

Groton Daily Independent


Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 1 of 86

- 1- Weismantel Agency Ad
- 2- Castlewood edges past Groton in State Teener Tourney
- 4- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 7- Dept. of Tourism Update
- 8- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 9- July 17th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 12- Baseball Schedule
- 13- State Teener Bracket
- 14- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 15- Weather Pages
- 18- Daily Devotional
- 19- 2020 Groton Events
- 20- News from the Associated Press

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ONE OF THE
GREAT SECRETS
OF HAPPINESS.”

-BRYANT H. MCGILL


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First Round State Teener Tournament

SDVFW 14U Groton Claws Back, But Falls Just Short Against SDVFW 14U Castlewood

Despite a 6-run deficit in the third inning, SDVFW 14U Groton almost came all the way back, eventually falling 7-5 to SDVFW 14U Castlewood on Friday. SDVFW 14U Groton put up four runs in the failed comeback. Colby Dunker, Logan Ringgenberg, and Bradin Althoff came through with RBIs to lead the rally.

SDVFW 14U Groton couldn't keep up with SDVFW 14U Castlewood early in the game. SDVFW 14U Castlewood scored on a single by Kabren Jackson and a groundout by David Prohl in the second inning.

SDVFW 14U Castlewood pulled away for good with two runs in the second inning. In the second Jackson singled on a 2-1 count, scoring one run and Prohl grounded out, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Groton tallied three runs in the third inning. Dunker and Ringgenberg each had RBIs in the big inning.

SDVFW 14U Castlewood scored five runs in the third inning. Quincy Thu, Jackson Schofield, Jackson, Paul Everson, and Sam Kooima all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

Trey Maaland was the winning pitcher for SDVFW 14U Castlewood. He went five innings, allowing four runs on three hits and striking out six. Lane Tvedt and Kooima entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief. Kooima recorded the last out to earn the save for SDVFW 14U Castlewood.

Althoff took the loss for SDVFW 14U Groton. He went three innings, allowing seven runs on five hits and striking out four.

Kaleb Hoover, Dunker, Ryan Groeblichhoff, and Althoff each collected one hit to lead SDVFW 14U Groton. SDVFW 14U Groton stole ten bases during the game as three players stole more than one. Althoff led the way with three.

Everson went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead SDVFW 14U Castlewood in hits.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 3 of 86

Castlewood Groton

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
0	2	5	0	0	0	0	7	7	3
1	0	3	0	0	0	1	5	4	3

SDVFW 14U Castlewood [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Sam Kooima	4	1	1	1	1	0
Jyler Tharaldsen	4	1	0	0	0	2
Lane Tvedt	3	0	0	0	1	2
Quincy Thu	3	1	1	1	1	1
Jackson Schofield	3	2	1	1	1	1
Trey Maaland	2	1	0	0	2	2
Kabren Jackson	3	1	1	1	1	0
David Prohl	3	0	0	1	1	0
Paul Everson	4	0	3	1	0	0
Conner Kjetland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	29	7	7	6	8	8

Batting

2B: Quincy Thu
TB: Quincy Thu 2, Kabren Jackson, Jackson Schofield, Paul Everson 3, Sam Kooima
RBI: Quincy Thu, Kabren Jackson, Jackson Schofield, Paul Everson, David Prohl, Sam Kooima
ROE: Jyler Tharaldsen, David Prohl, Sam Kooima
FC: Quincy Thu
SB: Quincy Thu, Trey Maaland, Lane Tvedt 2

Totals

Team QAB: 17 (45.95%)
 Quincy Thu 3, Trey Maaland 2, Kabren Jackson 3, Jackson Schofield 2, Paul Everson 2, David Prohl, Lane Tvedt 2, Sam Kooima 2

Team LOB: 9

Fielding

E: Quincy Thu, Conner Kjetland 2

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Trey Maaland	5.0	95	.579	3	4	3	6	3	0
Lane Tvedt	1.2	32	.656	1	1	1	2	0	0
Sam Kooima	0.1	2	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7.0	129	.605	4	5	4	8	3	0

Pitching

W: Trey Maaland
SV: Sam Kooima
HBP: Lane Tvedt
Pitches-Strikes: Trey Maaland 95-55, Lane Tvedt 32-21, Sam Kooima 2-2
Groundouts-Flyouts: Trey Maaland 5-4, Lane Tvedt 3-0, Sam Kooima 1-0
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Trey Maaland 9-22, Lane Tvedt 5-8, Sam Kooima 1-1

SDVFW 14U Groton [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bradin Althoff	3	2	1	1	1	0
Ryan Groeblichhoff	3	1	1	0	1	1
Colby Dunker	4	1	1	3	0	0
Kaleb Hoover	4	0	1	0	0	1
Logan Ringgenberg	3	0	0	0	0	0
Brevin Fliehs	3	0	0	0	0	1
Jacob Zak	2	0	0	0	1	1
Taylor Diegel	2	1	0	0	0	2
Kaleb Antonsen	3	0	0	0	0	2
Dillon Abeln	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	27	5	4	4	3	8

Batting

2B: Colby Dunker
3B: Kaleb Hoover
TB: Bradin Althoff, Colby Dunker 2, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Kaleb Hoover 3
RBI: Bradin Althoff, Colby Dunker 3
ROE: Bradin Althoff, Logan Ringgenberg
HBP: Taylor Diegel
SB: Bradin Althoff 3, Taylor Diegel 2, Colby Dunker, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Logan Ringgenberg, Jacob Zak 2

Totals

Team QAB: 16 (51.61%)
 Bradin Althoff 3, Kaleb Antonsen 2, Colby Dunker 3, Brevin Fliehs, Ryan Groeblichhoff 3, Kaleb Hoover 2, Jacob Zak 2

Team LOB: 5

Fielding

E: Bradin Althoff, Brevin Fliehs, Kaleb Hoover
DP: Bradin Althoff, Taylor Diegel

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Bradin Althoff	3.0	80	.475	5	7	2	4	7	0
Dillon Abeln	4.0	47	.766	2	0	0	4	1	0
Taylor Diegel	0.0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7.0	127	.583	7	7	2	8	8	0

Pitching

L: Bradin Althoff
WP: Bradin Althoff
Pitches-Strikes: Dillon Abeln 47-36, Bradin Althoff 80-38, Taylor Diegel 0-0
Groundouts-Flyouts: Dillon Abeln 3-4, Bradin Althoff 2-1, Taylor Diegel 0-0
First pitch strikes-Batters faced: Dillon Abeln 13-16, Bradin Althoff 9-21, Taylor Diegel 0-0

#145 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Still bad; not as bad as yesterday, but bad. We are at 3,657,000 cases, having reported 69,400 new cases today, a 1.9% increase. This is our second worst day ever, and the past 18 days have been the worse 18 days ever. That's a streak I'd like to see end. Our total cases have more than doubled since June 24, when this recent surge began. I have 42 states and territories showing increases in 14-day average and just two showing declines. Cases are rising fastest in the following states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

Ohio set a single-day record today. So did Texas with almost 15,000 new cases. Thirty-six cases in Kentucky were attributed to a football team whose members were not wearing masks in the weight room. Lots of growth here.

We reported 843 new deaths today, again, better than yesterday, but far from good. This is a 0.6% increase to 139,098. The number of new deaths each day has been rising since last week. Most experts attribute the slowness of this increase to improved treatment and a younger demographic among cases, also to more early diagnosis as testing has become more available, thus increasing the lag time from new case surge to increase in deaths. The thinking is that this recent rise reflects those young people interacting with older, more vulnerable people as time goes on. Now that they're rising, the fact is, even if we stopped transmission today, deaths would continue to rise for several weeks; so I don't look for this to improve any time soon. New deaths are rising fastest in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

Arkansas set a single-day record for deaths today. The average daily deaths in Arizona has risen 60% in the past week. Texas set a record today with 174 deaths, breaking yesterday's record of 129; that's a huge increase in a day. Florida's seven-day average is 35% higher than its last one, and they're on their fourth consecutive day with more than 100 deaths.

A subject that keeps coming up is mortality, that is, how fatal this disease is. People throw around all kinds of numbers that vary wildly, and then they frequently compare this to the influenza numbers in an attempt to decide whether or not this really is worse than influenza. This is a project fraught with the potential for errors, a subject we've discussed before; but it looks as though it's time for a review and a new discussion.

Mortality or fatality rate can mean a whole lot of different things. Most of us just want to know how good this virus is at killing us; but it turns out there are different ways to define or measure this and there's a whole lot we don't really know. To review:

Mortality rate is an expression of how likely you are to die from this virus and is generally expressed as deaths per 100,000 population; so it tells you how likely a person (often in a given age group living in a particular place) is to die from the infection. It's the easiest of all the measurements we're going to talk about to compute because all you need to know is how many dead people there are and how big the population is. If you measure this for Covid-19 and the US, you get something like 42 (which comes out to 0.04%). While this is the most reliable of all the measurements we're going to talk about, fact is it is based on estimates for both of the relevant numbers. The population is officially measured every ten years when we do a census, and that number is an estimate because the census always misses some people entirely and we have to estimate the true number using a bunch of sophisticated tools. Then, of course, this number changes every day as people are born and other people die; in between censuses, we estimate the current population based on known rates of births and deaths. The number of Covid-19 deaths is also inaccurate; most every expert will tell you we've been seriously undercounting cases and deaths. The upshot of all this estimating is that our most likely-to-be-right measure of Covid-19 deaths is based on two figures that don't necessarily reflect the situation fully.

Of course, what most of us are interested in is how likely we are to die if we get this virus; but that turns

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 5 of 86

out to be even more complicated to compute. There are two ways to do this, as follows:

This first one is case fatality rate (CFR), which is deaths per identified cases. This one's more likely than the next to be accurate, but still presents difficulties. We've already talked about estimating deaths, so let's turn our attention to what we call an identified case. We could insist on laboratory confirmed cases, but with the challenges we've had ramping up testing capacity, we have the assurance we're not counting even close to all of them; I've generally seen this computed based on probable cases, everyone we are reasonably assured has Covid-19. Best number for CFR in the US right now is around 3.8 to 3.9%.

The other is infection fatality rate (IFR), deaths per actual cases; this necessarily includes cases we have not yet identified. Here, the way we count deaths presents the same issues it does for every one of these measurements. And the problem of how many actual cases we have is a big one. Everyone knows we're not identifying all of the people infected with SARS-CoV-2 because there are so many asymptomatic individuals and there's no way we have enough testing to find them all—or even most of them. Anyone who tells you we have a good number for this is lying to you. With experience, we will have a better notion of this, but so early in an outbreak of a brand new virus, this is going to be very problematic to pin down. IFR is the number out of all of these we're talking about most likely to change as we learn more. At the moment, IFR estimates range from 0.5 to 1% with a best guess right now around 0.65% according to the CDC.

So when someone says to you that "this is no worse than the flu" or the flu is worse, you need to pin down which of these numbers he/she is working from for influenza. Most often, I've seen these arguments using the CDC's "official" fatality rate for influenza of 0.1%, which is IFR. There are two things you should know about the official IFR for influenza: The first is that the number of deaths here is an estimate. Even with all of the experience we have with flu, the number of cases can be tricky because very few people who have the flu get tested. There's a test available, but the vast majority of us don't even see a physician when we have flu; we just hunker down at home and get through it. Fact is the CDC's official number for flu cases is an estimate based on not much data; but this isn't our biggest problem. The biggest problem is that the number of deaths officially reported for influenza is actually "pneumonia and influenza" on the CDC website, which means a bunch of people who died of non-influenza-caused pneumonias are included. This is going to inflate the IFR a fair amount, which means the actual IFR from influenza-only will be much lower than the official number you get from the CDC. (There's a marketing reason for this, but that's a topic for another day.) For the record, the influenza IFR is generally at a 0.1% mark which means, at best, Covid-19 has a fatality rate five times this inflated rate for influenza. Not "just like" or "no worse than."

The Center for Public Integrity has published a White House document that shows Covid-19 assessments state by state. It lists states which should revert to more stringent measures, limiting social gatherings to 10 people, closing bars and gyms, and mandated mask-wearing. Eighteen states are listed in this "red zone" for cases, indicating they had more than 100 new cases per 100,000 population last week. These are as follows: California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. It lists 11 states in the red zone for test positivity, indicating more than 10% of tests are coming back positive. These are as follows: Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Even this level misses some trouble spots: The WHO recommends test positivity should be at or below five percent for 14 days before reopening. We have 33 states above that level at present. And this might miss the mark as well: Jessica Malaty Rivera, science communication lead at the COVID Tracking Project says positivity should be below three percent to show we are suppressing the virus.

The recommendations for states in the red zone for both cases and positivity include things like routine weekly testing of all workers in assisted living and long-term care facilities, requiring masks and social distancing for all visitors; mandating masks in all counties with rising test positivity; closing all bars in all counties with rising positivity; increasing outdoor dining opportunities; restricting indoor dining to 25%; limiting social gatherings to 10 or fewer; scaling up testing; increasing testing capacity; and increasing testing of multigenerational households. Although I read only a few states' recommendations, they appear to be customized to each state's particular situation. The entire document is multiple hundred of pages

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 6 of 86

long, and so I sampled it, not reading it all. I will say that it is clear many, if not most, of these states are not doing the things recommended in this document.

I have some good news about the Johnson and Johnson vaccine candidate. (If you're interested in how the various candidates work, have a look at my Update #124, posted June 26; this one is a nonreplicating viral vector DNA vaccine, which is a fairly new sort of thing, maybe 10 years old. They're using an adenovirus, which causes a mild cold, as their vector and targeting those spike proteins that are responsible for viral binding to human cells.) The company has contracted batch-production of the vaccine now and planning to begin trials next week. If all goes well and the vaccine passes its trials, the plan is to produce as many as a billion doses next year. As we've said many times, more vaccines are better, so this is a good thing.

Craig Fierro was concerned when his town went on lockdown that a lot of children would have birthdays during this whole thing without being able to have parties with the cake and the goodies and the "Happy Birthday" singing and—you know how kids are—the gifts. When he tried to think of a way to ease the disappointment for them, he didn't have to look far. Fierro owns a business that sells motorcycles, ATVs, and other recreational vehicles. He also sells little, brightly colored toy replicas of the motorcycles, and he knew that display really catches kids' attention when they come into his dealership. He says, "I thought, man, it would be neat to just hand out those as gifts to kids right now because they can't get all their friends over . . . and at last maybe to put a smile on a face, you know, even for just 10 minutes."

So he put up an invitation on a community page on Facebook for anyone with a kid having a birthday to send the name, date, and address, and he'd drop off a gift. His daughters help him to wrap and deliver the gifts. Sometimes, they leave the gift on the front porch; others they get to stay and visit with the birthday child and family. He only delivers locally, but people from farther out are welcome to stop in to his store and pick up a toy. He's given away about 50 of them so far.

He says, "So I was just trying to do my part, just to see people happy instead of angry or sad or whatever . . . It makes my day." And his own children get to watch. No telling what they're learning from this. We know that, for kids, what you do drowns out whatever you tell them.

This is not a bad way to end our day, with the recognition that little people are watching us and will learn how to operate in the world by seeing how we operate in the world. There's another way to build the sort of world we want to live in—by passing on to the next generation a way of living that gets this job done. Many of us worry about what people will think of us; we would do better to worry what little people think of us, what they see us doing, and what they learn by watching. You can take that where you will.

Keep yourself safe. We'll talk again.

Dept. of Tourism Update

A few items worth noting from the COVID-19 Weekly Research update this week:

Losing ground for the first time in weeks, South Dakota travel spending last week dipped from -26% to -31%. Even with this decrease, South Dakota continues to surpass other neighboring states.

This week, South Dakota is one of only 13 states to show increases in searches, bookings, and forecasted searches.

South Dakota hotel occupancy averaged 51% for the month of June. This is a 31% decrease when compared to the prior year.

Travelers continue to report being twice as likely to travel by personal car (67%) than by any other form of transportation. And one-third of those respondents are likely to drive 300 miles or more each way from home for a vacation, with one in five willing to travel 500 miles or more.

The recent surge in COVID-19 cases has greatly affected travel sentiment in the US: The perceived safety of travel-related activities has worsened significantly since early June, and the percent of travelers agreeing they will be traveling in the fall has dropped from nearly 50% in early June to 36%.

After surpassing pre-pandemic levels over the Fourth of July holiday, road travel reverted back to early June levels.

Since hitting a low in April, airport arrivals to Rapid City and Sioux Falls Regional Airports have improved, but are still reporting decreases of around 50% when compared to last year.

American travelers' perceived safety for visiting local, state or national parks now surpasses all other activities.

Thank you to our research partners for providing this information: Tourism Economics, Destination Analysts, STR, U.S. Travel Association, Arrivalist, Miles Partnership, MMGY Travel Intelligence, ADARA, and Longwoods International.

Finally, a resource and great reminder from the U.S. Travel Association:

We encourage you to continue to use the resources available in the Travel Confidently Toolkit and on SDVisit.com to demonstrate the consistent cleanliness measures travelers can expect to see throughout every touchpoint during their trip. The toolkit also includes resources to promote the shared responsibility of travelers—including taking preventative measures such as wearing masks, practicing physical distancing and regularly washing hands—to ensure a safe and healthy travel experience for all.

We will be in touch early next week through our monthly Mile Marker. Be on the look-out for it. Enjoy the weekend and continue to take good care of yourselves and our visitors.

All our best,

Jim Hagen
Jim and Team
Secretary of Tourism

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 8 of 86

Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18
Minnesota	43,170	43,742	44,347	45,013
Nebraska	21,717	21,979	22,134	22,361
Montana	1,952	2,096	2,231	2,366
Colorado	37,686	38,155	38,726	39,344
Wyoming	1581	1,605	1,644	1,678
North Dakota	4493	4565	4668	4792
South Dakota	7572	7652	7694	7789
United States	3,431,574	3,499,398	3,576,430	3,649,087
US Deaths	136,466	137,419	138,360	139,278

Minnesota	+398	+572	+605	+666
Nebraska	+318	+262	+155	+227
Montana	+109	+144	+135	+135
Colorado	+444	+469	+571	+618
Wyoming	+36	+24	+39	+34
North Dakota	+51	+72	+103	+124
South Dakota	+48	+80	+42	+95
United States	+68,518	+67,824	+77,032	+72,657
US Deaths	+861	+953	+941	+918

	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14
Minnesota	39,133	39,589	40,163	40,767	41,571	42,281	42,772
Nebraska	20,201	20,425	20,623	20,777	20,998	21,172	21,399
Montana	1,327	1,371	1466	1,593	1,677	1,758	1,843
Colorado	34,664	35,116	35,525	36,191	36,591	36,913	37,242
Wyoming	1,378	1,404	1428	1,445	1,488	1,506	1,545
North Dakota	3898	3971	4070	4154	4243	4334	4442
South Dakota	7,163	7242	7336	7401	7454	7499	7524
United States	2,994,776	3,055,144	3,118,168	3,187,270	3,247,782	3,304,942	3,363,056
US Deaths	131,626	132,309	133,291	134,117	134,815	135,205	135,605

Minnesota	+564	+456	+574	+604	+804	+710	+491
Nebraska	+155	+224	+198	+154	+221	+174	+227
Montana	+78	+44	+95	+127	+84	+81	+85
Colorado	+407	+452	+409	+666	+400	+322	+329
Wyoming	+29	+26	+24	+17	+43	+18	+39
North Dakota	+49	+73	+99	+84	+99	+91	+108
South Dakota	+58	+79	+94	+65	+55	+45	+25
United States	+56,152	+60,368	+63,024	69,102	+60,512	+57,160	+58,114
US Deaths	+1,320	+683	+982	+826	+698	+390	+400

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 9 of 86

July 17th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

Beadle County lost another individual to COVID-19. He was in the 50-59 age group, making that the ninth death in that county and the 116th in the state. Pennington had 25 positive cases while Minnehaha had 20 and Davison 8. Statewide, there were 95 positive cases while North Dakota had 124 positive cases and one additional death. Brown County had two new positive cases and two that have recovered, leaving the active case count in the county stable at 21. Bon Homme is now considered fully recovered.

Brown County:

Active Cases: +0 (21)
Recovered: +2 (342)
Total Positive: +2 (365)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (19)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +70 (3591)
Percent Recovered: 93.7% (0)

South Dakota:

Positive: +95 (7789 total)
Negative: +1,842 (88,184 total)
Hospitalized: +6 (763 total). 61 currently hospitalized (No change from yesterday)
Deaths: +1 (116 total)
Recovered: +71 (6808 total)
Active Cases: +23 (865)
Percent Recovered: 87.4 -.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding +1 (44), Potter +15 (237), unassigned -56 (3107).

Fully recovered from positive cases (added Bon Homme: Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Jones 1-1, Miner 10-10, Sanborn 12-12, Stanley 14-14, Sully 1-1).

The following is the breakdown by all counties. The number in parenthesis right after the county name represents the number of deaths in that county.

