wyoming	+18	+24	+36	+27	+18	+24	+30
North Dakota	+7*	+42	+31	+28	+37	+37	+44
South Dakota	+27	+66	+60	+56	+91	+55	+35
United States	+34,800	+34,267	+40,943	+45,525	+42,486	+37,820	+34,754
US Deaths	+823	+754	+2,439	+624	+500	+260	+374

* 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.

+ The Minnesota Department of Health took July 4th off so there is no update available.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 6 of 70

July 5th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

I really don't like the numbers today. I would say they are actually too low and that blows the percentage way out of wack. There were only 173 tests performed yesterday (Hopefully, the Independence Day holiday had an impact on that). Of those, 35 were positive resulting in 20 percent of the tests performed being positive. Compare that to North Dakota where its percentage of positive test was 0.97 percent. So again, I have to emphasis to not allow one day of results to rule the roost. The other number that was extremely low was the recovered one - and that's what it was, just one, and that was in Brown County. As a result, our active numbers rose by 34 today to top over 900 at 903. Of all the numbers, the one that is most staggering is the active cases. Just on July 1, we were at 800. Five days later, we gained 103. On the other hand, the number of people hospitalized dropped from 65 on July 1st to 59 today - so that is good news. And the other good news is that no one died in the Dakotas from COVID-19.

As far as recommendations for a vacation in South Dakota, it's looking challenging to try and find a "safe" place. We lost Bon Homme and Stanley counties in the fully recovered list. That just leaves us with six counties that are fully recovered and six counties that are still virus free.

Brown County had three positive cases and Day had one. Brookings was the high point today with six cases.

Brown County:

Active Cases: +3 (18)
Recovered: +1 (327)
Total Positive: +4 (347)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (18)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +23 (3120)
Percent Recovered: 94.2% (-.8)

South Dakota:

Positive: +35 (7063 total)
Negative: +138 (76940 total)
Hospitalized: +2 (691 total). 59 currently hospitalized (5 more than yesterday)
Deaths: 0 (97 total)
Recovered: +1 (6063 total)
Active Cases: +34 (903)
Percent Recovered: 85.8 down .4

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Butte 493, Haakon -3 (233), Harding +1 (40), Jones 36, Perkins 90, Potter -3 (182), unassigned +41 (3191).

Don't be disappointed if your county is not listed - it means they do not have any new positive cases; but on the other hand, they also do not have any additional recovered cases.

Today (except for Brown County as that was the only recovered case), I'm only listing the changes in the positive tests.

Beadle: +1 positive
Bon Homme: +1 positive
Brookings: +6 positive

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 7 of 70

Brown: +4 positive, +1 recovered (326 of 343 recovered)
 Davison: +2 positive
 Day: +1 positive
 Douglas: +2 positive
 Hanson: +1 positive
 Meade: +1 positive
 Miner: +1 positive
 Minnehaha: +4 positive
 Oglala Lakota: +1 positive
 Pennington: +4 positive
 Roberts: +3 positive
 Stanley: +1 positive
 Yankton: +2 positive

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Bon Homme and Stanley): Grant 13-13, Hyde 3-3, Kingsbury 6-6, Sanborn 12-12, Sully 1-1, Ziebach 1-1.

The NDDoH & private labs report 3,816 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 37 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 3,816. NDDoH reports no new deaths. State & private labs have reported 201,303 total completed tests. 3,324 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	710	10%
Black, Non-Hispanic	978	14%
Hispanic	1106	16%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1074	15%
Other	731	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2464	35%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	7
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Faulk	1
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	58
Pennington	17
Todd	1
Union	1

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 8 of 70

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	34	33	289
Beadle	540	465	1468
Bennett	4	3	427
Bon Homme	12	11	602
Brookings	79	54	1773
Brown	347	327	3120
Brule	29	16	520
Buffalo	76	60	508
Butte	0	0	493
Campbell	1	0	64
Charles Mix	91	36	779
Clark	15	12	324
Clay	87	75	974
Codington	83	51	1991
Corson	19	15	143
Custer	10	5	553
Davison	46	34	1680
Day	18	13	418
Deuel	4	2	300
Dewey	8	1	921
Douglas	9	4	322
Edmunds	8	6	304
Fall River	12	7	730
Faulk	23	19	128
Grant	13	13	542
Gregory	4	1	245
Haakon	0	0	233
Hamlin	13	9	475
Hand	7	6	198
Hanson	10	6	139
Harding	0	0	40
Hughes	64	38	1211
Hutchinson	14	10	715

Hyde	3	3	98
Jackson	6	2	346
Jerauld	39	37	236
Jones	0	0	36
Kingsbury	6	6	419
Lake	22	18	681
Lawrence	19	18	1398
Lincoln	365	322	4596
Lyman	70	41	703
Marshall	5	4	308
McCook	13	7	496
McPherson	5	3	166
Meade	51	40	1334
Mellette	7	3	219
Miner	10	6	204
Minnehaha	3663	3385	20274
Moody	23	19	483
Oglala Lakota	95	54	2473
Pennington	560	409	7129
Perkins	0	0	90
Potter	0	0	182
Roberts	52	41	1111
Sanborn	12	12	174
Spink	12	9	905
Stanley	14	13	154
Sully	1	1	47
Todd	57	49	1326
Tripp	18	13	452
Turner	25	23	698
Union	133	115	1397
Walworth	15	6	421
Yankton	81	71	2417
Ziebach	1	1	147
Unassigned****	0	0	3191

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3413	53
Male	3650	44

CASES

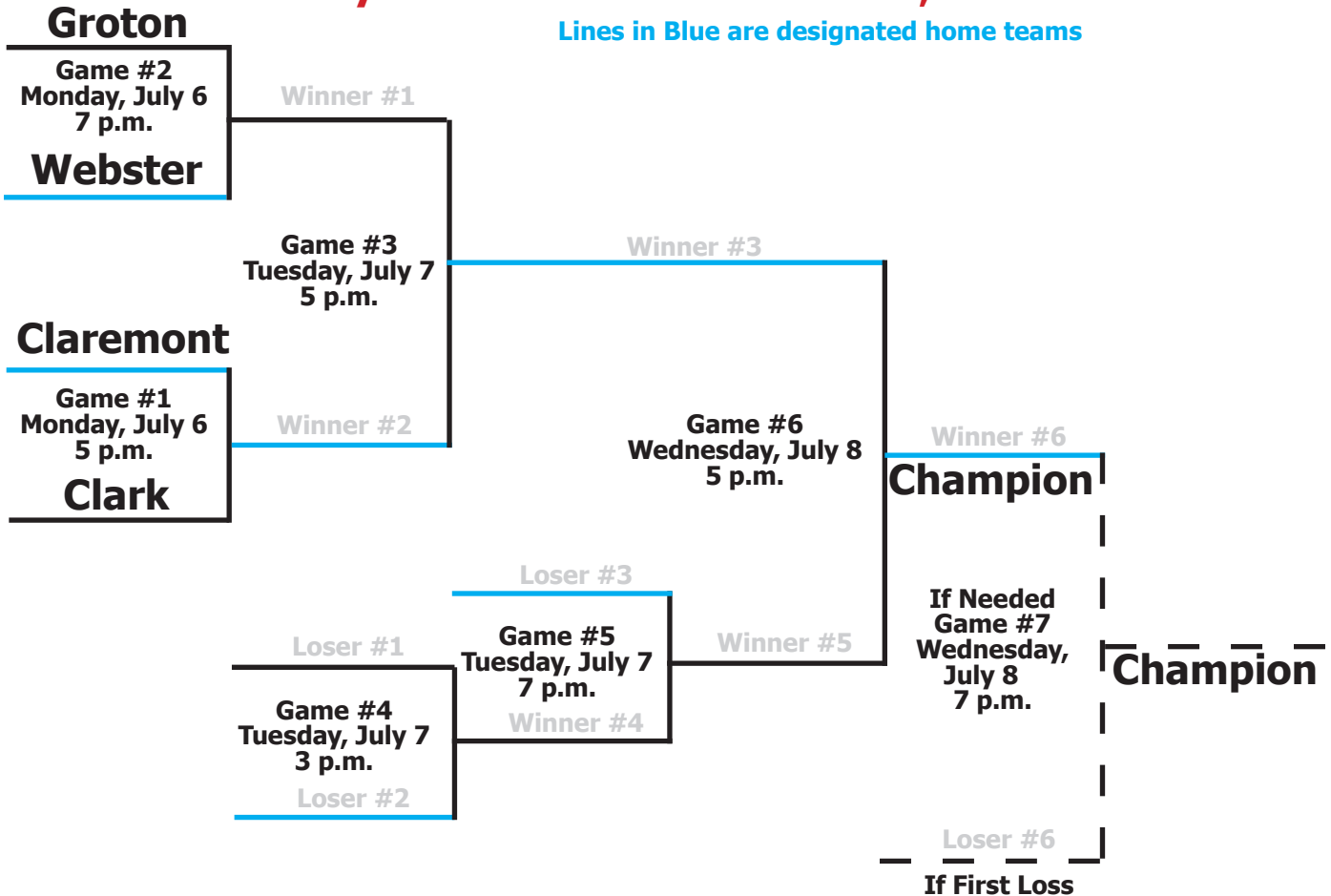
Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	743	0
20-29 years	1465	1
30-39 years	1494	3
40-49 years	1138	7
50-59 years	1107	12
60-69 years	656	17
70-79 years	253	13
80+ years	207	44

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 9 of 70

Region 6 U14 Jr. Teener Tournament July 6-7-8 at Locke-Karst Field, Groton

Lines in Blue are designated home teams



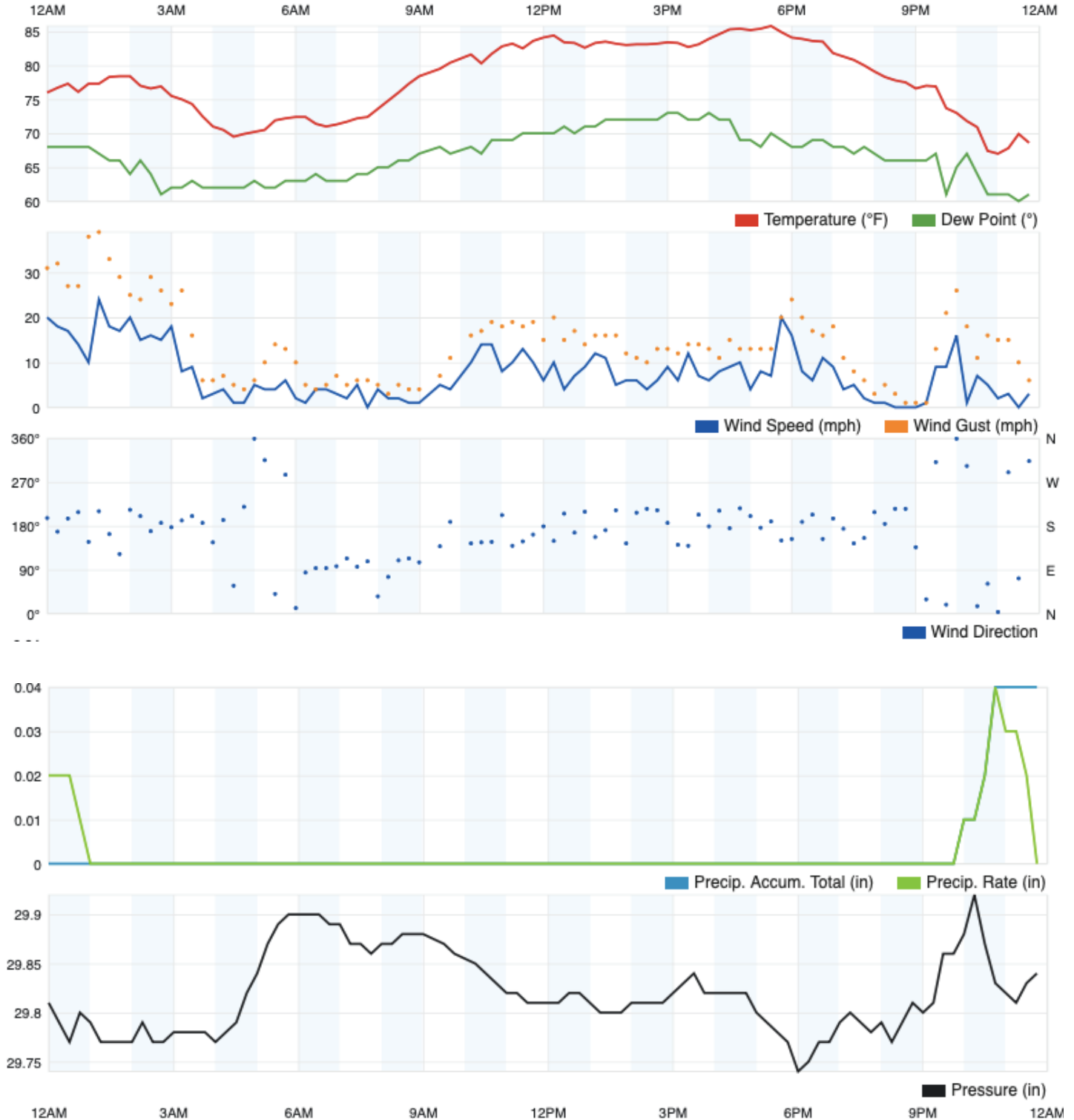
Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
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

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 10 of 70

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 11 of 70

Today



Chance
T-storms

High: 83 °F

Tonight



Chance
T-storms

Low: 66 °F

Tuesday



Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 88 °F

Tuesday
Night



Chance
T-storms




Low: 72 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 89 °F

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD  

Unsettled Weather Pattern

Today: Chance of storms this afternoon, mainly eastern South Dakota. Additional storms possible in north-central South Dakota late this afternoon. Severe storms will be possible.

Tonight: More showers and thunderstorms tonight. Severe storms will be possible.

Tuesday: Afternoon and evening thunderstorms possible.

The unsettled weather pattern continues into the workweek with additional thunderstorm chances today and Tuesday. Some storms may be strong to severe with heavy rain, large hail, and damaging winds the primary threats.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 12 of 70

Today in Weather History

July 6, 1963: A farmer died near Waubay, in Day County, when the barn was destroyed while he was inside. Winds of 110 mph were recorded at FAA in Watertown before the roof and wind instruments were blown away.

July 6, 1982: A severe thunderstorm produced a series of five microbursts over Sioux Falls. The microbursts caused extensive damage. Winds were estimated to have reached 125 mph, and the Airport recorded a peak gust of 82 mph. Damage, which was heaviest in the south-central and northeast sections of the city, included thousands of trees uprooted or damaged. Several semi-trailers were blown over, critically injuring one man and slightly injuring two others. Several other minor injuries occurred mainly from flying glass. Five cars were rolled over by the high winds, and several others damaged flying debris. Damage at the airport included a portion of a hangar roof blown off and three light aircraft flipped over.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1893: A violent tornado killed 71 persons on its forty-mile track across northwestern Iowa. Forty-nine persons were killed around Pomeroy, where eighty percent of the buildings were destroyed, with most leveled to the ground.

1928: A seven-inch hailstone weighing 1.5 pounds fell in Potter Nebraska. With a circumference of 17 inches, this appeared to be the largest hailstone in the world at that time.

1986: Thunderstorms during the mid-morning hours, and again during the evening, produced significant flash flooding at Leavenworth, Kansas. The official rainfall total was 10.37 inches, but unofficial totals exceeded twelve inches. At nearby Kansas City, the rainfall total of 5.08 inches was a daily record for July.

Groton Daily Independent

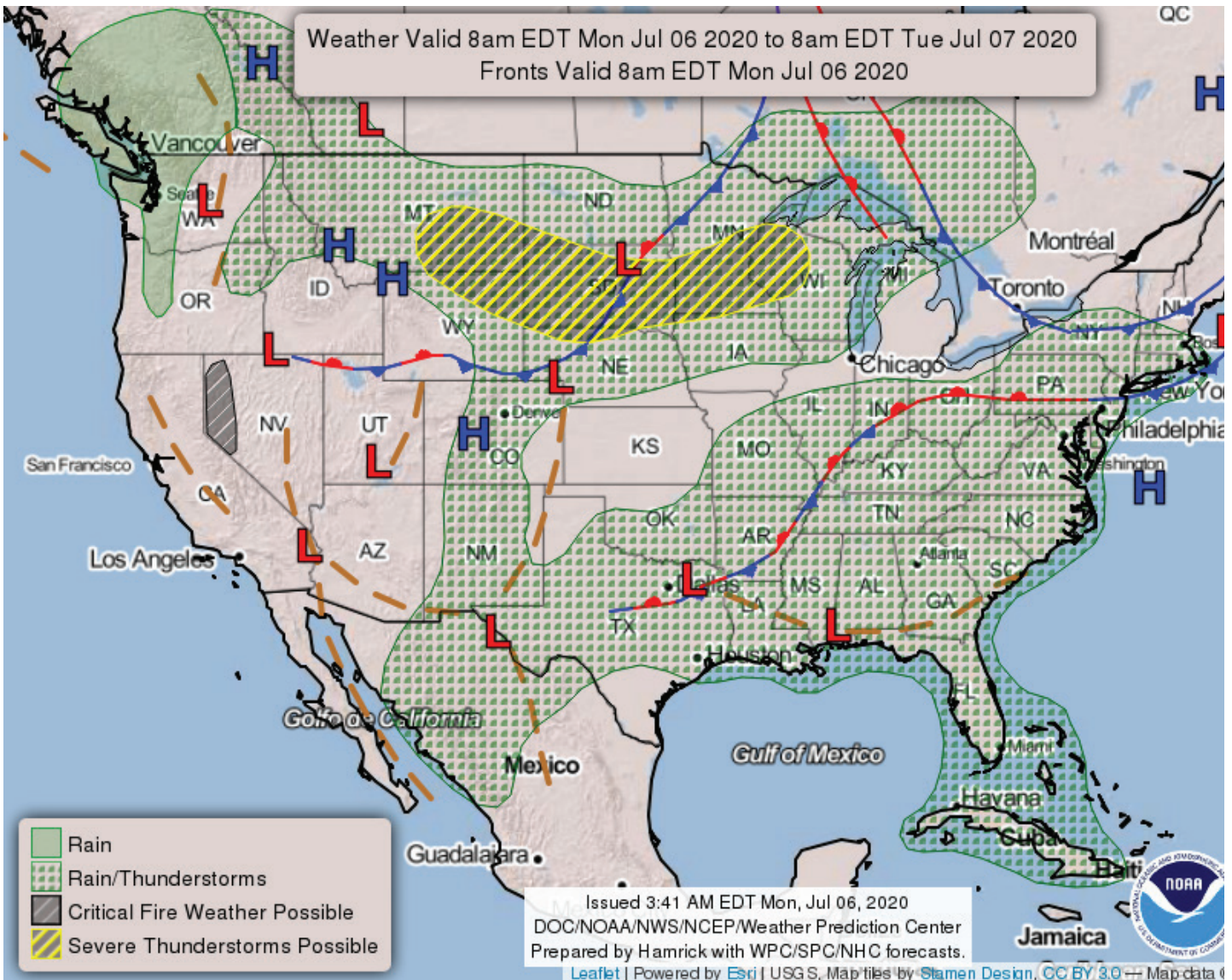
Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 13 of 70

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 5:25 PM
Low Temp: 67 °F at 10:48 PM
Wind: 45 mph at 1:05 AM
Precip: .04

Today's Info

Record High: 115° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 1942
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 58°F
Average Precip in July.: 0.53
Precip to date in July.: 0.20
Average Precip to date: 11.37
Precip Year to Date: 8.52
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:53 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 14 of 70



IN GOD'S IMAGE

Whenever pennies were made in ancient Rome, they were always stamped with the image of the emperor on them. It served as a constant reminder to those who used the coins that they were expected to honor him and obey his laws.

In the opening verses of His Word, God said, "Let us make man to be in our image, to be like us." Moses, quoting God, said that we have the image of our God on us. And, the fact that we have the image of God on us proves our unquestionable worth to God.

People frequently talk about self-worth. And, we often hear of individuals who have low self-esteem. Some people even describe themselves by saying, "I'm certainly not worth very much. I can't do anything right." This unfortunate attitude is a result of believing the opinions of others who influence us - perhaps parents, friends, or teachers. That is unfortunate because they would not want others to make negative statements about them.

However, it is never about our sense of self-worth, no matter who influenced us. It is about our God-worth. Whenever we are tempted to think that we have no significance or importance, we need to remind ourselves that we were created in the image of God. And, even though that image was lost when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the story does not end there. A few verses later, God begins to reveal His plan to make us a new sin-forgiven creation through the death of His Son on the cross where we can see our true worth - our God-worth - in Christ's work.

Prayer: We admit, Father, that we cannot understand how much You love us. We accept Your grace and ask that through Christ, Your Son, our Savior, we will see our worth to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Let us make man to be in our image, to be like us. Genesis 1:26-31

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 15 of 70

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
- **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
- **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
- **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
- **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
- 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

News from the Associated Press

Washington Pavilion opens new 'Grow It!' farm exhibit

By ABIGAIL DOLLINS Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A bright, red barn and puffy, white clouds welcomes people into the Washington Pavilion's newest exhibition, "Grow It!"

The addition to the Kirby Science Discovery Center was revealed June 25 and features 3,000 square feet of interactive agriculture experiences.

"The agriculture piece was very important for the South Dakota themed floor," Darrin Smith, Washington Pavilion President and CEO said. "It's this vision we had for what is South Dakota, where has South Dakota been and more importantly where is South Dakota going?"

Visitors of the third floor can expect experiences such as climbing into the cab of a tractor for a virtual ride, picking crops to examine at the Crop Lab or learning about how biofuel is used in the agriculture industry, the Argus Leader reported.

"All those little things are going to make this experience an interactive one and an immersive one," Jason Folkerts, Washington Pavilion Director of Museums said. "It's very important for us that when kids come in and play, it sparks their imagination and creativity, so they feel like they're in that environment learning about South Dakota agriculture."

The South Dakota-themed floor is sponsored by Avera and the exhibit area sponsor is South Dakota Corn. Businesses including Keloland Media Group, Pipestone, Poet, Raven Industries and SDSU sponsored individual exhibits.

Young South Dakota rider meeting personal goals in rodeo

By JASON GROSS Black Hills Pioneer

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Landry Haugen's debut at the recent South Dakota High School Rodeo Finals was one she might have envisioned.

The 15-year-old, who just finished her ninth-grade year at Sturgis Brown High School, secured state championships in girls' cutting and barrel racing.

Haugen has already participated in rodeo for 10 years and abides by a simple philosophy.

"I have expectations of myself to do the best that I possibly can," Haugen told the Black Hills Pioneer. As for state goals, she recalled, "My mindset was just go make my runs every time."

Haugen's state honors started with the girls' cutting championship. She collected 144 points in the short go-round for 10 standings points en route to 83 on the season.

She said she worked really hard at that event, but the title was unexpected.

"You never know what's going to happen, so I was obviously very happy," she recalled.

The horse Haugen used was one her aunt Kailee Webb owns. That family aspect made the title even more special.

Barrel racing's championship aftermath story was initially a bit different.

"I was honestly relieved initially. I only won it by a point," she said.

A time of 16.316 seconds gave her eight standings points en route to 69 for the season. New Underwood's Tessa Caspers finished with 68 points.

Haugen had very lofty goals in her first year of high school rodeo.

"I worked fairly hard at it," she said. "My goals were to win everything I possibly can, but that meaning, I just want it to play out."

Haugen earned the Girls' Rookie and Girls' All-Around title at the Wall and Sturgis regionals.

Her efforts at Wall included a total of seven event titles: two barrel racing, two goat tying, one girls' cutting, one pole bending, and one team roping with Jayme Peterson. The weekend consisted of two separate rodeos.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 17 of 70

Haugen's Sturgis weekend featured five event titles: two girls' cutting, one goat tying, one breakaway roping, and one pole bending.

"I was born into it, and I just happened to like it," Haugen said of her start in the sport. Her parents Tyler and Dee Haugen competed professionally.

Haugen entered small rodeos at age 5 and started competing about three years later.

Family time, long drives, and movie nights mark some of Haugen's first memories. They included her small pony tripping during one of her first pole bending runs, ending that effort early.

"I didn't start walking until I was 14 months old because I had nowhere to walk," she said. "We were driving to rodeos all the time."

Barrel racing, team roping, and pole bending are among Haugen's favorite rodeo events. She loves the work aspect and leans on a parent's advice.

"In the barrels, my mom always says you get to love your horses," Haugen said. "I might not love running around through barrels, but I love the animal I do it on."

Haugen learned lessons through high school rodeo that she likely would not have had otherwise.

"Sometimes, I take myself a little too seriously," Haugen said. "High school rodeo has taught me, 'Take a deep breath; go have fun.'"

Haugen most enjoys the relationships that rodeo creates. She said anyone can finish first on any given day.

"I want my friends to win second as bad as I want to win first," Haugen said. "The competition is still there, but it's a completely different aspect."

The biggest challenge can come from having to do this every day.

"You do it enough and enough, and you think you've reached that point where you're the best you can be," she said. "Sometimes you hit a roadblock."

Life lessons are taking hold for Haugen, who said she has learned many of them.

"Don't let one thing affect the rest of your day," she advised. "You can't control everything that happens inside the arena, but you can control how you react to it."

Guthrie, Oklahoma, will host the national finals July 17-23. That is part of a one-month trip to include the Little Britches national finals.

"It's just maintaining that high level of competence, staying sharp, that kind of thing," she said of her preparation. She cited the need to keep her horses in shape.

Her goals for the next three years will not change. Time will tell what results.

South Dakota reports 35 COVID-19 cases, no deaths

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota tallied 35 new confirmed infections of COVID-19 on Sunday, but no new deaths.

While the number of new cases reported daily has remained mostly constant over the last two weeks, the number of active cases reached above 900 for the first time since June 16, the Rapid City Journal reported.

So far, 97 people have died from COVID-19, according to the South Dakota Department of Health. A total of 7,063 people have been confirmed to have COVID-19, but nearly 86% of them have recovered. There are currently 59 people in the hospital with the virus.

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

Authorities say house fire likely set off by fireworks

HARRISBURG, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters in Harrisburg responded to a house fire set started by fireworks, authorities reported Sunday.

No one was hurt in the fire that damaged one home, the Argus Leader reported. Lincoln County Emergency Management coordinator Harold Timmerman said that the homeowners told fire investigators they

had doused discharged fireworks near their home with water earlier that night. But Timmerman said it appears one of the fireworks ignited and went off near the house.

Firefighters were called to the scene around 2 a.m. Sunday and fought the fire for several hours. County authorities also responded to a barn fire set off by a bottle rocket firework on Saturday night. No one was injured in that fire either.

Authorities presume man drowned in Missouri River

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man who was trying to save his son is presumed to have drowned in the Missouri River near Pierre, according to the Stanley County heriff.

The 37-year-old man jumped into the river on Friday afternoon to help his 8-year-old son who had fallen from a moving boat, KOTA-TV reported. The child was saved, but the man, who was not wearing a life jacket, was swept away by the river.

The sheriff's office is searching for the man, who is presumed to be dead. Authorities have not released his name.

Trump Cabinet members look to reassure battleground voters

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN, ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JOHN FLESHER Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue tromped through a strawberry festival in central Florida, detailing the government's new trade pact. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo talked about foreign policy at a roundtable in south Florida. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler toured parts of Michigan and Wisconsin, where he boasted of the Trump administration's efforts to clean up the Great Lakes.

And just this past week, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt was listed as a headliner along with White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, Donald Trump Jr. and his girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, a top fundraiser for the president, at an event in Rapid City, South Dakota, where tickets prices started at \$250, according to an independent watchdog group, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

With President Donald Trump confronted by skyrocketing joblessness and the coronavirus pandemic as he campaigns for reelection against Democrat Joe Biden, members of his Cabinet are busy making time in pivotal states. They are carrying a message to voters about what the Trump administration is doing for them. At the same time, there are questions about whether these agency heads are running afoul of a law meant to bar overt campaigning by federal officials on the taxpayer tab.

These are states in renewed focus after Trump's narrow 2016 victory. Recent polls in states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania show Biden leading. The lesson of four years ago is crucial, though. Nearly every poll in the three states showed Democrat Hillary Clinton ahead of Republican Trump, before Trump's base came together in the final weeks of the campaign.

Cabinet-level leaders have come to Florida alone more than 30 times this year. Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Arizona have also seen visits from agency and administration chiefs discussing federal funding and initiatives for local interests — and talking up Trump.

Trump is hoping for an energized base to buoy his prospects for a second term. His recent rhetoric seems to reflect that strategy, as he stokes divides over racial injustice and the coronavirus outbreak.

It can be hard to spot any local impact that a housing or a health secretary may have on a presidential race when they are in town. But there can be an effect, said Aubrey Jewett, a political science professor at the University of Central Florida, who has been studying presidential politics in the battleground state.

Cabinet secretaries usually "aren't generating the same kind of buzz. But it doesn't mean that what they do is not important both for policy and also politics for their president," Jewett said.

A Trump campaign spokesperson did not respond to questions about the Cabinet members' trips.

Biden campaign spokesperson Michael Gwin accused the Trump administration of focusing on "scoring political points, not delivering for the people they work for. With COVID-19 raging unchecked, more than 17 million Americans unemployed, and our country divided, it's shameful that Trump's Cabinet is campaigning

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 19 of 70

on the taxpayer's dime instead of doing their jobs."

A Washington bigwig showing up with assurances on federal policies most vital to Orlando, Florida, or Milwaukee is usually enough to earn an administration a wave of favorable comments, columns and tweets from local leaders.

In March, for example, when Perdue went to the strawberry festival in Plant City, in central Florida's Interstate 4 corridor, he talked about the new U.S. trade pact with Mexico and Canada, and spoke of the importance of the farming community.

Afterward, the president of the Florida Strawberry Growers Association, Kenneth Parker, said he was appreciative of "the administration's commitment ... to move forward in helping us in ways to compete."

When the EPA's Wheeler was in Michigan and Wisconsin last month, he described the administration as a friend of an initiative to clean up the Great Lakes. Never mind Trump's repeated attempts to kill money for the Obama-era program. GOP lawmakers persuaded Trump, while riding to a Michigan rally last year, to ease up on trying to starve the Great Lakes effort, which is popular across the region, and champion it instead.

"Let's just say we were happy to see him come around on that," said Laura Rubin of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, which lobbies for the initiative.

And so this spring and summer, Wheeler and the EPA boast of millions of dollars the agency has doled out for Great Lakes regional projects such as cleaning up toxic sites and curbing farm nutrient runoff that feeds harmful algae blooms.

Wheeler drew praise during the visits from Republican members of Congress and leaders of business groups. Notably absent were environmentalists, who accused Trump and Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist, of taking credit for actions by previous administrations and ignoring Trump's gutting of environmental and public health protections.

Cabinet secretaries hitting the road to talk up a president's record in an election year is a political norm. Donald K. Sherman, deputy director of the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington watchdog group, said it can be tough to track the officials closely enough to know whether they are sticking to the Hatch Act, which is meant to bar obvious campaigning by federal officials with taxpayer money.

But with the White House rejecting recommendations from the Office of Special Counsel to presidential adviser Conway for violating the act by using her office to talk down Democrats, Sherman said he is not sure Trump Cabinet members deserve the benefit of the doubt when it comes to staying within the law on their stops in select states.

"It's obvious that the administration is doing this for a political reason," Sherman said. "What's not obvious is if they're doing this within the contours of the law or outside of it."

Interior Department spokesmen did not respond to questions this past week about the Rapid City event, which took place the evening before Bernhardt helped open for Trump at a fireworks show at Mount Rushmore, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility said. It was unclear whether the Trump campaign or the federal government paid for Bernhardt's costs on the trip.

Asked about Hatch Act compliance overall before the latest event, department spokesman Nicholas Goodwin said, "No campaign related activities have taken place on any official travel."

Spokespeople for two Cabinet-level agencies, the Interior Department and the EPA, did not specifically answer questions about whether they were coordinating such trips and funding announcements with Trump's advisers or with his campaign staff. They said administration officials are doing their job by traveling and are not favoring any areas.

Wheeler's recent visits "have coincided with important agency announcements that positively impact their respective region," EPA spokesman James Hewitt said in an email.

Knickmeyer reported from Oklahoma City and Flesher from Traverse City, Mich. Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report from Washington.

Trump-connected lobbyists reap windfall in COVID-19 boom

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forty lobbyists with ties to President Donald Trump helped clients secure more than \$10 billion in federal coronavirus aid, among them five former administration officials whose work potentially violates Trump's own ethics policy, according to a report.

The lobbyists identified Monday by the watchdog group Public Citizen either worked in the Trump executive branch, served on his campaign, were part of the committee that raised money for inaugural festivities or were part of his presidential transition. Many are donors to Trump's campaigns, and some are prolific fundraisers for his reelection.

They include Brian Ballard, who served on the transition, is the finance chair for the Republican National Committee and has bundled more than \$1 million for Trump's fundraising committees. He was hired in March by Laundrylux, a supplier of commercial laundry machines, after the Department of Homeland Security issued guidance that didn't include laundromats as essential businesses that could stay open during the lockdown. A week later, the administration issued new guidance adding laundromats to the list.

Dave Urban, a Trump adviser and confidant, has collected more than \$2.3 million in lobbying fees this year. The firm he leads, American Continental Group, represents 15 companies, including Walgreens and the parent company of the Ultimate Fighting Championship, on coronavirus issues.

Trump pledged to clamp down on Washington's influence peddling with a "drain the swamp" campaign mantra. But during his administration, the lobbying industry has flourished, a trend that intensified once Congress passed more than \$3.6 trillion in coronavirus stimulus.

While the money is intended as a lifeline to a nation whose economy has been upended by the pandemic, it also jump-started a familiar lobbying bonanza.

"The swamp is alive and well in Washington, D.C.," said Mike Tanglis, one of the report's authors. "These (lobbying) booms that these people are having, you can really attribute them to their connection to Trump."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Shortly after Trump took office, he issued an executive order prohibiting former administration officials from lobbying the agency or office where they were formerly employed, for a period of five years. Another section of the order forbids lobbying the administration by former political appointees for the remainder of Trump's time in office.

Yet five lobbyists who are former administration officials have potentially done just that during the coronavirus lobbying boom:

— Courtney Lawrence was a former deputy assistant secretary for legislation in the Department of Health and Human Services in 2017 and 2018. She became a lobbyist for Cigna in 2018 and is listed as part of a team that has lobbied HHS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and at least two other agencies. Cigna did not respond to a request for comment.

— Shannon McGahn, the wife of former White House counsel Don McGahn, worked in 2017 and 2018 as a counselor to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. She then joined the National Association of Realtors as its top lobbyist and is listed on disclosures as part of a team that has lobbied both houses of Congress, plus six agencies, including the Treasury Department. The Realtors association did not respond to a request for comment.

— Jordan Stoick is the vice president of government relations at the National Association of Manufacturers. Stoick's biography on NAM's website indicates that he is "NAM's lead lobbyist in Washington," where he started working after serving as a senior adviser in the Treasury Department. Disclosures indicate that Stoick and his colleagues lobbied both houses of Congress plus at least five executive branch agencies, including Treasury.

"NAM carefully adheres to the legal and ethical rules regulating lobbying activity, including ensuring that its employees comply with all applicable prohibitions on contacting their former employers," Linda Kelly, the organization's general counsel, said in a statement.

— Geoffrey Burr joined the firm Brownstein Hyatt after serving as chief of staff to Transportation Secretary

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 21 of 70

Elaine Chao. The firm's lobbying disclosure for the first quarter of 2020 includes Burr on a list of lobbyists who contacted the White House and Congress on coronavirus-related matters on behalf of McDonald's.

— Emily Felder joined Brownstein Hyatt after leaving the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where she worked in the legislative office. Felder is listed on a disclosure from the first quarter of 2020 that shows she was part of a team that lobbied Congress and the White House.

A spokeswoman for the firm said both Felder and Burr abide by the Trump administration's ethics rules, which limit their lobbying to the House and the Senate.

"We are confident that our lobbyists are in compliance with all lobbying rules and applicable prohibitions and did not violate their Trump Administration pledge," spokeswoman Lara Day said in a statement.

Public Citizen's Craig Holman, who himself is a registered lobbyist, said the group intends to file ethics complaints with the White House. But he's not optimistic that they will lead to anything. Last year, he filed more than 30 complaints, all of which were either ignored or rejected.

"There does not appear to be anyone who is enforcing the executive order," Holman said. Trump's leadership is tested in time of fear, pandemic

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not long after noon on Feb. 6, President Donald Trump strode into the elegant East Room of the White House. The night before, his impeachment trial had ended with acquittal in the Republican-controlled Senate. It was time to gloat and settle scores.

"It was evil," Trump said of the attempt to end his presidency. "It was corrupt. It was dirty cops. It was leakers and liars."

It was also soon forgotten. On Feb. 6, in California, a 57-year-old woman was found dead in her home of natural causes then unknown. When her autopsy report came out, officials said her death had been the first from COVID-19 in the U.S.

The "invisible enemy" was on the move. And civil unrest over racial injustice would soon claw at the country. If that were not enough, there came a fresh round of angst over Russia, and America would ask whether Trump had the backs of troops targeted by bounty hunters in Afghanistan.

For Trump, the virus has been the most persistent of those problems. But he has not even tried to make a common health crisis the subject of national common ground and serious purpose. He has refused to wear a mask, setting off a culture war in the process as his followers took their cues from him.

Instead he spoke about preening with a mask when the cameras were off: "I had a mask on," he said this past week. "I sort of liked the way I looked ... like the Lone Ranger."

These are times of pain, mass death, fear and deprivation and the Trump show may be losing its allure, exposing the empty space once filled by the empathy and seriousness of presidents leading in a crisis.

Bluster isn't beating the virus; belligerence isn't calming a restive nation.

Angry and scornful at every turn, Trump used the totems of Mount Rushmore as his backdrop to play on the country's racial divisions, denouncing the "bad, evil people" behind protests for racial justice. He then made a steamy Fourth of July salute to America on the White House South Lawn his platform to assail "the radical left, the anarchists, the agitators, the looters," and, for good measure, people with "absolutely no clue."

"If he could change, he would," said Cal Jillson, a presidential scholar at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "It's not helping him now. It's just nonstop. It is habitual and incurable. He is who he is."

Over three and a half years Trump exhausted much of the country, while exhilarating some of it, with his constant brawls, invented realities, outlier ways and pop-up dramas of his own making. Into summer, one could wonder whether Trump had finally exhausted even himself.

Vainglorious always, Trump recently let down that front long enough to ponder the possibility that he could lose in November, not from the fabricated voting shenanigans he likes to warn about but simply because the country may not want him after all of this.

"Some people don't love me," he allowed.

"Maybe."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 22 of 70

VICTORY LAP

On Feb. 5 in the White House residence, Trump had watched all the Republican senators, save Mitt Romney of Utah, dutifully vote to acquit, ending the third impeachment trial in U.S. history.

His rambling, angry, 62-minute remarks the next day were meant to air out grievances and unofficially launch Trump's reelection bid — with the crucible of impeachment behind him, his so-so approval ratings unharmed, Republicans unified and the economy roaring.

The president's advisers also watched, relieved that the shadow of impeachment — which loomed first due to Russia's U.S. election interference, then his Ukraine machinations — was now behind them, letting them focus on the reelection battle ahead.

The plan was taking shape: a post-trial barnstorming tour, rallies meant to compete with the Democratic primaries and a chance for the president to dive into the reelection fight that had animated so many of his decisions thus far in his term, according to some of the 10 current and former administration and campaign officials who requested anonymity to speak candidly for this story.

A few days earlier, the first coronavirus death outside China had been recorded, in the Philippines. Known cases of the disease in the U.S. were under a dozen. The U.S. had declared a public health emergency and restricted travel to and from China. But this was not something Trump wanted to talk about in the glow of acquittal and fog of grievance, and events had not yet forced his hand.

The day was meant to mark a new chapter in Trump's presidency. It did. But not the one the president and his people expected.

THE LONGEST DAY

Trump's whirlwind trip to India was meant to be a celebration and in some ways was. He addressed a rally crowd of 100,000 and visited the Taj Mahal.

But in a quick talk to business people at the U.S. ambassador's residence, he felt compelled to address the virus, which had begun rattling the foundation for his argument for another four years in office: the economy.

Fighting jet lag and anxiety about a dive in the stock market, Trump was up much of the previous night on the phone with advisers, peppering them with questions about the potential economic fallout of the outbreak, according to the officials who spoke with The Associated Press.

"We lost almost 1,000 points yesterday on the market, and that's something," Trump told the two dozen or so business leaders. "Things like that happen where — and you have it in your business all the time — it had nothing to do with you; it's an outside source that nobody would have ever predicted."

The virus was "a problem that's going to go away," he said. "Our country is under control."

But the markets fell again the next day, creating their biggest two-day slide in four years. When Trump boarded Air Force One well after sundown in India, he was in a rage about the virus and his inability to slow the market tumble with reassuring words, according to the officials.

Trump barely slept on the plane as it hurtled back to Washington overnight, landing early in the morning Feb. 26 after more than a dozen hours in the air, creating the effect of one endless day. He then quickly tore into aides about Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, who had publicly predicted that the virus' impact would be severe.

It was already too late to pretend otherwise, not that Trump stopped trying. Warning signs had been missed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention failed in an early attempt at a coronavirus test. Trump had refused to turn up the pressure on China for fear of alienating Xi Jinping and scuttling a trade deal.

His conventional weapons failed him. The virus doesn't have a Twitter account.

"Trump was elected to burn down the system and entertain," said Eric Dezenhall, a crisis-management consultant who has followed Trump's business, TV and political careers.

"When things get terrible, people don't want a leader to burn down the system and entertain. We actually want a system. And you can't bully a disease, which has been his one maneuver for 74 years."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 23 of 70

The president returned to the West Wing to watch the market fall yet again and told aides that, later that day, he would take the podium and preside over the coronavirus task force briefing for the first time. This would become a daily ritual for Trump to try to force his belief that the virus was under control even as infections surged and the death toll mounted.

The virus was not the only exterior event shaping his week. Three days later, Joe Biden began his remarkable political comeback by trouncing Bernie Sanders in the South Carolina Democratic primary.

Trump's assumption that he would be running on the back of a strong economy against a socialist had been flipped on its head.

Coronavirus cases were about to soar.

THE BRIEFING

At an April 23 briefing that would live in infamy and make some comedy careers, Trump wasn't really listening. By this day about 50,000 Americans had died from COVID-19.

Trump has long had trouble focusing in meetings, hearing one piece of information and often going off on tangents, frequently a memory from his time in New York real estate.

Instead, he focused on the televised briefings and relished his jousting with reporters. He scheduled them for the late afternoon or early evening and would tell aides and confidants about the huge ratings they'd get, according to the officials.

The briefings would often stretch more than an hour, the vital health information from public health officials often drowned out by Trump's attacks on the media and insistence that the pandemic was under control when, in late April, it decidedly was not.

Trump's aides had already begun counseling the president to scale back or stop altogether his appearances at the briefings, nervously watching polls that found his scattershot performances were eroding support, particularly among older people, the group most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Trump refused. He told aides that his successes in politics were from dominating the stage and he was not going to give that up, particularly when his beloved campaign rallies were suspended and he couldn't run the race against Biden that he wanted.

But in the task force meeting that April 23, Trump only somewhat heard or understood a discussion about a study detailing the use of light and disinfectants to help kill the coronavirus on surfaces.

He then began a dialogue with William Bryan, acting head of science at the Department of Homeland Security, who said the "virus dies quickest in sunlight." Trump had a thought or two about that.

"So supposing we hit the body with a tremendous — whether it's ultraviolet or just a very powerful light — and I think you said that hasn't been checked because of the testing," Trump said in a helpful tone. "And then I said, supposing you brought the light inside the body, which you can do either through the skin or some other way, and I think you said you're going to test that, too."

"Then I see the disinfectant," he continued, even more perilously. "Knocks it out in a minute." Perhaps an "injection inside or almost a cleaning."

"It would be interesting to check that."

The uproar was instantaneous, the White House's attempted cleanup futile. Soon, the briefings would be canceled, the president surrendering his pulpit in the midst of sinking poll numbers and growing questions about his fitness for the job.

What might have worked for Trump before the pandemic stopped working as the death toll mounted and the president looked increasingly out of his element, Jillson said.

"People would watch Trump and see the instability ... the emergencies of his own making he would then claim to have taken care of, and be mildly entertained or at least not deeply worried," he said. But now? "A lot of that 'Am I still amused?' quickly gets to a 'No' answer.

"You're never going to come out a major natural disaster unscathed but you can mitigate the damage by an empathetic response that describes the path out of this. That's what Trump is literally incapable of doing."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 24 of 70

THE BUNKER

The chants could be heard inside the White House residence.

George Floyd, a Black man, had died under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer, igniting several nights of protests in the Twin Cities. Trump had said little about the death but was quick to denounce the violence that accompanied some of the demonstrations. "When the looting starts, the shooting starts," he tweeted, a threat flagged by the social media company and pilloried by Democrats because it reprised the language of a racist Miami police chief in the 1960s.

That Friday afternoon, May 29, as racial unrest now gripped the country and the virus death toll stood at more than 100,000, Trump spoke to reporters from the Rose Garden about China. He did not mention Floyd's name.

That night, the protests reached Trump's front yard.

Thousands of people descended on Lafayette Square, clashing with law enforcement and overwhelming the security perimeter hastily set up just a few hundred yards from the front fencing of the White House. The size and energy of the protest had caught the Secret Service off guard and Trump, along with members of his immediate family, were rushed to an underground bunker, usually used to protect presidents during possible terrorist attacks.

The president's tweeting continued, threatening a further crackdown against the protests, which he depicted as unlawful even though the vast majority were peaceful. When the bunker story became public, Trump reacted in a rage, screaming at aides to find the leaker, whom he deemed a traitor, and angry that it made him look weak, according to the officials. In the days that followed, Trump argued unconvincingly that he was only in the bunker to inspect it.