Aurora: 2 active cases
Beadle (9): +3 positive, -1 recovered (42 active cases)
Bennett: 1 active case
Bon Homme: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 13-13)
Brookings: +5 positive, +3 recovered (17 active cases)
Brown (2): +2 positive, +2 recovered (21 active cases)
Brule: 3 active cases
Buffalo (3): +2 positive (14 active cases)

Butte: +1 positive, +1 recovered (3 active cases)
Campbell: Fully Recovered
Charles Mix: 40 active cases
Clark: 2 active cases
Clay: +1 positive, +1 recovered (8 active cases)
Codington: +5 positive, +3 recovered (22 active cases)
Corson: 4 active cases
Custer: 2 active cases
Davison: +8 positive, +3 recovered (19 active cases)
Day: 3 active cases
Deuel: 1 active case

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 10 of 86

Dewey: +2 positive (41 active cases)
 Douglas: +2 positive, +1 recovered (5 active cases)
 Edmunds: +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Fall River: 4 active cases
 Faulk (1): 3 active cases
 Grant: -1 positive, +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Gregory: 2 active case
 Haakon: Fully Recovered
 Hamlin: 1 active case
 Hand: 1 active case
 Hanson: 2 active cases
 Harding: No infections reported
 Hughes (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (12 active cases)
 Hutchinson: +2 positive (5 active cases)
 Hyde: Fully Recovered
 Jackson (1): 4 active cases
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases
 Jones: Fully Recovered
 Kingsbury: 2 active cases
 Lake (1): +4 positive, +4 recovered (20 active cases)
 Lawrence: 2 active cases
 Lincoln (1): +1 positive, +4 recovered (38 active cases)
 Lyman (1): +1 positive (15 active cases)
 Marshall: 1 active case
 McCook (1): +2 positive (6 active cases)
 McPherson: 1 active case
 Meade (1): 8 active cases
 Mellette: +1 positive (5 active cases)
 Miner: Fully Recovered
 Minnehaha (61): +20 positive, +17 recovered (225 active cases)
 Moody: 4 active cases
 Oglala Lakota (1): +4 positive, +3 recovered (34 active cases)

Pennington (22): +25 positive, +17 recovered (149 active cases)
 Perkins: +1 positive (4 active cases)
 Potter: No infections reported
 Roberts: +2 recovered (8 active cases)
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered
 Spink: +1 recovered (3 active cases)
 Stanley: Fully Recovered
 Sully: Fully Recovered
 Todd (3): +1 recovered (8 active cases)
 Tripp: 1 active case
 Turner: 5 active cases
 Union (2): +2 recovered (22 active cases)
 Walworth: +1 positive, +1 recovered (4 active cases)
 Yankton (2): +2 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)
 Ziebach: 2 active cases

The NDDoH & private labs report 4,135 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 124 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 4,792. NDDoH reports one new death.

State & private labs have reported 246,903 total completed tests.
 3,903 ND patients are recovered.

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	717	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	992	13%
Hispanic	1134	15%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1270	16%
Other	781	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2895	37%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	9
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Butte	1
Faulk	1
Hughes	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	61
Oglala Lakota	1
Pennington	22
Todd	3
Union	2
Yankton	2

Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 11 of 86

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	35	33	326
Beadle	561	510	1654
Bennett	4	3	451
Bon Homme	13	13	648
Brookings	102	85	2107
Brown	365	342	3591
Brule	34	31	612
Buffalo	91	74	563
Butte	4	1	613
Campbell	1	1	71
Charles Mix	98	58	989
Clark	16	14	350
Clay	95	87	1107
Codington	101	79	2300
Corson	22	18	221
Custer	11	9	675
Davison	65	46	1899
Day	19	16	487
Deuel	5	4	333
Dewey	42	1	1469
Douglas	12	7	366
Edmunds	9	8	350
Fall River	14	10	817
Faulk	24	20	148
Grant	17	16	606
Gregory	6	4	292
Haakon	1	1	261
Hamlin	13	12	544
Hand	7	6	229
Hanson	14	12	154
Harding	0	0	44
Hughes	76	61	1415
Hutchinson	20	15	781

Hyde	3	3	109
Jackson	7	2	384
Jerauld	39	37	249
Jones	1	1	45
Kingsbury	8	6	462
Lake	47	26	762
Lawrence	21	19	1722
Lincoln	406	367	5228
Lyman	83	67	786
Marshall	5	4	342
McCook	21	14	538
McPherson	6	5	181
Meade	58	49	1629
Mellette	13	8	287
Miner	10	10	218
Minnehaha	3822	3536	22413
Moody	24	20	523
Oglala Lakota	126	91	2756
Pennington	704	533	8966
Perkins	4	0	110
Potter	0	0	237
Roberts	59	51	1348
Sanborn	12	12	187
Spink	16	13	967
Stanley	14	14	200
Sully	1	1	58
Todd	65	54	1657
Tripp	19	18	509
Turner	30	25	763
Union	157	133	1628
Walworth	18	14	461
Yankton	90	77	2674
Ziebach	3	1	206
Unassigned****	0	0	3107

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3780	60
Male	4009	56

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	880	0
20-29 years	1623	1
30-39 years	1613	6
40-49 years	1215	7
50-59 years	1202	13
60-69 years	718	23
70-79 years	285	17
80+ years	253	49

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 12 of 86

Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
July 20	Jr. Legion	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
July 20	Legion	Northville	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 21	Legion	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)

UPDATED: 2nd Round State VFW Jr. Teener Schedule in Webster

Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Castlewood	SDVFW 14U Groton	Castlewood 7 Groton 5 Canova 5 Parker 4 Gregory 14 Mt. Vernon 0 Hitmen 16 Webster 1
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Parker	SDVFW 14U Canova Gang	
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Gregory	SDVFW 14U Mt. Vernon-Plankinton	
Fri, Jul 17	SDVFW 14U Webster	SDVFW 14U FH Hitmen	
Sat, Jul 18	SDVFW 14U Groton	SDVFW 14U Parker	
Sat, Jul 18	SDVFW 14U Webster	SDVFW 14U Mt. Vernon-Plankinton	2:00PM CDT
Sat, Jul 18	SDVFW 14U Castlewood	SDVFW 14U Canova Gang	5:00PM CDT
Sat, Jul 18	SDVFW 14U Gregory	SDVFW 14U FH Hitmen	8:00PM CDT

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 13 of 86



**Department of SD VFW Baseball
2020 14U Class B State Bracket**

Webster SD July 17-19 2020

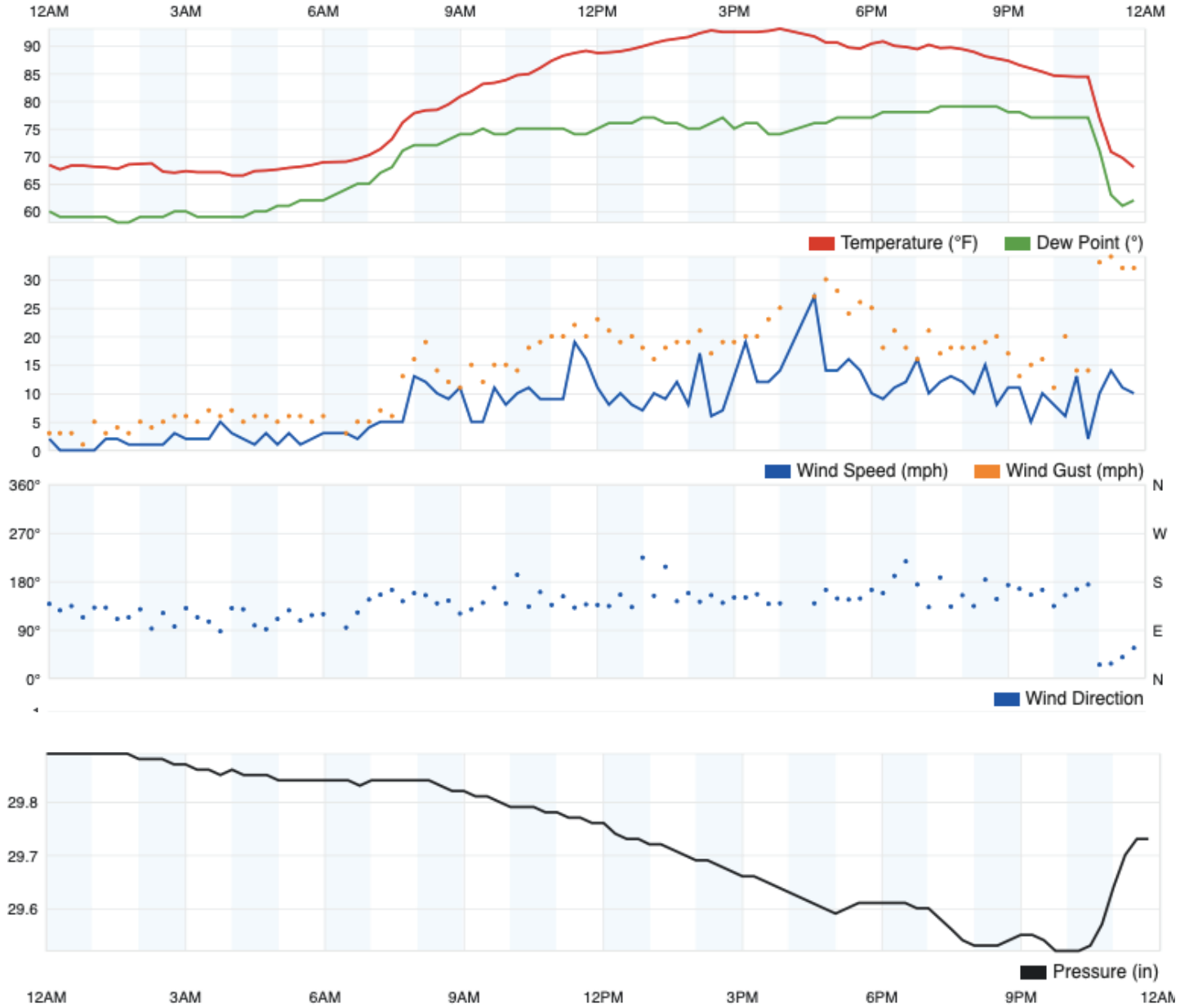
Home/Visitor will be determined by coin toss **before** each game
No Opening Ceremonies due to Covid-19

Castlewood		Castlewood		
Friday 11:00 AM	(1) Groton		Saturday 5:00 PM	
		(7)		
Canova		Canova		
Friday 2:00 PM	(2) Parker		Championship	
		(11)	Champion	
Mount Vernon/Plankinton		Gregory		
Friday 5:00 PM	(3) Gregory		Sunday 5:00 PM	
		(8)		
FH Hitmen		Hitmen		
Friday 8:00 PM	(4) Webster		3rd / 4th Sunday 2:00	
			(10)	3rd Place
Groton				
Saturday 11:00 AM	(5) Parker	VFW William Radigan Sportsmanship Award:		
		Consolation Championship		
Mt. Vernon-P		Consolation Champion		
Saturday 2:00 PM	(6) Webster		Sunday 11:00 AM	

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 14 of 86

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 15 of 86

Today

Tonight

Sunday

Sunday
Night

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 85 °F



Clear

Low: 60 °F



Sunny

High: 85 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 60 °F



Chance
T-storms

High: 82 °F



Today:

Mostly sunny with a slight chance of thunderstorms in eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

Highs: 82-91°



Sunday:

Mostly sunny and dry during the day with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening and overnight.

Highs: 81-85°



Monday:

Partly Sunny with a chance of showers and

A cold front moves across the region this morning leading to cooler temperatures. Skies will be mostly sunny overall, while eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota will see a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms this afternoon. Some of these storms could be severe with large hail and damaging winds being the primary threat. Seasonable temperatures will prevail into early next week.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 16 of 86

Today in Weather History

July 18, 1883: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from south of Redfield to north of Hitchcock, to 6 miles southeast of Crandon in Spink County. At least one farm house was destroyed and swept away. Three people were killed on one farm.

July 18, 1986: In the afternoon, an F2 tornado that touched down in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis became one of the most observed and photographed tornadoes ever. The detailed coverage included video from a Minnesota DOT traffic camera and a remarkable aerial video taken from a helicopter by a television camera crew. The tornado began in Brooklyn Park and moved slowly northeast, causing light to moderate damage. It then turned east and slowed as it crossed the Mississippi River. Also on this day, an F2 tornado touched down two miles southeast of Bryant, in Hamlin County. This tornado traveled near Dolph Creek and moved east along the creek to the Lake Norden area. The tornado damaged many trees and destroyed a barn. A second F2 tornado touched down three miles west of Toronto and moved southeast. The tornado destroyed a barn, silo, and six other buildings and caused extensive damage to farm equipment on a farm one mile south and a half mile west Astoria.

July 18, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed across parts of central and north-central South Dakota bringing large hail up to the size of golf balls and damaging winds to near 80 mph. Some tree, vehicle, and building damage occurred with some of the storms. Eighty mph winds or higher brought down many branches along with some trees in Fort Pierre. Power was cut off for parts of Fort Pierre when branches fell on power lines. Several truck trailers and feed silos were tipped onto their sides by the high winds. Also, some buildings were damaged. A loaded train was pushed down the tracks almost a quarter of a mile by the strong winds. Seventy mph winds or greater brought down many tree branches along with some trees in Pierre. There were power outages in Pierre along with some buildings receiving damage. Damaging thunderstorm winds also downed six power poles between Sully Buttes and Onida knocking power out to over 800 homes in and around Onida.

64: The great fire of Rome breaks out and destroys much of the city on this day. Despite the well-known stories, there is no evidence that the Roman emperor, Nero, either started the fire or played the fiddle while it burned. The fire began in the slums of a district south of the legendary Palatine Hill. The area's homes burned very quickly, and the fire spread north, fueled by high winds. [Click HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1889 - A cloudburst in West Virginia along the small creeks in Wirt County, Jackson County and Wood County claimed twenty lives. Rockport, WV, reported nineteen inches of rain in two hours and ten minutes that Thursday evening. Tygart Creek rose 22 feet in one hour, and villages were swept away on Tygart, Slate, Tucker, and Sandy Creeks. (The Weather Channel)

1942 - A record deluge occurred at Smethport in northern Pennsylvania, with 30.7 inches in just six hours. The downpours and resultant flooding in Pennsylvania were devastating. (David Ludlum)

1986 - One of the most photo-genic tornadoes touched down in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis, MN, during the late afternoon. The very slow moving tornado actually appeared live on the evening news by way of an aerial video taken by the KARE-TV helicopter crew. The tornado, unlike most, was quite the prima donna, staying visible to tens of thousands of persons for thirty minutes. It was moderate in intensity, with winds of 113-157 mph, and caused 650 thousand dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Cool weather prevailed in the western U.S. Seven cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alamosa, CO, with a reading of 38 degrees. The low of 52 degrees at Bakersfield, CA, was a record for July. Up to eight inches of snow covered the Northern Sierra Nevada Range of California from a storm the previous day. During that storm, winds gusting to 52 mph at Slide Mountain, NV, produced a wind chill reading of 20 degrees below zero. Susanville, CA, reached 17 degrees that previous day, Blue Canyon, CA, dipped to a July record of 36 degrees, and the high of 44 degrees at Klamath Falls, OR, smashed their previous record for July by ten degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

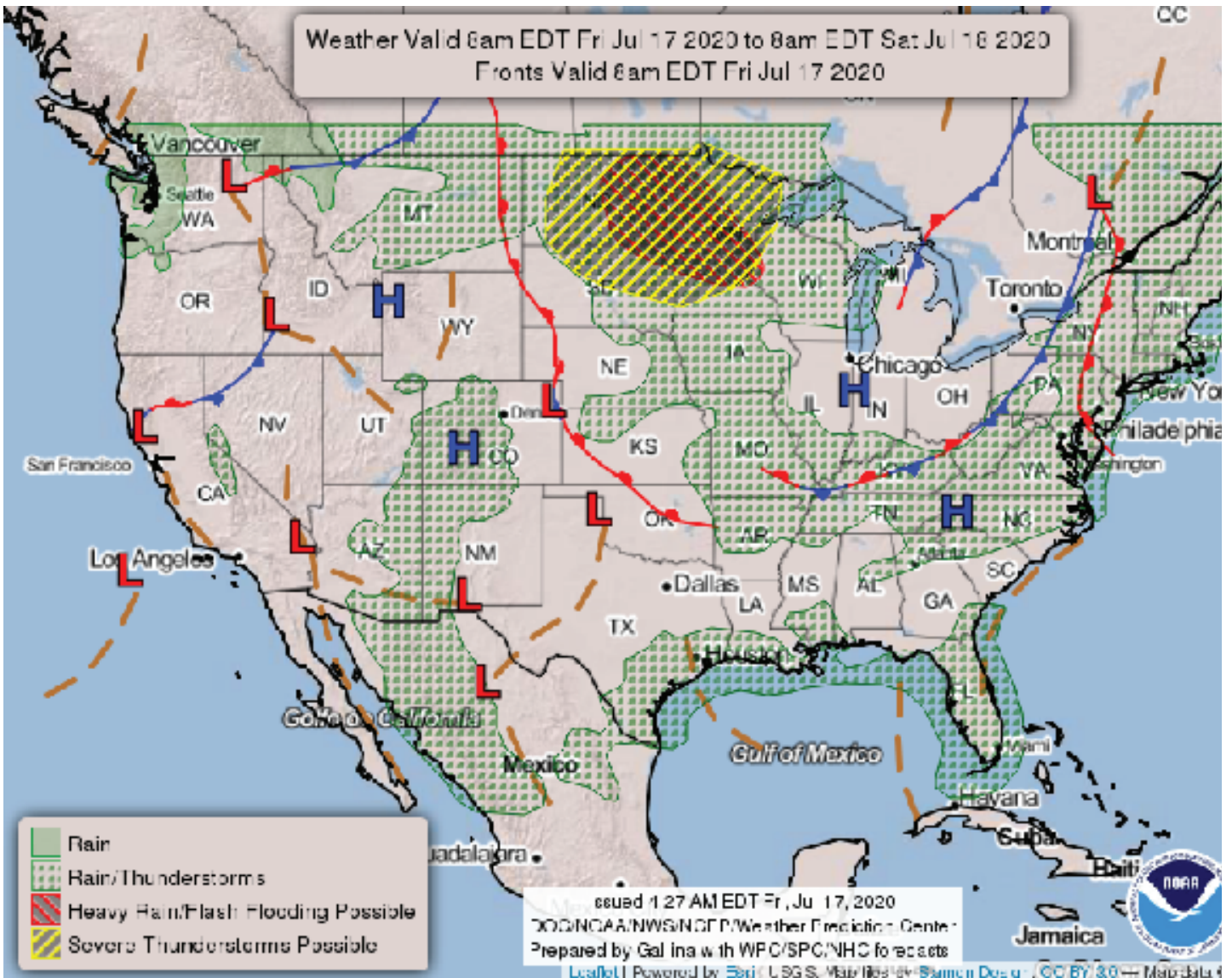
Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 17 of 86

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 93 °F at 3:56 PM
Low Temp: 66 °F at 11:58 PM
Wind: 40 mph at 11:20 PM
Precip: .02

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1936
Record Low: 40° in 1915
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.78
Precip to date in July.: 0.53
Average Precip to date: 12.62
Precip Year to Date: 8.85
Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:04 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 18 of 86



YES, BUT DOES IT WORK?

A well-recognized inventor called his closest friends together to unveil the new electric motor he had just finished. He stood in front of the group with his new product displayed on an elegant black velvet tablecloth, highlighted by a spotlight.

"Gentlemen," he said in a voice that exposed his pride, "this is my most recent invention - a newly designed electric motor. What do you think of it?"

"Put it to work," said one of the engineers, "I can't tell a thing about it until I see it in action."

If we say that we are Christ's disciples, others will only recognize us as His disciples when they see us "in action." In writing to the Ephesians, Paul said that we are to be "careful how you live...(by making)... the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Do not act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what God wants you to do." And then, "just do it!"

When Paul referred to "these evil days," he was emphasizing the urgency of presenting the Gospel message to others. Then, as now, "evil" has penetrated society in such a compelling manner that it is difficult to see good or goodness in the way many Christians behave. What was considered "inappropriate" behavior for Christians" has now become "appropriate" by many who profess to be Christians. Has God's Word changed, or what people believe about His Word?

As the engineer said, "Put (your faith) "to work."

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to be aware of our witness in this world and to "understand" how we ought to live as Your disciples. May our lives represent You well! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Ephesians 5:15-20

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 19 of 86

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
- **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
- **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
- **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
- **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
- 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
- 07/25/2020 City-Wide Rummage Sales
- **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

News from the Associated Press

Caregivers describe working with coronavirus patients

By MORGAN MATZEN Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — “None of us would have ever expected to work through a pandemic, let alone be the primary caregivers in a pandemic.”

Looking back on the state’s response to COVID-19 as the first cases were reported in South Dakota on March 10, Amanda Dosch said she can’t believe it’s been four months.

Dosch is a registered nurse at Monument Health who has been working with hospitalized coronavirus patients every day since March.

“We see a wide variety,” she told the Rapid City Journal. “We see some that are here for a week or less. We have people that have stayed a month plus with us. It just depends on how critical of a case they have.”

Dosch has cared for patients in all walks of life — from young patients who didn’t have pre-existing conditions but had extreme complications from the virus to people dying of COVID-19 who couldn’t have family there in their final moments due to the risk of spread.

“We work very closely with these patients. We see and have a good understanding of how challenging and difficult it is for the COVID-19 patients,” she said. “Nobody gets visitors. These people are going through something really scary, and they don’t have their support here with them on top of being really sick.”

The room where it happens

Monument Health converted its heart and vascular unit (HVU) into a space for COVID-19 patients months ago. If the 32-bed HVU is at capacity, nurses have also put patients on the floor below, which they call the “foothills,” a 20-bed space that Dosch said is “very minimal.” The rooms in the foothills are private, but sparse: “sheetrock, a bed and a chair.”

Foothills

Monument Health saw the most patients hospitalized on June 15, when 43 patients were there together. Dosch estimated anywhere between 20 to 40 patients have stayed in the hospital at once since the surge in cases first began West River.

If the hospital sees more than 52 COVID-19 patients at once, nurses would utilize the floor above the HVU which they call the “prairie,” a 152-bed unit with an open floor plan and little privacy for patients.

Prairie

“The prairie is a little bit more dramatic, drastic change of practice,” Dosch said, whereas in the foothills, “each person at least has a private room.”

Each nurse is tasked with taking care of three to four COVID-19 patients a day, but Dosch said that can fluctuate based on what level of ICU care the patients require. For ICU patients, one nurse could be taking care of one or two patients. On a typical day, Dosch estimated 12 nurses and five or six patient care champions could be working in the HVU together.

Haley Cowan is a patient care champion, which she describes as an “aid for the nurses.” Cowan takes care of patients by checking vital signs, assisting with routine activities like showers and movement.

“In the aspect of trying to conserve PPE, it’s really important for us to do as many tasks in one trip into that patient’s room as possible,” she said. “If we’re going to go in and obtain a set of vital signs, we want to do that plus change bed sheets, see if they need to get up and use the restroom, shower, anything like that. It’s not unrealistic that you might be in a patient’s room for 45 minutes to an hour in full PPE.”