It was that anger — and a reflexive desire to align himself with law enforcement even when polling indicated widespread support for the protests — that led Trump to make one of the defining decisions of his term. He authorized the clearing of the square so he could walk across to the nearby "Church of the Presidents," which was damaged during the protests, and hold up a Bible.

The photo op went terribly wrong. Democrats likened it to the actions of an authoritarian while Republicans dissociated themselves from the spectacle. Aides cast blame on each other and even Trump privately admitted that he did not expect the fierce blowback.

Trump issued an executive order directing the government to establish a national database tracking police officers who lose their jobs for misconduct and freeing grant money to improve policing practices. With these steps, Trump "turned justified anger into meaningful action," said deputy White House press secretary Sarah Matthews.

She spoke of a "whole-of-America response to this pandemic" that let states decide when and how to reopen and ensures "the federal government will be there to support states if needed."

Trump's instinct, his ability to read a moment, had long been his strength as a politician. But from the bunker to the church to his increasingly lonely defense of Confederate monuments, he appeared out of step even with many Republicans on matters of race and in denial about the ravages of COVID-19.

"In a crisis, when you lack an operational solution, all you are left with is humanity," Dezenhall said. "This is just a situation where Trump cannot pivot because he views empathy as the equivalent of running down Pennsylvania Avenue in high heels and a tutu."

THE SACRED AND THE PROFANE

The empty seats made him angry.

The rally in Tulsa was supposed to signal his comeback, the first mega campaign event since the onset of the pandemic. It was to be a show of political defiance and force in deep-red Oklahoma, reassuring nervous Republicans.

It didn't turn out that way.

Despite campaign boasts of 1 million ticket requests, only slightly more than 6,000 people came to the indoor rally in a space holding 19,000. An overflow space went unused. Fears of the virus and protests

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 25 of 70

kept many away. But the scant crowd also raised questions about whether the Trump show was wearing thin even with his supporters in red hats.

It was June 20. The virus death toll was closing in on 120,000.

The woebegone rally was part of a bet his campaign was making and still is. It's predicated on the belief that few voters who don't like Trump can be persuaded to swing behind him now, so success lies in motivating those who are still with him.

The plan: First, drive up negative opinions about Biden, whom the Trump campaign believes is liked by perhaps 60% of the country, if tepidly.

Second, on the theory that a largely unwavering 40% of the country likes the president, Trump would serve up policies and rhetoric to generate enough enthusiasm to turn out that slice of the country to vote.

A key recent stop for that plan was Arizona, where Trump in 109-degree Yuma heat marked progress on the border wall central to his 2016 campaign.

Then a speech at a Phoenix megachurch, a nod to evangelicals and a group of avid young Republicans. And when Trump looked out at the rows, he saw none of the empty seats that bedeviled him in Tulsa just three days earlier.

Trump reveled in the crowd, speaking for more than 90 minutes and getting the in-person adulation he had been missing for months. He did not mention that his supporters in the church were placing themselves and others at risk by sitting close together and not wearing masks. Confirmed infections and hospitalizations in Arizona have hit daily records.

The president boarded Air Force One in an ebullient mood, telling aides to return to scheduling rallies — perhaps in smaller venues than Tulsa, perhaps outside — that could soon again get him in front of a crowd, the officials said.

No rallies have been held since Tulsa. One is coming up Saturday in New Hampshire, to be held outside at Portsmouth's airport. The virus has come roaring back in widespread parts of the country, pushing the death toll to about 130,000.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway acknowledged "it's a new world" because of the pandemic and many Trump supporters won't go to a traditional rally because it's "high risk, low reward for them," given that they already back the president.

Nonetheless, Trump tried to entice the masses to his July Fourth event, drawing only a scattered crowd to the National Mall for an air show and fireworks while he remained at the White House, hosting several hundred invited guests on the South Lawn.

There his angry words washed over the guests and ricocheted across the country.

The people in front of him were said to be medical and other front-line workers in the pandemic and law enforcement. But he was speaking really to his most fervent supporters around the country, tapping the divide over race and culture and making it about us versus them — the leftists, the looters and the clueless.

He cast himself as the defender of heritage and the "American way of life."

He wore no mask. But the Lone Ranger was riding again.

Associated Press writer Nancy Benac contributed to this report.

Africa starts opening airspace even as COVID-19 cases climb

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — As COVID-19 cases surged in many parts of the world, the island nation of the Seychelles was looking good: 70-plus straight days without a single infection. Then the planes arrived.

Two chartered Air Seychelles flights carrying more than 200 passengers also brought the coronavirus. A few tested positive. Then, between June 24 and 30, the country's confirmed cases shot from 11 to 81.

Now the Indian Ocean nation has delayed reopening for commercial flights for its lucrative tourism industry until Aug. 1, if all goes well.

African nations face a difficult choice as infections are rapidly rising: Welcome the international flights

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 26 of 70

that originally brought COVID-19 to the ill-prepared continent, or further hurt their economies and restrict a lifeline for badly needed humanitarian aid.

"This is a very important moment," the World Health Organization's Africa chief, Matshidiso Moeti, told reporters on Thursday, a day after Egypt reopened its airports for the first time in more than three months.

Other countries are preparing to follow. That's even as Africa had more than 463,000 confirmed virus cases as of Sunday and South Africa, its most developed economy, already struggles to care for COVID-19 patients.

But Africa's economies are sick, too, its officials say. The continent faces its first recession in a quarter-century and has lost nearly \$55 billion in the travel and tourism sectors in the past three months, the African Union says. Airlines alone have lost about \$8 billion and some might not survive.

Most of Africa's 54 countries closed their airspace to ward off the pandemic. That bought time to prepare, but it also hurt efforts to deliver life-saving medical supplies such as vaccines against other diseases. Shipments of personal protective gear and coronavirus testing materials, both in short supply, have been delayed.

"Many governments have decided travel needs to resume," the WHO's Africa chief said.

Africa has seen far fewer flights than other regions during the pandemic. Sometimes the entire West and Central African region saw just a single daily departure, according to International Civil Aviation Organization data.

While Asia, Europe and North America averaged several hundred departures a day from international airports, the African continent averaged a couple or few score daily.

Last week, the number of global flights jumped significantly. In the three-day period between June 30 and July 2, the daily number of departures increased from 3,960 to 6,508 as countries loosened restrictions, the data show.

African nations want to join the crowd. Senegal's president has said international flights will begin on July 15. The 15-member Economic Community of West African States is expected to reopen its airspace on July 21. Nigeria has said domestic flights resume on July 8 while Kenya and Rwanda plan to restart flights by Aug. 1.

Kenya Airways wants to resume international flights. South Africa and Somalia are open for domestic ones, and Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania and Zambia now have commercial flights. Tanzania opened its skies weeks ago, hoping for a tourism boost despite widespread concern it's hiding the extent of infections. It hasn't updated case numbers since April.

"It's good to be back!" Africa's largest carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, declared late last month. After scrambling to revamp its services for cargo and repatriation flights in the past few months, it now wants to play a leading role in "the new normal."

That means face masks are mandatory on board. But the WHO's Africa chief hopes to see all airlines do more.

"Physical distancing should be encouraged by leaving seats vacant," Moeti said. And she suggested that "when we see a flare-up that is unacceptable" in virus cases, the loosening of travel restrictions could be reversed.

The WHO recommends that countries look at whether the need to fight widespread virus transmission outweighs the economic benefits of opening borders. "It is also crucial to determine whether the health system can cope with a spike in imported cases," it says.

Regional leaders of the International Air Transport Association and Airports Council International are ready to go. In an open letter to African ministers last month, they welcomed global guidelines developed by the ICAO for the return to travel after the aviation industry's "biggest challenge of its history."

They also urged African countries to "identify every opportunity where travel restrictions could be lifted ... as soon as the epidemiological situation allows for it."

As the continent slowly takes flight, some European nations and others are limiting entry to people from countries they feel are doing a good job of containing the virus. African nations can seize the moment

and do more tourism at home, Amani Abou-Zeid, AU commissioner for infrastructure and energy, told reporters last week.

"This is an opportunity to encourage Africans to see Africa," she said.

Not always. The 70 recently infected people in the Seychelles, all crew members from West African countries meant to work on tuna fishing vessels, were isolated on boats in a special quarantine zone in the harbor in the capital.

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

Egypt arrests doctors, silences critics over virus outbreak

By The Associated Press undefined

A doctor arrested after writing an article about Egypt's fragile health system. A pharmacist picked up from work after posting online about a shortage of protective gear. An editor taken from his home after questioning official coronavirus figures. A pregnant doctor arrested after a colleague used her phone to report a suspected coronavirus case.

As Egyptian authorities fight the swelling coronavirus outbreak, security agencies have tried to stifle criticism about the handling of the health crisis by the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

At least 10 doctors and six journalists have been arrested since the virus first hit Egypt in February, according to rights groups. Other health workers say they have been warned by administrators to keep quiet or face punishment. One foreign correspondent has fled the country, fearing arrest, and another two have been summoned for reprimand over "professional violations."

Coronavirus infections are surging in the country of 100 million, threatening to overwhelm hospitals. As of Monday, the Health Ministry had recorded 76,253 infections, including 3,343 deaths — the highest death toll in the Arab world.

"Every day I go to work, I sacrifice myself and my whole family," said a front-line doctor in greater Cairo, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, like all doctors interviewed for this story. "Then they arrest my colleagues to send us a message. I see no light on the horizon."

In 2013, el-Sissi, as defense minister, led the military's removal of Egypt's first democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, after his brief rule sparked nationwide protests. In years since, el-Sissi has stamped out dissent, jailing Islamist political opponents, secular activists, journalists, even belly dancers.

Now the clampdown has extended to doctors who speak publicly about missing protective gear or question the official infection count.

A government press officer did not respond to requests for comment on the arrests of doctors and journalists but did send The Associated Press a document entitled "Realities defeating evil falsehoods," which details what it says are el-Sissi's successes in improving the economy and fighting terrorism.

El-Sissi has said the virus's trajectory was "reassuring" and described critics as "enemies of the state."

In recent weeks, authorities have marshaled medical supplies to prepare for more patients. The military has set up field hospitals and isolation centers with 4,000 beds and delivered masks to citizens, free of charge, at metro stops, squares and other public places.

The government has scaled up testing within all general hospitals and ordered private companies to churn out face masks and gear for front-line health workers. El-Sissi has ordered bonuses for medical workers equivalent to \$44-\$76 a month.

But health personnel are sounding the alarm on social media. Doctors say shortages have forced them to purchase surgical masks with their meager salaries. Families plead for intensive care beds. Dentists and pharmacists complain of being forced to handle suspected virus patients with little training.

The pandemic has pushed the Egyptian Medical Syndicate, a non-political group of professionals, into a striking new role as the country's sole advocate for doctors' rights.

Last month, the union released a letter to the public prosecutor demanding the release of five doctors

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 28 of 70

detained for expressing their views about the government virus response. More syndicate members have been arrested than reported, said one board member, but families have kept quiet.

Doctors' low morale sank further last week, following the arrest of board member and treasurer Mohamed el-Fawal, who demanded on Facebook that the prime minister apologize for comments that appeared to blame health workers for a spike in coronavirus deaths.

In a televised briefing, Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly criticized doctors' "negligence and mismanagement" for endangering citizens' health.

Incensed doctors hit back, saying they're untrained, underpaid and under-resourced, struggling to save patients at crowded clinics. So far at least 117 doctors, 39 nurses and 32 pharmacists have died from COVID-19, according to syndicate members' counts, and thousands have fallen ill.

After Madbouly's comments, the union scheduled a press conference in late June to raise awareness about doctors' sacrifices and discuss staff and supply shortages. But before anyone could speak out, security forces surrounded the syndicate and sent members home, according to former leader Mona Mina. A communications officer who promoted the event was detained and interrogated by security agents for hours, said a board member, before being released.

In its latest statement, the syndicate said the accelerating detentions have caused "widespread anxiety" among health workers.

"These doctors have no history of activism, they were arrested because they offered criticism of their very specific professional circumstances," said Amr Magdi of Human Rights Watch, which has confirmed the arrests of eight doctors and two pharmacists. Two have been released, he said, while the rest remain in pretrial detention.

Last week, Dr. Ahmed Safwat, an intensive care doctor in the Cairo suburb of Nasr City and syndicate board member, disappeared, according to social media posts from fellow doctors. Because he had experienced virus symptoms, many assumed he was self-isolating at home until his family filed a complaint to the syndicate, saying they hadn't heard from him in days. A lawyer representing several detained doctors confirmed that he had been taken by state security and accused of terrorism activities. His last Facebook post also criticized the prime minister's comments, adding, "The government says that everything is fine and under control, but you enter hospitals and find the opposite."

In another case, security agents burst into the home of Hany Bakr, an ophthalmologist north of Cairo, according to his lawyer and Amnesty International, over his Facebook post that criticized the government for sending coronavirus aid to Italy and China while its own doctors were desperately short of protective equipment. He remains in detention on terrorism charges, his lawyer added.

In March, public prosecutors accused 26-year-old Alaa Shaaban Hamida of "joining a terrorist group" and "misusing social media" after she allowed a colleague to call the Health Ministry's coronavirus hotline from her phone instead of first reporting the case to her managers, according to Amnesty International. Three months pregnant, she remains in pretrial detention.

Doctors in three different provinces say their administrators have threatened to report them to the National Security Agency if they expressed frustration over working conditions, walked off the job or called in sick.

In one of several voice recordings obtained by The Associated Press, a health deputy in the Nile Delta province of Beheira can be heard telling workers, "Even if a doctor is dying, he must keep working ... or be subjected to the most severe punishment."

In another message sent to staff, a hospital director in the same province describes those who fail to show up to work as "traitors," adding, "this will be treated as a national security matter ... and you know how that goes in Egypt."

A doctor in Cairo shared WhatsApp messages with the AP from his manager, alerting staff that their attendance sheets were monitored by state security. He said two of his colleagues received a pay cut when administrators discovered their complaints on social media. In two other hospitals in the capital, workers retracted letters of collective resignation over working conditions for fear of reprisals.

The suppression of criticism in Egypt is hardly unusual, analysts say, but the government has become

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 29 of 70

even more jittery as the pandemic tests its capabilities and slows the economy.

Although el-Sissi resisted a total lockdown because of the economic impact, schools, mosques, restaurants, malls and clubs were closed early in the outbreak and a nightly curfew imposed.

With borders shut and cruise ships docked, Egypt's critical tourism revenue has disappeared, among other sources of income. The country secured a badly needed \$5.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund in June, on top of a previous \$2.8 billion arrangement.

Last week, fearing further economic fallout, the government reopened much of society and welcomed hundreds of international tourists back to resorts, even as daily reported deaths exceeded 80. Restaurants and cafes are reopening with some continued restrictions, and masks have been mandated in public.

"Because of Egypt's constant attention to its image as a place open for tourism, open for business, open for investment, authorities appear particularly sensitive to divergent perspectives during the pandemic," said Amy Hawthorne, an Egypt expert at the Project on Middle East Democracy. "They want to project an image that everything is fine, they're in control."

Those who spread "false news" online about the coronavirus could face up to five years imprisonment and steep fines, Egypt's top prosecutor warned this spring.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights voiced concern in late March that 15 individuals had been arrested for broadcasting alleged false news about the pandemic. Four Egyptian journalists who reported on the outbreak remain in prison, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, which has labeled Egypt one of the world's worst jailers of journalists, along with Turkey and China.

Security forces have also taken aggressive action against foreign reporters. In March, Egypt expelled a reporter for The Guardian who cited a scientific report disputing the official virus count. Egypt's state information body has summoned The Washington Post and New York Times correspondents over their critical coverage during the pandemic.

Despite growing human rights abuses, the international community counts on Egypt as a bulwark against regional instability, said a Middle East-focused rights advocate at the U.N., speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss policy matters.

"There is no appetite," the advocate said, "to address what is going on in Egypt, let alone sanction them in any way for what the government is doing to their own people."

1 ad, 3 accents: How Democrats aim to win Latino votes

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Spanish-language ads for Joe Biden used the same slogan to contrast him with President Donald Trump — "los cuentos no pagan las cuentas," a play on words that roughly means "telling stories won't pay the bills."

But the narrator for the version that aired in Miami had a Cuban accent. In Orlando, Florida, the accent was Puerto Rican. And in Phoenix, it was Mexican.

Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, is hoping to capture Florida and other pivotal states by pushing Latino turnout rates higher than when Hillary Clinton was defeated in 2016. A key to doing that is a deeper understanding of Latino voters' backgrounds thanks to new advancements in "micro-targeting."

That means using data modeling of voter populations to produce ads and customize outreach aimed at individual ethnic groups within the larger Latino community.

"We now have the capacity to do sub-ethnicity modeling," Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic, said on a recent conference call with Biden advisers.

"If you meet someone named Perez, or Alex or Rodríguez in Florida — and you want them to vote for Joe Biden — one of the most important things you ought to learn about them is, are they Rodríguez, Alex or Perez de Venezuela, de la Republica Dominicana, de Cuba, de Puerto Rico?" he said. "De" means "from" in Spanish.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 30 of 70

Campaigns often target voters with individualized messaging. It's why presidential candidates stress one theme while trying to woo Midwest African Americans and another for white, suburban women in the South.

Still, top Democrats are betting big that subtle tweaks could pay big dividends. Latino turnout in 2016 fell to 47.6% of eligible voters in that group, down nearly 3 percentage points from 2008, according to U.S. Census surveys. Improving that, they argue, could potentially flip Florida and tighten the race in once steadfastly Republican Arizona.

Biden's campaign calls hyper-competitive locales like Florida "1% states," and Perez points to the Democratic Party now being able to micro-target by sub-ethnicity as why the party can be more successful with Latinos than in 2016.

It means "really understanding that we're not a monolith," said Julie Chávez Rodríguez, the granddaughter of civil rights leader Cesar Chávez and a senior adviser to Biden's campaign. "It's not about taking an English campaign ad and translating it into Spanish and considering that Latino outreach."

Biden has ground to make up after strong Latino support lifted rival Bernie Sanders to Democratic primary victories in California and Nevada. Rodríguez said Biden has since hired more Hispanics throughout every level of his campaign, while ensuring they're from different backgrounds. That allows for reaching voters using different cultural nuances and forms of Spanish, which can vary greatly by country.

It may yet be a tall order. Trump has used his sizable campaign cash advantage over Biden to bolster his reelection campaign's Latino outreach for more than a year. The Republican Party, meanwhile, has also sought to tailor different messages to voters with roots throughout Latin America. A natural fit is older Cuban Americans, who tend to be more conservative and fervently anti-communist.

Similar views can be found among some Venezuelans in the U.S. who ardently oppose that country's president, Nicolás Maduro. That was part of the reason why Trump, who recently faced backlash after suggesting he might meet with Maduro, quickly backtracked.

Bertica Cabrera Morris, a Latinos For Trump advisory board member, said Democrats' relying too heavily on sub-ethnicity modeling could seem patronizing.

"What they're doing is micro-targeting instead of realizing we're just like the rest of the population," Cabrera Morris said. "How dare you suggest my problems are different from yours?"

Andrea Mercado, executive director of the voter mobilization organization New Florida Majority, said that when it comes to campaigns better understanding Latinos, "any advance is welcome" but that simply offering ads modified for different audiences isn't enough.

"We're looking for the necessary investments to persuade and mobilize Latinos at all levels of elected office," Mercado said.

Still, individualized messaging may prove especially vital in Florida, which has a deeply diverse Latino population encompassing people with roots in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, as well as Venezuela and other South American countries, and Nicaragua and throughout Central America. It has more than 3 million eligible Latino voters, about 20% of total eligible voters statewide.

Democratic consultant Colin Rogero recalls once producing two versions of a Miami political ad featuring a grandmother talking kitchen table issues that were identical except what she cooked. For Cuban neighborhoods it was black beans and rice. For Puerto Rican areas it was red beans and rice.

"You're not going to deliver a tortilla ad to Cubans in South Florida," Rogero said. "They'll go, 'What the hell is this?'"

The Florida Democratic Party has completed a model of unregistered Puerto Ricans who have moved to the state in recent years and whose numbers swelled following Hurricane Maria's devastation in 2017, said executive director Juan Peñalosa. The party used that to send out a mailer featuring a photo of Trump jokingly tossing rolls of paper towels to Puerto Ricans at an aid center after the storm.

Peñalosa said party staffers and volunteers have created customized talking points to reach different Latino communities, such as Biden opposing Maduro. Those can be used while conducting phone banks, which, along with texting and digital efforts, have become more vital as the coronavirus outbreak has virtually suspended in-person campaigning.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 31 of 70

In places like Texas and California, Latino populations are mostly Mexican American. Still, targeted messaging can be used to better connect with pockets of Latinos in states that aren't traditionally known for having many of them: Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in Pennsylvania, as well as Latinos of many backgrounds in Milwaukee's suburbs.

Lorella Praeli, Clinton's 2016 director of Latino outreach, said Latinos were long viewed as natural Democratic-leaning voters who simply needed to be mobilized. That often meant waiting until too late before the election to launch simple "get out the vote" initiatives, rather than organizing long-term, more expensive efforts to ensure voters have personal stakes in voting.

"It is absolutely an improvement, and it is part of an evolution of really working to get it right," Praeli, now president Community Change Action, said of sub-ethnicity modeling. "What you do with the data is how you get it right."

Spaghetti Western movie composer Ennio Morricone dead at 91

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Oscar-winning Italian composer Ennio Morricone, who created the coyote-howl theme for the iconic Spaghetti Western "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and often haunting soundtracks for such classic Hollywood gangster movies as "The Untouchables" and the epic "Once Upon A Time In America," died on Monday. He was 91.

Morricone's longtime lawyer and friend, Giorgio Assumma, said the Maestro, as he was known, died in a Rome hospital of complications following a recent fall in which he broke a leg.

During a career that spanned decades and earned him an Oscar for lifetime achievement in 2007, Morricone collaborated with some of Hollywood's and Italy's top directors, including on "The Untouchables" by Brian de Palma, "The Hateful Eight" by Quentin Tarantino and "The Battle of Algiers" by Gillo Pontecorvo.

The Tarantino film would win him the Oscar for best original score in 2016. In accepting that award, Morricone told the audience at the ceremony: "There is no great music without a great film that inspires it."

In total, he produced more than 400 original scores for feature films.

His iconic so-called Spaghetti Western movies saw him work closely with the late Italian film director Sergio Leone.

Morricone was credited with nothing less than reinventing music for Western movies through his partnership with Sergio Leone, a former classmate. Their partnership included the "Dollars" trilogy starring Clint Eastwood as a quick-shooting, lonesome gunman: "A Fistful of Dollars" in 1964, "For a Few Dollars More" in 1965 and "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" a year later.

Morricone was celebrated for crafting just a few notes, like those played on a harmonica in Leone's 1984 movie "Once Upon A Time in America," which would instantly become the film's motif.

The movie is a saga of Jewish gangsters in New York that explores themes of friendship, lost love and the passing of time, starring Robert De Niro and James Wood. It is considered by some to be Leone's masterpiece, thanks in part to Morricone's evocative score, including a lush section played on string instruments.

"Inspiration does not exist," Morricone said in a 2004 interview with The Associated Press. "What exists is an idea, a minimal idea that the composer develops at the desk, and that small idea becomes something important."

In a later interview, with Italian state TV, Morricone cited "study, discipline and curiosity" as the keys to his creative genius. "Writing music, like all creative arts, comes from a long path" along life's experiences, he said.

In his late 80s, Morricone provided the score for "The Hateful Eight," Tarantino's 2015 70-mm epic and the first time in decades that he had composed new music for a Western. It was also the first time Tarantino had used an original score.

In accepting Morricone's Golden Globe for the music in his place, Tarantino called him his favorite composer.

"When I say 'favorite composer,' I don't mean movie composer. ... I'm talking about Mozart, I'm talking

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 32 of 70

about Beethoven, I'm talking about Schubert," Tarantino said.

Italy's head of state, President Sergio Mattarella, in a condolence message to the composer's family, wrote: "Both a refined and popular musician, he left a deep footprint on the musical history of the second half of the 1900s."

Morricone's sound tracks, Mattarella said, "contributed greatly to spreading and reinforcing the prestige of Italy in the world."

Morricone's style was sparse, made of memorable tunes and unusual instruments and arrangements, and often stirred deep emotions. His music punctuated the long silences typical of the Spaghetti Westerns, with the characters locked in close-ups, staring at each other and waiting for their next moves. The coyote howl, harmonicas and eerie whistling of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" became Morricone's trademark and one of the most easily recognizable soundtracks in cinema.

Minutes before handing Morricone the Oscar for lifetime achievement in 2007, Eastwood recalled hearing for the first time the score of "A Fistful of Dollars" and thinking: "What actor wouldn't want to ride into town with that kind of music playing behind him?"

It was a night to remember for Morricone, who had been nominated for Oscars five times ("The Hateful Eight" was his sixth) but until then had never won.

Born in Rome on Nov. 10, 1928, Morricone was the oldest of the five children. His father was a trumpet player.

After studying trumpet and composition at the Conservatory of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in the Italian capital, he started working as a trumpeter and then as an arranger for record companies.

"I started working on very easy kinds of music pieces for the radio, for television and then for the theater, and then little by little I started to compose the film scores," he told the AP in 2016.

In 1961 he wrote his first score for a movie, a bittersweet comedy set in the final moments of Fascism called "Il Federale" (known in English as "The Fascist"). That decade also saw Morricone cooperate with Pontecorvo, first on "The Battle of Algiers," the black-and-white classic depicting the Algerian uprising against the French; and later on "Queimada," a tale of colonialism starring Marlon Brando.

Morricone received his first Oscar nomination for original score with "Days Of Heaven," a 1978 movie by U.S. director Terence Malick. Beside "The Hateful Eight," the others were for "The Mission" (1986), "The Untouchables" (1987), "Bugsy" (1991) and "Malena" (2000).

Shortly before his lifetime Oscar, Morricone joked that he would have been happy without the coveted statuette, saying "I would have remained in the company of illustrious non-winners."

But he also made no secret that he thought "The Mission," with its memorably sweet theme of "Gabriel's Oboe," deserved the Academy Award. That year, he lost to Herbie Hancock's "Round Midnight."

Another renowned maestro, Riccardo Muti, cited his "friendship and admiration" for Morricone. Muti on Monday recalled that when he directed the composer's piece "Voci dal Silenzio" (Voices from the Silence) the work elicited "true emotion" from the audience, both in Chicago, where Muti directs the symphony orchestra, as well as during a performance in Ravenna, Italy.

Muti called Morricone an "extraordinary" composer both for films and in classical music.

Asked by Italian state TV a few years ago if there was one director he would have liked to have worked with but didn't, Morricone said Stanley Kubrick had asked him to work on "Clockwork Orange." But that collaboration didn't happen because of a commitment to Leone, Morricone recalled.

Morricone is survived by his wife Maria Travia, whom he cited when accepting his 2016 Oscar. Married in 1956, the couple had four children, Marco, Alessandra, Andrea and Giovanni.

Biographical material for this report was contributed by former AP correspondent Alessandra Rizzo.

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 33 of 70

1. PANDEMIC BRINGS NO CHANGE TO PRESIDENT'S STYLE In times of pain, mass death, fear and deprivation, the Trump show may be losing its allure, exposing the empty space once filled by the empathy and seriousness of presidents leading in a crisis. Bluster isn't beating the virus; belligerence isn't calming a restive nation.

2. DOCTORS, JOURNALISTS SCAPEGOATED IN EGYPT As authorities fight the swelling coronavirus outbreak, security agencies have tried to stifle criticism about the handling of the health crisis by the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

3. MAESTRO OF CINEMATIC SOUNDS DIES Oscar-winning Italian composer Ennio Morricone, who created the soundtrack for the iconic Spaghetti Western "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and hundreds of other films like "The Untouchables" and "Once Upon A Time In America," has died. He was 91.

4. NBA STAR READY FOR RETURN After marching in Portland for Black Lives Matter and releasing powerful rap "Blacklist" under his music persona, Dame D.O.L.L.A, Damian Lillard, welcomes the chance to resume playing after a difficult few months.

5. BLACK ABOLITIONIST'S MONUMENT VANDALIZED A statue of Frederick Douglass was ripped from its base in Rochester, N.Y., and found at the brink of the Genesee River gorge about 50 feet (15 meters) from its pedestal.

Czech volunteers develop functioning lung ventilator in days

By KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Tomas Kapler knew nothing about ventilators — he's an online business consultant, not an engineer or a medical technician. But when he saw that shortages of the vital machines had imperiled critically ill COVID-19 patients in northern Italy, he was moved to action.

"It was a disturbing feeling for me that because of a lack of equipment the doctors had to decide whether a person gets a chance to live," Kapler said. "That seemed so horrific to me that it was an impulse to do something."

And so he did. "I just said to myself: 'Can we simply make the ventilators?'" he said.

Working around the clock, he brought together a team of 30 Czechs to develop a fully functional ventilator — Corovent. And they did it in a matter of days.

Kapler is a member of an informal group of volunteers formed by IT companies and experts who offered to help the state fight the pandemic. The virus struck here slightly later than in western Europe but the number of infected was rising and time was running out.

"It seemed that on the turn of March and April, we might be in the same situation as Italy," Kapler said.

Ventilators had become a precious commodity. Their price was skyrocketing and so was demand that the traditional makers were unable to immediately meet.

Components for the ventilators were also in critically short supply. So Kapler said he set out to "make a ventilator from the parts that are used in common machines."

A crowd-funding campaign ensured the necessary finances in just hours.

Kapler approached Karel Roubik, professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Czech Technical University for help. He, in turn, assembled colleagues through Skype, while his post-graduate student tested the new design in their lab in Kladno, west of Prague.

They had a working prototype in five days, something that would normally take a year.

Roubik said their simple design makes the machine reliable, inexpensive, and easy to operate and mass produce.

A group of volunteer pilots flew their planes to deliver anything needed. And then MICO, an energy and chemical company based in Trebic, 200 kilometers (125 miles) from Kladno, offered to do the manufacturing.

Flights between the two places helped fine-tune the production line in a few weeks.

"I didn't do anything more than those people who were making the face masks," said MICO's chief executive, Jiri Denner. "They did the maximum they could. And I did the maximum I could."

With the certification for emergency use in the European Union approved, the ventilator was ready in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 34 of 70

April — but it was not needed in the Czech Republic, which had managed to contain the outbreak.

MICO has submitted a request for approval for emergency use in the United States, Brazil, Russia and other countries. Meanwhile, they've applied for EU certification for common hospital use.

"Originally, we thought it would be just an emergency ventilator for the Czech Republic," Kapler said. "But it later turned out that the ventilators will be needed in the entire world."

Kapler looks back at the effort with satisfaction.

"I had to quit my job and I have been without pay for several months," he said. "But otherwise, it was mostly positive for me. I've met many fantastic people who are willing to help."

Or to quote the slogan printed on the ventilator's box: "Powered by Czech heart."

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

Frederick Douglass statue vandalized in Rochester park

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — A statue of abolitionist Frederick Douglass was ripped from its base in Rochester on the anniversary of one of his most famous speeches, delivered in that city in 1852.

Police said the statue of Douglass was taken on Sunday from Maplewood Park, a site along the Underground Railroad where Douglass and Harriet Tubman helped shuttle slaves to freedom.

The statue was found at the brink of the Genesee River gorge about 50 feet (15 meters) from its pedestal, police said. There was damage to the base and a finger.

In Rochester on July 5, 1852, Douglass gave the speech "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July," in which he called the celebration of liberty a sham in a nation that enslaves and oppresses its Black citizens.

To a slave, Douglass said, Independence Day is "a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim."

Carvin Eison, a leader of the project that brought the Douglass statue to the park, told the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle another statue will take its place because the damage is too significant.

"Is this some type of retaliation because of the national fever over confederate monuments right now? Very disappointing, it's beyond disappointing," Eison told WROC.

Australia to shut state border as Melbourne infections surge

By ANDY BROWNBILL and ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian authorities were preparing to close the border between the country's two largest states, as the country's second-largest city, Melbourne, recorded two deaths and its highest-ever daily increase in infections on Monday.

The border between the states of New South Wales — home to Sydney — and Victoria — home to Melbourne — is due to be shut late Tuesday.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian was a critic of states that closed their borders to her state when Sydney had Australia's largest number of coronavirus cases. But she said she changed her stance because the situation in Melbourne was unprecedented and indicated the pandemic was in a new phase.

The overwhelming majority of new infections detected in Melbourne in recent weeks were from community transmission. Everywhere else in Australia, the vast majority of people who tested positive for the virus were infected overseas or had been infected by a returned traveler, Berejiklian said.

"What is occurring in Victoria has not yet occurred anywhere else in Australia," she said Monday. "It's a new part of the pandemic and, as such, it requires a new type of response."

The Victorian government locked down 36 of the most virus-prone Melbourne suburbs last week and at the weekend added another four suburbs because of the disease spread.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said of the 127 new cases recorded overnight, 53 were among 3,000

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 35 of 70

people who have been confined by police to their apartments in nine public housing blocks since Saturday. Australia's Acting Chief Medical Officer Paulk Kelly has described the high-rises as "vertical cruise ships" because of the high risk of virus spread.

Police allege a 32-year-old man bit a police officer on Monday as he attempted to leave a high-rise in the suburb of Flemington. He would be charged with assault, resisting police and attempting to breach a pandemic order, Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton said.

The infections announced Monday surpassed the first surge of infections in Melbourne that peaked on March 28 at 111 cases recorded in a day.

Daniels said he agreed with Berejiklian and Prime Minister Scott Morrison, a Sydney resident, that the border needed to close. Three in five Australian residents live in Sydney or Melbourne and the air services between the two cities before the pandemic were among the busiest in the world.

"I think it is the smart call, the right call at this time, given the significant challenges we face in containing this virus," Andrews said.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Michael Kidd confirmed that federal authorities agreed with the closure. The federal government had previously opposed any internal border closures aimed mostly at stopping spread from Victoria and New South Wales. Morrison had urged state leaders to open their borders for the good of the economy.

Kidd said that only 16% of new cases detected in Australia in the past week had been infected overseas. Two weeks ago, 50% of new cases were people infected overseas and detected in hotel quarantine, he said.

"The situation in Melbourne has come as a jolt, not just of the people of Melbourne but people right across Australia who may have thought that this was all behind us. It is not," Kidd said.

Outside of Victoria, another 13 cases reported in the past 24 hours were people infected overseas. Of those, 10 had been in hotel quarantine in New South Wales and three in Western Australia

New South Wales police will enforce the Victorian border closure. Some flights and trains services would continue for travelers who are given permits and exemptions, Berejiklian said.

New South Wales Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said officers would use drones to detect people who attempt across the border via forest tracks to avoid the 55 policed road and bridge crossings.

Nationwide, Australia has recorded more than 8,500 total infections and 106 deaths.

McGuirk contributed to this report from Canberra Australia.

Asia Today: Australian state's cases spike, borders to shut

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The hard-hit Australian state of Victoria recorded two deaths and its highest-ever daily increase in coronavirus cases on Monday as authorities prepare to close its border with New South Wales.

The death of the two men, one in his 60s and the other in his 90s, brings the national death toll from COVID-19 to 106.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said of the 127 new cases, 53 were among 3,000 people who have been confined by police to their apartments in nine public housing blocks since Saturday.

Andrews said the high number of cases reflected a daily record number of tests exceeding 24,500.

Andrews also announced that the state border with New South Wales will be closed from late Tuesday night in an agreement between the two state premiers and Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Morrison had previously opposed states closing their borders.

It will be the first time Australia's two most populous states have closed their border since the pandemic began.

New South Wales had previously banned travel from dozens of Melbourne suburbs that were locked down last week for a month due to high rates of infection.

The leader of Australia's most populous state said her government's decision to close its border with hard-hit Victoria marked a new phase in the country's outbreak.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 36 of 70

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian had criticized states that closed their borders to New South Wales residents when Sydney, the state capital and Australia's largest city, had most of the country's COVID-19 cases.

She noted the overwhelming majority of new cases in Melbourne in recent weeks were from community transmission. Everywhere else in Australia, the vast majority of cases were people infected overseas or by a returned traveler, Berejiklian said.

"What is occurring in Victoria has not yet occurred anywhere else in Australia," she said. "It's a new part of the pandemic and, as such, it requires a new type of response."

New South Wales police will close the Victorian border from late Tuesday. Some flights and trains services would continue for travelers who are given permits and exemptions, Berejiklian said.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— India has overtaken Russia to become the third worst-affected nation by the coronavirus after the country reported 24,248 new cases Monday. India has now confirmed 697,413 cases, including 19,693 deaths. Russia has 680,283 cases. Indian authorities late Sunday withdrew a planned reopening of the famed Taj Mahal monument, after new cases were detected in the area. India's Culture Ministry had decided to reopen all monuments across the country on Monday after more than three months with a cap on the number of visitors and mandatory wearing of face masks. After a strict nationwide lockdown, India has eased restrictions in most of the country except for the highest-risk areas.

— The Philippines has seen a big recent spike in infections, raising the possibility its overcrowded capital may be placed back under a strict lockdown. The Department of Health reported 2,434 cases in recent days, the majority in metropolitan Manila, raising cases nationwide to more than 44,250, including 1,297 deaths. Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said a lockdown is possible if the uptick continues and hospitals fill up. At least one major Manila hospital, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, said its COVID-19 ward was running at full capacity. President Rodrigo Duterte eased the lockdown in metropolitan Manila on June 1 to help the faltering economy.

— Sri Lanka partially reopened schools on Monday as part of the Indian Ocean island nation's efforts to emerge from its coronavirus lockdown. Authorities are reopening schools in phases after keeping them closed for more than three months due to the lockdown. Students in grades 5, 11 and 13 returned Monday. Other students will return later this month. Sri Lanka has reported 2,076 virus cases, including 11 deaths.

— South Korea reported 48 new infections Monday, 24 of them each linked to local transmissions and international arrivals, continuing a weeklong spread that has inspired second-guessing on whether officials were too quickly to ease social restrictions entering May. The figures announced by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention brought the national caseload to 13,137 infections and 284 deaths. Health Minister Park Neung-hoo during a virus meeting on Monday said the outbreak remains controllable while urging vigilance to slow the spread.

— China reported four new cases, three from outside the country and one transmitted locally in Beijing, the National Health Commission reported. Another 106 people were in isolation as suspected cases or for testing positive for the virus without showing symptoms. China has recorded 4,634 deaths among 83,557 cases since the virus was detected in the central city of Wuhan late last year.

Coast Guard alters training for incoming class due to virus

By PAT EATON-ROBB Associated Press

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — There will be nobody screaming in the face of 18-year-old Ellie Hiigel when she arrives Wednesday for training in advance of her first year at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and that has her mother a bit disappointed.

The school in Connecticut, like other service academies and military training centers, has made major changes because of the coronavirus pandemic. That means the eight weeks of boot camp for new cadets, known as "Swab Summer" will be much different from when Joanna Hiigel went through it herself in 1991 as a fourth-class swab, or even when Ellie's sister, Tana, went through it two years ago.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 37 of 70

Ellie Hiigel and the 266 other swabs will be arriving not as one large group, but in eight separate platoons spaced out throughout Wednesday. There will be no haircuts, no drilling, no running as a group from place to place, no lining up against the wall in the hall of the barracks for pushups. They won't even be issued their uniforms. The big ceremony at the end of that first day on the parade field in front of their families also has been cancelled.

Their contact with the third-year cadets who will train them, known as the cadre, will come from a social distance.

"They are going to be in quarantine for 14 days," Joanna Hiigel said. "I hope they at least can get out for some exercise, because that's so important for their physical and emotional well-being. I don't know what that quarantine time is going to look like. That's my biggest concern."

Coast Guard officials said those two weeks will be spent in the barracks on what is known as ROM — restriction of movement — status. The cadets will undergo coronavirus testing and the only thing they will be issued that first day will be a computer. They will spend the first part of Swab Summer online in their rooms, learning about their responsibilities and duties, along with the history and traditions of the Coast Guard and the academy.

The physical training will begin once the quarantine ends, with the screaming coming from a little farther away than in past years. It will conclude with what, in past years, has been a three-day sail aboard the Coast Guard's tall ship, Eagle. But for members of this class, that will be divided into several single-day trips to allow for more social distancing on board.

Senior Dan Taglianetti, the Swab Summer company commander, said the training won't be any less rigorous. He said his group of cadre has been taught how to keep everyone safe, while making sure the swabs learn what they need to know.

"People will be organized in a certain way so they don't come into contact with each other," he said. "But for the most part, the intensity will still be there. It just won't be as traditional with the proximity and masks and things."

Rear Adm. William G. Kelly, the Coast Guard Academy's commandant, sees a silver lining. He said the pandemic has forced him and his staff to think about why they normally throw swabs into the fire of training so quickly and whether they have given past classes too much to absorb at once.

"We're hoping that as we come out of this process this year — and we hope and pray we won't be in the same situation next year — that we are going to learn a thing or two," he said. "We are going to do it better this year and we're going to do it better in the future."

Pandemic-induced changes also were being made at the other, larger service academies, each of which has about 1,200 first-year cadets.

West Point officials have said they expect to complete about 80% of their normal summer basic training program, condensing it from four months to two. The Army also is mandating that masks be worn, social distancing followed when possible and has set up protocols to reduce unnecessary contact between cadets and trainers at the New York academy.

The Navy asked cadets to arrive in Maryland with their hair already cut to regulation. The plebes each received a temperature check and coronavirus test before being allowed onto campus last week. Their training, some of which will now be online, will begin after 72 hours of isolation in the barracks waiting for test results.

At the Air Force Academy in Colorado, new cadets began training June 24. The processing for what is known as I-Day was moved into larger facilities to accommodate social distancing and the cadets learned to march while wearing masks and being 6 feet (2 meters) apart.

Back at the Coast Guard Academy, the summer has already been different for the approximately 1,000 second-, third- and fourth-year cadets, most of whom returned for mostly online training assignments in June.

Battalion Commander Noelle Greenwood said she was supposed to spend half the summer before her senior year interning in Puerto Rico, learning what life would be like after graduation. Instead, she has been in New London, overseeing summer programs, including Swab Summer. She acknowledges being a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 38 of 70

bit worried about missing out.

"I have expressed that to some of the officers and a few of my mentors here," she said. "They have all told me that this experience this summer — managing a staff and then having to be adaptable and keep changing things and being responsible for such a large number of cadre and trainees — it will actually prepare me for the fleet."

Kelly said he expects the pandemic experiences of all his cadets, including the swabs, will also make them better prepared to serve in the Coast Guard.

"We are blessed with a group of young women and men who already understand what it means to follow safety protocols, understand what it means to follow orders and understand that they have an important mission to accomplish," he said.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump falsely says 99% of virus cases benign

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is understating the danger of the coronavirus to people who get it, as more and more become infected in the U.S.

In his latest of many statements playing down the severity of the pandemic, Trump declared that 99% of cases of COVID-19 are harmless. That flies in the face of science and of the reality captured by the U.S. death toll of about 130,000. Trump also sounded a dismissive note about the need for breathing machines.

Throughout the pandemic, Trump has declared it under control in the U.S. when it hasn't been. His remarks on that subject and more from the past week:

VIRUS THREAT

TRUMP: "Now we have tested over 40 million people. But by so doing, we show cases, 99% of which are totally harmless." — Fourth of July remarks Saturday.

THE FACTS: This statement does not reflect the suffering of millions of COVID-19 patients.

The World Health Organization, for one, has said about 20% of those diagnosed with COVID-19 progress to severe disease, including pneumonia and respiratory failure. Whatever the numbers turn out to be, it's clear that the threat is not limited to the merest sliver of those who get the disease.

Aside from that, those with mild or no symptoms also can spread the virus to others who are more vulnerable.

Asked Sunday to defend Trump's claim, Food and Drug Administration commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn declined to do so. He instead urged Americans not to back off the federal government's public health measures urging social distancing and wearing a mask.

"What I'll say is that we have data in the White House task force," Hahn told CNN's "State of the Union." "Those data show us that this is a serious problem. People need to take it seriously."

TRUMP: "Our tremendous Testing success gives the Fake News Media all they want, CASES. In the meantime, Deaths and the all important Mortality Rate goes down. ... Anybody need any Ventilators???" — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: No, increased testing does not fully account for the rise in cases. People are also infecting each other more than before as distancing rules recede and "community spread" picks up. And as cases surge, so has demand for ventilators once again in parts of the U.S.

"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.

Adm. Brett Giroir, the Health and Human Services official overseeing the nation's coronavirus testing efforts, told Congress on Thursday that the increases can't be explained by just additional testing. "We do believe this is a real increase in cases because of the percent positivities are going up," he said.

In areas of the U.S., the demand for ventilators is approaching the highs seen in April. For instance, the number of patients requiring ventilators in Miami-Dade County has increased from 61 two weeks ago to 158 on Saturday, according to Miami-Dade figures posted by the county online. The highest number of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 39 of 70

patients on ventilators was 198, on April 9.

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."

TRUMP: "We've made a lot of progress; our strategy is moving along well. ...We've learned how to put out the flame." — Fourth of July remarks Saturday.

TRUMP, describing the COVID-19 threat as "getting under control": "Some (places) were doing very well, and we thought they (the virus) may be gone and they flare up, and we're putting out the fires." — remarks Thursday on a jobs report.

TRUMP: "I think we are going to be very good with the coronavirus. I think that, at some point, that's going to sort of just disappear, I hope." — interview Wednesday on Fox Business Network.

THE FACTS: "The virus is not going to disappear," says Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert. Nor can it be considered "under control" and its flame "put out" as cases have been surging to fresh daily highs.

The number of confirmed cases in the U.S. per day has roughly doubled over the past month, hitting over 50,000 this past week, according to a count kept by Johns Hopkins University. That is higher even than what the country experienced from mid-April through early May, when deaths sharply rose.