Staying safe

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, for both Dosch and Cowan includes an N95 mask and eye protection through the duration of their 12-hour shifts. When they enter a patient’s room, they also put on a gown and a pair of surgical gloves.

For eye protection, Dosch said they have two options: a face shield with their N95 mask, or a combination of goggles and the N95 with a surgical mask over it. Gowns, gloves and surgical masks must be switched

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 21 of 86

out between patients. Dosch said those that can't wear an N95 mask all day can wear what they call a PAPR — powered air purifying respirator — instead.

When the caregivers come in for work, they're offered a set of surgical scrubs if they would prefer to not wear their own scrubs all day as they work with COVID-19 patients.

Dosch said in a 12-hour shift, caregivers can take a lunch break and are allotted two 15 minute breaks during their workday. Dosch said she and her co-workers try "really hard" to take breaks as often as two hours, because they can't drink water or eat snacks where they work. They have to keep their masks on in areas with COVID-19 patients.

"Even if it's just a quick step away to take the mask off and take a drink of water, we try to shoot for every two hours," she said. "We try to step away a lot more frequently than that, just to give our face a break from wearing (a mask). The N95 masks are very tight."

'We are their family'

COVID-19 patients, who sometimes stay for a week or month at a time, aren't allowed to see any visitors due to the risk of transmission.

"We are their family and their support for the most part while they're here with us," Dosch said. The connection caregivers share with their patients is stronger "in this space than we've experienced it before" the pandemic, she said.

Dosch said many of her patients aren't capable of speaking with them because they're experiencing the cough and shortness of breath associated with the illness, or they're on a ventilator.

Three of the largest struggles for COVID-19 patients are their mobility, strength and diet, Dosch said. COVID-19 can "make food taste bad, or you lose your sense of taste," she said. Patients also struggle with their inability to go outside, go for walks or get their regular activity.

It "wears people down really quick," she said. For Dosch, "it's hard to go home with a full cup at the end of the day."

Twenty-one people have died from COVID-19 in Pennington County as of July 14, according to statewide data. Some of these patients likely spent their last moments supported by Monument Health caregivers like Cowan and Dosch.

"When somebody can't have family here, it's hard for us because we know they'd like to have that comforting person" with them in their last moments, Cowan said. "It's hard for the family. They want to be here."

Cowan said she and other caregivers at Monument do everything they can to "be present with that person, to be somebody there for them, whether they know you or not."

Not having the family present for the death of a loved one is a "very unique circumstance" of the pandemic, Dosch said. It's "something that we've never encountered prior to this."

Caregivers started a new project where they give a stuffed lamb to each of their patients to comfort them, as they spend a lot of time alone. The lamb comes with a prayer card and a bookmark. Each of the COVID-19 rooms is also equipped with an iPad, which allows patients to FaceTime their relatives and friends.

"We try as hard as we can to have the family present in whatever way, shape or form we can," Dosch said. Caregivers also send out cards to the families after their loved one dies so that they "know their loved one wasn't alone at the end," she said.

"It's a really sad thing that has come from COVID-19," Dosch said. "Nobody should have to go through that. Nobody should have their loved one alone, and nobody should have to be without their loved ones at the end."

After work

When Dosch comes home after work, her two children, ages 3 and one-and-a-half, are waiting for her. But Dosch said she's quick to sneak in the house and take a shower before hugging her kids, careful to wash herself and any scrubs and other items that may have been exposed to COVID-19.

"I honestly feel that we're safer (at work) in our proper gear than we would be out in public for the most part," she said. "You don't know what you're coming into contact with out in public."

Dosch said she doesn't stay separate from her family when she's at home: "That's not really an option for us."

"We don't know how long COVID-19 is going to affect our community. We don't know how long we will be taking care of" these patients, she said. "To seclude ourselves from our families has never really been an option."

Cowan takes similar precautions to Dosch when she goes home to her children, ages 10 and 6. She said she lives with the reality that she or her kids could be at risk for contracting coronavirus.

"That thought is kind of always in your head," she said. "We know that the longer you spend time with a COVID-19 positive patient in a room or in that space, the more likely you are to at some point be infected. We know that's a possibility" but we take steps to avoid that, she said.

Some of the steps Cowan, Dosch and their families take to avoid any COVID-19 transmission include wearing masks in public, practicing social distancing and good hand hygiene.

To those that aren't social distancing, Dosch said she wants to tell them to "be considerate of your neighbor, your loved ones and strangers."

"I think there's a lot of stuff in the news and the research out there regarding the implications and what happens if you get COVID-19," she said. "Simply just being considerate of those around you and wearing a mask (is) kind. It's such a stressful, unknown, crazy time in this world. Take a little bit of effort to be kind to those around you."

Cowan said she's heard people complain about the pandemic and heard people in her field say "I didn't sign up to work COVID-19."

"None of us did, but it's what's present in our path and so that's what we're doing," she said. "We do it because we want to work in a health care field. Somebody who has COVID-19 didn't ask to get COVID-19. We didn't necessarily ask to work COVID-19. But regardless of that, these patients need our help and there's a reason that we're here."

National Ice Cream Month: Food stand keeps things creative

By ERIN BORMETT Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — This is the second season that Sub Zero Desserts is operating out of their modified shipping container-turned-food stand, and owner Jess Rooney said they are keeping fairly steady business despite the unusual circumstances public food vendors are facing this summer.

"The neighborhood was happy to have us," said Rooney. "I think the community was ready to do something with less risk."

July is National Ice Cream Month, and local ice cream shops are in the full swing of summer sales.

Sub Zero brings a unique spin on the cold treat. The easy, grab-and-go nature of rolled ice cream and shaved ice doesn't come with the same challenges that a sit-down establishment might worry about during the coronavirus pandemic. Through the service window, physical contact is already limited, and there is virtually unlimited space outdoors to keep socially distant while in line.

Sub Zero Desserts typically starts up operations around Memorial Day. This year, the shop opened a month early in order to support their employees. Several seasonal workers for Sub Zero struggled to find steady employment in the off-season, and Rooney said once they knew they could open safely, it was a no-brainer.

"We started contacting them and they basically said, 'I don't have anything to do and I don't have any income,' so they were on board for opening up," she told the Argus Leader.

The number of customers this season hasn't felt very far off from last year, but Rooney said it's much harder to predict busy times. Typically, evening hours from 7-9 p.m. were sure bets for a rush of customers, but now that people's schedules are more fluid, she has seen spikes of activity in the middle of weekdays.

The company also gets business from their new online ordering and delivery options, including a partnership with GrubHub. They spent money on a blast freezer to keep desserts cold during travel time for those who don't want to visit the shop in person. Rooney also runs a mobile trailer to cater events around Sioux Falls.

"It took a lot of creativity, but we got here," said Rooney.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 23 of 86

The creativity doesn't stop with business practices. Rooney said she is always looking for new ice cream flavors to invent. The most unique flavor experiments so far have been a maple bacon toffee rolled ice cream and a pickle flavored shaved ice.

"I will just go through the aisles at Hy-Vee thinking, what can I put in my ice cream?" she said.

Sub Zero Desserts has amassed a sort of "secret menu" through their Facebook page where Rooney will share flavors she's created outside of the official menu board. A particular fan favorite is Twin Bing, made from the namesake candy crushed into cherry ice cream and topped with chocolate drizzle. Cookie Monster, made with crushed chocolate chip and Oreo cookies, is another crowd-pleaser.

Rooney said that creating unique sweet treats brings her joy, but the best part of the job is bringing that joy to others.

"One of our favorite things is that huge smile they get," she said, referring to the children who frequent Sub Zero. "It's an experience to have someone make your ice cream in front of you. There's something about summer, and being outside and getting ice cream, that makes it something special."

Because of this experience, Rooney said she doesn't feel much competition with other ice cream vendors in the city. She said that each one brings something different to the table, and customers can choose whatever strikes their fancy on any given day.

Instead of only July being National Ice Cream Month, Rooney thinks "all of summer should just be ice cream time."

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

12-13-21-46-57, Mega Ball: 21, Megaplier: 3

(twelve, thirteen, twenty-one, forty-six, fifty-seven; Mega Ball: twenty-one; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$101 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$97 million

Medicaid expansion advocates prepare for 2022 ballot push

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota attorney general on Friday filed explanations for a pair of 2022 ballot measures that would expand federal Medicaid eligibility in the state.

Supporters of the measures will need to gather thousands of signatures to get a pair of items on the November 2022 general election ballot. Both proposals, which are sponsored by former Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Rick Weiland, aim to make Medicaid health insurance available to people who live below 133% of the federal poverty level, which is currently about \$17,000 for an individual or \$35,000 for a family of four.

Weiland emphasized that he hopes to build a bipartisan coalition around the issue. South Dakota is one of 13 states that has not expanded Medicaid under the 2010 federal Affordable Care Act.

Former Gov. Dennis Daugaard, a Republican, favored expansion, but he abandoned the proposal after President Donald Trump's election. As Republican-held legislatures have resisted making more people eligible for the social program, advocates have turned to ballot measures. Earlier this month, Oklahoma voters became the first to pass a constitutional amendment to expand Medicaid.

Weiland is sponsoring an initiated measure, which would force the Legislature to pass Medicaid expansion, and a constitutional measure that would be protected from legislators dismantling the law in the future. He will have until November of next year to gather nearly 17,000 signatures for the initiated ballot measure and almost 34,000 signatures for the proposed constitutional amendment.

"We have a lot of citizens in our state that simply do not have health insurance," Weiland said. "This will affect tens of thousands of our fellow South Dakotans."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 24 of 86

Americans for Prosperity, a free-market lobbying group that is influential in South Dakota, has opposed Medicaid expansion in the past, arguing that it is costly and inefficient.

Weiland said the coronavirus pandemic has shown the need for broader health care coverage.

The attorney general's office is required to write explanations for all ballot measures, but it is not an endorsement for or against the proposal.

South Dakota reports 95 COVID-19 cases, one death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials reported the highest number of daily new cases in a month on Friday as they recorded 95 people with confirmed infections, as well as one new death from COVID-19.

The rate of cases has been holding mostly constant over the last two weeks, and it appears the daily increase in cases reported is due to a delay in reporting some test results from the day before.

The Department of Health had to delay recording some test results on Thursday due to a problem collecting data from labs, according to state epidemiologist Josh Clayton. Health officials reported a higher number of both positive and negative test results on Friday, with nearly 2,000 results recorded. The Department of Health did not immediately answer a question if Friday's increase in cases was connected to the delay in reporting test results.

The number of hospitalizations has also remained steady, with 61 hospitalized with COVID-19 at the latest count. A man in his 50s from Beadle County died, according to Department of Health data.

The state has reported almost 7,800 cases of COVID-19, but 87% have recovered. So far, 116 people have died.

Hockey team bookkeeper pleads guilty to federal charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former office manager for the Rapid City Rush has pleaded guilty to federal crimes related to embezzling \$700,000 from the hockey team.

Jennifer Durham, 42, pleaded guilty to tax evasion and two counts of wire fraud during a hearing Thursday before a federal magistrate judge in Sioux Falls.

Durham has agreed to pay full restitution to the Rush and about \$186,000 to the IRS as part of a plea deal. She faces up to 20 years for each wire fraud count and five years for tax evasion.

Durham worked as the Rush's manager from 2008 through June 2019, where she was responsible for maintaining accounting records, creating financial reports, and recording and depositing cash receipts.

Prosecutors said she began to steal from the company around February 2010, the Rapid City Journal reported.

An investigation began in October 2019 when new team owners, Spire Hockey, discovered "inconsistencies and irregularities" in some bookkeeping .

Breathtaking virus numbers show normal life still far away

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa was poised on Saturday to join the top five countries most affected by the coronavirus, while breathtaking numbers around the world were a reminder that a return to normal life is still far from sight.

Confirmed virus cases worldwide have topped 14 million and deaths have surpassed 600,000, according to Johns Hopkins University data, a day after the World Health Organization reported a single-day record of new infections at over 237,000. Death tolls in the United States are reaching new highs, and India's infections are over 1 million.

Iran's president made the startling announcement that as many as 25 million Iranians could have been infected, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. Hassan Rouhani cited a new Health Ministry study that has not been made public. Iran has seen the Middle East's worst outbreak with more than 270,000

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 25 of 86

confirmed cases.

Experts believe the true numbers around the world are higher because of testing shortages. And as countries try to ease lockdowns, new ripples of cases follow.

South Africa on Saturday could join the U.S., Brazil, India and Russia as the most badly hit countries as its cases near 350,000. Current case trends show it will surpass Peru.

That comes as the world marks Mandela Day, remembering South Africa's first Black president and his legacy of fighting inequality. The country, however, remains the world's most unequal, and health officials have warned that the pandemic will lay that bare.

"The simple fact is that many South Africans are sitting ducks because they cannot comply with World Health Organization protocols on improved hygiene and social distancing," the foundation of former South African archbishop and fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and his wife, Leah, said in a statement.

South Africa's new epicenter, Gauteng province, is home to one-quarter of the country's population, with many poor people living in crowded conditions in the middle of a frosty winter.

The country's cases make up roughly half of all on the African continent. Its struggles are a sign of trouble to come for less-resourced nations there. Mandela's message is "more relevant than ever," WHO Africa chief Matshidiso Moeti said, calling for equitable access to care.

In India, a surge of 34,884 new cases was reported as local governments continue to re-impose focused lockdowns in several parts of the country.

In the U.S., teams of military medics have been deployed in Texas and California to help hospitals deluged by patients. The two most populous states each reported roughly 10,000 new cases and some of their highest death counts.

In China, the number of confirmed cases in a new outbreak in the far western region of Xinjiang has risen to 17.

In Bangladesh, confirmed cases surpassed 200,000 but experts say the number is much higher as the country lacks adequate labs for testing. Most people in rural areas have stopped wearing masks and are thronging shopping centers ahead of the Islamic festival Eid al-Adha this month.

And in Britain, scientists poured cold water on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's hope that the country may return to normal by Christmas. That's "a long way off, unfortunately" without a vaccine, said epidemiologist John Edmunds, a member of the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies.

Britain has registered more than 45,000 COVID-19 deaths, the highest in Europe. But the government said it will halt issuing daily updates to that toll while authorities investigate the way the statistics are compiled. Academics said in England the tally includes anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and later died, meaning some may have died of other causes.

Associated Press writers around the world contributed.

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

Iran estimates up to 25 million virus cases since outbreak

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president Saturday estimated as many as 25 million Iranians could have been infected with the coronavirus since the outbreak's beginning, and urged the public to take the pandemic seriously, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

President Hassan Rouhani cited a new Iranian Health Ministry study in offering the unprecedentedly high number of infections. Officials have not explained what the report's estimates are based on and the study has not been made public. Rouhani also said he believes an additional 30-35 million people could be infected in coming months, again without citing the basis for his estimate. Iran's population is around

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 26 of 86

81 million people.

Iran has seen the worst outbreak in the Middle East, with more than 270,000 confirmed cases and at least 13,979 deaths.

The president's remarks show that questions remain over the country's official figures from the outbreak, even after the authorities publicly acknowledged its importance.

Referring to the Health Ministry report, Rouhani said it also predicts that the number of hospitalizations will soon be "twice as many as we have seen in the last 150 days."

In recent weeks, Iran has seen daily death tolls spike to their highest-ever levels, sparking increasing fear even as government officials say they can't lock the country back down for fear of cratering its sanctions-hit economy. Health officials have reported 2,166 new cases and 188 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Authorities in the capital Tehran are imposing new restrictions starting Saturday amid the increase in cases in recent weeks, closing some public spaces like coffee shops, zoos, and indoor swimming pools.

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

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

Even today, Iran's death toll remains based on cases where people died in coronavirus wards in hospitals. However, it's believed many more died at home. Some families have reportedly asked doctors not to mention their loved ones died of the virus to avoid the stigma associated with COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump and the virus-era China ban that isn't

By STEPHEN BRAUN, HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's "ban" on travel from China is his go-to point when defending his response to the coronavirus pandemic. The problem with his core argument starts with the fact that he did not ban travel from China. He imposed porous restrictions.

Over the past week, Trump cited his China action repeatedly and as part of a scattered indictment of Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden.

Trump thoroughly misrepresented Biden's position on immigration and more, while an economic adviser with no public health credentials tried to discredit Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country's top infectious disease expert, with a scientific argument.

It was a difficult week for discerning the reality of things.

In review:

THE 'BAN'

TRUMP: "We would've had thousands of people additionally die if we let people come in from heavily infected China. But we stopped it. We did a travel ban in January. ... By closing up, we saved millions, potentially millions of lives." — Rose Garden remarks Tuesday.

TRUMP: He didn't ban travel from China. He restricted it. Dozens of countries took similar steps to control travel from hot spots before or around the same time the U.S. did.

The U.S. restrictions that took effect Feb. 2 continued to allow travel to the U.S. from China's Hong Kong and Macao territories over the past five months. The Associated Press reported that more than 8,000 Chinese and foreign nationals based in those territories entered the U.S. in the first three months after the travel restrictions were imposed.

Additionally, more than 27,000 Americans returned from mainland China in the first month after the restrictions took effect. U.S. officials lost track of more than 1,600 of them who were supposed to be monitored for virus exposure.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 27 of 86

Few doubt that the heavy death toll from COVID-19 would be even heavier if world travel had not been constricted globally. But Trump has no scientific basis to claim that his action alone saved "millions" or even "hundreds of thousands" of lives, as he has put it.

THE 'DANCE'

TRUMP, on what happened after he restricted travel from China: "Nancy Pelosi was dancing on the streets of Chinatown in San Francisco a month later, and even later than that, and others, too." — Rose Garden.

THE FACTS: No she wasn't. This is Trump's frequent and fanciful account of the House speaker's visit to San Francisco's Chinatown on Feb. 24. That day, she visited shops and strolled the streets to counter the hostility some people in the district were encountering over a virus that emanated from China.

On that day, Pelosi said the public should be vigilant about the virus but the city took precautions and "we should come to Chinatown." Local TV news tracked her visit; She wasn't seen dancing and did not call for a "street fair," as Trump at times has put it. Community spread of the coronavirus had not yet been reported.

As FactCheck.org pointed out, the same day Pelosi went to Chinatown, Trump tweeted: "The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA. We are in contact with everyone and all relevant countries. CDC & World Health (Organization) have been working hard and very smart. Stock Market starting to look very good to me!" The CDC is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Two days later, Trump asserted that only 15 people in the U.S. were infected and that number would go down "close to zero." Instead the numbers exploded. More than 3.6 million Americans have had COVID-19.

Trump has accused Pelosi of being "responsible for many deaths" because of the Chinatown visit. He has denied responsibility for any of the deaths sweeping the country as he has persistently minimized the threat, pushed for reopening and refused to take mask-wearing seriously.

BIDEN ON THE 'BAN'

TRUMP: "He opposed my very strict travel ban on Chinese nationals to stop the spread of the China virus. He was totally against it. 'Xenophobic,' he called me. 'Xenophobic.' A month later, he admitted I was right." — Rose Garden.

THE FACTS: No, Biden did not come out against the travel restrictions on China. He said little about them at the time. In April, his campaign said he supported travel restrictions if "guided by medical experts."

Biden did say Trump has a record of xenophobia, a comment made during an Iowa campaign event when the restrictions were announced. Biden said Trump was "fear-mongering" against foreigners and the Democrat took issue with Trump's references to the "China virus" as an example. He did not address the travel steps.

Trump has claimed that Biden realized he was right after all about restricting travel from China and wrote him a "letter of apology." This didn't happen, either.

THE TRADE ADVISER

PETER NAVARRO, White House trade adviser: "When Fauci was telling the White House Coronavirus Task Force that there was only anecdotal evidence in support of hydroxychloroquine to fight the virus, I confronted him with scientific studies providing evidence of safety and efficacy. A recent Detroit hospital study showed a 50% reduction in the mortality rate when the medicine is used in early treatment." — op-ed published Wednesday in USA Today.

THE FACTS: Navarro cherry-picks a study widely criticized as flawed and ignores multiple studies finding hydroxychloroquine doesn't help.

Numerous rigorous tests of hydroxychloroquine, including a large one from Britain and one led by the National Institutes of Health, concluded that the anti-malaria drug was ineffective for treating hospitalized coronavirus patients. Fauci leads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH.

The Food and Drug Administration also has warned the drug should only be used for the coronavirus in hospitals and research settings because of the risk of serious heart rhythm problems and other safety

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 28 of 86

issues.

The Henry Ford Health System study that Navarro refers to was an observational look back at how various patients fared. It was not a rigorous test where similar patients are randomly assigned to get the drug or not and where each group is compared later on how they did.

In the study, some people with heart or certain other conditions were not given the drugs, which can cause heart rhythm problems, so those patients were fundamentally different from the group they were compared with. Researchers said they adjusted statistically for some differences, but the many variables make it tough to reach firm conclusions.

Some patients also received other treatments such as steroids and the antiviral drug remdesivir, further clouding any ability to tell whether hydroxychloroquine helped.

Trump repeatedly has pushed the drug and claimed he took it himself to try to prevent COVID-19 infection or illness.

The White House said Navarro was not authorized to challenge Fauci with the op-ed and should not have done it. But his points largely reflect ones Trump and others in the White House have made themselves.

NAVARRO: "Fauci says a falling mortality rate doesn't matter when it is the single most important statistic to help guide the pace of our economic reopening. The lower the mortality rate, the faster and more we can open." — USA Today op-ed.

THE FACTS: He's taking Fauci's words out of context. Fauci said in early July that it was a "false narrative to take comfort in a lower rate of death." At the time, deaths were dipping as infections spiked in many parts of the country. But deaths lag sickness, a risk cited by Fauci and other experts. Deaths have since increased, driven by fatalities in states in the South and West, according to data analyzed by The Associated Press.

"It's consistently picking up," said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious diseases researcher. "And it's picking up at the time you'd expect it to."