Fauci warned last week that the increase across the South and West "puts the entire country at risk" and that new infections could reach 100,000 a day if people don't start listening to guidance from public health authorities to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Arizona, California, Florida and Texas have recently been forced to shut down bars and businesses as virus cases surge. The U.S. currently has more than 2.7 million known cases and many more undetected.

Fauci has said there "certainly" will be coronavirus infections in the fall and winter.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: "While we're monitoring about 16 states that are seeing outbreaks, it represents about 4% of all the counties in this country." — interview with CBS aired on June 28.

THE FACTS: That's a misleading portrayal of the virus threat. More than 20% of Americans actually live in those relatively few counties.

The White House provided The Associated Press with the full list of U.S. counties that reported increases in COVID-19 cases as of a week ago, when Pence and other administration officials repeatedly cited the low county tally. The list showed 137 of the 3,142 counties in the U.S. that were under a higher alert — indeed, about 4% in that snapshot of time.

But measured by population, those counties represent a vastly higher share — more than 1 in 5 people in the U.S.

Altogether there are 68.3 million people living in those 137 counties, while there is a total U.S. population of 322.9 million. That means 21.1% of U.S. residents actually live in the virus "hot spots" identified in the list.

TRUMP ON BIDEN

TRUMP: "Biden was asked questions at his so-called Press Conference yesterday where he read the answers from a teleprompter. That means he was given the questions." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic presidential rival, did not read answers off a teleprompter. Nor did the AP, which asked the first question at the briefing, submit questions in advance.

Biden used a teleprompter to read prepared remarks that took aim at Trump's handling of the coronavirus, before the questions and answers started, at which point the teleprompter appeared to have been turned off.

Biden's campaign gave him a list of news organizations to call on and he answered questions from reporters on that list as well as some he chose spontaneously. That's not an uncommon practice when officials give news conferences.

Video footage shows that during nearly 30 minutes of questions and answers, Biden often looked directly

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 40 of 70

at the reporter, not at the teleprompter. His answers were at times long-winded, without the practiced pauses typically heard in prepared speeches.

Biden campaign national press secretary TJ Ducklo called Trump's allegation "laughable, ludicrous and a lie."

Trump's accusation reflected his tactic of trying to stir doubts about Biden's mental acuity.

TRUMP: "He wants to defund and abolish police." — interview Wednesday on "America This Week."

THE FACTS: Biden does not join the call of protesters who demanded "defund the police" after George Floyd's killing.

"I don't support defunding the police," Biden said last month in a CBS interview. But he said he would support conditioning federal aid to police based on whether "they meet certain basic standards of decency, honorableness and, in fact, are able to demonstrate they can protect the community, everybody in the community."

Biden's criminal justice agenda, released long before he became the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, proposes more federal money for "training that is needed to avert tragic, unjustifiable deaths" and hiring more officers to ensure that departments are racially and ethnically reflective of the populations they serve.

Specifically, he calls for a \$300 million infusion into existing federal community policing grant programs.

That adds up to more money for police, not defunding law enforcement.

Biden also wants the federal government to spend more on education, social services and struggling areas of cities and rural America, to address root causes of crime.

WAR IN IRAQ

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, White House press secretary: "You have this President who, when Washington was unanimous in saying, 'We're going into Iraq,' this President said, 'No, that's not the right decision.'" — news briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: That's false. Trump voiced support for going into Iraq, as much as he and now his press secretary insist otherwise. And Washington was not unanimous in supporting the invasion.

On Sept. 11, 2002, when radio host Howard Stern asked Trump whether he supported a potential Iraq invasion, Trump said: "Yeah, I guess so."

On March 21, 2003, just days after the invasion, Trump said it "looks like a tremendous success from a military standpoint."

Later that year, he began expressing reservations.

More than 150 members of Congress voted against the 2002 resolution to authorize President George W. Bush to use military force against Iraq. That is not unanimity.

MEMORIALS

TRUMP: "We are tracking down the two Anarchists who threw paint on the magnificent George Washington Statue in Manhattan. ... They will be prosecuted and face 10 years in Prison." — tweet Tuesday.

TRUMP: "Since imposing a very powerful 10 year prison sentence on those that Vandalize Monuments, Statues etc., with many people being arrested all over our Country, the Vandalism has completely stopped." — tweet on June 28.

THE FACTS: Trump does not have the authority to impose prison sentences — a president is not a judge. Nor can he toughen penalties on his own.

Trump signed an executive order last week to protect monuments, memorials and statues, calling on the attorney general to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any person or group that destroys or vandalizes a monument, memorial or statue.

The order basically instructs the attorney general to enforce laws that already exist.

Associated Press writers Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami, and Alexandra Jaffe, Zeke Miller and Darlene

Superville in Washington 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>

Prosecutors seek Friday court appearance for Epstein friend

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

New York (AP) — Prosecutors on Sunday asked a judge to schedule a Friday court appearance in New York for Jeffrey Epstein's longtime associate to face charges she helped him recruit women to sexually abuse.

British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, 58, was arrested Thursday at a \$1 million estate on 156 acres that she purchased last December in Bradford, New Hampshire.

She has been detained without bail after agreeing to be moved to New York. Prosecutors have labeled her an "extreme risk of flight" and said they want her jailed until trial.

In a letter to a judge Sunday, prosecutors said they have communicated with Maxwell's defense lawyer, Christian Everdell, who would like a Friday bail hearing after written arguments are submitted by both sides Thursday and Friday. She will also be arraigned at the hearing.

An email seeking comment was sent to Everdell.

She has previously repeatedly denied wrongdoing and called some claims against her "absolute rubbish."

Prosecutors said they expect the U.S. Marshals Service to transport Maxwell to New York early this week.

Maxwell has been indicted on multiple charges, including that she conspired to entice girls as young as 14 to engage in illegal sex acts with Epstein from 1994 through 1997 at Epstein's residences in New York City, Florida, and New Mexico and at Maxwell's residence in London. Prosecutors say the charges carry a potential penalty of up to 35 years in prison.

Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail last August while he awaited trial on federal sex trafficking charges.

Acting U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss told a news conference Thursday that the investigation is continuing as the government seeks to hold anyone it finds aided Epstein accountable.

The arrest of Maxwell, a citizen of the U.S., France and the United Kingdom, came after she was described by some Epstein's victims as his chief enabler, someone who recruited and groomed young girls for abuse. Prosecutors say Maxwell had both a personal and professional relationship with Epstein.

Authorities said she sometimes hired girls to give him massages before joining as Epstein tried to engage the girls in sex acts.

Prosecutors last week outlined some arguments to keep Maxwell detained. They cited her wealth, saying she has had access to over \$20 million in 15 bank accounts in recent years, along with her extensive international ties and the likelihood of a lengthy prison sentence if she is convicted.

Evidence in the case includes detailed corroborated information from multiple victims, along with documents including flight records, diary entries and business records, prosecutors said.

Since Epstein was arrested in July 2019, Maxwell had been in hiding in locations in New England, sometimes masking her location by changing her phone number and listing her name as "G Max," prosecutors said.

Associated Press writer Tom Hays contributed to this report.

Amid pandemic, fewer students seek federal aid for college

By COLLIN BINKLEY and LARRY FENN Associated Press

The number of high school seniors applying for U.S. federal college aid plunged in the weeks follow-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 42 of 70

ing the sudden closure of school buildings this spring — a time when students were cut off from school counselors, and families hit with financial setbacks were reconsidering plans for higher education.

In the first weeks of the pandemic, the number of new applications fell by nearly half compared to last year's levels, fueled by a precipitous decline among students at low-income schools, according to an Associated Press analysis of federal data. The numbers have risen as states and schools have launched campaigns urging students to apply for aid, but they remain down overall from last year.

It's raising alarms among education officials who say thousands of students may be opting to delay or forgo college, with potentially dire consequences for their job prospects and future earnings.

"The consequences are that kids are going directly into the workforce. They're closing the door on post-high school learning," said David Nieslanik, principal of Southridge High School in Beaverton, Oregon, where he saw only more affluent students file for aid once instruction moved online.

The FAFSA, short for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is required for students to be eligible for federal Pell grants and student loans. It's also often a requirement for state aid. Students who complete the form are far more likely to enroll in college, studies have found, and those who receive aid are more likely to stay in college.

In the four weeks starting March 13, the number of completed applications was down 45% compared to the same period the year before, according to the AP analysis. It was sharpest at Title I schools, a federal designation for public schools that have larger shares of low-income students, which saw a 52% decrease, compared to a 39% slide at other public schools.

Overall, applications were down by 70,000 as of June 19, representing a 3.7% drop for the entire application cycle.

Even before the pandemic, some states had been expecting to see decreases as demographic shifts result in fewer high school seniors, and plenty of individual schools saw filings hold steady or increase. However, as the coronavirus started to spread, every state saw numbers slide compared to last year's levels, even states that had more high school seniors this year.

Schools say the pandemic contributed to the slide in several ways. Separated from their schools, students lost touch with counselors who typically guide them through the complex financial aid process. Families without reliable internet access struggled to complete the online form. And amid economic turmoil, some students took jobs and put college plans on hold.

The pandemic's timing worsened its impact on low-income students, experts say: While more affluent students typically submit the FAFSA earlier in the application cycle, low-income students are more likely to wait until March or April, the time when schools were shutting down.

Gregory Cole, principal of the Mojave High School in North Las Vegas, Nevada, said it came at "the very worst time."

Many parents lost jobs as the region's gaming industry shut down, and some students took jobs in groceries or fast food chains. Compounding the problem, many students come from families that had never filed the form, which requires a range of tax and Social Security records.

"We're the lifeline for a lot of our kids," Cole said. "Without us there to help them through the process, I think it's inevitable that some of them are going to fall through the cracks."

Once schools closed, counselors could no longer pull students into their offices to talk, or invite families to school to navigate the FAFSA. Instead, schools were left sending emails that often went unanswered, or they relied on unwieldy video chats to help families with paperwork.

There's hope that the decrease is partly tied to students who plan to attend community colleges and are waiting to file until closer to those schools' deadlines, which are often later, said Justin Draeger, president and CEO of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Still, he worries that the drop-off may be more than a "temporary blip."

"During recessions, traditionally more people go back to school to retool. But this just feels very different because of the pandemic, the illness, the job loss, and then the quarantines that might reappear this year," he said. "All of this says to me, there are a lot of things to be worried about."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 43 of 70

Education officials are encouraging students to apply over the summer, even if only to see how much financial aid they could receive. North Carolina recently launched a "FAFSA Frenzy" campaign, while Kentucky is hosting "FAFSA Fridays" urging students to apply.

Although deadlines for some state scholarships have passed, students can still apply for federal aid for the 2020-21 school year through June 2021.

In Louisiana, one of several states where students are required to file the FAFSA in order to graduate from high school, state officials waived that rule because of the pandemic. But state education officials are still calling and texting students in districts with lower completion rates.

As of June 19, applications among the state's low-income students were down by nearly 9%.

"We are not going to stop," said Sujuan Boutté, executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance. "We've got to be that rock that says, 'I do understand that there's a lot of uncertainty, but this is a ticket to your future and you don't want to put that on hold.'"

Officials in Kentucky say they're working hard but aren't optimistic they'll catch up with last year's numbers. Even if they do, they worry that many students who filed will ultimately not enroll in college.

"We may reach the same percentage, but I'm not optimistic that all of those students will be going to college," said Aaron Thompson, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. "If I'm wrong about this, I will be shouting hallelujah."

___ Binkley reported from Boston. Fenn reported from New York.

NHL, NHLPA agree on protocols to resume season

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

The NHL and NHL Players' Association agreed Sunday on protocols to resume the season, a major step toward the return of hockey this summer.

Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly told The Associated Press there was an agreement on protocols for training camps and games and the sides are still negotiating an extension of the collective bargaining agreement, which is crucial to the process.

A person with knowledge of the situation said the return-to-play protocols would only go into effect if each side votes to approve the full package of the CBA extension and return-to-play agreement. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because CBA talks are still ongoing.

To complete a return, two-thirds of the league's board of governors and majorities of the players' executive committee and full membership must vote in favor.

If everything is ratified, it will end a pandemic-forced shutdown that began in mid-March. Games would resume in late July or early August with 24 teams taking part in an expanded playoffs, finishing with the Stanley Cup being awarded in October.

The agreement was first reported by TSN.

The 47 pages of protocols outline the health and safety measures the league and players agreed to after several weeks of negotiations. Any player has until 5 p.m. EDT on Tuesday to notify his team if he's choosing to opt out of participating in training camp and games, with an additional deadline expected after ratification of the agreement.

For those playing, each team is limited to 30 skaters and an unlimited amount of goaltenders for camp and total roster of up to 31 players for games. Each team is limited to 52 personnel in its game city, a group that must include two trainers, a doctor and compliance officer in addition players, coaches and management.

They are expected to be quarantined from the general public during play at least for the qualifying and first two traditional playoff rounds. Family members will be permitted to join when play is moved to one city for the conference finals and Stanley Cup Final.

All team and league employees plus hotel, restaurant and arena staff coming in contact with players will be tested daily in the two "hub" cities.

One player's positive coronavirus test result is not expected to shut down play entirely. The league has

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 44 of 70

said it would isolate any player or staff member who tests positive, acknowledging an outbreak would threaten the remainder of the season.

"The players will be pretty well-protected from being exposed," Montreal Canadiens owner Geoff Molson said during a conference call in June. "It's going to be a completely different way for you all and us watching hockey and being around a team because players will be really well protected throughout the process."

The protocols include a provision for Commissioner Gary Bettman in consultation with NHLPA executive director Don Fehr to postpone, delay or cancel games in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Assuming the protocols are approved, teams are expected to open training camps July 13 before traveling to the two hub cities for games. Players have been able to skate and train off-ice in voluntary, small-group workouts since June 8 — nearly three months after hockey was halted March 12 with 189 regular-season games remaining.

Returning for the playoffs is seen as a stirring victory for the NHL, which like other top leagues faced the prospect of losing millions more without the television revenue tied to the postseason. There were deep concerns about canceling the rest of the season and word of positive tests didn't help: 26 players since June 8, in addition to almost a dozen before that.

Boston defenseman Matt Grzelcyk called the positive test results "eye-opening" but expected. A few players expressed concerns in recent weeks about the uncertainty surrounding a return.

"We have obviously a unique situation right now," Montreal goaltender Carey Price said. "The NHL and the NHLPA are trying to make the best of a very difficult situation. Moving forward I'd like to play, but we have a lot of questions that need to be answered and a lot of scenarios that need to be covered."

If the protocols and an CBA extension cover those scenarios for enough owners and players, there will be a path forward to hand out the Stanley Cup. Only twice since 1893 has the Cup not been awarded: in 1919, when the final couldn't be completed because of the Spanish flu pandemic, and 2005 when the season was wiped out by a lockout.

For more AP NHL coverage: <https://apnews.com/NHL> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Newspaper owner: Sorry for equating mask rule to Holocaust

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas county Republican Party chairman who owns a weekly newspaper apologized Sunday for a cartoon posted on the paper's Facebook page that equated the Democratic governor's coronavirus-inspired order for people to wear masks in public with the mass murder of Jews by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Dane Hicks, owner and publisher of The Anderson County Review, said in a statement on Facebook that he was removing the cartoon after "some heartfelt and educational conversations with Jewish leaders in the U.S. and abroad." The newspaper posted the cartoon Friday, and it drew dozens of critical responses and international attention. A blog post by Hicks on Saturday defending it also drew critical responses.

Hicks is the GOP chairman for Anderson County in eastern Kansas. The state party chairman deemed the cartoon "inappropriate." Gov. Laura Kelly, who is Catholic, called for it to be removed and she and other critics called it anti-Semitic.

"I can acknowledge the imagery in my recent editorial cartoon describing state government overreach in Kansas with images of the Holocaust was deeply hurtful to members of a culture who've been dealt plenty of hurt throughout history — people to whom I never desired to be hurtful in the illustration of my point," Hicks said in his statement.

The cartoon depicted Kelly wearing a mask with a Jewish Star of David on it, next to a digitally altered image of people being loaded onto train cars. Its caption is, "Lockdown Laura says: Put on your mask ... and step onto the cattle car."

Hicks said Saturday that he put the images together and planned to publish the cartoon in the paper's next edition Tuesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 45 of 70

His newspaper is based in the Anderson County seat of Garnett, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City and has a circulation of about 2,100, according to the Kansas Press Association.

Kelly did not immediately respond to Hicks's apology, but her office said she could address the issue during a news conference Monday.

The governor issued the mask order because of resurgence in reported coronavirus cases that increased the state's total to nearly 16,000 as of Friday, when Kansas finished its worst two-week spike since the pandemic began.

State law allows counties to opt out of her mask mandate, and Anderson County has done so. It has about 7,900 residents in a conservative swath of eastern Kansas, and President Donald Trump carried it with nearly 73% of the vote in 2016. The state health department has reported only four coronavirus cases for Anderson County, all of them since May 8.

State and local officials across the U.S. have faced resistance to mask requirements from Trump's supporters. Fritzie Fritzshall, a survivor of the Auschwitz death camp and president of the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, north of Chicago, said anti-mask protesters have often compared government actions during the pandemic to those of the Nazi regime. She called it "ignorant and offensive."

"In this time of uncertainty and fear, imagery and slogans can be used to unite us in a common desire to return to civil discourse or divide us in ways that give a voice to hate and divisiveness," she said in a statement.

Biff Rubin, a small business owner in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kansas, who is Jewish, said the cartoon was painful for his family and the state's Jewish community. He said he appreciated Hicks' apology and is thankful that the U.S. is "in a time of learning and reflection."

Rubin's hometown was the site of three fatal shootings at a Jewish community center and retirement home in April 2014 by an avowed anti-Semite who was sentenced to death for the crimes.

Rubin said the backlash against Hicks' use of Holocaust imagery reflects "the impact the suffering will always have in our society."

"I hope the voices being heard on this subject provoke empathy and persuade others to keep their heart open to change," he texted The Associated Press.

Hicks had initially defended the posting as an example of how political cartoons are "gross over-caricatures designed to provoke debate" and "fodder for the marketplace of ideas." He said the issue was the "governmental overreach" of Kelly's administration.

But Hicks said in his statement Sunday that "it's clear I should have chosen a less hurtful theme."

"It is not my intention to heap more grief onto this historical burden, and it's apparent I previously lacked an adequate understanding of the severity of their experience and the pain of its images," he said.

Follow John Hanna on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

Protester killed on Seattle freeway was dedicated to cause

By MARTHA BELLISLE and BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A person killed Saturday when a man who drove his car onto a closed Seattle freeway and into a crowd protesting police brutality was remembered Sunday as someone who was dedicated to the cause.

The other person hit in the incident, meanwhile, remained in serious condition Sunday at a Seattle hospital.

The deceased, Summer Taylor, 24, spent the last six weeks "tirelessly standing up for others while working full time and supporting everyone around them," wrote Urban Animal on Instagram, the veterinarian clinic where Taylor worked in Portland, Oregon.

Taylor, who the post said used they and them pronouns, was "a positive force of nature" and brought joy, the post said. "Anyone that works for Urban Animal will tell you that Summer Taylor's laugh makes any bad day better."

Katelyn Hoberecht, who worked with Taylor at the veterinary clinics, told the Seattle Times that Taylor

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 46 of 70

had been a frequent presence at protests.

"Summer has been there since day one standing up for Black lives. Staying out all day and night, while still working full time taking care of animals," Hoberecht said. "Summer talked to me about the protests, and how incredible it was to be a part of something so huge. A part of history."

Kamala Harris, a U.S. senator and former Democratic presidential candidate from California, was among those honoring Taylor on social media Sunday. Harris tweeted: "Absolutely heartbreaking. Summer Taylor was only 24-years-old, peacefully protesting for Black Lives Matter when they were struck by a car. Thinking of their family during this difficult time and everyone in the movement today."

Diaz Love, 32, also of Portland, Oregon, was also hit when the car barreled through a panicked crowd of protesters on Interstate 5 early Saturday morning. Diaz remained in serious condition Sunday in the intensive care unit at Harborview Medical Center, but her health is improving, spokesperson Susan Gregg said.

The driver of the car that hit them, Dawit Kelete, is in custody awaiting a court hearing on Monday at which the judge will determine if he can be released on bail, according to court documents.

Kelete, of Seattle, drove the car around vehicles that were blocking I-5 and sped into the crowd about 1:40 a.m., according to a police report released by the Washington State Patrol. Video taken at the scene by protesters showed people shouting "Car! Car!" before fleeing the roadway.

Love was filming the protest in a nearly two-hour-long Facebook livestream captioned "Black Femme March takes I-5" when the video ended abruptly; with about 15 seconds left, shouts of "Car!" can be heard as the camera starts to shake before screeching tires and the sound of impact are heard.

A graphic video posted on social media showed the white Jaguar racing toward a group of protesters who are standing behind several parked cars, set up for protection. The car swerves around the other vehicles and slams into the two protesters, sending them flying into the air.

Kelete, who was alone, fled the scene after hitting the protesters, Trooper Chase Van Cleave told The Associated Press. One of the other protesters got in a car and chased the driver for about a mile. He was able to stop him by pulling his car in front of the Jaguar, Van Cleave said.

Troopers arrived, and the driver was put in custody, Washington State Patrol Capt. Ron Mead said.

Kelete was described by officers as reserved and sullen when he was arrested, according to court documents. He also asked if the pedestrians were OK, the documents say.

Kelete was booked into the King County Correctional Facility on Saturday morning on two counts of vehicular assault. Bail was denied.

A judge found probable cause to hold Kelete on an investigation of vehicular assault.

It was not immediately clear if Kelete had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Officials were trying to determine the motive as well as where he got onto the interstate, which had been closed by the state patrol for more than an hour before the protesters were hit.

Mead said they suspect Kelete drove the wrong way on a ramp. Trooper Rick Johnson said the driver went through a barrier that closed the freeway.

Troopers did not know whether it was a targeted attack, but impairment was not considered a factor, Mead said.

Kelete has a Seattle address. He is listed in public records as a student who attended Washington State University between 2011 and 2017 majoring in business and commerce. His enrollment status could not be confirmed because the university was closed over the weekend.

The Washington State Patrol said Saturday evening that going forward it won't allow protesters to enter I-5 and would arrest pedestrians on the freeway.

Seattle has been the site of prolonged unrest following the May 25 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which sparked nationwide protests. Dozens of people were arrested this past week in connection with protests as demonstrations continue after authorities cleared the "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone Wednesday morning.

Protesters had shut down the interstate for 19 days in a row, Mead said at a news conference.

7-year-old among 13 killed in weekend shootings in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — At least 13 people, including a 7-year-old girl at a family party and a teenage boy, were killed in Chicago over the Fourth of July weekend, police said. At least 59 others were shot and wounded.

In one shooting, just before midnight Saturday, four males opened fire on a large gathering in the street in the Englewood neighborhood, police spokesman Tom Ahern said. Two males died at the scene and two more, including a 14-year-old boy, died at a hospital, Ahern said.

Four others were injured; one was in critical condition and the other three were in fair condition, Ahern said. The four attackers fled the scene. No one was arrested.

The 7-year-old girl was fatally shot in the head while standing on the sidewalk at her grandmother's house during a Fourth of July party around 7 p.m. in the Austin neighborhood, police said.

Suspects got out of a car and began shooting, police said. No one has been arrested.

"Tonight, a 7-year-old girl in Austin joined a list of teenagers and children whose hopes and dreams were ended by the barrel of a gun," Mayor Lori Lightfoot said on Twitter late Saturday.

The mayor added: "As a city, we must wrap our arms around our youth so they understand there's a future for them that isn't wrapped up in gun violence."

A 32-year-old man was injured in the shooting and was in fair condition.

The Chicago Sun-Times, citing police, said that seven of those injured in shootings were minors.

The shootings this weekend that killed young people followed tragedy the weekend before when victims included a 1-year-old boy riding in a car with his mother and a 10-year-old girl who was inside her home when a bullet fired a block away pierced a window and struck her in the head as she sat on a couch.

In response to violence that has occurred since Memorial Day weekend, police said they would have 1,200 extra officers on the streets for this holiday weekend.

Lawyer: Remains of missing Texas soldier identified

By JAKE BLEIBERG undefined

DALLAS (AP) — Army investigators have identified the body of a soldier who vanished more than two months ago from a base in Texas, according to a lawyer for the soldier's family.

Remains found last week buried near Fort Hood belong to Spc. Vanessa Guillén and Army officials informed her family in Houston Sunday, attorney Natalie Khawam told The Associated Press. Guillén, who had been missing since April, was killed and dismembered by a fellow soldier who took his own life last week, federal and military investigators have said.

Human remains were found Tuesday near the Leon River in Bell County, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Fort Hood, during a the search for Guillén. An Army spokesman said earlier Sunday that they were still waiting for positive identification of the remains.

Investigators were unable to use dental records to identify Guillén because of the state of her remains and instead used DNA from bone and hair samples, Khawam said. Guillén's family received the information in the company of their priest, she said.

Army officials identified the soldier suspected in Guillén's disappearance as Aaron David Robinson. Cecily Aguilar, a 22-year-old civilian from a community near near Fort Hood, was arrested and charged with one count for allegedly helping hide the body of 20-year-old soldier, according to a criminal complaint.

Guillén's family has said that they believe she was sexually harassed by Robinson and is calling for a congressional investigation.

Mayra Guillen said last week that her sister had spoken with their mother about experiencing sexual harassment, but that her mother has been too devastated to talk about it. From their text conversations, Mayra Guillen said she believed her sister was afraid during her time at Fort Hood.

Khawam said Sunday that military sexual harassment is "epidemic" and demands attention from Congress. "You can't turn a blind eye anymore," she said.

Developers cancel long-delayed, \$8B Atlantic Coast Pipeline

By SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The developers of the long-delayed, \$8 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline announced the cancellation of the multi-state natural gas project Sunday, citing uncertainties about costs, permitting and litigation.

Despite a victory last month at the United States Supreme Court over a critical permit, Dominion Energy and Duke Energy said in a news release that “recent developments have created an unacceptable layer of uncertainty and anticipated delays” for the 600-mile (965-kilometer) project designed to cross West Virginia and Virginia into North Carolina.

The companies said a recent pair of court rulings that have thrown into question a permitting program used around the nation to approve oil and gas pipelines and other utility work through wetlands and streams presented “new and serious challenges.”

“This new information and litigation risk, among other continuing execution risks, make the project too uncertain to justify investing more shareholder capital,” the news release said.

The massive infrastructure project, announced with much fanfare in 2014, had drawn fierce opposition from many landowners, activists and environmental advocates, who said it would damage pristine landscapes and harm wildlife. Getting the project built would have involved tree removal and blasting and leveling some ridgetops as the pipe, 42 inches (1 meter) in diameter for much of its path, crossed mountains, hundreds of water bodies and other sensitive terrain and burrowed underneath the Appalachian Trail.

Opponents also questioned whether there was sufficient need for the gas it would carry and said it would further encourage the use of a fossil fuel at a time when climate change makes a shift to renewable energy imperative.

Legal challenges brought by environmental groups prompted the dismissal or suspension of numerous permits and led to an extended delay in construction. The project was years behind schedule and the anticipated cost had ballooned from the original estimate of \$4.5 billion to \$5 billion.

Reaction poured in Sunday from the project’s opponents, who lauded the demise of the project.

“If anyone still had questions about whether or not the era of fracked gas was over, this should answer them. Today is a historic victory for clean water, the climate, public health, and our communities,” Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said in a statement.

The project’s supporters said the pipeline would create jobs, help aid the transition away from coal and lower energy costs for consumers. Economic development officials in distressed parts of the three states it would run through had hoped that the greater availability of natural gas would help draw heavy manufacturing companies.

“Unfortunately, today’s announcement detrimentally impacts the Commonwealth’s access to affordable, reliable energy,” the Virginia Chamber of Commerce said in a statement. “It also demonstrates the significant regulatory burdens businesses must deal with in order to operate.”

U.S. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette said in a statement the project was killed by the “well-funded, obstructionist environmental lobby.”

“The Trump Administration wants to bring the benefits of reliable and affordable energy of all kinds to all Americans,” Brouillette said. “Unfortunately, the same can’t be said for the activists who killed this project.”

Separately, Dominion, which is headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, and serves more than 7 million customers in 20 states, announced it had agreed to sell “substantially all” of its gas transmission and storage segment assets to an affiliate of Berkshire Hathaway. The transaction was valued at \$9.7 billion, the company said.

The assets involved in the sale include more than 7,700 miles (12,300 kilometers) of natural gas storage and transmission pipelines and about 900 billion cubic feet of gas storage that Dominion currently operates, the company said.

Duke, which is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, is one of the country’s largest energy holding companies.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 49 of 70

Duke has previously pledged to reach net-zero carbon emissions from its electric generation by 2050, and Dominion has committed to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the same year.

A third partner in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Southern Company, sold its small stake in the project earlier this year to Dominion, the lead developer. Dominion had asserted its commitment to seeing the project through as recently as mid-June, when it asked federal regulators for an extension of time to get the project into service.

"We regret that we will be unable to complete the Atlantic Coast Pipeline," Dominion CEO Tom Farrell and Duke CEO Lynn Good said in a joint statement. "For almost six years we have worked diligently and invested billions of dollars to complete the project and deliver the much-needed infrastructure to our customers and communities."

Iran confirms damaged nuclear site was centrifuge facility

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran on Sunday confirmed that a damaged building at the underground Natanz nuclear site was a new centrifuge assembly center, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian officials had previously sought to downplay the fire, which erupted early on Thursday, calling it only an "incident" that affected an "industrial shed." However, a released photo and video of the site broadcast by Iranian state television showed a two-story brick building with scorch marks and its roof apparently destroyed.

A spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said Sunday that work had begun on the center in 2013 and it was inaugurated in 2018.

"More advanced centrifuge machines were intended to be built there," he said, adding that the damage would "possibly cause a delay in development and production of advanced centrifuge machines in the medium term."

He said that the fire had damaged "precision and measuring instruments," and that the center had not been operating at full capacity due to restrictions imposed by Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Iran began experimenting with advanced centrifuge models in the wake of the U.S. unilaterally withdrawing from the deal two years ago.

Iran has long maintained its atomic program is for peaceful purposes.

An online video and messages purportedly claiming responsibility for the fire were released Friday. The multiple, different claims by a self-described group called the "Cheetahs of the Homeland," as well as the fact that Iran experts have never heard of the group before, raised questions about whether Natanz again had faced sabotage by a foreign nation, as it had during the Stuxnet computer virus outbreak believed to have been engineered by the U.S. and Israel.

The Natanz fire also came less than a week after an explosion in an area east of Tehran that analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Two U.S.-based analysts who spoke to The Associated Press on Friday, relying on released pictures and satellite images, identified the affected building as Natanz's new Iran Centrifuge Assembly Center. A satellite image on Friday by Planet Labs Inc., annotated by experts at the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies at Middlebury Institute of International Studies, shows what appears to be damage done to half of the building.

Destroying a centrifuge assembly facility could greatly impact Iran's ability to more-quickly enrich greater amounts of uranium, which would be a goal for either Israel or the U.S.

Natanz today hosts the country's main uranium enrichment facility. In its long underground halls, centrifuges rapidly spin uranium hexafluoride gas to enrich uranium. Currently, the IAEA says Iran enriches uranium to about 4.5% purity — above the terms of the nuclear deal but far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. Workers there also have conducted tests on advanced centrifuges, according to the IAEA.

Democrats, Biden look to accelerate Southern political shift

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 50 of 70

ATLANTA (AP) — From Mississippi retiring its state flag to local governments removing Confederate statues from public spaces, a bipartisan push across the South is chipping away at reminders of the Civil War and Jim Crow segregation.

Now, during a national reckoning on racism, Democratic Party leaders want those symbolic changes to become part of a fundamental shift at the ballot box.

Many Southern electorates are getting younger, less white and more urban, and thus less likely to embrace President Donald Trump's white identity politics. Southern Democrats are pairing a demographically diverse slate of candidates for state and congressional offices with presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden, a 77-year-old white man they believe can appeal to what remains perhaps the nation's most culturally conservative region.

"There's so much opportunity for everyone in this region," said Jaime Harrison, Democratic challenger to South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and a 44-year-old Black man.

Decades of economic development have coaxed new residents to the area. That includes white people from other parts of the country, Black families returning generations after the Great Migration north during the lynching and segregation era, and a growing Latino population. Harrison noted that even younger native Southerners, Black and white, are less wed to hard-partisan identities than their parents and grandparents were.

"Sometimes we get held back by leadership that's still anchored in old ways," Harrison said. But "all of these changes are starting to move the dynamics in so many communities. ... That's not to say we're forgetting our past. But it won't be the thing that's dragging us back."

The November elections will determine the extent of the change, with competitive races in the South affecting the presidency, U.S. Senate control and the balance of power in statehouses from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Austin, Texas.

Democratic victories would redefine policy fights over expanding health insurance access and overhauling criminal justice procedures, among other matters. The general election is also critical because voters will elect the state lawmakers who will draw legislative and congressional boundaries after the 2020 census.

Republicans, for the most part, aren't as quick as Democrats to frame 2020 as a redefining year. Still, they acknowledge obvious shifts that began with suburban growth in northern Virginia and extended southward down the coastline and westward to Texas.

"North Carolina, Georgia, Texas — these are becoming real two-party states," said Republican pollster Brent Buchanan, whose firm, Cygnal, aides GOP campaigns across the country.

Biden's campaign manager, Jen O'Malley Dillon, talks eagerly of "an expanded map" that puts North Carolina and Florida in the same toss-up category as the Great Lakes states that sent Trump to the White House. Georgia and Texas, she adds, will be tighter than they've been in decades.

Buchanan said GOP-run state House chambers in Georgia and Texas are up for grabs, as are Republican U.S. Senate seats in North Carolina, Georgia and perhaps Texas. Senate contests in South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi could be much closer than typical statewide races in those Deep South states.

"Georgia and the South are changing faster than most people think," said DuBose Porter, a former Georgia lawmaker and state party chair. "That was happening before Trump," Porter said, but the president "has accelerated it."

True two-party states in the Old Confederacy — at least beyond Florida and Virginia and occasionally North Carolina — would be relatively newfound. For generations after post-Civil War Reconstruction, the "Solid South" was uniformly Democratic, white voters' visceral rejection of President Abraham Lincoln's Republican Party. Beginning with the 1960s civil rights movement, most whites drifted to Republicans. That trend peaked during Democrat Barack Obama's two terms as the first Black president. More than party identity, the common controlling force was white cultural conservatism.

"Voters align first on principles, then on policy," Buchanan said.

Democrats see Biden as a party leader who can put a metro-based coalition over the top by mitigating margins beyond big cities and suburbs. "Biden is a safe vessel for these (white) voters who might have

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 51 of 70

been OK with Trump when everything's going well, but now are just looking for a stable leader who'll do the right thing," said Zac McCrary, a Democratic pollster based in Alabama and whose firm is aligned with Biden's campaign.

If Biden manages the feat, it would bridge the Southern appeals of the last three Democratic presidents. Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton were native Southerners who, with whiter, less urban electorates, attracted white moderates and Black voters. Carter, for example, styled himself a racial progressive, yet courted Alabama Gov. George Wallace, a former segregationist, in the 1976 primary. Carter won across the South.

Clinton, who won several Southern states in 1992, campaigned seamlessly among Black voters yet made a show of his death penalty support by traveling back to Arkansas during the campaign for the execution of a Black inmate. Obama won North Carolina and Virginia in 2008, leaning more heavily on diverse cities and battleground suburbs.

Biden, putting his needle-threading attempt on display, has noted his list of potential running mates includes "several" Black women. He speaks about centuries of injustice and systemic inequalities, most recently using an Independence Day address to describe American history as a "constant push and pull between two parts of our character, the idea that all men and women — all people — are created equal and the racism that has torn us apart."

But with civil unrest spurred by the latest police violence against Black Americans, Biden has sought a middle ground, making clear he opposes progressives' calls to "defund the police."

Confederate symbols, Biden has argued, should come down, but ideally not through mob action, and he's drawn distinctions between memorials to traitorous Confederates and those to national founders who owned slaves, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Their monuments, Biden said, should be protected.

McCrary said that approach, with Biden's center-left positioning on policy, should prevent a white backlash that benefits Trump. Buchanan argued it's an open question of what uneasy white Southerners choose. "Those voters are still scared about the direction of their country," he said.

In South Carolina, Harrison sees progress, even as more tangible policy fights remain.

"Almost all of my life, the Confederate flag flew over the state Capitol dome or on the grounds of the Statehouse," Harrison said. "For my sons, they will have no memory of that."

The Latest: Australia's most populous state to close border

By The Associated Press undefined

SYDNEY, Australia — The leader of Australia's most populous state says her government's decision to close its border with hard-hit Victoria state marks a new phase in the country's coronavirus pandemic.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian has long been a critic of states that close their borders to her state when its capital Sydney had Australia's largest numbers of COVID-19 cases.

But she had changed her stance on keeping Australia's internal borders open because the situation in the Victorian capital Melbourne was unprecedented.

The overwhelming majority of news cases detected in Melbourne in recent weeks were from community transmission. Everywhere else in Australia, the vast majority of cases were infected overseas or had been infected by a returned traveler, Berejiklian said.

"What is occurring in Victoria has not yet occurred anywhere else in Australia," she said. "It's a new part of the pandemic and, as such, it requires a new type of response."

New South Wales police will close the Victorian border from late Tuesday. Some flights and trains services would continue for travellers who are given permits and exemptions, Berejiklian said.

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

- Coronavirus pandemic and Floyd's death merge in brutal blow to Black well-being
- Fewer children will attend summer camp due to the pandemic; some camps won't survive
- Debates become highly-emotional as schools across the U.S. decide how and if to open

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 52 of 70

- Iran mandates masks as public shrugs off resurgent virus
- Gig workers face shifting roles, competition in coronavirus pandemic
- Naked men and drunks: England assesses the reopening of pubs

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has reported its biggest spike in coronavirus infections in recent days as the government eases quarantine restrictions to revive the economy, raising the possibility its crowded capital may be placed back under a strict lockdown.

The Department of Health reported a total of 2,434 cases in recent days, most of them in metropolitan Manila, raising the number of confirmed cases nationwide to more than 44,250, including 1,297 deaths. The infections and deaths are among the highest in Southeast Asia.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said there's a possibility the capital area may revert back to a lockdown if the uptick continues and hospitals get filled to capacity again.

At least one major Manila hospital, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, said its COVID-19 ward was running at full capacity and appealed that new patients be taken elsewhere.

President Rodrigo Duterte eased the lockdown in metropolitan Manila, an epicenter of infections, on June 1 to bolster an economy on the brink of recession. One major commercial and tourism region, central Cebu city, was placed back under a strict lockdown in mid-June due to alarming infection spikes.

LOS ANGELES -- Californians mostly heeded warnings to stay away from beaches and other public spaces during the long weekend.

State officials urged social distancing amid a spike in coronavirus infections and hospitalizations.

Many communities canceled July 4 fireworks shows and other annual festivities — changes that appeared to successfully keep crowds at bay. However big waves at Southern California beaches proved irresistible to some surfers.

California reported 6,500 additional confirmed cases of the virus on Saturday. The actual number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

PHOENIX -- Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego is pointing to a "crisis" involving coronavirus testing shortages in her city due to surging cases in Arizona, which leads the U.S. in new coronavirus cases per capita.

Gallego, a Democrat, said some residents over the weekend had to line up for eight hours by car to get tested.

Gallego told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that Arizona went from "zero to 60" by being one of the first states to reopen after it was among the last to implement stay-at-home orders.

Arizona health officials reported 3,536 additional coronavirus cases Sunday and four more known deaths. That brings the state's documented totals to 98,089 confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases and 1,809 known deaths.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia has experienced its biggest two-day jump in confirmed coronavirus cases, according to health statistics released Sunday.

The Department of Health and Human Resources website showed an increase of 76 positive cases on Sunday and 118 on Saturday. West Virginia has seen a 16% jump in confirmed cases over the past week and a 30% increase in the past two weeks, the statistics showed.

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice said Thursday he would decide by early this week whether he will order that face masks be worn inside buildings and when social distancing isn't possible. The governor had lifted most virus restrictions implemented to prevent the spread of the virus.

At least 95 people in West Virginia have died from the virus and more than 3,300 have tested positive since the outbreak began.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 53 of 70

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn says he has tested positive for the coronavirus as state health officials report more than 200 new infections and five deaths linked to the pandemic.

Gunn, a Republican, said in a video posted Sunday to Facebook that he got tested because he had been in close proximity to another member of the House who tested positive.

"I felt like I needed to go get myself tested just because I had been with this person and this morning was informed that I too have tested positive for COVID," Gunn said. "I feel very fortunate that I don't really have very many symptoms and feel fine."

Gunn said he called everyone that he had been in close proximity to recently to let them know of his diagnosis and planned to self-quarantine.

Gunn is the state's highest-ranking political figure to publicly disclose a positive test for the coronavirus. He did not say who the other House member was. The Mississippi Department of Health posted its latest coronavirus statistics Sunday. The state recorded 226 new cases through Saturday bringing the total number of confirmed and probable infections to 30,900 across the state. Five more people also died from COVID-19.

MADRID — Authorities in northwestern Spain have ordered the lockdown of a county with a population of 71,000 for fears of a coronavirus outbreak.

Regional authorities in Galicia announced Sunday that movement to and from A Mariña county located on Spain's northern Atlantic coast will be prohibited starting at midnight. It will run through Friday, two days before the region holds elections.

The decision comes one day after regional authorities in northeast Catalonia locked down an area with over 200,000 inhabitants.

Both lockdowns only allow people to leave the areas for work and other extenuating circumstances.

The small-scale lockdowns come two weeks after Spain ended a national state of emergency that enable the national government to lockdown the entire country and prohibit travel between provinces or certain areas since mid-March.

Over 28,000 people are confirmed to have died from the virus in Spain.

MEXICO CITY — Residents of the town of Sonoyta, across from Lukeville, Arizona, briefly blocked the main road leading south from the U.S. border over the weekend over fears of coronavirus outbreaks.

Arizona has seen a major upsurge in infections and there were worries about intensified contagion during the July 4 weekend.

Sonoyta Mayor José Ramos Arzate issued a statement Saturday "inviting U.S. tourists not to visit Mexico."

Local residents organized to block the road with their cars on the Mexican side Saturday.

Video posted by residents showed several travelers complaining that they had a right to cross because they were Mexican citizens. The road is the quickest route to the seaside resort of Puerto Peñasco, also known as Rocky Point.

Ramos Arzate wrote that people from the United States should only be allowed in "for essential activities, and for that reason, the checkpoint and inspection point a few meters from the Sonoyta-Lukeville AZ crossing will continue operating."

DALLAS — Leaders in two of Texas' biggest cities are calling on the governor to empower local governments to order residents to stay home as the state's continued surge in confirmed cases of the coronavirus tests hospital capacity.

Austin Mayor Steve Adler, a Democrat, told CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday that he wants Republican Gov. Gregg Abbott to return control to local governments. He says hospitals are facing a crisis and that ICUs could be overrun in 10 days.

In the Houston area, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, who is also a Democrat, says a stay-at-home

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 54 of 70

order is needed.

Texas reported its highest daily increase in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases Saturday with 8,258.

WASHINGTON -- Republican Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson says if President Donald Trump were to hold a campaign rally in his Trump-friendly state, people will need to wear masks.

Hutchinson says he would expect people to follow his state's health guidelines by practicing social distancing or wearing masks if unable to do so.

He says he understands the value of having national Fourth of July celebrations such as at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and that there is some "virus fatigue," but that people should have been wearing face coverings to "set an example."

Trump won Arkansas in 2016 with over 60% of the vote.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, says he'd like to see a national strategy on the coronavirus, including a mask requirement. He says his state is seeing "small spikes in reinfection" from residents coming back from Florida, South Carolina and other virus hotspots, and the U.S. is "as strong as our weakest link right now."

Trump has recently held campaign-style events in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Phoenix and Washington D.C. where he and many rally attendees didn't wear masks.

Hutchinson and Murphy spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press."

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — Slovenia says 15 people have been infected with the new coronavirus at a nursing home for the first time in weeks as the country faces a spike in cases.

Authorities said Sunday that nine residents and six staff have so far tested positive at the nursing home in the southwestern town of Vipava. The first case was confirmed on Friday.

Slovenia says this is the first resurgence of the virus in the country's nursing homes since May. Most of the country's 111 fatalities from the new coronavirus have been recorded among elderly nursing home residents.

Slovenia has confirmed 1,700 cases of the new coronavirus among the country's 2 million people. The numbers have started to rise in the past days with 21 new cases confirmed on Sunday.

ROME — After five straight days of small increases, the number of day-to-day confirmed COVID-19 cases in Italy has dipped.

According to Health Ministry figures on Sunday, 192 cases were registered in the previous 24 hours, compared to 235 in Saturday's tally.

Feeding some of those recent increases, concerned authorities have said, were hotspots of contagion blamed on infected people entering Italy.

Among them was a businessman in northeast Italy who took ill after driving back from a trip in Serbia but despite a fever attended a funeral and a birthday party shortly after he returned home. That man is now hospitalized in intensive care.

The majority of Italy's 20 regions registered a handful or fewer of new cases on Sunday.

Italy's confirmed coronavirus infections as of Sunday total 241,611. But many with mild symptoms, as well as numerous elderly residents of nursing homes, didn't get tested.

Including the seven deaths were registered on Sunday nationwide, 34,861 people with confirmed coronavirus have died in Italy during the pandemic.

ATHENS, Greece — Greece has banned Serbian travelers because of a spike in COVID-19 cases in that country.

The ban will take effect at 6 a.m. Monday and will last until July 15, but can be extended, a government spokeswoman announced Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 55 of 70

Greek authorities also announced nine new cases of coronavirus and no fatalities in the past 24 hours Sunday.