More from the Rose Garden on Tuesday:

TARIFFS

TRUMP: "We're placing massive tariffs and have placed very large tariffs on China -- first time that's ever happened to China. Billions of dollars have been paid to the United States."

THE FACTS: A familiar assertion, false to the core.

It's false to say the U.S. never collected tariffs on Chinese goods before he took action. Tariffs on Chinese goods are simply higher in some cases than they were before. It's also wrong to suggest that the tariffs are being paid by China. Tariff money coming into the government's coffers is mainly from U.S. businesses and consumers, not from China. Tariffs are primarily if not entirely a tax paid domestically.

CHINA

TRUMP, on the economy: "Prior to the plague pouring in from China, they were having the worst year, you know, in 67 years."

THE FACTS: That's not true. China is far from the impoverished disaster of over a half century ago, when it was reeling from the massive famine caused by Mao Zedong's radical economic policies and heading into the chaos of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

China's economy has been slowing from Trump's taxes on Chinese imports, as well as its own campaign to constrain runaway debt. But it's still markedly faster than U.S. growth.

Since overhauling its economy in the late 1970s, China has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, established a growing middle class and surpassed Japan to become the world's second-biggest economy.

HUNTER BIDEN

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 29 of 86

TRUMP, on Joe Biden: "His son walked out with \$1.5 billion of money to invest, where he'll make hundreds of thousands of dollars — maybe millions of dollars a year. Walked out with \$1.5 billion."

THE FACTS: There's no evidence Hunter Biden pocketed \$1.5 billion from China.

In 2014, an investment fund started by Hunter Biden and other investors joined with foreign and Chinese private equity firms in an effort to raise \$1.5 billion to invest outside China. It was not a lone effort by Hunter Biden to get his hands on that much money.

In any event, the effort fell far short, his lawyer, George Mesires, wrote in an internet post last year. Mesires said the fund, an investment management company known as BHR, raised only about \$4.2 million, not the \$1.5 billion it aimed for. Hunter Biden's 10% share was worth about \$420,000, but he did not cash it in, Mesires said. And he said Hunter Biden was an unpaid director at the time.

"He has not received any return on his investment," Mesires said. Biden stepped down from the board in October as part of a pledge not to work on behalf of any foreign-owned companies should his father win the presidency.

WELFARE

TRUMP: "Sign new immigrants up for welfare immediately. This is Joe Biden. So they walk off, and they come in, and they put a foot into our land, and we sign up new immigrants up for welfare. We sign them up immediately. They get welfare benefits. United States citizens don't get what they're looking to give illegal immigrants."

THE FACT: Biden has proposed no such thing. Nor has the task force on immigration that Biden advisers created with advisers from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' former presidential campaign.

Biden has proposed something far more limited. He would reverse a Trump administration rule that allows immigration officials to consider whether someone seeking a U.S. visa or green card is likely to use Medicaid or certain other public benefits. If so, that person's bid to live legally in the U.S. could be disadvantaged.

The committee of advisers makes a similar recommendation in hopes of influencing the Democratic platform. But neither Biden nor the panel has endorsed extending blanket public assistance immediately to immigrants regardless of their legal status.

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER WALL

TRUMP: "What they're going to do is they're going to rip down the wall. They're taking it down. They want to take down the wall, which we fought hard for."

THE FACTS: Also false.

Biden's immigration plan does not include money for new border fencing, and he and the task force aren't calling for any new walls. But neither has proposed taking down existing barriers.

DETENTION

TRUMP, on Biden's agenda: "Abolish immigration detention. No more detention. You come in here illegally, no more detention."

THE FACTS: Such a plan also does not exist.

Instead, Biden has promised to adhere to federal court precedent capping how long immigrants can be held in detention, which the Trump administration has challenged. He also supports "community-based" alternatives to detention and would close private, for-profit detention centers.

As for the task force of advisers, it proposes using federal money to help states find alternatives to detention for immigrant children specifically and says detention centers should be a last resort for all immigrants. Biden is not bound by what these advisers want him to do, and in any event, they are not proposing to eliminate incarceration but to reduce it.

ENFORCEMENT

TRUMP: "Think of that: Abolish immigration enforcement. They're going to abolish immigration enforcement."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 30 of 86

THE FACT: No, they're not.

Biden has been notably outspoken in arguing that crossing the U.S. border illegally is a crime and should remain punished as such in federal court. In fact, he and the task force have not endorsed immigration plans supported by Sanders and other former presidential candidates that sought to decriminalize illegal border crossings and make doing so only a civil offense.

DEPORTATION

TRUMP: "Stop all deportation. So if we get a MS-13 gang member, which we've taken out of our country by the thousands — brought them back to Honduras, Guatemala — can't do that anymore — El Salvador. Can't do that anymore. Stop all deportations. So in other words, we'll take all of these people — many of whom are in prison for rape, murder, lots of other things."

THE FACTS: Biden hasn't proposed ceasing deportations. He's not committed to a policy on it either way. The committee of advisers has proposed a 100-day moratorium on deportations, not a ban.

EDUCATION

TRUMP on Biden's agenda: "Federal student aid and free community college for illegal aliens. What do you think about that?"

THE FACTS: Only for the people already in the country who came illegally as children — the so-called Dreamers. Neither Biden nor the task force is proposing such aid for everyone who is in the country illegally or who comes illegally in the future.

ASYLUM

TRUMP: "Expand asylum for all new illegal aliens. How about that one? All new illegal aliens, expand asylum."

THE FACTS: No. Biden and the task force are not proposing asylum for all who seek it.

They have advocated rolling back Trump administration restrictions that greatly reduced the number of immigrants who are now eligible for U.S. asylum. That would probably expand the number of immigrants eligible for asylum closer to levels before Trump took office. That's far from a universal granting of asylum.

AP Chief Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee and Associated Press writers Will Weissert and Ben Fox contributed to this report.

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

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French protesters mark death of Black man in police custody

By ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

BEAUMONT-SUR-OISE, France (AP) — Protesters marched in a Paris suburb Saturday to mark the fourth anniversary of the death of a Black man in police custody whose case has mobilized broad anger against police brutality and racial injustice in France.

The demonstration in Beaumont-sur-Oise honored Adama Traoré, who died on his 24th birthday in July 2016 after an arrest in circumstances that remain unclear. But it's also about broader anti-government grievances, and climate activists are co-organizing this year's protest.

Since George Floyd's killing by Minneapolis police in May, campaigning by Traore's family and other French activists against police violence targeting minorities has gained renewed attention and mobilized thousands in protests around the European Union nation.

Traore's sister Assa, who has led the family's long legal fight, called Saturday for police to be charged with

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 31 of 86

homicide in her brother's death, saying her brother "took the weight of gendarmes" for several minutes. Investigative efforts into the Traore case have revived in recent weeks, in the wake of Floyd-related Black Lives Matter protests.

"Why did those investigations happen four years later?" Assa Traore asked reporters. "These investigations are because the people put pressure."

On July 19, 2016, gendarmes approached Adama Traore and his brother for an identity check in Beaumont-sur-Oise north of Paris. Traore ran away because he didn't have his ID, but the gendarmes arrested him. Within hours he was declared dead.

One gendarme initially said three officers jumped on Traoré to pin him down, but the gendarmes later denied that. A dozen court-ordered medical reports found various cardiac diseases were responsible. The Traoré family countered those with an independent autopsy and medical reports pointing to asphyxiation.

The case is still under investigation, and lawyers for the officers deny police were at fault. No one has been charged.

Traoré's case has also shed light on the struggle of other French families who have lost a loved one in police custody, notably Black and North African men, who French researchers have found are disproportionately targeted by police. According to a nationwide tally by news website Basta Mag, at least 101 police-related deaths are under investigation in France.

Ramata Dieng, whose 25-year-old brother Lamine Dieng died in a police van in 2007, spoke at Saturday's rally and asked for "the creation of an independent body tasked with looking into instances of police violence." Dieng, whose family is French-Senegalese, also asked for a ban on heavy police weaponry and the repeal of a 2017 law that expanded French police powers.

France's government recently agreed to pay Dieng's family 145,000 euros (\$166,000) to end legal proceedings over his death under a settlement brokered by the European Court of Human Rights.

Assa Traore and has been touring struggling French suburbs where most of the population is immigrant or non-white, and organized activists across racial, geographical and economic lines to try to get France to rethink its policing.

"There are a huge number of names — they are immigrants, they are people from poor neighborhoods, they are Black, Arab, non-white — who are killed by police," she said Saturday.

Traoré, whose family is of Malian origin, told The Associated Press that she wants a ban on dangerous techniques that police use to immobilize people and wants France to scrap police oversight agencies, which are currently composed of police themselves, in favor of independent bodies.

Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

Follow all AP stories about racial injustice and protests against police brutality at <https://apnews.com/Racialinjustice>.

Fire at French cathedral in Nantes destroys famed organ

By LAETITIA NOTARIANNI and THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

NANTES, France (AP) — French officials launched an arson inquiry Saturday after a fire broke out in the famed Gothic Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul of the western French city of Nantes. The blaze destroyed the organ, shattered stained glass windows and sent black smoke spewing from between the cathedral towers.

Residents and tourists watched aghast, and emergency workers cordoned off the area around the monument, in the historical center of this city on the Loire River.

A City Hall official said the fire broke out Saturday morning inside the cathedral, and the cause is unclear. The official is not authorized to be publicly named. No injuries have been reported.

The local firefighter service said the roof is not affected by the fire and was "under control."

They brushed aside comparisons with Notre Dame cathedral in Paris whose lead roof and spire burned

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 32 of 86

down in April 2019. For many, the Nantes fire will have brought back memories of that devastating blaze that threatened to topple the medieval monument in the capital.

"After Notre-Dame, the Saint-Pierre-et-Saint-Paul cathedral, in the heart of Nantes, is in flames. Support for our firefighters who take all risks to save this Gothic jewel of the city," French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on Twitter.

Saturday's fire broke the main stained glass windows between the two towers of the 15th-century cathedral, and destroyed the organ, which dated from the 17th century and was called the "soul of the cathedral" by faithful.

"The damage is concentrated on the great organ which appears to be completely destroyed. The platform on which it is located is very unstable and risks collapsing," said Gen. Laurent Ferlay, head of the firefighters in the Loire Atlantique area, during a press briefing in front of the cathedral.

The cathedral had been built over five centuries and completed in 1891. The main organ had previously survived a serious fire in 1972, which annihilated much of its wooden structures.

"It is a part of our history, a part of our heritage" Nantes Mayor Johanna Rolland told reporters. "We all have these images in mind, this story in our hearts, but at this stage the situation does not seem to be comparable to that of 1972."

That devastation had one upside — the burnt-out wood was replaced by concrete that helped limit the scope of Saturday's catastrophe, Ferlay said.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex and French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin were among officials planning to visit Nantes Saturday afternoon in reaction to the blaze.

Adamson reported from Paris

The Latest: British scientists: No normality until vaccine

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON -- British scientists are dismissing Prime Minister Boris Johnson's hope the country may emerge from coronavirus lockdown and return to normality by Christmas.

Johnson has announced more easing of restrictions, with people urged to return to public transit and workplaces. He says sports fans should return to stadiums by October and remaining restrictions could be lifted from November, "possibly in time for Christmas."

But epidemiologist John Edmunds, a member of the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, says a return to pre-pandemic normality wouldn't be possible until there's a vaccine for the virus.

He says a world where people can "go to work normally, travel on the buses and trains, go on holiday without restrictions, meet friends, shake hands, hug each other and so on — that's a long way off, unfortunately."

England's Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, also says social distancing rules would have to be in place for a "prolonged period."

Britain has registered more than 45,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, the highest total in Europe.

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

- India infections increase, concern cases could double by Aug. 10
- Reality shows shortfalls of Trump's claim to 'best testing'
- Millions of kids told full return to school in fall unlikely
- Republicans eye sweeping shield from coronavirus liability
- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is urging Congress to quickly enact a new pandemic relief package targeting hardest-hit swaths of the economy, as lawmakers race to stand up federal aid in the face of the latest spike in coronavirus cases across much of the Sun Belt and persistent severe unemployment.
- Evidence behind what role children play in the coronavirus pandemic and how it affects them is inconclusive, despite the Trump administration's position that the science is clear.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 33 of 86

— Fresh studies give more information about what treatments do or don't work for COVID-19, with high-quality methods that give reliable results.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

NEW DELHI — A surge of 34,884 new coronavirus cases took India's tally to 1,038,716, as local governments reimpose focused lockdowns in several parts of the country.

The Health Ministry on Saturday reported 671 confirmed deaths in the past 24 hours for a total of 26,273. The ministry says the recovery rate had slightly come down to 62.9%.

The actual numbers, like elsewhere in the world, are likely far higher because of various reasons, including limited testing. More than 300,000 samples are tested every day.

About a dozen states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam, have put high-risk areas under lockdowns, only allowing essential food supplies and health services.

Rahul Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress party, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday to take concrete steps to contain the pandemic. He warned the number of infections will double to 2 million by Aug. 10 at the current pace.

Experts say India is likely to witness a series of peaks as the infection spreads in rural areas.

Confirmed coronavirus cases around the world have topped 14 million and deaths have surpassed 600,000, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University on Saturday.

The World Health Organization reported a single-day record of new infections: over 237,000. Experts believe that the true numbers are even higher.

The United States, Brazil and India top the list with the highest number of cases. India on Friday exceeded 1 million confirmed infections, and Brazil's cases passed 2 million, including 76,000 deaths, on Thursday.

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's Victoria state saw a marked drop in new COVID-19 infections -- from Friday's record high of 428 to 217 -- a total that Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton says was "a relief after yesterday's numbers."

The Health Department said Saturday that two more Victorians, a man and a woman both aged in their 80s, had died, taking the state's death toll to 34 and Australia's national total to 118.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said the latest numbers were encouraging but warned it was just one day.

He says "we'd want to see a pattern where there's stability and then a decrease." He urged residents in metropolitan Melbourne to remain diligent during a six-week lockdown -- "being bored is much better than being in intensive care."

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has registered 736 more COVID-19 deaths and 7,257 more confirmed cases of coronavirus infections.

Mexico now has more than 35,000 deaths from the pandemic, the fourth highest total in the world. It also has recorded over 324,000 cases, somewhere around the seventh-highest level.

The Health Department said Friday that hospitals in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco are now at 85% capacity and there is crowding in hospitals in the northern border state of Nuevo Leon.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador says he is concerned about the situation in Tabasco, where he was born. He says a state hospital there will be expanded to handle more patients.

BEIJING — The number of confirmed cases in a new COVID-19 outbreak in China's far west has risen to 17.

The National Health Commission said Saturday that 16 more cases were identified Friday in the Xinjiang

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 34 of 86

region, on top of a first case the previous day.

The outbreak in the city of Urumqi is the latest to pop up since China largely contained the domestic spread of the virus in March. The largest was a recent outbreak in Beijing that infected more than 330 people.

Chinese media say authorities in Urumqi have reduced subway, bus and taxi service and closed off some residential communities. They also placed restrictions on people leaving the city.

China has been accused of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, the homeland of the largely Muslim Uighur ethnic community. The region has long been blanketed with extreme security, which China says is necessary to prevent terrorist activity.

SEOUL, South Korea -- Authorities in South Korea say most of the country's new coronavirus cases are coming from abroad.

The officials have expressed optimism that the recent resurgence of infections is being brought under control. They say imported cases are less threatening than local transmissions because South Korea is mandating testing and enforcing two-week quarantines on all people arriving from other nations.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Saturday that at least 28 of 39 newly confirmed cases were tied to people arriving from abroad. It says 18 others involved local transmission in the densely populated Seoul area, which was at the center of the virus resurgence that began in late May as people increased economic and social activities.

In all, South Korea has reported 13,711 confirmed cases during the pandemic, including 294 deaths.

CANBERRA, Australia — Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is moving to cancel the next two-week sitting of parliament because of the recent spread of the coronavirus in parts of the country.

Parliament has been scheduled to meet Aug. 4-13 and then sit again for a two-week session starting Aug. 24.

Morrison said Saturday that he has written to the parliamentary speaker asking for a cancellation, but the request is considered only a formality.

In a statement, the prime minister says acting Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly has advised that there would be "significant risks" in holding a meeting of parliament due to increased community transmission of the coronavirus in Victoria state as well as trends in New South Wales.

AUSTIN, Texas — The deadliest month of the pandemic in Texas continues, with state officials reporting 174 new deaths, the most in one day since the coronavirus outbreak began.

Texas also reported more than 10,000 confirmed new cases Friday for the fourth consecutive day. The rate of positive cases also climbed above 17% for the first time.

Officials on the Texas-Mexico border, which has been especially hard hit, say hotels could be converted into medical units as early as next week.

The grim markers were announced hours after Texas gave public schools permission to keep campuses closed for more than 5 million students well into the fall. Nearly a third of the more than 3,700 coronavirus deaths in Texas have come in July.

SACRAMENTO, Calif -- California has recorded its third-highest daily total of new coronavirus cases, two days after reporting its second most cases in a day.

The state reported nearly 10,000 new cases and 130 deaths Friday, during a week of seesawing positive case figures that ranged from 7,346 to as high as 11,126 on Wednesday.

The daily positive test rate went down a bit, to 7.1% over the past seven days, compared to 7.4% for the past 14 days. California tested more than 120,000 people a day during most of the past week.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced strict criteria Friday for school reopenings that make it unlikely the vast majority of districts can return to classroom instruction in the fall.

CHICAGO — Most Chicago children would return to the classroom two days a week and spend the other three days learning remotely once the school year begins, under a tentative plan outlined Friday.

Chicago Public Schools officials called the hybrid approach a preliminary framework and asked parents, students and staff of nation's third-largest school district to weigh in.

A final decision about in-person instruction for fall classes won't come until late August, with classes set to begin Sept. 8.

"We have to be ready for any possibility," Mayor Lori Lightfoot said. "COVID-19 has been unpredictable from the start and we have a responsibility to be prepared for what the public health indicators dictate, whether that means remote learning, in-person learning or something in between."

Mass protests rock Russian Far East city again

By YULIA KHOROVENKOVA and DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

KHABAROVSK, Russia (AP) — Mass rallies rocked the Russian Far East city of Khabarovsk again on Saturday, as tens of thousands took to the streets to protest the arrest of the region's governor on charges of involvement in multiple murders.

Local media estimated the rally in the city 3,800 miles east of Moscow drew 15,000 to 50,000 people. Hundreds of people have rallied in the city center every day this week against the arrest of Sergei Furgal, reflecting widespread anger over the arrest of the popular governor and a simmering discontent with the Kremlin's policies.

Furgal, the Khabarovsk region governor, was arrested on July 9 and flown to Moscow where he was put in jail for two months. Russia's Investigative Committee says he is suspected of involvement in several murders of businessmen in 2004 and 2005.

Furgal has denied the charges, which relate to his time as a businessman with interests ranging from imports of consumer goods to timber and metals. Khabarovsk residents dismissed the charges against him as unsubstantiated and denounced the Kremlin for targeting a governor they elected.

"It's not only about this (whether Furgal arrest is legal or not). People are fed up with the way we are treated, that they (authorities) can simply take away our choice," Mikhail Yerashchenko, one of the protesters, told The Associated Press on Saturday.

A member of the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, Furgal was elected governor in 2018, defeating the Kremlin-backed incumbent. His victory came unexpected: Furgal didn't actively campaign and toed the Kremlin's line, publicly supporting his rival.

People voted for him nonetheless, delivering a humiliating blow to the main Kremlin party, United Russia, that has been losing seats in regional administrations over the past two years.

During his two years in office, Furgal earned a reputation of "the people's governor." He cut his own salary, ordered the sale of an expensive yacht the previous administration bought, met with protesters when rallies happened and significantly reduced flight fares for residents in remote areas.

"Furgal became a political symbol for the residents of the region, and all accusations — no matter how grave — are from another, non-political dimension," political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said in a Facebook post earlier this week.

Last Saturday, crowds of reportedly up to 35,000 people rallied in the city center. Protesters demanded that Furgal's trial be moved to Khabarovsk, with one of them saying "we have elected him, and it's up to us to judge him." Some questioned the timing of the arrest, pointing to Furgal's decade-long stint as a lawmaker in the Russian parliament before running for governor, during which the murder charges never came up.

The protests, unauthorized by authorities, are the largest ever to have taken place in Khabarovsk, a city of 590,000. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the situation "not standard" this week. Moscow has not yet appointed an acting governor 11 days after Furgal's arrest.

Massive crowds on Saturday gathered despite local officials's attempts to discourage people from taking

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 36 of 86

to streets, citing the coronavirus epidemic and an averted terrorist threat.

Police didn't interfere with the rally. Protesters held banners saying "Freedom to Sergei Furgal, governor of the Khabarovsk region" and chanted "I, you, he and she – the entire country is for Furgal".

Smaller rallies in support of Furgal also took place Saturday in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, another big city in the Khabarovsk region, and in the city of Vladivostok in the neighboring Primorye region.

"Though I'm almost 70, I worry sincerely about my region, about Russia and our nation, about Furgal and freedom. I want us to be free," Alla Sokolova, a protestor in Khabarovsk, told the AP.

John Lewis, lion of civil rights and Congress, dies at 80

By CALVIN WOODWARD and DESIREE SEALS Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — John Lewis, a lion of the civil rights movement whose bloody beating by Alabama state troopers in 1965 helped galvanize opposition to racial segregation, and who went on to a long and celebrated career in Congress, has died. He was 80.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi confirmed Lewis' passing late Friday night, calling him "one of the greatest heroes of American history."

"All of us were humbled to call Congressman Lewis a colleague, and are heartbroken by his passing," Pelosi said. "May his memory be an inspiration that moves us all to, in the face of injustice, make 'good trouble, necessary trouble.'"

The condolences for Lewis were bipartisan. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Lewis was "a pioneering civil rights leader who put his life on the line to fight racism, promote equal rights, and bring our nation into greater alignment with its founding principles."

Lewis's announcement in late December 2019 that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer — "I have never faced a fight quite like the one I have now," he said — inspired tributes from both sides of the aisle, and an unstated accord that the likely passing of this Atlanta Democrat would represent the end of an era.