Seven of the nine cases involved tourists tested upon arrival.

Greece's total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now 3,519, with 192 dead.

PRISTINA, Kosovo — The Kosovar government on has reimposed curfew times in the capital and three other cities following a significant spike of the new virus cases.

Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti said Sunday that in Pristina and three other cities with the highest increasing numbers there will be again a curfew time from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. (1900-0300 GMT). Public transport also will cut in half the allowed number of passengers in the buses, too.

A day earlier Kosovar authorities reported 8 deaths from the coronavirus, the highest daily number in the Western Balkan country since the start of the outbreak in March. New daily cases were 178, also the highest so far.

Increased new cases and daily deaths have worried the authorities in the nation of 1.8 million population after the ease of the lockdown measures a month ago.

Masks are mandatory in all public places.

During the two-month long lockdown the country dealt well in coping with the virus. But following that the daily new cases and deaths have increased significantly, with at least 3,356 confirmed cases and 66 deaths as of Saturday.

MIAMI — Florida health officials say the state has reached a grim milestone: more than 200,000 people have tested positive for COVID-19.

State statistics released Sunday show about 10,000 new people tested positive. Saturday's numbers — more than 11,400 cases — marked a record new single-day high. More than 3,700 people have died.

About 43% of the cases are in three counties: Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach.

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" that the high numbers of positive tests both in his county and the state are "extremely worrisome."

Suarez, who had the virus in March, says it's clear the growth is "exponential at this point" and officials are closely monitoring hospitalizations. They're also closely watching the death rate, which "give us the impression" that "much stricter" measures have to be taken.

Florida's death count is the ninth highest in the country overall and the 27th highest per capita at 17.4 deaths per 100,000 people.

Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by 5,323.1, an increase of 184.1%.

NEW YORK — Tattoo parlors and other personal care businesses like nail salons will be allowed to welcome customers in New York City starting Monday, as it enters Phase 3 of reopening.

The rest of the state's regions have already moved into Phase 3. New York City will still be more limited, as officials decided last week to hold off on allowing indoor dining indefinitely out of concerns that it would cause a spike in new coronavirus cases. Outdoor dining is in effect.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said there were more than 530 new confirmed cases of the virus reported around the state on Saturday and eight deaths. At the height of New York's virus outbreak, new infections reached daily totals of more than 10,000 and deaths topped 700.

So far, reopening had been allowed for retail stores and offices.

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration commissioner is declining to back up President Donald Trump's claim that 99% of coronavirus cases are "harmless."

Dr. Stephen Hahn tells CNN and ABC that he's "not going to get into who is right and who is wrong," but that government data clearly show "this is a serious problem."

He adds that "any case is tragic" and that to stem the tide of surging cases people should follow govern-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 56 of 70

ment guidance to practice social distancing and wear a mask.

In Fourth of July remarks, Trump said the U.S. was testing too much and falsely asserted that "by so doing, we show cases, 99% of which are totally harmless."

The World Health Organization in fact has said about 20% of those diagnosed with COVID-19 progress to severe disease, including pneumonia and respiratory failure. Those with mild or no symptoms, meanwhile, could spread the virus to others.

The mayor of Austin, Texas, where COVID-19 cases are surging, called Trump's remarks "dangerous" and "wrong." Mayor Steve Adler urged people to listen to local officials for public safety guidance rather than the "ambiguous message coming out of Washington."

WASHINGTON — Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego is pointing to a "crisis" involving coronavirus testing shortages in her city due to surging cases in Arizona, which leads the U.S. in new coronavirus cases per capita.

Gallego, a Democrat, said some residents over the weekend had to line up for eight hours by car to get COVID-19 tests and that the federal government has been slow to help.

Gallego tells ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that Arizona went from "zero to 60" by being one of the first states to reopen after it was among the last to implement stay-at-home orders.

She says that led to an explosion of cases, citing crowded nightclubs with free champagne and people unwittingly spreading the virus at large family gatherings.

She faults mixed public messaging after President Donald Trump's recent visit to Phoenix. Gallego says while she was urging people to stay at home and avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, Trump undercut that by holding large events and not wearing a mask.(backslash)

Thais bid addio to theater where they fell in love with film

By JERRY HARMER Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — If Hollywood is where dreams are made, Bangkok's Scala theater for the past 51 years was where Thais immersed themselves in the old-fashioned blockbusters of war, the heart-felt romances and quirky comedies.

Now only the memories will remain. The picture palace in the center of Thailand's capital, the city's last standalone big-screen cinema, on Sunday screened its final offering.

It was a piquant choice, 1988's "Cinema Paradiso," a nostalgic Oscar-winning Italian film about a bygone movie house in a Sicilian village. The Scala's marquee on opening day in 1969 boasted John Wayne in "The Undefeated."

Scala owner Nanta Tansacha wistfully recalled being enthralled even when the venue was still just a set of blueprints her father showed her.

"I do think it's a beautiful place, the most beautiful one I ever think that we can ever build. And I think no one will build cinemas like this in the future," she told The Associated Press in an interview.

Two other theaters once stood nearby, but one burned down during political turmoil in 2010, and the other shut its doors two years ago after being remodeled as a multiplex in its sunset years.

Nanta said the coronavirus was the tipping point for the Scala, whose lease was up at the end of the year anyway. More than two months of a government-ordered shutdown of entertainment places choked off its already modest cash flow.

The economics of the 900-seat, single-screen cinema limited to five or six showings a day were virtually unsustainable when malls just across the road had smaller theaters, multiple screens and dozens of showings daily.

However, to its fans, the Scala experience was not only about what was projected on the screen.

"I've never seen another movie theater like it anywhere in the world," said Philip Jablon, a U.S. researcher who has documented Southeast Asia's stand-alone cinemas in a blog and a book. "Some people call it art deco. I've heard it referred to as overwrought rococo. It's a very unique mix of modernism, modern architecture, combined with very flashy, glitzy, almost vintage style of architecture."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 57 of 70

And the theater's huge, curved screen made it a great place to watch a movie, Jablon told AP in an online interview. "It's got perfect sight lines almost anywhere you sit. It's just a very unique building, well-designed."

Movie-goers could meet their friends inside the open-air ground floor, sweep up the curved staircases, and hand over their tickets to neatly uniformed ushers before settling into their seats.

Pattarapon Jitbanchong keeps a collection of old Scala tickets framed on her wall at home, and proudly displayed some of them Sunday.

"Each ticket has a story of its own," said the 42-year-old former makeup artist turned fortuneteller. "What I was doing on the day, who I went with, what I was wearing, who was my boyfriend and who were my friends. When I look at the tickets, the memories flood back."

Kong Rithdee, deputy director of the Thai Film Archive, described the Scala as both an emotional and a historical landmark.

"A lot of people who grew up in Bangkok came to see movies here, so this is a place where there is a lot of collective memory of the people who grew up in Bangkok," Kong said. "And as a symbol, it's a place of elegance, it's a place where cinema is celebrated, whereas in the modern era of multiplexes, cinemas are utilitarian."

For Scala owner Nanta, the closing is very personal.

"I feel very sad, this is my life. This is my home. This is my house. And this is all my people," she said, surveying a crowd of movie fans who came to a sort of open house she arranged last Friday.

When they opened the theater, they threw on the lights, and proudly showed it off, she said.

"And when it's time to close the curtain, I want to close it in style. So that's why I turn on all the lights. I ask people to come and take photos to get good memories," said Nanta. A message wall carried Post-it notes with recollections and good wishes.

To a piped soundtrack of sentimental music, the crowd of movie fans snapped souvenir photos of its extravagant interior and remembered when its heyday, and theirs, intertwined.

Posing in the empty box office, and clutching a ticket she had purchased for the last show, 56-year-old Wanpen Lerdrungroj recalled the key role the Scala played in her youth.

"When I was a teenager, I came to see movies here and I had a date with my boyfriend, who is now the father of my children," she said. She traveled from Thonburi, on the other side of Bangkok's Chao Phraya River. He had a slightly shorter journey, from the city's Din Daeng neighborhood.

"We would meet here to see a movie," she said.

The Scala's landlord, neighboring Chulalongkorn University, has not yet declared whether it will tear down this movie-goers' shrine.

"The idea that that this would be slated for demolition is kind of mind-boggling," said theater researcher Jablon.

"You know, this type of building just doesn't exist anymore," he said. "So it's important to hang on to at least one example."

Gig workers face shifting roles, competition in pandemic

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ and ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — There were the two-hour, unpaid waits outside supermarkets when San Francisco first started to lock down, on top of the heavy shopping bags that had to be lugged up countless flights of stairs.

And yet even after signing up for several apps, 39-year-old Saori Okawa still wasn't making as much money delivering meals and groceries as she did driving for ride-hailing giant Uber before the pandemic struck.

"I started to juggle three apps to make ends meet," said Okawa, who recently reduced her work hours after receiving unemployment benefits. "It was really hard, because at that time, I could not afford to stay home because I had to pay rent."

Okawa is one of an estimated 1.5 million so-called gig workers who make a living driving people to air-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 58 of 70

ports, picking out produce at grocery stores or providing childcare for working parents. Theirs had already been a precarious situation, largely without safeguards such as minimum wage, unemployment insurance, workers compensation and health and safety protections.

But with the pandemic pummeling the global economy and U.S. unemployment reaching heights not seen since the Great Depression, gig workers are clamoring for jobs that often pay less while facing stiff competition from a crush of newly unemployed workers also attempting to patch together a livelihood - all while trying to avoid contracting the coronavirus themselves.

U.S. unemployment fell to 11.1% in June, a Depression-era level that, while lower than last month, could worsen after a surge in coronavirus cases has led states to close restaurants and bars.

Marisa Martin, a law school student in California, turned to Instacart when a state government summer job as paralegal fell through after a hiring freeze. She said she enjoys the flexibility of choosing her own hours but hopes not to have to turn to gig work in the future. The pay is too volatile — with tips varying wildly and work sometimes slow — to be worth the risk of exposure to the virus.

"We are not getting paid nearly enough when we're on the front lines interacting with multiple people daily," said Martin, 24, who moved in with her parents temporarily to save money.

Alexandra Lopez-Djurovic, 26, was a full-time nanny in a New York City suburb when one of the parents she works for lost her job while the other saw his hours cut.

"All of a sudden, as much as they want me to stay, they can't afford to pay me," she said. Her own hours were reduced to about eight per week.

To make up lost wages, Lopez-Djurovic placed an ad offering grocery delivery on a local Facebook group. Overnight, she got 50 responses.

Lopez-Djurovic charges \$30 an hour and coordinates shopping lists over email, offering perks the app companies don't such as checking the milk's expiration date before choosing which size to buy. Still, it doesn't replace the salary she lost.

"One week I might have seven, eight, 10 families I was shopping for," Lopez-Djurovic said. "I had a week when I had no money. That's definitely a challenge."

Upwork, a website that connects skilled freelance workers with jobs, has seen a 50% increase in signups by both workers and employers since the pandemic began, including spikes in jobs related to ecommerce and customer service, said Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Upwork.

"When you need to make big changes fast, a flexible workforce helps you," he said.

Maya Pinto, a researcher at the National Employment Law Project, said temporary and contract work grew during Great Recession and she expects that many workers will seek such jobs again amid the current crisis.

But increased reliance on temporary and contract work will have negative implications on job quality and security because it "is a way of saving costs and shifting risk onto the worker," Pinto said.

It's difficult to assess the overall picture of the gig economy during the pandemic since some parts are expanding while others are contracting. Grocery delivery giant Instacart, for instance, has brought on 300,000 new contracted shoppers since March, more than doubling its workforce to 500,000. Meanwhile, Uber's business fell 80% in April compared with last year while Lyft's tumbled 75% in the same period.

For food delivery apps, it's been a mixed bag. Although they are getting a bump from restaurants offering more takeout options, those gains are being offset by the restaurant industry's overall decline during the pandemic.

Gig workers are also jockeying for those jobs from all fronts. DoorDash launched an initiative to help out-of-work restaurant workers sign up for delivery work. Uber's food delivery service, Uber Eats, grew 53% in the first quarter and around 200,000 people have signed up for the app per month since March — about 50% more than usual.

"Drivers are definitely exploring other options, but the issue is that there's 20 or 30 million people looking for work right now," said Harry Campbell, founder of The Rideshare Guy. "Sometimes I joke all you need is a pulse and a car to get approved. But what that means is it's easy for other people to get approved

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 59 of 70

too, so you have to compete for shifts.”

Delivery jobs typically pay less than ride-hailing jobs. Single mom Luz Laguna used to earn about \$25 in a half-hour driving passengers to Los Angeles International Airport. When those trips evaporated, Laguna began delivering meals through Uber Eats, working longer hours but making less cash. The base pay is around \$6 per delivery, and most people tip around \$2, she said. To avoid shelling out more for childcare, she sometimes brings her 3-year-old son along on deliveries.

“This is our only way out right now,” Laguna said. “It’s hard managing, but that’s the only job that I can be able to perform as a single mother.”

Other drivers find it makes more sense to stay home and collect unemployment — a benefit they and other gig workers hadn’t qualified for before the pandemic. They are also eligible to receive an additional \$600 weekly check from the federal government, a benefit that became available to workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic. Taken together, that’s more than what many ride-hailing drivers were making before the pandemic, Campbell said.

But that \$600 benefit will expire at the end of July, and the \$2 trillion government relief package that extended unemployment benefits to gig workers expires at the end of the year.

“So many drivers are going to have to sit down and decide, do I want to put myself at risk and my family at risk once I’m not getting the government assistance?” Campbell said.

Follow @cbussewitz and @Alexolson99 on Twitter

Facebook groups pivot to attacks on Black Lives Matter

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A loose network of Facebook groups that took root across the country in April to organize protests over coronavirus stay-at-home orders has become a hub of misinformation and conspiracy theories that have pivoted to a variety of new targets. Their latest: Black Lives Matter and the nationwide protests of racial injustice.

These groups, which now boast a collective audience of more than 1 million members, are still thriving after most states started lifting virus restrictions.

And many have expanded their focus.

One group transformed itself last month from “Reopen California” to “California Patriots Pro Law & Order,” with recent posts mocking Black Lives Matter or changing the slogan to “White Lives Matter.” Members have used profane slurs to refer to Black people and protesters, calling them “animals,” “racist” and “thugs”— a direct violation of Facebook’s hate speech standards.

Others have become gathering grounds for promoting conspiracy theories about the protests, suggesting protesters were paid to go to demonstrations and that even the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police, was staged.

An Associated Press review of the most recent posts in 40 of these Facebook groups — most of which were launched by conservative groups or pro-gun activists — found the conversations largely shifted last month to attacking the nationwide protests over the killing of Black men and women after Floyd’s death.

Facebook users in some of these groups post hundreds of times a day in threads often seen by members only and shielded from public view.

“Unless Facebook is actively looking for disinformation in those spaces, they will go unnoticed for a long time and they will grow,” said Joan Donovan, the research director at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy. “Over time, people will drag other people into them and they will continue to organize.”

Facebook said it is aware of the collection of reopen groups, and is using technology as well as relying on users to identify problematic posts. The company has vowed in the past to look for material that violates its rules in private groups as well as in public places on its site. But the platform has not always been able to deliver on that promise.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 60 of 70

Shortly after the groups were formed, they were rife with coronavirus misinformation and conspiracy theories, including assertions that masks are “useless,” the U.S. government intends to forcibly vaccinate people and that COVID-19 is a hoax intended to hurt President Donald Trump’s re-election chances this fall.

Posts in these private groups are less likely to be scrutinized by Facebook or its independent fact-checkers, said Donovan. Facebook enlists media outlets around the world, including The Associated Press, to fact check claims on its site. Members in these private groups have created an echo chamber and tend to agree with the posts, so are therefore less likely to flag them for Facebook or fact-checkers to review, Donovan added.

At least one Facebook group, ReOpen PA, asked its 105,000 members to keep the conversation focused on reopening businesses and schools in Pennsylvania, and implemented rules to forbid posts about the racial justice protests as well as conspiracy theories about the efficacy of masks.

But most others have not moderated their pages as closely.

For example, some groups in New Jersey, Texas and Ohio have labeled systemic racism a hoax. A member of the California Facebook group posted a widely debunked flyer that says “White men, women and children, you are the enemy,” which was falsely attributed to Black Lives Matter. Another falsely claimed that a Black man was brandishing a gun outside the St. Louis mansion where a white couple confronted protesters with firearms. Dozens of users in several of the groups have pushed an unsubstantiated theory that liberal billionaire George Soros is paying crowds to attend racial justice protests.

Facebook members in two groups — Wisconsinites Against Excessive Quarantine and Ohioans Against Excessive Quarantine — also regularly refer to protesters as “animals,” “thugs,” or “paid” looters.

In the Ohio group, one user wrote on May 31: “The focus is shifted from the voice of free people rising up against tyranny ... to lawless thugs from a well known racist group causing violence and upheaval of lives.”

Those two pages are part of a network of groups in Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania created by conservative activist Ben Dorr, who has for years raised money to lobby on hot-button conservative issues like abortion or gun rights. Their latest cause — pushing for governors to reopen their states — has attracted hundreds of thousands of followers in the private Facebook groups they launched.

Private groups that balloon to that size, with little oversight, are like “creepy basements” where extremist views and misinformation can lurk, said disinformation researcher Nina Jankowicz, a fellow at the nonpartisan Wilson Center, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

“It’s sort of a way that the platforms are enabling some of the worst actors to stay on it,” said Jankowicz. “Rather than being de-platformed — they can organize.”

Associated Press technology writer Barbara Ortutay in Oakland, California, contributed.

Debates turn emotional as schools decide how and if to open

By PATRICK WHITTLE and CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — School districts across America are in the midst of making wrenching decisions over how to resume classes in settings radically altered by the coronavirus pandemic, with school buses running below capacity, virtual learning, outdoor classrooms and quarantine protocols for infected children the new norm.

The plans for the upcoming school year are taking shape by the day, and vary district to district, state to state. The debates have been highly emotional, with tempers flaring among parents and administrators, and have been made all the more vexing by record numbers of COVID-19 cases being reported each day.

In Florida, some school districts want students back in the classroom in early August, even though the virus is surging through communities. On average, Florida has reported more than 7,000 new cases each day recently — more than seven times what it was reporting a month ago.

New Mexico, which has been largely spared major outbreaks, plans a hybrid model of virtual and in-person learning. Parents in New York have demanded schools reopen in the fall. And in Maine, more outdoor learning is planned. Districts nationwide are coming up with various rules for wearing masks. Some want all students to wear them. Others, such as Marion County, Indiana, plan to limit the requirement to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 61 of 70

older children.

Each of these decisions is fraught, trying to balance health concerns with clawing back as much normalcy as possible. Parents, wrung out after months of juggling full-time work and full-time home schooling, are desperate for help. Children, isolated from their peers, are yearning for social interaction. And everyone, including teachers, is concerned about stepping into the unknown, with so much still uncertain about the virus.

Districts are worried about being able to afford added supplies — including masks and more buses. And school officials said the resurgence of virus cases underway could shatter reopening plans before they're even put in place.

"If we see large outbreaks happening across communities, it's going to be very hard to keep schools open," said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, on "Fox News Sunday." "The good news is we think kids transmit less. They are certainly less likely to get sick, but ... imagine Arizona right now. If schools were open right now, they would not be able to stay open."

Aimee Rodriguez Webb, a special education teacher in Cobb County, Georgia, is wrestling with her own health concerns while waiting to hear her district's plans. She also has a 3 year old.

"I love being in the classroom. And this year I get my own classroom, so I was looking forward to decorating it and all that," she said. "But then the flip side is ... I don't know that I'm mentally ready to step into the unknown like that."

Schools around the U.S. shut down suddenly this year as coronavirus cases first began rising. That led to a hodgepodge of distance learning, on-the-fly homeschooling and, for some families, a lack of any school at all. Districts are now turning their focus to how to create more structured environments.

But the debates have been filled with tension. Near Rochester, New York, parents rallied in favor of fully opening schools, holding signs outside an administration building June 29 saying: "No normal school? No school taxes!"

Christina Higley, a parent in the Rochester suburb of Webster, said she started a Facebook group initially to demand answers and have a say in what school would look like, but the discussions there sparked a movement for reopening schools.

"There's a lot of parents that are saying, 'Open our schools, let us have the decision if we feel comfortable sending the children in to them,'" said Higley, whose children just finished kindergarten, third and fifth grade.

The decisions are even more complicated in districts where the case count is rising. In Manatee County, Florida, the working plan is for all elementary students to return to school full time on Aug. 10. Older students would rely on virtual learning while they are phased back into brick-and-mortar schools.

But that proposal isn't set in stone amid a surge in infections. The county recorded its highest number of new cases in a single day in late June.

If a student tests positive for the virus in the new school year, classrooms or whole buildings would need to be disinfected, said Mike Barber, a district spokesman. Students and staff with confirmed infections wouldn't be able to return until they had tested negative twice.

Meanwhile, medical experts have expressed concerns for children's development and mental health. The American Academy of Pediatrics said it "strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school."

In Cape Elizabeth, Maine, Shael Norris said she's particularly concerned about children who could face abuse at home and parents who risk losing their jobs to care for their kids. Norris has two children set to attend high school in the fall and runs a nonprofit that combats sexual assault.

"There are so many equally important risks, and we're focused entirely on COVID," she said. "But I get it. It's scary."

Maine never saw a major outbreak, and it is now reporting, on average, a few dozen cases each day. Still, the state's largest school district of Portland has left all the options on the table: a full reopening, a partial reopening or fully remote learning.

The district sent a letter to parents that said it plans to use outdoor space when possible — a solution

for only a few months a year, given Maine's weather.

In order to keep kids a safe distance apart on school buses, districts will need more vehicles — an especially thorny issue for rural districts, where students travel vast distances. New Mexico has issued guidelines that buses should be run at 50% capacity, according to Nancy Martira, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Education.

Many districts plan to lean heavily on federal bailout money to pay for their extra transportation needs. It's all adding up to an anxious start to the school year.

"Nobody has really laid out a clear plan for how you're going to keep kids safe, especially smaller kids who are not going to be able to social distance all day, and they're going to touch things and take their mask off," said Duncan Kirkwood, whose 9- and 11-year-old daughters attend the Charter School for Applied Technologies in Buffalo, New York.

Thompson reported from Buffalo, New York.

Cosby citing systemic racism as he fights assault conviction

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — In a nearly empty Philadelphia courtroom in June 2015, a lawyer for Bill Cosby implored a federal judge to keep the comedian's testimony in an old sexual battery lawsuit under wraps. It was sensitive. Embarrassing. Private.

U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno had another word for it.

The conduct Cosby detailed in his deposition was "perhaps criminal," Robreno wrote five years ago Monday, in a momentous decision that released the case files to The Associated Press, reopened the police investigation, and helped give rise to the #MeToo movement.

Cosby, the Hollywood paragon of Black family values, was convicted of sexual assault in 2018 as the movement exploded and women across the globe shared personal histories of sexual harassment and abuse. He is serving up to 10 years in prison.