The announcement of his death came just hours after the passing of the Rev. C.T. Vivian, another civil rights leader who died early Friday at 95.

Lewis was the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that had the greatest impact on the movement. He was best known for leading some 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

At age 25 — walking at the head of the march with his hands tucked in the pockets of his tan overcoat — Lewis was knocked to the ground and beaten by police. His skull was fractured, and nationally televised images of the brutality forced the country's attention on racial oppression in the South.

Within days, King led more marches in the state, and President Lyndon Johnson soon was pressing Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. The bill became law later that year, removing barriers that had barred Blacks from voting.

"He loved this country so much that he risked his life and its blood so that it might live up to its promise," President Barack Obama said after Lewis' death. "Early on, he embraced the principles of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience as the means to bring about real change in this country."

Lewis joined King and four other civil rights leaders in organizing the 1963 March on Washington. He spoke to the vast crowd just before King delivered his epochal "I Have a Dream" speech.

A 23-year-old firebrand, Lewis toned down his intended remarks at the insistence of others, dropping a reference to a "scorched earth" march through the South and scaling back criticisms of President John Kennedy. It was a potent speech nonetheless, in which he vowed: "By the forces of our demands, our determination and our numbers, we shall splinter the segregated South into a thousand pieces and put them together in an image of God and democracy."

It was almost immediately, and forever, overshadowed by the words of King, the man who had inspired him to activism.

Lewis was born on Feb. 21, 1940, outside the town of Troy, in Pike County, Alabama. He grew up on his

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 37 of 86

family's farm and attended segregated public schools.

As a boy, he wanted to be a minister, and practiced his oratory on the family chickens. Denied a library card because of the color of his skin, he became an avid reader, and could cite obscure historical dates and details even in his later years. He was a teenager when he first heard King preaching on the radio. They met when Lewis was seeking support to become the first Black student at Alabama's segregated Troy State University.

He ultimately attended the American Baptist Theological Seminary and Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He began organizing sit-in demonstrations at whites-only lunch counters and volunteering as a Freedom Rider, enduring beatings and arrests while traveling around the South to challenge segregation.

Lewis helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and was named its chairman in 1963, making him one of the Big Six at a tender age. The others, in addition to King, were Whitney Young of the National Urban League; A. Philip Randolph of the Negro American Labor Council; James L. Farmer Jr., of the Congress of Racial Equality; and Roy Wilkins of the NAACP. All six met at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York to plan and announce the March on Washington.

The huge demonstration galvanized the movement, but success didn't come quickly. After extensive training in nonviolent protest, Lewis and the Rev. Hosea Williams led demonstrators on a planned march of more than 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama's capital, on March 7, 1965. A phalanx of police blocked their exit from the Selma bridge.

Authorities shoved, then swung their truncheons, fired tear gas and charged on horseback, sending many to the hospital and horrifying much of the nation. King returned with thousands, completing the march to Montgomery before the end of the month.

Lewis turned to politics in 1981, when he was elected to the Atlanta City Council.

He won his seat in Congress in 1986 and spent much of his career in the minority. After Democrats won control of the House in 2006, Lewis became his party's senior deputy whip, a behind-the-scenes leadership post in which he helped keep the party unified.

In an early setback for Barack Obama's 2008 Democratic primary campaign, Lewis endorsed Hillary Rodham Clinton for the nomination. Lewis switched when it became clear Obama had overwhelming Black support. Obama later honored Lewis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and they marched hand in hand in Selma on the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday attack.

President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Friday praised Lewis as a "giant" who became "the conscience of the nation."

Lewis also worked for 15 years to gain approval for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Humble and unfailingly friendly, Lewis was revered on Capitol Hill — but as one of the most liberal members of Congress, he often lost policy battles, from his effort to stop the Iraq War to his defense of young immigrants.

He met bipartisan success in Congress in 2006 when he led efforts to renew the Voting Rights Act, but the Supreme Court later invalidated much of the law, and it became once again what it was in his youth, a work in progress. Later, when the presidency of Donald Trump challenged his civil rights legacy, Lewis made no effort to hide his pain.

Lewis refused to attend Trump's inauguration, saying he didn't consider him a "legitimate president" because Russians had conspired to get him elected. When Trump later complained about immigrants from "s---hole countries," Lewis declared, "I think he is a racist ... we have to try to stand up and speak up and not try to sweep it under the rug."

Lewis said he'd been arrested 40 times in the 1960s, five more as a congressman. At 78, he told a rally he'd do it again to help reunite immigrant families separated by the Trump administration.

"There cannot be any peace in America until these young children are returned to their parents and set all of our people free," Lewis said in June, recalling the "good trouble" he got into protesting segregation as a young man.

"If we fail to do it, history will not be kind to us," he shouted. "I will go to the border. I'll get arrested again. If necessary, I'm prepared to go to jail."

In a speech the day of the House impeachment vote of Trump, Lewis explained the importance of that vote.

"When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something. Our children and their children will ask us 'what did you do? what did you say?'" While the vote would be hard for some, he said: "We have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history."

Lewis' wife of four decades, Lillian Miles, died in 2012. They had one son, John Miles Lewis.

Woodward reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Michael Warren contributed to this report.

Mayor of Portland to Trump: Get your troops out of the city

By ANDREW SELSKY and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The mayor of Portland demanded Friday that President Donald Trump remove militarized federal agents he deployed to the city after some detained people on streets far from federal property they were sent to protect.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Mayor Ted Wheeler said at a news conference.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Trump is looking for a confrontation in the hopes of winning political points elsewhere. It also serves as a distraction from the coronavirus pandemic, which is causing spiking numbers of infections in Oregon and the nation.

Brown's spokesman, Charles Boyle, said Friday that arresting people without probable cause is "extraordinarily concerning and a violation of their civil liberties and constitutional rights."

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said she would file a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Marshals Service, Customs and Border Protection and Federal Protection Service alleging they have violated the civil rights of Oregonians by detaining them without probable cause. She will also seek a temporary restraining order against them.

The ACLU of Oregon said the federal agents appear to be violating people's rights, which "should concern everyone in the United States."

"Usually when we see people in unmarked cars forcibly grab someone off the street we call it kidnapping," said Jann Carson, interim executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. "The actions of the militarized federal officers are flat-out unconstitutional and will not go unanswered."

Federal officers have charged at least 13 people with crimes related to the protests so far, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported Thursday. Some have been detained by the federal courthouse, which has been the scene of protests. But others were grabbed blocks away.

"This is part of the core media strategy out of Trump's White House: to use federal troops to bolster his sagging polling data," Wheeler said. "And it is an absolute abuse of federal law enforcement officials."

One video showed two people in helmets and green camouflage with "police" patches grabbing a person on the sidewalk, handcuffing them and taking them into an unmarked vehicle.

"Who are you?" someone asks the pair, who do not respond. At least some of the federal officers belong to the Department of Homeland Security.

Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that its agents had information indicating the person in the video was suspected of assaulting federal agents or destroying federal property.

"Once CBP agents approached the suspect, a large and violent mob moved towards their location. For everyone's safety, CBP agents quickly moved the suspect to a safer location," the agency said. However, the video shows no mob.

In another case, Mark Pettibone, 29, said a minivan rolled up to him around 2 a.m. Wednesday and four or five people got out "looking like they were deployed to a Middle Eastern war."

Pettibone told The Associated Press he got to his knees as the group approached. They dragged him into the van without identifying themselves or responding to his questions and pulled his beanie over his

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 39 of 86

eyes so he couldn't see, he said.

"I figured I was just going to disappear for an indefinite amount of time," Pettibone said.

Pettibone said he was put into a cell and officers dumped the contents of his backpack, with one remarking: "Oh, this is a bunch of nothing."

After he asked for a lawyer, Pettibone was allowed to leave.

"Authoritarian governments, not democratic republics, send unmarked authorities after protesters," Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley said in a tweet.

U.S. Attorney Billy Williams in Portland said Friday he has requested the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General to investigate the actions of DHS personnel.

In a letter Friday, Oregon's two senators and two of its House members demanded that U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad Wolf immediately withdraw "these federal paramilitary forces from our state."

The members of Congress also said they'll be asking the DHS inspector general and the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the presence and actions of federal forces in Portland.

"It's painfully clear this administration is focused purely on escalating violence without answering my repeated requests for why this expeditionary force is in Portland and under what constitutional authority," Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden said.

On Thursday night, federal officers deployed tear gas and fired non-lethal rounds into a crowd of protesters.

Wolf visited Portland on Thursday and called the demonstrators, who are protesting racism and police brutality, "violent anarchists."

Wolf blamed state and city authorities for not putting an end to the protests. But Portland police said Friday they wound up arresting 20 people overnight.

At least two protests occurred Thursday night, one near the federal courthouse and the other by a police station in another part of the city. Police told protesters to leave that site after announcing they heard some chanting about burning down the building. Protester Paul Frazier said Friday the chant was "much more rhetorical than an actual statement."

Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell told reporters Friday that his officers are in contact with the federal agents, but that neither controls the others' actions.

"We do communicate with federal officers for the purpose of situational awareness and deconfliction," Lovell said. "We're operating in a very, very close proximity to one another."

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Oregon on Friday added the federal government to a lawsuit it filed earlier to halt the use of crowd control measures, including tear gas and rubber bullets, against journalists and legal observers at protests in Portland.

"The lawsuit is one of many the ACLU will be filing against federal authorities in Portland for their unconstitutional attacks on people protesting the police killing of George Floyd," the group said.

Tensions have escalated in the past two weeks, particularly after an officer with the U.S. Marshals Service fired a less-lethal round at a protester's head on July 11, critically injuring him.

The protests following the police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis have often devolved into violent clashes between smaller groups and the police.

This version corrects that the governor did not say the deployment serves as a distraction, and that chanting about burning happened at police station, not federal courthouse.

Selsky reported from Salem, Oregon. AP reporters Ben Fox in Washington and Jake Bleiberg in Dallas contributed.

Follow Selsky on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/andrewselsky>

Surging Democrats expand Senate targets to GOP states

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's come to this for Republicans straining to defend their Senate majority in November's elections: They're air-dropping millions of dollars into races in Alabama, Kentucky and other red states where Donald Trump coasted during his 2016 presidential election triumph.

This year, challenged by Trump's fumbled handling of the coronavirus pandemic, the crippled economy and his racially inflammatory stances, Republicans face potentially competitive races they'd normally have locked down. Compounding their problems is strong fundraising by Democratic candidates that's kept them in contention in unlikely locations.

"The president's weakening poll numbers over the last several months have made down-ballot races more competitive," said GOP pollster Whit Ayres. While saying he believes Republicans will win many of the contested seats, Ayres added, "It's fair to say the map is expanded."

GOP fretting is being aggravated by some polls showing Trump trailing nationally and in some battleground states against Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

And while it's early and well-known senators can differentiate themselves from an unpopular president atop their ticket, Democrats are defending just 12 Senate seats this November to Republicans' 23. The GOP controls the Senate 53-47.

"Donald Trump's failed handling of the coronavirus crisis has changed everything," said Democratic pollster Geoffrey Garin. He said GOP senators are linked too closely to Trump, leaving him "pleased and surprised by the willingness of so many Republicans to go down with the ship."

Democrats have at least a puncher's chance of grabbing Republican-held seats in four states Trump won by double digits: Alaska, Kansas, Kentucky and South Carolina. They have an even shot at ousting GOP Sen. Steve Daines in Montana, which Trump carried by 20 percentage points, and long-shot hopes of retaining their most endangered senator, Doug Jones of Alabama, where Trump won by 28 points.

Republican incumbents face legitimate challenges for two Senate seats in Georgia and difficult fights in Arizona and North Carolina, all where Trump won narrowly. In two states Trump won by 9 points, Iowa GOP Sen. Joni Ernst faces a tough Democratic opponent in businesswoman Theresa Greenfield, while Republican Sen. John Cornyn is on alert against a Texas upset.

Republicans say they'll keep their majority, aided by Trump attacks on Biden that will close the overall gap by Election Day. They argue that Trump's name on the ballot will give Senate candidates in Republican states a major edge and say they're spending there because Democrats are raising sums that can't be ignored.

"The left's antipathy toward the president becomes an easy rallying cry" for Democratic fundraising, said Steven Law, who leads a pair of outside groups aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Former North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a moderate Democrat who lost her 2018 reelection bid, said she believes Trump's struggles have put red areas in play, especially transitioning Southern states like North Carolina, Georgia and Texas.

"Don't run away from who you are," like hedging on whether you'll vote for Biden, said Heitkamp, a founder of One Country, which advises Democrats on connecting with rural voters. "Run on health care, things that affect your community."

In early TV spots, the National Republican Senatorial Committee accuses Democratic Senate candidate Jon Ossoff in Georgia of backing "policies so extreme only Hollywood would want him." One by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee accuses Ernst, the GOP senator from Iowa, of protecting corporate interests, adding, "In tough times it's important to know who has your back."

Although dollars don't always translate into votes, campaign reports filed this week show surging Democratic fundraising in solidly Republican terrain.

Jones' \$18 million haul in Alabama more than quadruples the amount raised by his Republican opponent, Tommy Tuberville, a former Auburn football coach. That's prompted One Nation, a group allied with McConnell, to line up \$3.2 million on ads helping Tuberville, with the conservative Club for Growth planning \$1.3 million more.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 41 of 86

In Montana, Daines is on even financial footing with his Democratic opponent, Gov. Steve Bullock. One Nation and the Senate Leadership Fund, another McConnell ally, are spending millions to help Daines, while the DSCC, Senate Democrats' campaign arm, and Majority Forward, allied with Democratic leadership, are helping Bullock.

The two McConnell-friendly groups are even aiming \$15 million at Kentucky to help him fend off an uphill challenge from Democrat Amy McGrath. The \$47 million she has raised so far, aided by Democratic contributors' antipathy to McConnell's work with Trump, is tops in the country and surpasses McConnell's \$38 million.

Even in Kansas, which hasn't elected a Democratic senator since before World War II, a group with ties to state and national Republicans plans to spend \$3 million to prevent the polarizing Kris Kobach from winning the party's Senate nomination. Top Republicans fear a Kobach nomination could mean victory for Democrat Barbara Bollier, who's collected more cash than the three GOP contenders combined.

The two McConnell-allied groups are preparing to spend \$22 million to help GOP Sen. David Perdue against Democrat Ossoff in Georgia, where Republican advantages among suburban voters have eroded. An expensive battle is brewing over Ernst's Iowa seat, with outside Democratic and GOP groups each planning to spend over \$20 million.

Other robust Democratic fundraisers include Mark Kelly in Arizona and Jaime Harrison in South Carolina. Kelly has a solid chance of defeating GOP Sen. Martha McSally while Harrison is waging an unlikely drive to oust Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close Trump ally.

Cornyn has a dominant money advantage over MJ Hegar, his Democratic challenger in Texas. While some early polling has shown Biden running well there, Republicans are confident of a Cornyn win, barring a Trump collapse.

Republicans are eyeing Alaska, where GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan's likely opponent is Al Gross, an independent with Democratic support. The sprawling state is difficult to poll and populated by notoriously free-spirited voters, and Gross, a doctor, has already spent \$700,000 of his own money on his campaign.

Scott Kendall, a Republican consultant, predicted Sullivan will win. But, he cautioned, 2020 is "the weirdest year any of us have seen."

Associated Press writers Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Ky., and Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska, contributed to this report.

John Lewis' legacy shaped in 1965 on 'Bloody Sunday'

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — John Lewis saw the line of Alabama state troopers a few hundred yards away as he led hundreds of marchers to the apex of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965. Armed with gas canisters and nightsticks, the troopers were flanked by horse-riding members of the sheriff's posse. A crowd of whites milled around nearby.

Lewis, who died Friday at age 80, was just 25 at the time. He had been leading voting rights demonstrations for months in the notoriously racist town, and he and the others were trying to take a message of freedom to segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace in Montgomery.

So, rather than stopping, Lewis put another foot forward.

That seminal step propelled him on to a global stage as a hero of the U.S. civil rights movement. The ensuing confrontation helped lead to the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act.

With fellow civil rights activist Hosea Williams at his side, Lewis finally stopped a few feet away from the phalanx of troopers commanded by Maj. John Cloud of the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Other marchers stopped behind them, shifting their feet uncomfortably on the bridge shoulder.

Williams asked Cloud whether they could talk. There would be none of that, said Cloud. Acting on Wallace's order, he said the march was illegal and gave the group two minutes to leave. Seconds later, Cloud unleashed a spasm of state-sanctioned violence that shocked the nation for its sheer brutality.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 42 of 86

"Troopers, here, advance toward the group. See that they disperse," he said through a bullhorn. Lewis stood motionless with his hands in the pockets of his raincoat, a knapsack on his back.

Archival film footage and photos show a line of roughly two dozen troopers wearing gas masks as they approach the long, peaceful line led by Lewis. A trooper jabbed the butt of a nightstick toward Lewis and officers quickly pushed into the group. Feet became tangled and bodies hit both the grass roadside and the asphalt road. Screams rang out.

Lewis, in sworn court testimony five days later before U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., recalled being knocked to the ground. A state trooper standing upright hit him once in the head with a nightstick; Lewis shielded his head with a hand. The trooper hit Lewis again as he tried to get up. The officer was never publicly identified; Lewis testified he didn't know who it was, and a gas mask shielded the man's identity.

Others were beaten even worse as whites cheered from nearby. Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was in the line behind Lewis, was tear-gassed and beaten so badly she had to be carried away unconscious. Others were clubbed by the sheriff's posse members on horseback.

Lewis testified he never lost consciousness, but he also didn't remember how he got back to a church where he was taken before being admitted to a hospital. He got out in time for a hearing before Johnson, who overturned Wallace's order and ruled demonstrators could march to Montgomery.

Lewis was just a few feet away from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the front of more than 3,000 marchers when they left Selma on March 21, 1965, for the epic 52-mile walk to Montgomery. Wallace, who had vowed "segregation forever" during his 1963 inaugural and served four terms as governor, refused to meet with them.

Lewis outlived other key players in what came to be known as Bloody Sunday by many years. He addressed a throng atop the bridge in March, after his cancer diagnosis, to mark the 55th commemoration of the day.

"Speak up, speak out, get in the way," said Lewis, who appeared frail but spoke in a strong voice. "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

Wallace died in 1998, five years after Cloud, and Judge Johnson died in 1999. Hosea Williams, the other march leader who was beside Lewis that day on the bridge, died in 2000.

Robinson, who recovered from her injuries and crossed the Selma bridge with Lewis and then-President Barack Obama during the 50th anniversary commemoration, died in 2015.

Millions of kids told full return to school in fall unlikely

By FREIDA FRISARO and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Millions more children in the U.S. learned Friday that they're unlikely to return to classrooms full time in the fall because of the coronavirus pandemic as death tolls reached new highs.

It came as many states — particularly in the Sunbelt — struggled to cope with the surge and governments worldwide tried to control fresh outbreaks. In a sign of how the virus is galloping around the globe, the World Health Organization reported nearly a quarter-million new infections in a single day.

In the U.S., teams of military medics were deployed in Texas and California to help hospitals deluged by coronavirus patients. The two most populous states each reported roughly 10,000 new cases and some of their highest death counts since the pandemic began. Big numbers in Florida, Arizona and other states also are helping drive the U.S. resurgence that's forcing states to rethink the school year.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom laid out strict criteria for school reopenings that makes classroom instruction unlikely for most districts. The Democrat's rules mandate that students above second grade and all staff wear masks.

Texas gave public schools permission to stay closed for more than 5 million students well into the fall. Under the guidelines, schools can hold online-only instruction for up to the first eight weeks, potentially pushing a return to campus in some cities until November.

Most Chicago children would return to the classroom just two days a week and spend the other three days

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 43 of 86

learning remotely under a tentative plan outlined by officials from the nation's third-largest school district. A final decision for fall classes for the district's more than 300,000 students won't come until late August.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, announced she will override school districts and require students to spend at least half of their schooling in classrooms, drawing criticism from the state teachers union.

The uncertainty about the way to safely restart schools has parents like Ivette Garcia of Orange Park, Florida, struggling with what to do. When she learned her school district only had two options this fall, in-person or virtual lessons, she decided to keep her kindergarten son home. She plans to schedule instruction before and after work, with her parents reinforcing education in between.

"The schools' start date is less than 30 days away. And I don't feel that there's a very great plan in place that makes me feel comfortable enough to send my baby to school and then return back to our family dynamic," Garcia said.

Several states have been reporting record numbers of COVID-19 this week, contributing to a surge in the national death rate. The seven-day rolling average for daily new deaths has risen 34% from two weeks ago, while the case count in that period shot up 43%.

Texas reported a record 174 new deaths, and more than 10,000 additional cases for the fourth consecutive day. California's nearly 10,000 confirmed cases were its third-highest daily total, and it recorded 130 deaths during a week of seesawing infection numbers.

Florida reported 128 new deaths Friday and 11,345 additional cases.

There were signs across the Sunbelt that the virus was stretching authorities' capacity to respond. The medical examiner's office in metro Phoenix has gotten portable storage coolers and ordered more to handle an influx of bodies — reminiscent of New York City at the height of the pandemic there.

In Houston, an 86-person Army medical team worked to take over a wing of United Memorial Medical Center. In California, military doctors, nurses and other health care specialists were being deployed to eight hospitals facing staffing shortages.

Some hospitals in South Carolina also were being squeezed: The number of patients with COVID-19 is increasing rapidly, while nurses and other workers are getting infected when they are off work, said Dr. Wendell James, a senior vice president with Prisma Health who is based in Greenville.

"The majority of the illness we see in our nursing staffs and our support staff is community spread," he said. "Almost all of it I can't control."

In Florida, Miami-area authorities began stepping up enforcement of a mask requirement. Code and fire inspectors have authority to issue tickets of up to \$100 for individuals and \$500 for businesses not complying with guidelines to wear masks and practice social distancing. Police already had that power.

Shaun Alley, assistant manager of Blue Collar, a Miami comfort food restaurant, said all of the customers eat outside on picnic tables and are asked to wear masks when not eating.

"We tell people flat out: 'Either you comply or we have the right not to serve you,'" he said. "We haven't had any issues so far."

At least half of all states have adopted requirements for wearing face coverings.

But in Georgia, Republican Gov. Brian Kemp has banned cities and counties from requiring face coverings. He sued Atlanta late Thursday to prevent it from defying his order, and Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said she was prepared to go to court to maintain the requirement.

Globally, confirmed cases surpassed 14 million, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University, and COVID-19 deaths topped 600,000. WHO reported a single-day record of new infections: over 237,000. Experts believe that the true numbers are even higher.

India's total confirmed cases surpassed 1 million Friday, the third-highest in the world — behind the United States and Brazil — and its death toll reached more than 25,000. That followed an announcement Thursday that Brazil's confirmed cases exceeded 2 million, including 76,000 deaths.

The surge in India — where experts believe the vast majority of cases are still being missed — drove home concerns over the readiness of some countries to cope with outbreaks that could test feeble health care systems.

In sub-Saharan Africa, which already had the world's greatest shortage of medical personnel, nearly

10,000 health workers in 40 countries have been infected, WHO said.

Health officials in Spain, one of the hardest-hit countries earlier in the pandemic, asked Barcelona's 5.5 million residents to stay home as much as possible to stem the virus's spread.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson charted a different course, announcing that as of Aug. 1, the government would no longer ask people to avoid public transit or work from home.

The U.K.'s official death toll, which stood at more than 45,000, has for several weeks been the highest in Europe.

Crary reported from New York. Associated Press reporters around the world contributed to this report.

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

Fair housing groups slam Trump's suburban racial rhetoric

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

Washington (AP) — President Donald Trump's pledge to roll back an Obama-era regulation designed to eliminate racial disparities in the suburbs is drawing harsh criticism from fair housing advocates, who label it a blatant attempt to play racial politics and appeal to white voters in the final weeks before the election.

They also consider it a empty political stunt, since the regulation he's talking about eliminating never truly got started on the ground in the first place.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to repeal a 2015 initiative that requires local governments to address historic patterns of racial segregation. On Thursday, he said the regulation "will totally destroy the beautiful suburbs" and demolish property values by forcing low-income housing construction in suburban areas.

"Your home will go down in value and crime rates will rapidly rise," he said. "People have worked all their lives to get into a community, and now they're going to watch it go to hell. Not going to happen, not while I'm here."

It's rhetoric that housing advocates find both historically familiar and particularly incendiary as America grapples with a national reckoning over entrenched racial inequities.

"He's flatly saying that property values will go down and crime will increase if black people move into your neighborhoods," said Diane Yentel, president of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. "It's especially abhorrent for Trump to be furthering racial entrenchment of segregated communities at this moment in our history."

The initiative, known as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing or AFFH, is a provision of the Fair Housing Act that requires local governments and zoning boards to submit detailed plans on how they intend to address racial disparities in order to obtain funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

An explainer on the HUD website says the program's goal is "replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws."

At his Thursday press conference, Trump presented the AFFH changes as part of a larger package of deregulation initiatives ranging from environmental regulations to incandescent lightbulbs. He promised more details on the housing issue next week.

The appeal to suburban voters represents an effort to shore-up support in communities that helped Democrats win control of the House in 2018 and where turnout in several key counties during this year's Democratic primaries shows few signs that the Trump backlash in the suburbs has ebbed.

He's seeking to contrast himself with Joe Biden, his Democratic challenger and Barack Obama's vice president. Biden has said he would implement the Obama administration's housing rule.

Fair housing advocates also point out that Trump is attacking a straw man of his own creation. The suburb-destroying initiative he intends to target barely exists on the ground.

"For all intents and purposes, it never got started," said Debby Goldberg, Vice President of Housing Policy & Special Projects for the NFHA. "The election happened, the administration changed and HUD

shut it down.”

A total of 39 jurisdictions actually went through the process, Goldberg said, examining their own housing patterns and submitting plans to HUD to address any discrimination that had occurred. But the initiative was shelved as soon as the Trump administration took power. Yentel said Ben Carson, Trump’s HUD Secretary, “suspended it as soon as he came into the building.”

Efforts to seek comment from HUD on this issue were unsuccessful.

The issue of changing the AFFH regulations isn’t even a particularly new Trump proposal. HUD in January publicly proposed a set of changes that would greatly reduce the obligations of jurisdictions to address racial segregation in housing in order to obtain funding. It’s widely expected that Trump’s housing proposal will essentially be a version of that.

But Yentel, of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, said the particular details and timing of the issue are irrelevant to Trump’s larger electoral goal.

“I’d estimate that the vast majority of people have no idea what he’s talking about,” she said. “They don’t need to. This is about instilling fear.”

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Follow Khalil on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/ashrafkhalil>

Remembering John Lewis, rights icon and ‘American hero’

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — People paid great heed to John Lewis for much of his life in the civil rights movement. But at the very beginning — when he was just a kid wanting to be a minister someday — his audience didn’t care much for what he had to say.

A son of Alabama sharecroppers, the young Lewis first preached moral righteousness to his family’s chickens. His place in the vanguard of the 1960s campaign for Black equality had its roots in that hard-scrabble Alabama farm and all those clucks.

Lewis, who died Friday at age 80, was the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists who organized the 1963 March on Washington, and spoke shortly before the group’s leader, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., gave his “I Have a Dream” speech to a vast sea of people.

If that speech marked a turning point in the civil rights era — or at least the most famous moment — the struggle was far from over. Two more hard years passed before truncheon-wielding state troopers beat Lewis bloody and fractured his skull as he led 600 protesters over Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Searing TV images of that brutality helped to galvanize national opposition to racial oppression and embolden leaders in Washington to pass the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act five months later.

“The American public had already seen so much of this sort of thing, countless images of beatings and dogs and cursing and hoses,” Lewis wrote in his memoirs. “But something about that day in Selma touched a nerve deeper than anything that had come before.”

That bridge became a touchstone in Lewis’s life. He returned there often during his decades in Congress representing the Atlanta area, bringing lawmakers from both parties to see where “Bloody Sunday” went down.

Lewis earned bipartisan respect in Washington, where some called him the “conscience of Congress.” His humble manner contrasted with the puffed chests on Capitol Hill. But as a liberal on the losing side of many issues, he lacked the influence he’d summoned at the segregated lunch counters of his youth, or later, within the Democratic Party, as a steadfast voice for the poor and disenfranchised.

“John is an American hero who helped lead a movement and risked his life for our most fundamental rights; he bears scars that attest to his indefatigable spirit and persistence,” House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said after Lewis announced his cancer diagnosis.

He was a 23-year-old firebrand, a founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, when he

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 46 of 86

joined King and four other civil rights leaders at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York to plan and announce the Washington demonstration. The others were Whitney Young of the National Urban League; A. Philip Randolph of the Negro American Labor Council; James L. Farmer Jr., of the interracial Congress of Racial Equality; and Roy Wilkins of the NAACP.

At the National Mall months later, he had a speaking slot before King and toned down his intended remarks, bowing to pressure that "incensed" him.

"I wanted it to have an air of militancy," Lewis said.

He dropped a reference to leading a "scorched earth" campaign across the South, like Civil War Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea. ("John, that doesn't sound like you," he recalled King telling him.) He scaled back criticism of President John Kennedy's civil rights record.

It was a potent speech nonetheless. He vowed: "By the forces of our demands, our determination and our numbers, we shall splinter the segregated South into a thousand pieces and put them together in an image of God and democracy."

His words were soon and for all time overshadowed by the speech of King. "He changed us forever," Lewis said of King's oratory that day.

But the change the movement sought would take many more sacrifices.

After months of training in nonviolent protest, demonstrators led by Lewis and the Rev. Hosea Williams began a march of more than 50 miles from Selma to Alabama's capital in Montgomery. They didn't get far: On March 7, 1965, a phalanx of police blocked their exit from the Selma bridge. Authorities swung truncheons, fired tear gas and charged on horseback, sending many to the hospital. The nation was horrified.

"This was a face-off in the most vivid terms between a dignified, composed, completely nonviolent multitude of silent protesters and the truly malevolent force of a heavily armed, hateful battalion of troopers," Lewis wrote. "The sight of them rolling over us like human tanks was something that had never been seen before. People just couldn't believe this was happening, not in America."

King swiftly returned to the scene with a multitude, and the march to Montgomery was made whole before the end of the month.

Lewis was born on Feb. 21, 1940, outside Troy, in Alabama's Pike County. He attended segregated public schools and was denied a library card because of his race, but he read books and newspapers avidly, and could rattle off obscure historical facts even in his later years.

He was a teenager when he first heard King, then a young minister from Atlanta, preach on the radio. They met after Lewis wrote him seeking support to become the first Black student at his local college. He ultimately attended the American Baptist Theological Seminary and Fisk University instead, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Soon, the young man King nicknamed "the boy from Troy" was organizing sit-ins at whites-only lunch counters and volunteering as a Freedom Rider, enduring beatings and arrests while challenging segregation around the South. Lewis helped form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to organize this effort, led the group from 1963 to 1966 and kept pursuing civil rights work and voter registration drives for years thereafter.

President Jimmy Carter appointed Lewis to lead ACTION, a federal volunteer agency, in 1977. In 1981, he was elected to the Atlanta City Council, and then won a seat in Congress in 1986.

Humble and unfailingly friendly, Lewis was revered on Capitol Hill. When Democrats controlled the House, he tried to keep them unified as his party's senior deputy whip, a behind-the-scenes leadership post. The opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture was a key victory. But as one of the most liberal members of Congress, spending much of his career in the minority, he often lost policy battles, from his effort to stop the Iraq War to his defense of young immigrants.

Lewis also met bipartisan success in Congress in 2006 when he led efforts to renew the Voting Rights Act, but the Supreme Court invalidated much of the law in 2013, and it became once again what it was in his youth, a work in progress.

Lewis initially endorsed Hillary Rodham Clinton in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, but belat-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 47 of 86

edly backed Barack Obama when it became clear he had more Black support. After Obama's swearing-in, he signed a commemorative photograph for Lewis that reflected much more than his endorsement, writing "Because of you, John. Barack Obama." Later, they marched hand in hand in Selma on the 50th anniversary of the attack.

And when Obama was succeeded by a president who sought to dismantle much of his legacy, Lewis made no effort to hide his pain.

Lewis refused to attend Donald Trump's inauguration, saying he didn't consider him a "legitimate president" because Russians had conspired to get him elected. When Trump later complained about immigrants from "s---hole countries," Lewis declared, "I think he is a racist ... we have to try to stand up and speak up and not try to sweep it under the rug."

Lewis said he'd been arrested 40 times in the 1960s, five more as a congressman. At 78, he told a rally he'd do it again to help reunite immigrant families separated by the Trump administration.

"There cannot be any peace in America until these young children are returned to their parents and set all of our people free," Lewis said. "If we fail to do it, history will not be kind to us," he shouted. "I will go to the border. I'll get arrested again. If necessary, I'm prepared to go to jail."

In a speech the day of the House vote to impeach Trump, Lewis explained the importance of that vote.

"When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something. Our children and their children will ask us 'what did you do? what did you say?'" While the vote would be hard for some, he said: We have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history."

Lewis announced in late December 2019 that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

"I have never faced a fight quite like the one I have now," he said at the time.

"I've seen courage in action on many occasions," the late Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a Navy pilot tortured in Vietnam, once said. "I can't say I've seen anyone possess more of it, and use it for any better purpose and to any greater effect, than John Lewis."

Lewis' wife of four decades, Lillian Miles, died in 2012. They had one son, John Miles Lewis.

If the Voting Rights Act that Lewis cherished was a work in progress, so was America, Lewis observed as he spoke once again from the Lincoln Memorial, a half-century after the March on Washington.

"Fifty years later we can ride anywhere we want to ride, we can stay where we want to stay," he said that day in August 2013. "Those signs that said 'white' and 'colored' are gone. And you won't see them anymore except in a museum, in a book, on a video.

"But there are still invisible signs buried in the hearts in humankind that form a gulf between us. Too many of us still believe our differences define us instead of the divine spark that runs through all of human creation."

Then came the cheers and applause. This time he was no warm-up act for a giant of history. This was his moment, and there was not a cluck to be heard.

Associated Press writer Michael Warren contributed to this report.

Reality shows shortfalls of Trump's claim to 'best testing'

By ZEKE MILLER, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and MICHAEL STOBBE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here are some snapshots from what President Donald Trump describes as the nation with the "best testing in the world" for the coronavirus:

In Sun Belt states where the virus is surging, lines of cars with people seeking tests snake for hours in the beating sun, often yielding results so far after the fact that they're useless.

In Pittsburgh, adults who are afraid they've been exposed to the coronavirus are being asked to skip testing if they can quarantine at home for 14 days to help reduce delays and backlogs.

In Hawaii, the governor will wait another month to lift a two-week quarantine on visitors because of test supply shortages and delays that potential visitors are facing in getting results.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 48 of 86

"Testing has been a challenge everywhere," says Utah Republican Gov. Gary Herbert.

The White House insists it's giving states whatever they need. But public health experts say the testing system is in shambles and federal leadership is lacking. Trump's persistent salesmanship about the prowess of testing in the United States is colliding with a far different reality for those affected by the explosion in coronavirus cases.

The long lines and processing delays are contributing to the virus' spread and upending plans to reopen stores, schools and other activities that are vital to the economic rebound that Trump himself is intent on bringing about.

"We have the best testing in the world," the president insisted Tuesday. He falsely claimed "the cases are created because of the fact that we do tremendous testing."

But U.S. testing on a per-capita basis lags other countries that have done a far better job of controlling their outbreaks. And state, local and federal officials are warning of the consequences of testing bottlenecks — including tests rendered useless because results come too late.

"It's essentially worthless to have a test result that comes back after 48 hours," said Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who previously served as Baltimore's health commissioner. She explained that after that time, the window to begin contact tracing and prevent additional infections has essentially closed.

"We are nowhere near being able to rein in this virus with the amount of testing we have available at the moment," she added. "Testing is the linchpin."

The Trump administration plays down the problem.

Adm. Brett Giroir, assistant health secretary, says more than half of U.S. states are processing test results in three days or less, adding "everybody is doing a really good job as much as they can."

Guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that states, as they lift final virus restrictions, have a turnaround time under two days.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany suggests that it's states that need to do more.

"There are various different types of tests in this country," she said Thursday. "Some take longer to process than others. But we have surged testing to the states and we encourage them to use it to their best ability and to process those tests as quickly as possible."

Yet even Republican governors say they need more federal help.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, chairman of the National Governors Association, is deeply critical of the administration's testing response.

"We expected something more than constant heckling from the man who was supposed to be our leader," Hogan wrote in an op-ed in *The Washington Post* this week. "Trump soon disabused us of that expectation.

"On April 6, he declared that testing wasn't Washington's responsibility after all," Hogan went on. "States can do their own testing," he quoted Trump as saying. "We're the federal government. We're not supposed to stand on street corners doing testing."

Whoever is responsible for testing shortfalls, the result is working against Trump's own goals to move beyond the virus and get the economy moving.

In Hawaii, Democratic Gov. David Ige said a shortage of chemical reagents used in testing was one reason the state will delay a plan to make it easier for tourists to visit. It was a huge disappointment to many in Hawaii hoping for a surge in tourism to reopen hotels, get people back to work and reduce the state's 22.6% unemployment rate.

In Pennsylvania's Allegheny County, which encompasses Pittsburgh and 1.2 million residents, health officials are trying to triage the demand for tests. Dr. Debra Bogen, director of the county's Health Department, is asking adults who are concerned that they were exposed, but do not have symptoms, to put off getting tested.

Even as the White House sticks with its rosy outlook, the U.S. government's top official in charge of coronavirus testing is urging Americans not to get retested for COVID-19 to confirm they've recovered.

"It's clogging up the system," Giroir said. He said U.S. officials will soon issue guidelines explicitly recom-

mending against the practice, except for patients in the most severe cases.

The American Clinical Laboratory Association said many of its labs are being stretched beyond capacity or don't have the supplies they need, and this week encouraged members to give priority to "those most in need, especially hospitalized and symptomatic patients."

"I feel a bit like a broken record — nothing has really changed," said Dr. Carmen Wiley, president of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry. "There's a huge disconnect between what the task force indicates is happening and what we are truly experiencing in the field."

U.S. officials are aiming to increase the use of rapid tests to shorten turnaround times. Those tests can usually be developed in 15 minutes or less and be performed at testing sites, doctor's offices and clinics. They tend to be less accurate than the tests that need to be processed at clinical laboratories.

This week U.S. health officials announced they would begin shipping rapid testing machines and kits to nursing homes in COVID-19 hot spots. The goal is to eventually provide the equipment to all nursing homes in the U.S.

The Health and Human Services Department has also been establishing surge test sites in hot spot areas to increase testing for vulnerable populations, said Devin O'Malley a spokesman for Vice President Mike Pence, who is leading the coronavirus task force.

Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at Georgetown University, called the Trump administration's claims about effective testing "laughable."

"The on-the-ground experience, in fact, is borne out by the data," Gostin said. "We don't have the testing kits. We don't have the labs to process it. There are backlogs. All of this is very unhelpful."

___ Stobbe reported from New York. Associated Press writer Matthew Perrone in Washington contributed to this report.

Justice Ginsburg says cancer has returned, but won't retire

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said Friday she is receiving chemotherapy for a recurrence of cancer, but has no plans to retire from the Supreme Court.

The 87-year-old Ginsburg, who has had four earlier bouts with cancer including pancreatic cancer last year, said her treatment so far has succeeded in reducing lesions on her liver and she will continue chemotherapy sessions every two weeks "to keep my cancer at bay."

"I have often said I would remain a member of the Court as long as I can do the job full steam. I remain fully able to do that," Ginsburg said in a statement issued by the court.

Ginsburg, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993, is the senior liberal justice on a court that leans conservative by a 5-4 margin. Her departure before the election could give President Donald Trump the chance to shift the court further to the right.

Ginsburg's history with cancer goes back more than 20 years. In addition to being treated without surgery for a tumor on her pancreas last year, she also underwent surgery for colorectal cancer in 1999, pancreatic cancer in 2009 and lung cancer in December 2018.

Dr. Alan Venook, a pancreatic cancer specialist at the University of California, San Francisco, who is not involved in Ginsburg's care, said that "clearly, she's got incurable disease now" because of the spread to her liver.

On average, patients with advanced pancreatic cancer live about a year, but the fact that her disease took so long to recur from her initial pancreatic cancer surgery in 2009 and previous treatments "suggests that it's not been growing rapidly," he said.

"She's above average in many ways." and has done remarkably well with all her treatments so far, Venook said. "There's no reason to think she would die imminently."

Asked earlier this week about a possible opening on the court before the election, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said the president would act quickly if any opening were to arise. Meadows commented after news that Ginsburg had left the hospital after receiving treatment for an infection, which

she said Friday was unrelated to the cancer.

"I can't imagine if he had a vacancy on the Supreme Court that he would not very quickly make the appointment and look for the Senate to take quick action," Meadows said, adding that he didn't want any comment to be seen as wishing Ginsburg "anything but the very best."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said that if there were to be a vacancy on the court during this year's election cycle, the Republican-controlled Senate would likely confirm a nominee selected by Trump.

Ginsburg said she was disclosing her cancer treatment now because she is satisfied "that my treatment course is now clear."

Venook said the chemotherapy drug Ginsburg said she is getting, gemcitabine, is one that's often used. Immunotherapy, which Ginsburg's statement said she tried unsuccessfully, has not worked well for pancreatic cancer, Venook said.

Ginsburg said a medical scan in February revealed growths on her liver and she began chemotherapy in May.

"My most recent scan on July 7 indicated significant reduction of the liver lesions and no new disease," she said. "I am tolerating chemotherapy well and am encouraged by the success of my current treatment."

Ginsburg noted that she is able to "maintain an active daily routine" and that throughout her treatment she has "kept up with opinion writing and all other Court work."

When the justices heard arguments via telephone in May because of the coronavirus pandemic, Ginsburg participated one day from a hospital room in Baltimore. She was being treated for gall stones, and said Friday that hospitalization also had nothing to do with the cancer.

Associated Press Chief Medical Writer Marilynn Marchione contributed to this report.

MLB's testing sweep brings some success but optics are issue

By DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Major League Baseball's COVID-19 testing sweep appears to be having some success even as large swaths of the United States continue to struggle with containing the fast-spreading virus.

MLB and the players' union released statistics Friday saying six of 10,548 samples were new positives in the week ending Thursday, a rate of 0.05%. In addition to five players, one staff member tested positive.

That's fairly good news for a sport that's trying to begin its abbreviated 60-game schedule next week. But players and coaches are also aware that the optics of baseball's relative testing success — especially in hard-hit states like Arizona, California, Texas and Florida — might not be ideal considering demand for tests has sometimes been higher than the supply for the average person.

"If they've deemed that players being tested is necessary to provide jobs, opportunity, entertainment, TV, all that's going on -- if they think that's really valuable -- then they've weighed it's important for us to be tested this often for the season to happen," Marlins pitcher Adam Conley said. "But it makes me sad if someone is desiring or needing to be tested and doesn't have the means to get that. It's heartbreaking."

MLB is trying to ensure its nearly 10,000 weekly tests don't strain public resources by using private facilities. The avalanche of tests has allowed the sport to keep on top of potential outbreaks.

On Friday, Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Gregory Polanco and free agent outfielder Yaisel Puig both tested positive for COVID-19 while New York Yankees infielder DJ LeMahieu and Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman both returned to the field after missing time with the virus.

Dr. Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said it was possible baseball's rigorous testing could create conflicts over resources in test-strapped regions, but he also thinks MLB's investment might spur much-needed innovation and boost production in testing.

"The solution here is really to make sure that we expand testing," Adalja told The Associated Press. "And maybe because MLB will be putting resources into trying to buy all these tests, that might actually be a way to expand capacity. I don't know if that's going to happen or not, but we want to be in a place

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 51 of 86

where testing can be done as quickly and as easily as possible for all purposes.”