And now in the midst of another historic reckoning — this time addressing the treatment of African Americans and other people of color by police and the criminal justice system — the 82-year-old Cosby has won the right to an appeal.

He hopes to use the moment to his advantage.

"The false conviction of Bill Cosby is so much bigger than him — it's about the destruction of ALL Black people and people of color in America," Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt said when the court accepted the appeal late last month.

Cosby, who grew up in public housing in Philadelphia, has a complicated relationship with the Black community. He earned acclaim for his groundbreaking (and intentionally race-blind) performances on television in the 1950s; mingled, but rarely marched, with civil rights leaders and the Black elite in the 1960s; and solidified his wealth and power with his star turn as "America's Dad," on "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s.

All the while, he promoted education and gave millions to historically Black universities.

But his increasingly jarring comments on poverty, parenthood and personal responsibility offended younger Blacks in his later years, most famously in his 2004 "Pound Cake" speech — which he gave just months after the sexual encounter that would prove his downfall.

As he toured the country, Cosby argued that "the antidote to racism is not rallies, protests, or pleas, but strong families and communities," as the essayist Ta-Nehisi Coates noted.

"Cosby's gospel of discipline, moral reform, and self-reliance offers a way out — a promise that one need not cure America of its original sin in order to succeed," Coates wrote in his 2008 piece in *The Atlantic*, "This Is How We Lost to the White Man": The audacity of Bill Cosby's Black conservatism."

The appeal issues the court accepted don't directly include racial bias, which Cosby's legal team raised more often on the courthouse steps in Montgomery County than inside the courtroom. His defenders,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 63 of 70

however, say race permeates the case.

Cosby's celebrity "does not change his status as a Black man," said appellate lawyer Jennifer Bonjean, the latest of more than a dozen criminal lawyers on the case.

"It would be naïve to assume that his prosecution was not tainted by the same racial bias that pervades the criminal justice process in both explicit and insidious ways," she said last week.

Cosby's wife of 56 years has been more blunt.

In an interview last month with ABC-TV, Camille Cosby said the #MeToo movement ignores "the history of particular white women" who have "accused Black males of sexual assault without any proof."

"We know how women can lie," said Camille Cosby, who made only brief appearances at her husband's trials, for defense closing arguments, and has not visited him in prison. She declined to speak to the AP last week.

The appeal hinges on two questions that have shaped the case from the start:

— Did Cosby have an ironclad deal with District Attorney Bruce Castor that Cosby could never be charged after Castor declined to arrest Cosby in 2005? Defense lawyers say Cosby relied on such a promise when he gave the 2006 deposition later unsealed in accuser Andrea Constand's lawsuit — and used against him at trial.

Castor agrees they did. But it was never put in writing, and Castor's top deputy at the time, Risa Ferman, who helped run the initial investigation and reopened it in 2015 when she was district attorney, seemed not to know about it.

— And, how many other accusers should be allowed to testify before the scales of justice tip against the accused?

Cosby's trial judge allowed just one other accuser in the first trial when the jury deadlocked, but five at the retrial a year later. The jury convicted Cosby on all three sex assault counts.

The state's intermediate appeals court seemed unimpressed by either issue, rejecting Cosby's first appeal.

"The reality of it is, he gives them drugs and then he sexually assaults them," Superior Court Judge John T. Bender said at the arguments. "That's the pattern, is it not?"

But Cosby appealed again, setting up the state Supreme Court arguments expected sometime next year.

Constand knew Cosby from her job at Temple University, where Cosby was a booster, alumnus and longtime trustee twice her age.

Her trial testimony matched his deposition in many respects, the key distinction being her consent to what happened at his suburban Philadelphia estate. Both say that Cosby gave her three pills for stress before Cosby, in his words, engaged in "digital penetration."

Constand, a former professional basketball player, who is white, said she was left semi-conscious and could not fight him off. (She thought she was taking a homeopathic supplement; Cosby later said it was Benadryl, while acknowledging he once gave a 19-year-old Quaaludes before sex.)

More than 60 women, mostly white but a few women of color, have made similar accusations against Cosby.

Cosby lawyer Bonjean, though, believes the #MeToo movement is fading, and that Cosby, if he wins a new trial, might avoid what she called "the mob-justice standards of a hashtag movement."

Not long after the encounter with Constand, Cosby gave the "Pound Cake" speech to the NAACP, riffing about a scenario in which the Black community complains when someone is shot by police over a stolen piece of cake.

"Then we all run out and are outraged, 'The cops shouldn't have shot him.' What the hell was he doing with the pound cake in his hand?" Cosby asked.

A decade later, Black comedian Hannibal Buress took Cosby to task for his scolding.

"You rape women, Bill Cosby, so turn the crazy down a couple notches," he said onstage in 2014.

Former prosecutor Kristen Gibbons Feden, who gave closing arguments at Cosby's retrial, recognizes the good Cosby did for the Black community. She also believes that racial bias exists in the criminal justice

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 64 of 70

system.

"It doesn't make Cosby innocent," said Feden, who is Black. "It means we need to fix the criminal justice system."

Wake Forest University Dean Jonathan L. Walton, who teaches about African American social movements, said that Cosby undeniably boosted the representation of Blacks in American culture. Yet Walton said Cosby might not be the best messenger for today's moment.

"One should agree with him as it relates to systemic racism and the injustices of the 'justice system,'" said Walton, the divinity school dean, "while also being suspicious of what seems to be a pattern of his, of only identifying problems when they personally benefit him."

___ This story has been corrected to reflect that the federal court hearing with Judge Eduardo Robreno was in June 2015, not July 2015.

Fewer will attend camp this summer; some camps won't survive

By DAVID SHARP Associated Press

FAYETTE, Maine (AP) — Camp Winnebago was founded during the Spanish Flu and weathered all manner of health scares from polio to the swine flu over a century. It wasn't about to let the coronavirus stop the fun.

But things will be different this summer at this camp and others that buck the trend and welcome children. The vast majority of overnight camps are closed due to the pandemic.

Campers were tested five days before arriving and will be tested again five days later. The camp installed additional hand-washing stations on the 150-acre (60-hectare) property. Each cabin has hand sanitizer that must be used when entering and leaving, and before and after group activities. Face coverings are required in larger groups.

"We believe that we can run a program safely and with the health of the campers at the top of our minds. We're not doing this cavalierly. We're taking this extremely seriously," Camp Winnebago owner Andy Lilienthal said.

Nationwide, the summer camp picture is coming into sharper focus with many of the 15,000-plus summer camps opting to close because of health concerns surrounding the pandemic, or because of delays in receiving rules or guidelines from licensing officials.

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Oregon have banned overnight camps, and more than 20 states still haven't issued guidance for overnight camp directors during what would normally be the start of the busy summer season, according to the American Camp Association.

All told, an estimated 19.5 million youths will miss out on either day camp or overnight camp this summer, said Tom Rosenberg, from the American Camp Association.

It's not just a loss for kids who will miss out on seeing friends, becoming independent, and developing outdoor skills. It's a devastating financial loss for camps, some of which won't recover. Camps are estimated to lose \$16 billion in revenue, with more than \$4.4 billion in lost wages and over 900,000 lost jobs this summer, Rosenberg said.

Even camps that do jump through the hoops to open are going to have a tough time. Most of them are losing money but believe strongly in the importance of the camp experience, said Ron Hall, from the Maine Summer Camps.

Camps that consider opening are confronting a hodgepodge of safety rules, some of which were late in coming from states. There is also guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Camp Association.

In Maine, where only 20 of 110 licensed overnight camps are opening, guidelines require staff and counselors to quarantine or receive a negative test result. Campers also must quarantine, or get tested, unless they're from an exempted state. Campers must be broken up into smaller groups for social distancing. There are rigid guidelines for sanitizing, and an isolation area must be established in the event someone falls ill.

It was all too much for some camps.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 65 of 70

In Vermont, Ellen Flight said the decision was made not to open the girls' Camp Songadeewin and the separate boys camp Keewaydin because the safety of campers could not be assured, especially when they're camping out.

"When you start thinking about cooking a meal over the fire, you can't touch the utensils that somebody else touched, you know, you just can't run a program with any sense of safety," said Flight, who's also president of the Vermont Camp Association.

Others are opening but are scaling back.

In Maine, Camp Winona, in Bridgton, will operate with one session instead of two. Normally, the camp hosts about 220 campers, but this year it will be closer to 150, co-owner Laura Ordway said.

The campers will be divided into groups by age, and then further divided into tents. Smaller groups will eat, sleep and engage in activities together to avoid transmission of the virus to the larger group. There will be staggered times for showering. Meals will be outdoors.

"Camp directors are risk managers, every single day of the camp. We're also innovative and tenacious," Ordway said. "I know that there are challenges, but we've figured out the safety side of things. Now we have to figure out the logistics so our campers really thrive."

In Washington, D.C., Nicole Elkon and her husband weighed the benefits and dangers of sending their two sons and daughter to camp in Maine after watching their kids deal with the roller coaster of social isolation, distance learning and quarantines.

They were won over by the "sealed bubble" concept with no outsiders allowed, only campers, counselors and staff.

"When the plan came out, we were convinced it was a good place for our children. In fact, I've become even more convinced since then that the safest place for them is at camp," she said.

But Andrew Klein, from New York City, reached the opposite conclusion for his 14-year-old son.

The family lives a block from Mount Sinai Hospital, one of the hospitals that dealt with a massive outbreak in the spring. The parents did not like the idea of teens in close quarters in cabins. If their son became sick, he'd have to quarantine at camp.

"Even my son didn't feel comfortable with it," Klein said. "He felt that this was a summer to wait it out, and go back next year."

Here at Camp Winnebago, on Echo Lake, about 80% of summer slots are filled. The camp purposefully kept some slots unfilled to create a separate area where campers can be isolated in the event someone falls ill, Lilienthal said.

The camp property was largely closed off after the arrival of 140 campers Wednesday. There will be no high-intensity, close-contact activities like basketball or soccer until after an initial period.

"Our system has gotten very good at mitigating risk in all phases of camp. We see COVID-19 as that, another layer of risk," Lilienthal said.

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

Virus, Floyd death merge in brutal blow to Black well-being

By LINDSEY TANNER AP Medical Writer

Doctors have known it for a long time, well before the resounding cries of "Black Lives Matter": Black people suffer disproportionately.

They face countless challenges to good health, among them food, transportation and income. The stress of living with racism has very real, physical effects. And they are especially prone to diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases that can be tricky to manage even in normal times.

Then came COVID-19 and George Floyd — one killing Black people in alarming numbers, the other shining a harsh light on systemic racism. In a matter of months and nearly 8 minutes, it became clear that institutions designed to ensure the two most important things in life — health and safety — had converged

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 66 of 70

to turn against one segment of the population in stark, horrific ways.

It's a brutal blow to Black people's well-being and renewed calls for racial justice in all realms including health care. Doctors and their patients are reeling from the impact.

"We are exhausted and we are not OK," said Dr. Patrice Harris, a psychiatrist who just ended her year-long term as president of the American Medical Association. She was speaking not so much for herself as for her community.

Police violence is always an injustice, "but its harm is elevated amid the remarkable stress people are facing amid the COVID-19 pandemic," Harris and AMA Trustee Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld said in a recent online opinion article.

Floyd's death is the most extreme example of over-policing that has long plagued Black and brown communities. It has been linked with elevated stress, high blood pressure and other chronic illness that contribute to the high virus death rates in Black people.

As their offices start reopening for regular appointments, doctors are bracing for the fallout: a wave of sicker, shell-shocked patients.

As a physician, Harris knows she has a certain privilege. But she also knows firsthand the weariness of Black lives in America.

Harris was only the second Black physician to lead the AMA in its 173-year history. She gets "those looks" when walking into stores. She's been asked to fetch coffee while wearing scrubs and a stethoscope.

"It's not that we don't have any more to give," Harris said. But there's a feeling among many that if Floyd's death can't spark meaningful change for Black Americans, nothing will.

Dr. Brittani James is a primary-care doctor. Most of her patients on Chicago's South Side are Black.

Her neighborhood was one of the last in the city to get a COVID-19 testing site. They opened first in wealthier, whiter North Side areas.

"When I talk about institutional racism, this is happening in real time," James said.

She has seen the virus hit many of her patients, while others grow sicker from chronic disease, and it's heartbreaking, James said. "As a Black doctor, I feel like I'm failing my patients every day," she said.

While her clinic has remained open, many patients are too terrified of COVID-19 to come in. That means trying to treat complaints without physical exams or blood tests. She has tried sending patients prescriptions for blood pressure cuffs but some can't afford the cost. The options are "have their blood pressure uncontrolled or adjust their medications blind," she said.

For every patient who has called for an appointment, there are 10 others she hasn't heard from in months.

"There is no way that all of a sudden overnight there's no more heart attacks, no more strokes, no more patients having poorly controlled diabetes," she said. "We have all seen our patients' visits stop. Which is scaring me a lot."

It's not just happening in Chicago.

James fears a "second wave" of worsening chronic illness and non-COVID-19 deaths is coming.

There are signs it is already happening.

Government statistics from late January through May 30 suggest an increase in U.S. deaths from chronic diseases compared with historical trends. They include 7,000 excess deaths from hypertension, about 4,000 from diabetes and 3,000 from strokes — all conditions that disproportionately affect Black people, although the data don't include race.

James says Floyd's brutal death has added psychological trauma to the mix, and mental health care in many communities is scarce.

"There is an overwhelming need that we do not have the resources to address," she said. "It's devastating."

Royanna Williams, 45, is a Black woman in Asheville, North Carolina, who suffers with persistent pain from autoimmune illnesses, which disproportionately affect Blacks.

Living with chronic illness had already left her anxious and depressed — feelings that have multiplied

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 67 of 70

with the pandemic, Floyd's death and the unrest that has followed.

"This right here is a whole 'nother ballgame," she said.

Williams has started mental health televisits. They've helped.

Her medicines include hydroxychloroquine. Williams said she figured she'd have trouble getting refills the minute Donald Trump began promoting it without evidence that it works for COVID-19. "I was livid," she said.

She hasn't had to miss a dose yet, but Trump's involvement has sparked mistrust. "Now I'm scared to take it," she said. "I don't know what's in those pills."

She says white doctors have often discounted her pain and it has worsened as the pandemic has postponed her physical therapy sessions. Research has shown that Blacks are often under-treated for pain, partly because of false beliefs about supposed biological differences. As recently as 2016, data showed that half of U.S. medical students and residents believed Blacks didn't feel pain the same way as other races.

Now there's evidence that Blacks with fever and cough are less likely than whites to be referred for COVID-19 testing, said Dr. Malika Fair, a health equity director at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

"Race is a social construct and not based on biology or genetics," Fair said.

Dr. Heidi Knoll, who is white and one of Williams' physicians, says a history of mistrust and mistreatment is part of what keeps many Black people from seeking medical care in ordinary times. COVID-19's toll and government's missed opportunities in handling the pandemic have compounded the problem, she said.

Her clinic, Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, rushed to adopt telehealth for non-COVID treatment when the pandemic hit; now nearly half of all patient visits are by phone or video. Telehealth has expanded throughout the United States during the pandemic and Knoll, like many physicians, thinks it may help reduce racial health disparities by increasing access to doctors.

Williams knows her health makes her especially vulnerable to the virus. She has been terrified to go out since March, but staying home, where she lives with her autistic son and mother, has been stressful.

The recent protests over Floyd's killing have given her hope that racial change may be coming — especially, because whites have been involved in the demonstrations.

"People are amped up because of this pandemic," she said. "Maybe he had to be that white lamb" — sacrificed so whites would pay attention.

Terrence Nichols has recovered physically from a relatively mild case of COVID-19, diagnosed in March. But as a Black man in Chicago, knowing its impact in his community has left Nichols feeling fearful, vulnerable and angry over the president's push to reopen.

Blacks make up about 30% of Chicago's population but almost half of the virus deaths, a disparity seen nationwide.

As of early June, an AP analysis found that roughly 26% of COVID deaths were in Black patients, while Black people represented 13% of the population in the 40 states that provided detailed demographic data.

When Brookings Institution researchers adjusted for age disparities between races on a national level — the white population in the U.S. is older, and thus more susceptible to COVID-19 than other races — they found that the death rate for Black individuals was 3.6 times than the rate of whites.

"He's ready to reopen because of the economy and rich people are losing money," Nichols said of Trump. If the virus was disproportionately killing rich white people, "he would think twice," said Nichols, 44.

Chicago recently relaxed stay-home orders and eased other restrictions, allowing Nichols to resume his pharmacy sales rep job, but he's in no hurry to go anywhere but to work.

Nichols won't join the protests in person, but he's "inside the house raising my fist and cheering them on." Floyd's killing "struck a chord," he said. "It's been happening since before I was born."

His father is a physician; when Nichols was a teen the family lived in Chicago's mostly white Beverly neighborhood. He recalls being chased there by KKK members wielding bats, and questioned by officers about where he was going when he was just walking home.

More recently, Nichols said, police "had me up against the car" and called for backup when he drove the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 68 of 70

wrong way on a one-way street.

He routinely checks the rear-view mirror whenever he drives past a police car, "to see if they make a U-turn and start following me." It has happened many times.

"If you're Black, it's acceptable to be harassed," Nichols said.

Rosetta Watson is only 38 but she has heart failure and needs valve replacement surgery. When COVID-19 hit Chicago in March, doctors postponed the operation indefinitely. Obesity surgery to take the burden off her heart has also been delayed by the pandemic.

She has sequestered herself at home, knowing COVID-19 could be fatal because of her poor health. It has already killed four of her relatives.

"I don't know if I'm angry or am just numb to it," Watson said.

She recently had her first appointment with her heart doctor since the pandemic hit, and was told her increasing fatigue may be from the leaky valve. She understands that COVID-19 cases are more urgent but the delays are frustrating.

Meantime, she has watched the news, seen the protests on TV, heard about them trashing the local pharmacy. She supports the cause but not the property damage.

The Floyd death "is the same as it has always been. We've always had prejudice." The difference is now "everyone is recording everything they see."

She's been racially targeted, not by police but by strangers who disparage her white boyfriend with racist terms and by elderly neighbors in her apartment building who deride "you people" and won't ride with her in the elevator.

She's been racial profiled by a doctor who when Watson asked about her nose bleeds, demanded to know whether she had been "doing any recreational drugs like cocaine or heroin." Turns out nose bleeds are a side effect of the nasal spray the doctor had prescribed.

"Seriously, it's 2020. When we gonna grow up?" Watson said.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at @LindseyTanner.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Germany to revamp financial oversight after Wirecard scandal

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's finance minister says he wants to revamp the oversight system for the country's financial industry in the wake of the accounting scandal at payment systems provider Wirecard.

The Munich-based Wirecard filed for bankruptcy recently after auditors couldn't find accounts in the Philippines that were supposed to contain 1.9 billion euros (\$2.1 billion). The company's former CEO was arrested and released on bail, while its former chief operating officer is on the run.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz told German weekly Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung in an interview published Sunday that he wants to empower the country's financial supervisory authority, BaFin, to conduct unannounced checks at any moment.

He also proposed ensuring that BaFin has oversight of large payment processing companies — even if they don't fall neatly into the category of a financial institution — and discuss whether auditors need to rotate more frequently

German authorities have been criticized for failing to step in sooner despite reports of irregularities dating back at least five years.

Fabio De Masi, a lawmaker with the opposition Left party, largely welcomed the proposals but called for a lower threshold of liability for auditors' failings.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 69 of 70

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 6, the 188th day of 2020. There are 178 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 6, 1942, Anne Frank, her parents and sister entered a "secret annex" in an Amsterdam building where they were later joined by four other people; they hid from Nazi occupiers for two years before being discovered and arrested.

On this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga (ty-kahn-dur-OH'-gah).

In 1854, the first official meeting of the Republican Party took place in Jackson, Michigan.

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order establishing the Medal of Freedom.

In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2.

In 1962, Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner, one of the giants of Southern literature, died in Byhalia (beye-HAYL'-yuh), Mississippi, at age 64.

In 1967, war erupted as Nigeria sent troops into the secessionist state of Biafra.

In 1971, jazz trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong died in New York at age 69.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform. Medical waste and other debris began washing up on New York City-area seashores, forcing the closing of several popular beaches.

In 1997, the rover Sojourner rolled down a ramp from the Mars Pathfinder lander onto the Martian landscape to begin inspecting the soil and rocks of the red planet.

In 2004, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry chose former rival John Edwards to be his running mate.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed talk of a rift at a White House meeting. Queen Elizabeth II addressed the United Nations for the first time since 1957 during her first New York visit in over 30 years; she then laid a wreath at ground zero. Actress Lindsay Lohan was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 90 days in a residential substance-abuse program after a judge found the actress had violated her probation in a 2007 drug case by failing to attend alcohol education classes. (Lohan ended up serving 14 days behind bars and was released on Aug. 2.)

Five years ago: The Associated Press obtained documents in which Bill Cosby admitted in 2005 that he'd secured quaaludes with the intent of giving them to young women he wanted to have sex with and that he gave the sedative to at least one woman and other people; Cosby's lawyers insisted that two of the accusers knew they were taking quaaludes from the comedian, according to the unsealed documents. Pope Francis received a hero's welcome in Guayaquil, Ecuador's biggest city, as he celebrated the first public Mass of his South American tour.

One year ago: Brazilian singer, guitarist and songwriter Joao Gilberto, considered one of the fathers of bossa nova music, died at the age of 88. Prosecutors dropped a manslaughter charge against an Alabama woman, Marshae Jones, who had lost her fetus when she was shot during what authorities said was an argument over the fetus' father.

Today's Birthdays: The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is 85. Actor Ned Beatty is 83. Singer Gene Chandler is 80. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 80. Actor Burt Ward is 75. Former President George W. Bush is 74. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 74. Actor Fred Dryer is 74. Actress Shelley Hack is 73. Actress Nathalie Baye is 72. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 69. Actress Allyce Beasley is 69. Rock musician John Bazz (The

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 06, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 003 ~ 70 of 70

Blasters) is 68. Actor Grant Goodeve is 68. Country singer Nanci Griffith is 67. Retired MLB All-Star Willie Randolph is 66. Jazz musician Rick Braun is 65. Actor Casey Sander is 65. Country musician John Jorgenson is 64. Former first daughter Susan Ford Bales is 63. Hockey player and coach Ron Duguay (doo-GAY') is 63. Actress-writer Jennifer Saunders is 62. Rock musician John Keeble (Spandau Ballet) is 61. Actor Pip Torrens is 60. Actor Brian Posehn is 54. Actor Robb Derringer is 53. Political reporter/moderator John Dickerson is 52. Actor Brian Van Holt is 51. Rapper Inspectah Deck (Wu-Tang Clan) is 50. TV host Josh Elliott is 49. Rapper 50 Cent is 45. Actresses Tia and Tamera Mowry are 42. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart is 41. Actress Eva (EH'-vuh) Green is 40. Actor Gregory Smith is 37. Rock musician Chris "Woody" Wood (Bastille) is 35. Rock singer Kate Nash is 33. Actor Jeremy Suarez is 30. Baseball star Manny Machado is 28. NBA star Zion Williamson is 20.