MLB’s approach to its return has been different than the NBA and NHL, which both opted for a bubble-like atmosphere in hub cities. The NBA has 22 teams in Orlando, Florida, while the NHL’s teams will play in either Toronto and Edmonton.

Baseball’s 30 teams are all planning to play in their home markets, meaning there will be much more travel for all involved. Teams have spent the past few weeks in one place but will start traveling for exhibition games soon.

The Arizona Diamondbacks leave on Sunday for two exhibition games in Los Angeles against the Dodgers. “This first trip to LA is going to be new for everyone,” Diamondbacks closer Archie Bradley said. “From the check-ins to the hotels to the way we travel, eat and prepare. So I think the first two days of travel are going to be a very big orientation of what the season’s going to look like and how we’re going to handle not going out to eat, not going to the mall, not going out to restaurants after games.”

POLANCO, PUIG POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Polanco and Puig were the latest two big-name players to test positive for the virus.

The 28-year-old Polanco is a key part to the Pirates lineup, especially after they traded Starling Marte to the Diamondbacks during the offseason. He battled injuries last season and hit .242 in 42 games.

Puig recently was near a one-year agreement with the Atlanta Braves that was contingent on him passing a physical. The 29-year-old posted a statement on social media on Friday saying he had the virus.

Puig said he is asymptomatic and feels “absolutely fine.”

He hit a combined .267 with 24 homers and 84 RBIs for Cincinnati and Cleveland in 2019.

Royals prospects Nick Dini and Daniel Tillo also tested positive for the virus. They are now quarantined.

LEMAHIEU, FREEMAN RETURN

Two All-Stars from last season — LeMahieu and Freeman — are among those who returned to the field after missing time due to COVID-19.

The 32-year-old LeMahieu signed with the Yankees before the 2019 season and hit .327. He set career highs with 26 homers and 102 RBIs while splitting time among first, second and third. Manager Aaron Boone wants LeMahieu to build up his legs and said it’s not clear whether he will be ready for Thursday night’s opener at Washington.

Freeman and pitcher Touki Toussaint — who also previously tested positive for the virus — worked out at Truist Park on Friday. Freeman appeared to be fit in video posted on the Braves Twitter account. He took swings in the cage and worked out in the field and could have time to prepare for the team’s opener at the Mets on Friday.

Royals pitcher Brad Keller also returned following a pair of negative tests. He immediately hit the field for a 30-pitch bullpen session and had no issues. The Athletics received good news when 22-year-old pitcher Jesus Luzardo returned to camp. He’s expected to begin the season out of the bullpen.

COLE’S FINAL TUNEUP

New Yankees ace Gerrit Cole gave up consecutive home runs to Mike Ford and Miguel Andújar in an intrasquad game that served as the final tuneup for his New York debut.

The two runs in the fourth inning were the only ones he allowed over 5 2/3 innings on Friday. He struck out seven, walked none and hit a batter, throwing 87 pitches.

Next up: A pandemic-delayed major league season opener at the World Series champion Washington Nationals on Thursday night in a matchup against Max Scherzer,

“Gosh, it’s going to be fun,” Cole said. “It’s going to have fake crowd noise, and going to be 2020 coronavirus baseball.”

Also, suspended Yankees pitcher Domingo Germán cast doubt on his baseball future with a curious Instagram post Friday night.

Germán posted himself in a Yankees uniform exclaiming in what appears to be a photo of him pitching in a game. The post included Spanish words that translated to: “Everyone makes history on both sides, I think I did mine at Yankee Stadium, if decide not to come back I will proud of my effort during in a 11-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 52 of 86

year career. God bless everyone who has supported me"

A right-hander who turns 28 on Aug. 4, Germán — 18-4 last season — has 63 games left to serve in his suspension for violating Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. The regular-season is limited to 60 games this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

COMEBACK KID

Daniel Bard has made the Colorado Rockies roster after not pitching in the big leagues since 2013.

The 34-year-old has been through a half dozen comeback attempts since his last appearance with the Boston Red Sox seven years ago, but he couldn't rediscover his control and finally became a player mentor and mental skills coach for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

His role with the D-backs included offering advice, but he'd also shag fly balls and play catch during warm-ups. Soon, players began telling him his throws were pretty nasty and wondered why he wasn't on a big league mound himself.

Black informed Bard on Friday that he'd made the roster.

"It's going to be a great story when he comes back and pitches well," Black said. "We're optimistic about that."

ROCKIES CUT TWO PITCHERS, CUBS ADD KIPNIS

The Rockies shook up their bullpen on Friday, releasing veterans Jake McGee and Bryan Shaw.

The left-handed McGee had a 4.35 ERA in 45 appearances for the Rockies last season. The 33-year-old is owed \$5,518,519, including \$3,518,519 of this year's prorated salary and a \$2 million buyout for 2021.

The right-handed Shaw had a 5.38 ERA in 70 appearances in 2019. The 32-year-old is owed \$5,333,333, including \$3,333,333 of this year's prorated salary and a \$2 million buyout for 2021.

The Chicago Cubs added veteran infielder Jason Kipnis to their 40-man roster. He'll get a prorated \$370,370 salary from his original \$1 million deal.

BOSTON'S RODRIGUEZ MAKES PROGRESS

Red Sox left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez is making progress toward working out with the team according to manager Ron Roenicke.

Rodriguez was expected to be the team's opening day starter before testing positive for COVID-19. The Red Sox are scheduled to open the season on July 24 against the Baltimore Orioles. If Rodríguez is unavailable, the first game could fall to Nathan Eovaldi.

ANGELS' ANDERSON NEEDS TOMMY JOHN

Los Angeles Angels right-hander Justin Anderson will miss the 2020 season because he needs Tommy John surgery.

Anderson went 3-0 with a 5.55 ERA in 54 appearances last season for the Angels, who drafted him in the 14th round in 2014. He has five saves in his two big league seasons.

OPENING DAY STARTERS

The Milwaukee Brewers say right-hander Brandon Woodruff will be the team's opening day starter against the Chicago Cubs next Friday. He had an 11-3 record with a 3.62 ERA in 22 starts last season.

The Pirates said Joe Musgrove will start their opener at St. Louis on July 24. The Twins will start All-Star José Berríos against the White Sox in Chicago.

AP Sports Writers Jake Seiner, Steven Wine, Charles Odum, Will Graves, Ron Blum, Dave Skretta, Jimmy Golen, Janie McCauley, Arnie Stapleton and Steve Megargee contributed to this report.

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

Iowa meth kingpin is 3rd executed by US government this week

By MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — The U.S. government on Friday put to death an Iowa chemistry student-turned-meth kingpin convicted of killing five people, capping a week in which the Trump administration restored federal executions after a 17-year hiatus.

Dustin Honken, 52, who prosecutors said killed key witnesses to stop them from testifying in his drugs case, received a lethal injection at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana. Two others were also put to death during the week after a hiatus of nearly 20 years, including Wesley Purkey. His lawyers contended he had dementia and didn't know why he was being executed.

The first in the spate federal executions happened Tuesday, when Daniel Lewis Lee was put to death for killing a family in the 1990s as part of a plot to build a whites-only nation. Lee's execution, like Purkey's, went ahead only after the U.S. Supreme Court gave it a green light in a 5-4 decision hours before.

Honken, who had been on death row since 2005, was pronounced dead at 4:36 p.m. The inmate — known for his verbosity at hearings and for a rambling statement declaring his innocence at sentencing — spoke only briefly, neither addressing victims' family members nor saying he was sorry. His last words were, "Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for me."

A Catholic priest, Honken's spiritual adviser, stood near him inside the death chamber. Honken spoke on his back, strapped to a gurney under a pale-green sheet. He didn't look toward witnesses behind a glass barrier, keeping his eyes firmly fixed on the ceiling.

Honken's lawyer, Shawn Nolan, said his client was "redeemed" and had repented for his crimes.

"There was no reason for the government to kill him, in haste or at all," Nolan said. "The man they killed today ... could have spent the rest of his days helping others and further redeeming himself."

In a statement, Justice Department spokesperson Kerri Kupec said "just punishment has been carried out."

"Nearly three decades after Honken coldly ended the lives of five people ... all in an effort to protect himself and his criminal enterprise, he has finally faced justice," Kupec said.

After officials began administering the lethal injection, Honken began blinking his eyes, his fingers twitching and his lips quivering. After several minutes his breathing became more labored. He turned increasingly ashen as blood drained from his face and hands. His fingers gradually stopped twitching, and his breathing became shallower until it stopped.

Honken was pronounced dead after 30 minutes — longer than the other two executions. An official with a stethoscope walked into the small death chamber, put his fingers on Honken's neck to check for a pulse, listened for a heartbeat, then exited.

Seconds later, officials announced the time of death.

Honken, whose crimes struck at the foundation of the U.S. justice system, always seemed the least likely to win a reprieve from the courts. After the two previous executions were repeatedly delayed amid back-and-forth legal maneuvering, Honken's began almost on the minute it had been scheduled for weeks.

While out on bond in his drugs case in July 1993, Honken and his girlfriend Angela Johnson kidnapped Lori Duncan and her two daughters from their Mason City, Iowa, home, then killed and buried them in a wooded area nearby. Ten-year-old Kandi and 6-year-old Amber were still in their swimsuits on the hot summer day when they were shot execution-style in the back of the head.

Their primary target that day was Lori Duncan's then-boyfriend, Greg Nicholson, who also lived at the home and was also killed. He and Lori Duncan were bound and gagged and shot multiple times. Honken had recently learned Nicholson, a former drug-dealing associate, was cooperating with investigators and would likely testify against Honken at trial.

Lori Duncan didn't know Nicholson was an informant and she wasn't involved in drugs.

As the investigation into Honken continued, he killed another drug dealer working with him, Terry DeGeus, beating him with a bat and shooting him.

Honken had earlier informed the judge in his drug case that he would plead guilty at the end of July. But days after the still-undiscovered killings of Nicholson and the Duncans, he told the court he would

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 54 of 86

stick to his not guilty plea.

A statement from the Duncan family said the execution provided a degree of justice and closure to the family.

The two young Duncan girls "never had a chance to grow up and share in the joys and sorrows of their life," it said. "Their mother never got to see them having their first dance, first date or first walk down the aisle at their wedding."

"We will continue to live with their loss," it said. "However, this is a step toward healing of broken hearts and shattered lives."

Investigators found the Nicholson and Duncan bodies only seven years after the killings, in 2000, after Johnson scrawled out a map showing a jailhouse informant where they were buried. DeGeus' body was found a few miles from the wooded area.

Honken was considered so dangerous that the judge took the rare step of impaneling an anonymous jury. Other security measures included fitting Honken with a stun belt under his clothes to prevent him from trying to escape.

Johnson, Honken's girlfriend, was convicted in a separate trial and sentenced to death. A judge later reduced her sentence to life behind bars.

In recent days, prison authorities permitted Honken to make his last calls to family and friends, according to Sister Betty Donoghue, a Catholic nun whom he called Wednesday.

On death row, Honken befriended Lee and knew his execution was called off one hour, then was back on another hour, Donoghue said.

"He was very upset with the way Danny died," said Donoghue, who visited Honken regularly over the past decade.

Yet Donoghue, of the Sisters of Providence just outside Terre Haute, said she was startled by how calm Honken sounded over the phone.

"He was at peace. I was totally amazed," she said. "He believed he would go to heaven. He is ready to meet his maker."

At his sentencing in 2005, Honken denied killing anybody, but Donoghue said she never heard him say he was innocent.

Honken's mother, brother and college-age daughter visited him in prison in recent days, she said.

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mtarm>

Jay-Z, other celebs ask feds to probe student's 2010 killing

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

Rihanna, Jay-Z, Charlize Theron and other celebrities are calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the death of 20-year-old Danroy "DJ" Henry Jr., a Black football player at Pace University killed by a white police officer in New York nearly a decade ago.

In a letter sent this week to Attorney General William Barr, the entertainers say Henry, who was from Easton, Massachusetts, "lost his life for no good reason and with absolutely no good explanation." The case remains an "unhealed wound" for Henry's family and the people of New York, they wrote.

"The DOJ must truthfully determine whether a pattern and/or practice of discrimination played a role in the case of DJ Henry — and if it did — deliver the justice that restores this young man's name and reputation, while giving hope to other young black men who are just like him and desperate for change," they wrote.

Others who signed the letter are Pharrell Williams, Taraji P. Henson, Odell Beckham Jr., Michael K. Williams, Kerry Washington, Mary J. Blige and Gabrielle Union.

An email seeking comment was sent Friday to DOJ spokespeople.

Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York announced in 2015 that they would not bring civil rights charges, saying a thorough review of evidence did not show that Pleasantville officer Aaron

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 55 of 86

Hess acted with deliberate and specific intent to break the law. The officer was previously cleared by a grand jury.

Hess shot Henry as Henry drove through a parking lot, away from a disturbance that spilled out of a bar in October 2010 in Mount Pleasant, a New York City suburb.

Hess has said Henry was trying to run him down and that he fired through the windshield to stop the driver.

The Henrys have said Hess jumped front of the car, got onto the hood and shot their son for no good reason. Another officer, Ronald Beckley, shot at Hess, later saying he did so because he believed Hess was "the aggressor."

Prosecutors said Henry's car struck the officer and injured him before Hess fired his weapon as he made "a split decision under conditions of extreme danger, conditions under which the law generally allows latitude to a police officer's judgment."

The Henrys reached a \$6 million settlement with the town and the officer.

The celebrities said the facts of the case "reek of local conflict of interest, racial bias and even false testimony."

"Justice, it appears, has been denied," they wrote.

Henry's father said new information that has come out since the criminal case was closed warrants a reexamination of his son's death. He pointed to multiple witnesses who contradicted the police department's initial account of what happened, including Beckley.

"We're hoping that anyone who can reopen this will reopen it," Danroy Henry Sr. told The Associated Press on Friday. "All we're asking for is what we asked for from the very beginning -- it's just a fair review of the real evidence, not sort of a fake presentation of a false narrative, which is all that we believe happened so far here."

The elder Henry said officials should reopen the case and shouldn't wait for calls for the family or others to take action.

"That's sort of the old moment," he said. "There's a new moment that's emerged that requires them to be better. That's why people are in the streets."

Jay-Z has also called for justice in the case of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was shot and killed as he ran through a Georgia neighborhood. The social justice arm of Jay-Z's Roc Nation entertainment company in May called on the state's attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor to help achieve a fair trial.

Associated Press reporter Mike Balsamo in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

How does COVID-19 affect kids? Science has answers and gaps

By LINDSEY TANNER AP Medical Writer

What role children play in the coronavirus pandemic is the hot-button question of the summer as kids relish their free time while schools labor over how to resume classes.

The Trump administration says the science "is very clear," but many doctors who specialize in pediatrics and infectious diseases say much of the evidence is inconclusive.

"There are still a lot of unanswered questions. That is the biggest challenge," said Dr. Sonja Rasmussen, a pediatrics professor at the University of Florida and former scientist at the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

Several studies suggest, but don't prove, that children are less likely to become infected than adults and more likely to have only mild symptoms.

An early report from Wuhan, China, where the outbreak began last winter, found that fewer than 2% of cases were in children. Later reports suggest between 5% and 8% of U.S. cases are in kids.

The CDC says 175,374 cases have been confirmed in kids aged 17 and under as of Friday, accounting for roughly 6% of all confirmed cases. The number of kids who have been infected but not confirmed is almost certainly far higher than that though, experts say, because those with mild or no symptoms are

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 56 of 86

less likely to get tested.

The CDC says 228 children and teens through age 17 have died from the disease in the U.S. as of Thursday, about 0.2% of the more than 138,000 Americans who have died in all.

One early study examining infections in children comes from a Wuhan hospital. Of 171 children treated there, most had relatively mild illness. One child died, and only three needed intensive care and ventilator treatment. Perhaps more worrisome was that 12 had X-ray evidence of pneumonia, but no other symptoms.

A CDC study involving 2,500 children published that same month, in April, echoed those findings. About 1 in 5 infected children were hospitalized versus 1 in 3 adults; three children died. The study lacks complete data on all the cases, but it also suggests that many infected children have no symptoms.

"We're trying to figure out who those kids are," Rasmussen said. "We need to figure out the impact on kids and on the rest of the community, their parents and their grandparents. If they're transmitting a lot to each other, and then bringing it home to their families."

Not knowing if children are infected makes it difficult for schools to reopen safely, many experts say. Scarce data on whether infected children — including those without symptoms — easily spread the disease to others complicates the issue, said Jeffrey Shaman, a Columbia University infectious disease specialist.

A National Institutes of Health-sponsored study seeking to answer that question and others is under way.

A JAMA Pediatrics study from May, cited Thursday by White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany, involved just 48 children treated in U.S. and Canadian intensive care units. As McEnany indicated, most were not critically ill. Still, she did not mention that 18, or almost 40%, needed ventilator treatment and two died.

McEnany was correct that children appear less likely to become critically ill from COVID-19 than from the flu. But the CDC says COVID-19 can be more contagious and has been linked with more "superspreading" events than the flu, meaning it can quickly spread and infect lots of people.

Also, blood clots and organ damage have been found in children with COVID-19, including those who develop a related inflammatory illness. The most recent count shows 342 U.S. children and teens have developed that condition, called multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children.

The condition is rare but can occur in children with current or recent COVID-19 infections. Symptoms include fever and problems in at least two organs, often including the heart. Digestive problems are common, and some cases have been mistaken with Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome.

Perhaps the biggest unknown is whether permanent damage to lungs and other organs can result. The virus is too new to know for sure.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at @LindseyTanner.

AP Medical Writer Mike Stobbe contributed from New York.

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Reality shows shortfalls of Trump's claim to 'best testing'

By ZEKE MILLER, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and MICHAEL STOBBE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here are some snapshots from what President Donald Trump describes as the nation with the "best testing in the world" for the coronavirus:

In Sun Belt states where the virus is surging, lines of cars with people seeking tests snake for hours in the beating sun, often yielding results so far after the fact that they're useless.

In Pittsburgh, adults who are afraid they've been exposed to the coronavirus are being asked to skip testing if they can quarantine at home for 14 days to help reduce delays and backlogs.

In Hawaii, the governor will wait another month to lift a two-week quarantine on visitors because of test supply shortages and delays that potential visitors are facing in getting results.

"Testing has been a challenge everywhere," says Utah Republican Gov. Gary Herbert.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 57 of 86

The White House insists it's giving states whatever they need. But public health experts say the testing system is in shambles and federal leadership is lacking. Trump's persistent salesmanship about the prowess of testing in the United States is colliding with a far different reality for those affected by the explosion in coronavirus cases.

The long lines and processing delays are contributing to the virus' spread and upending plans to reopen stores, schools and other activities that are vital to the economic rebound that Trump himself is intent on bringing about.

"We have the best testing in the world," the president insisted Tuesday. He falsely claimed "the cases are created because of the fact that we do tremendous testing."

But U.S. testing on a per-capita basis lags other countries that have done a far better job of controlling their outbreaks. And state, local and federal officials are warning of the consequences of testing bottlenecks — including tests rendered useless because results come too late.

"It's essentially worthless to have a test result that comes back after 48 hours," said Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who previously served as Baltimore's health commissioner. She explained that after that time, the window to begin contact tracing and prevent additional infections has essentially closed.

"We are nowhere near being able to rein in this virus with the amount of testing we have available at the moment," she added. "Testing is the linchpin."

The Trump administration plays down the problem.

Adm. Brett Giroir, assistant health secretary, says more than half of U.S. states are processing test results in three days or less, adding "everybody is doing a really good job as much as they can."

Guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that states, as they lift final virus restrictions, have a turnaround time under two days.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany suggests that it's states that need to do more.

"There are various different types of tests in this country," she said Thursday. "Some take longer to process than others. But we have surged testing to the states and we encourage them to use it to their best ability and to process those tests as quickly as possible."

Yet even Republican governors say they need more federal help.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, chairman of the National Governors Association, is deeply critical of the administration's testing response.

"We expected something more than constant heckling from the man who was supposed to be our leader," Hogan wrote in an op-ed in The Washington Post this week. "Trump soon disabused us of that expectation.

"On April 6, he declared that testing wasn't Washington's responsibility after all," Hogan went on. "States can do their own testing," he quoted Trump as saying. "We're the federal government. We're not supposed to stand on street corners doing testing."

Whoever is responsible for testing shortfalls, the result is working against Trump's own goals to move beyond the virus and get the economy moving.

In Hawaii, Democratic Gov. David Ige said a shortage of chemical reagents used in testing was one reason the state will delay a plan to make it easier for tourists to visit. It was a huge disappointment to many in Hawaii hoping for a surge in tourism to reopen hotels, get people back to work and reduce the state's 22.6% unemployment rate.

In Pennsylvania's Allegheny County, which encompasses Pittsburgh and 1.2 million residents, health officials are trying to triage the demand for tests. Dr. Debra Bogen, director of the county's Health Department, is asking adults who are concerned that they were exposed, but do not have symptoms, to put off getting tested.

Even as the White House sticks with its rosy outlook, the U.S. government's top official in charge of coronavirus testing is urging Americans not to get retested for COVID-19 to confirm they've recovered.

"It's clogging up the system," Giroir said. He said U.S. officials will soon issue guidelines explicitly recommending against the practice, except for patients in the most severe cases.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 58 of 86

The American Clinical Laboratory Association said many of its labs are being stretched beyond capacity or don't have the supplies they need, and this week encouraged members to give priority to "those most in need, especially hospitalized and symptomatic patients."

"I feel a bit like a broken record — nothing has really changed," said Dr. Carmen Wiley, president of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry. "There's a huge disconnect between what the task force indicates is happening and what we are truly experiencing in the field."

U.S. officials are aiming to increase the use of rapid tests to shorten turnaround times. Those tests can usually be developed in 15 minutes or less and be performed at testing sites, doctor's offices and clinics. They tend to be less accurate than the tests that need to be processed at clinical laboratories.

This week U.S. health officials announced they would begin shipping rapid testing machines and kits to nursing homes in COVID-19 hot spots. The goal is to eventually provide the equipment to all nursing homes in the U.S.

The Health and Human Services Department has also been establishing surge test sites in hot spot areas to increase testing for vulnerable populations, said Devin O'Malley a spokesman for Vice President Mike Pence, who is leading the coronavirus task force.

Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at Georgetown University, called the Trump administration's claims about effective testing "laughable."

"The on-the-ground experience, in fact, is borne out by the data," Gostin said. "We don't have the testing kits. We don't have the labs to process it. There are backlogs. All of this is very unhelpful."

___ Stobbe reported from New York. Associated Press writer Matthew Perrone in Washington contributed to this report.

Republicans eye sweeping shield from coronavirus liability

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new plan from Senate Republicans to award businesses, schools, and universities sweeping exemptions from lawsuits arising from inadequate coronavirus safeguards is putting Republicans and Democrats at loggerheads as Congress reconvenes next week to negotiate another relief package.

The liability proposal, drafted by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and senior Republican John Cornyn of Texas, promises to shield employers when customers and workers are exposed to coronavirus by moving lawsuits to federal court and limiting legal liability to acts of "gross negligence or intentional misconduct," according to a draft of the plan obtained by The Associated Press.

Supporters say the plan protects businesses and other employers who adhere to public-health guidelines in good faith. Opponents argue it will permit wrongdoing to go unpunished. It's up to Congress to resolve the debate, with the outcome likely to determine what legal recourse is available to Americans who contract the virus.

"Even if businesses and hospitals follow all the relevant guidelines and act in good faith, they could end up fighting a very long and a very expensive lawsuit," Cornyn said. "They could end up winning that lawsuit, but they could also end up going bankrupt in the process."

In the courts, gross negligence amounts to "reckless disregard" for the safety of others, which is a high standard to meet. Ordinary negligence, by contrast, occurs when a business owner fails to take reasonable precautions to protect people from the COVID-19 threat. The GOP's proposed standard would apply retroactively to when the coronavirus began to circulate in December and would extend through at least 2024.

McConnell has said for months that some form of liability shield will be in the next COVID response measure, telling an audience in Kentucky on Wednesday that he won't send the next, and fifth, coronavirus response bill to the floor without it.

The liability shield is just one of the difficult issues confronting lawmakers as they launch into negotiations over another coronavirus bill with competing priorities. Other major battles involve whether to renew a \$600 per-week bonus federal unemployment benefit, how much assistance to send state and local governments, and whether to indulge President Donald Trump's wish to Social Security payroll taxes.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 59 of 86

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is firmly on the opposite side of the liability plan, pressing instead for emergency workplace regulations to protect paramedics, emergency medical personnel, and other health care workers at risk of exposure to COVID-19 in their workplace.

The \$3.5 trillion House Democratic measure, passed two months ago, requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, to issue emergency temporary workplace COVID safety standards for employers immediately upon enactment of the bill. That's a nonstarter with the GOP.

"They have resisted, in the past, any strong OSHA standard, and that is absolutely essential for us to have to protect our workers, at all times, but an even stronger one at the time of coronavirus," Pelosi said on Thursday.

The nation's trial lawyers have traditionally held great influence with congressional Democrats and while they have absorbed some defeats over the years, they cannot be discounted as a lobbying force. Earlier this year, for instance, a minor liability issue involving face-masks became a huge behind-the-scenes struggle before manufacturers such as 3M prevailed.

The Republican proposal, which was distributed only in summary form, offers a broad shield by requiring heightened pleading standards stiffening burden-of-proof standards, and capping damages on awards. Employers would also be shielded from investigations by federal agencies.

Pelosi and top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York aren't closing the door completely on McConnell's demand. The liability shield is a top priority of not just the GOP's corporate allies but also of colleges and local school districts.

"This is a critical issue for a wide range of employers from distillers who switched to producing hand sanitizers, to manufacturers that transformed their operations to construct personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators, to front line medical professionals treating the afflicted," said the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in a letter this week to top Capitol Hill leaders.

Advocates for the liability shield know they are in for a huge fight. Given McConnell's determination on the issue, it's likely some variant of the liability shield will pass, but it's sure to be scaled back significantly. Pelosi is also adept at trading concessions on GOP priorities for additional funding, and the liability issue promises to be among the final items resolved when negotiations wrap up next month, along with unemployment benefits.

"I think it's interesting that the first proposal that Republicans are offering is something that they negotiated with lobbyists that protects big corporations," said Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., on Friday.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By ALI SWENSON, BEATRICE DUPUY, ARIJETA LAJKA and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

CLAIM: A photo from this week shows House Speaker Nancy Pelosi huddled with other members of Congress and none are wearing masks.

THE FACTS: Social media users making the false claim shared a December photo from The Associated Press to suggest Pelosi and other members of Congress are not following current guidelines for wearing masks and social distancing when meeting. "This photo is from this week. They are in private and don't know they are being photographed. SOMETHING IS MISSING. WHAT IS IT??(And ask yourself WHY?)," stated posts being shared Wednesday on Facebook. A Twitter account that supports QAnon, a conspiracy theory centered on the baseless belief that President Donald Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the 'deep state,' first made the false claim, which was shared as a screenshot and posted on Facebook. The AP photo being misrepresented was taken on Dec. 18, 2019, and shows Pelosi speaking to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal in a private room after the House

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 60 of 86

voted to impeach Trump. AP photographer Andrew Harnik captured the photo of the four huddled in conversation reflected in a mirror. "Do as I say, not as I do," said one Facebook page sharing the photo with the false caption. The photo was shot months before the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic in March and before China had reported its first death from COVID-19 in January. Pelosi and House members have since been photographed wearing masks.

CLAIM: Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said that "only 0.02%" of children will die when returning to school during the pandemic.

THE FACTS: DeVos did not say that students would die if they return to school. A spokeswoman with the U.S. Department of Education confirmed to the AP that the statement was falsely attributed to DeVos, who supports the reopening of schools and the return of children to classrooms. "So, Betsy DeVos today said 'only' .02% of kids are likely to die when they go back to school. That's 14,740 children. Welcome back!" a Twitter user posted on July 11. "Betsy DeVos says that 'only' 0.02% of children will probably die as a result of schools re-opening. That's 14,740 children. That's about 40 times the number of school shooting victims from the last 10 years," another Twitter user falsely stated on July 12, garnering nearly 70,000 retweets. The false claim was also posted on Facebook and was shared over 5,000 times. "The Secretary has never and would never say such a thing," Angela Morabito, press secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, confirmed to the AP in an email. "This is a total lie," she said. According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 mortality rate for children under four is 0.2 percent, and 0.1 for people from five to 17. With a little more than a month before U.S. school children are scheduled to begin returning to the classroom, President Donald Trump is pushing for schools to reopen for classes despite coronavirus worries. On July 7, Trump demanded schools reopen, arguing that some places are keeping schools closed not because of the risks from the pandemic but for political reasons, the AP reported. DeVos has urged schools to provide full-time, in-person learning amid the pandemic. She called plans by some schools to hold classes only a few days a week unacceptable. "There's nothing in the data that suggests that kids being in school is in any way dangerous," she told Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday" on July 12. Last week, Dr. Robert Redfield, CDC director, said officials don't have evidence that children are driving COVID-19 infections. But Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus coordinator, also noted that kids under 10 are the least tested age group. The CDC has drafted guidelines for students to return to the classroom. According to documents obtained by the AP, the agency says there are steps for schools to safely reopen but it "cannot provide one-size-fits-all criteria for opening and closing schools or changing the way schools are run."

CLAIM: Photo shows a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report with many claims about face masks, including that cloth masks trap exhaled carbon dioxide and collect mildew within 30 minutes, risking your health.

THE FACTS: The document in the photo is fake and falsely attributed to the CDC, the agency told the AP. The CDC recommends the use of cloth face coverings in public settings to slow the spread of the coronavirus. On July 13, a photo allegedly showing a CDC report began to gain traction on Facebook. "Look CDC stated this case closed," the caption read. It also featured the hashtag #maskoff. The document in the photo, which racked up more than 200,000 views in two days on Facebook, is made to look as though it was printed from a CDC webpage, but the CDC told the AP it is not real. "CDC typically does not issue guidance or recommendations to the public in such a format," said Jasmine Reed, a public affairs specialist with the agency. A closer look at a circled section of the text on the fake report shows its guidance does not match the CDC's legitimate guidance on masks. "CLOTH MASK: (DO NOT FILTER ANYTHING)," the text reads. "As you exhale, you are ridding your lung of contaminants and carbon dioxide. CLOTH MASKS trap this carbon dioxide the best. It actually risks your HEALTH, rather than protect it. The moisture caught in these masks will become mildew ridden in 30 minutes. Dry coughing, enhanced allergies, sore throat are all symptoms of a micro-mold in your mask." The AP has previously debunked posts that claim without

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 61 of 86

evidence that wearing a face mask causes hypercapnia, a condition where too much carbon dioxide enters the bloodstream. While experts recommend users wash their cloth masks frequently, there's no evidence that wearing one for 30 minutes poses a risk of harmful mildew or mold build-up. The CDC says wearing a cloth face covering may help prevent the wearer from spreading the virus to others.

CLAIM: A photo of a Dallas Cowboys branded backpack sold on Amazon shows there is a child inside the backpack.

THE FACTS: The backpack is empty. A magazine cover featuring a woman's face was digitally placed inside the backpack to make it appear the bag had contents. On July 14, a Facebook user claimed that a photo of a sling bag sold on Amazon by the sports gear retailer the Northwest Company showed a child peering out from inside the backpack. "Whaaaaaat the hell is going on??" the user wrote. "This backpack listing on Amazon has a CHILD inside?? My husband reported the listing, but I can't shake these cold chills." The post, which featured screenshots of the Amazon listing, was viewed more than 77,000 times on Facebook. Photos of the bag also gained traction on Twitter, where users claimed it was proof the company was trafficking children. In the photo, the inside of the bag does look like it shows a set of eyes, part of a nose and a piece of silver tape where the mouth would go. But research into the image's origins reveals it does not show a child, nor any evidence of trafficking. Instead, it is an editorial image of a woman on the cover of a 2011 issue of a Chinese magazine called Vision. Ross Auerbach, chief executive officer of the Northwest Company, explained that his company had purchased images of bags from another company, Concept One Accessories, which had digitally placed the magazine inside the backpacks to give the illusion of contents inside. "When we did the acquisition, we just thought it looked weird," Auerbach told the AP. "We blacked out the insides." The company got rid of the strange-looking magazine image in most of its backpack photos, but missed a few, Auerbach said. In a statement of apology, Auerbach said the company is now working on removing the magazine image from the rest of its photos. "We strongly and unequivocally condemn human trafficking in any form," he said.

CLAIM: Niraj Shah, chief executive officer of the furniture company Wayfair, has resigned amid child sex trafficking allegations against the company.

THE FACTS: Shah has not stepped down, according to a Wayfair spokesperson, and claims that the company is involved in child trafficking are part of an unfounded conspiracy theory. On Monday, false posts circulating on social media alleged that Shah, the CEO and co-founder of the online furniture retailer Wayfair, had left the company. "Breaking News: Wayfair's CEO just stepped down amid child trafficking allegations," wrote one Facebook user, in a post that racked up more than 250,000 views in two days. "WAYFAIR CEO STEPS DOWN If you haven't heard about Wayfair go to Twitter NOW," read another post, on a Facebook page claiming to be a community for yoga hobbyists. Wayfair set the record straight in an email to the AP: Shah has not stepped down. The false claim comes as conspiracy theories have swirled around Wayfair in recent days, with social media users claiming without evidence that the company's high prices for cabinets and other products indicate it is embroiled in child sex trafficking. A company spokesperson flatly denied these allegations.

CLAIM: Video of a six-year-old girl being instructed to show her hands and profile before jumping on a couch where she plays with a doll and talks about prices on Wayfair is evidence the online retailer is involved in human trafficking.

THE FACTS: The video is an audition tape for a Wayfair commercial that was uploaded by the girl's mother, London-based Alphabet Agency confirmed to the AP. Social media users are circulating the audition video, which captures the London girl dressed in a green shirt and overalls from various angles, as evidence to support a conspiracy theory that Wayfair is trafficking young children through its website. In the video, the girl says she is 6 years old and with Alphabet Kids. A woman shooting the video then has the girl show her hands and side profile before the girl jumps on the couch to play with a doll. The video ends with the woman saying the low price of the couch she is sitting on can't possibly be correct, and the girl

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 62 of 86

responds by saying: "With Wayfair it is!" Alphabet Kids is a reference to Alphabet Agency, a talent agency registered for business in London. The video was recorded as an audition for a Wayfair commercial, and was taken from a YouTube channel created by the young girl's mother, Carleen McCarthy, a senior agent for Alphabet Management, told the AP in an email. Copies of the video were uploaded in posts even after the video was made private by the mother, McCarthy said. A 2019 Wayfair commercial features vignettes of families and friends gathering around a couch, including children playing on a couch or in a living room, in a manner similar to the audition tape.

CLAIM: Photo shows Ghislaine Maxwell with the president of operations at Wayfair.

THE FACTS: The 2003 photo shows Maxwell, a British socialite and longtime confidante of Jeffrey Epstein, with George Bamford, founder Bamford Watch Department. Wayfair, a company that sells furniture and home goods online, currently does not have a president of operations. On July 11, a photo circulated on Twitter with false claims that it showed Maxwell with Bill Hutcherson, Wayfair's president of operations. "Ghislaine Maxwell with the President of Operations at Wayfair, Bill Hutcherson. Damn, she really was rubbing elbows with just about everybody, huh," the false tweet states. The bogus claim also circulated on Facebook. The photo was taken on Dec. 8, 2003, as Maxwell and Bamford, whose business customizes luxury watches, attended the opening of the Asprey Flagship Store on Fifth Avenue in New York. Photographer Mark Mainz captured the photo for Getty Images. Maxwell, 58, was arrested July 2 at a New Hampshire estate before being moved to New York City to face federal charges accusing her of helping Epstein sexually exploit young women and girls. She has been detained at a jail in Brooklyn without bail, according to AP reporting. There is no "president of operations" listed on the Wayfair website. There is no employee named Bill Hutcherson on Wayfair's executive team. On July 10, a conspiracy theory went viral claiming Wayfair was selling overpriced furniture as a front for child sex trafficking. Social media users posted photos of Wayfair selling mundane home items, such as throw pillows and cabinets for more than \$10,000 a piece. The product listings sparked far-out theories due to the high prices and because they labeled with names that matched those of missing children. The theory linking Wayfair to sex trafficking has since been debunked. "There is, of course, no truth to these claims," Wayfair said in a statement. "The products in question are industrial grade cabinets that are accurately priced."

CLAIM: Gretchen Whitmer, the Democratic governor of Michigan, is the niece of billionaire investor and philanthropist George Soros.

THE FACTS: This claim is "absolutely false," according to Chelsea Lewis, deputy press secretary for Whitmer's office. An old conspiracy theory claiming a familial connection between Soros and Whitmer circulated anew over the weekend, with one false tweet racking up more than 700 retweets. "How many of you are aware that the female governor of Michigan is the niece of George Soros?" the post read. But this claim, which has been debunked by several fact-checking websites, is not true. A look at the family lineages of each of these public figures provides further confirmation. George Soros' only brother, Paul Soros, died in 2013. According to obituaries published at the time of his death, Paul Soros had just two surviving children, Peter and Jeffrey. His two other children, Linda and Steven, both died as young children, according to The New York Times. Wedding announcements published in The New York Times show Jeffrey Soros married Catherine Cosover in 1995 and Peter Soros married Flora Fraser in 1997. Since George Soros has only two surviving nephews, Peter and Jeffrey, and neither married Gretchen Whitmer, it's not possible Whitmer is George Soros' niece. On Whitmer's side, she is the daughter of the late Sharon Whitmer, a former lawyer, and Richard Whitmer, also a lawyer and the former head of the health insurance association Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Whitmer is married to Marc Mallory, a Michigan dentist. She was formerly married to Gary Shrewsbury. False claims have been shared widely on social media about both Soros and Whitmer amid the coronavirus pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. Whitmer, criticized for her strict stay-at-home measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been falsely accused of hypocrisy in following those orders. Soros, the wealthy Democratic donor who has long been a target of bizarre conspiracy

theories, has been attacked recently with a bevy of false claims, including that he paid people to protest after the death of George Floyd.

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

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Georgia mask debate ensnares Trump as Kemp battles Atlanta

By JEFF MARTIN and BEN NADLER undefined

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia's governor and the mayor of its largest city accused each other of playing politics Friday amid an escalating fight over face masks intended to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

The battle over masks in a state with rapidly rising cases of COVID-19 erupted into a public fight as Atlanta and more than a dozen other cities and counties defied Republican Gov. Brian Kemp and issued local orders requiring masks be worn in public spaces.

The dispute ratcheted up several notches this week, leading to tough talk from both the governor and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms on Friday, who accused President Donald Trump of violating the city's mask requirement.

On Wednesday, Kemp issued an executive order that explicitly voided local mask requirements. That same day, Trump arrived in Atlanta for a visit without wearing a mask. Then Thursday, Kemp sued the city of Atlanta to block it from enforcing a mask mandate and other rules related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bottoms stuck to her guns in an interview Friday on CBS "This Morning," questioning the timing of the lawsuit and calling out Trump for landing in Atlanta without wearing a mask.

"I pointed out that Donald Trump violated that order when he landed at our airport and did not wear a mask," she said. She declined to say that Trump was behind Kemp's lawsuit but said the president "was violating the rules of our city in just a blatant disregard for the science."

The White House said the president and all who get close to him get tested.

"The President takes the health and safety of everyone traveling in support of himself and all White House operations very seriously," White House spokesman Judd Deere said. "When preparing for and carrying out any travel, White House Operations collaborates with the Physician to the President and the White House Military Office, to ensure plans incorporate current CDC guidance and best practices for limiting COVID-19 exposure to the greatest extent possible."

A spokeswoman for Kemp said the lawsuit had no connection with Trump's visit.

Georgia has had more than 135,000 confirmed cases of the virus, though experts say that many more people are likely infected but never tested. At least 3,130 people have died in Georgia after contracting the virus. The state has seen a sharp increase in confirmed cases and in hospitalizations in recent weeks.

Kemp defended the lawsuit during a press conference Friday morning, accusing Atlanta officials of playing politics and not enforcing state orders already in effect.

The lawsuit was filed "on behalf of business owners, their employees and hardworking Georgians throughout the region who continue to struggle to make ends meet," Kemp said.

"Mayor Bottoms' mask mandate cannot be enforced, but her decision to shutter businesses and undermine economic growth is devastating," Kemp said.

Bottoms announced last week that Atlanta would return to the first phase of its coronavirus reopening plan, saying that the state had reopened in a "reckless manner." That includes limiting restaurants to take-out only and retail stores to curbside pickups.

Bottoms later said those are recommendations, tweeting Thursday that Kemp "is suing Atlanta over RECOMMENDED guidelines." But she maintains that the city's mask mandate is in effect and will continue

to be enforced.

"We will have to fight the governor about this in court," she said Friday.

Associated Press Writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed.

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

Rabbi: Cannon 'genuinely concerned' after apology, meeting

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

A prominent rabbi who met with Nick Cannon says the television host and producer is "genuinely concerned about the hurt" he caused by making anti-Semitic remarks, and they intend to work together to reject hate.

Cannon apologized to the Jewish community this week for his "hurtful and divisive" words, a day after ViacomCBS cut ties with him for the comments made on a podcast where he discussed racial bias, and following a phone conversation with Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's associate dean.

Cooper asked him to post the apology on social media, and then met with him Thursday for a three-hour conversation at Cannon's business headquarters in Burbank, California.

"He appears to be someone who's genuine in his desire to make sure people understand his apology," Cooper told The Associated Press.

"But also ... not to move forward saying, 'OK, I have to go back to my regular things, thank you for helping to give me a lifeline after this terrible error.' That wasn't it. The thrust was: 'OK. Now, what do we do? How do we roll up our sleeves? What can we do together?'"

Cooper said that he's confident that Cannon will use his wide-ranging social media presence to talk openly about mistakes, fight for social justice and reject messages of hate.

"It could have a very, very positive impact on young people" Cooper said.

Cooper said he will meet with Cannon again next week and show him historic documents preserved at the Wiesenthal museum including a 1919 letter by Adolf Hitler painting Jews as Germany's post-World War I enemies.

Cannon was fired as producer of the comedy improv series "Wild 'n Out" on VH1, the ViacomCBS-owned cable channel, over comments he made in an episode of the podcast "Cannon's Class."

On the podcast, Cannon and Richard "Professor Griff" Griffin, formerly of the rap group Public Enemy, contended that Black people are the true Hebrews and Jews have usurped that identity.

Cannon then argued that lighter-skinned people — "Jewish people, white people, Europeans" — "are a little less" and have a "deficiency" that historically caused them to act out of fear and commit acts of violence to survive.

Jewish leaders including the Anti-Defamation League and prominent rabbis criticized the remarks.

Cooper said that during his meeting with Cannon on Thursday, he brought up the "issue of supposed Jewish privilege."

"Six million Jews weren't white enough for the Nazis, so the notion of casting Jews in race and racist terms is something that is just not acceptable," he said. "In fact, to me, it's personally enraging."

Apologizing in a series of posts on Twitter, Cannon said his words "reinforced the worst stereotypes of a proud and magnificent people and I feel ashamed of the uninformed and naïve place that these words came from."

Cannon said the apology came after discussions with Jewish leaders. He thanked Cooper and assured the Jewish community that it was just the beginning of his education.

"I am committed to deeper connections, more profound learning and strengthening the bond between our two cultures today and every day going forward," he said.

Requests for an interview or further comment through Cannon's communications team were not immediately granted.

Cannon is also host of Fox's "The Masked Singer" and the former host of NBC's "America's Got Talent."

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

In Bolivian city, people buy fake - and toxic - virus cure

By DIEGO CARTAGENA and PAOLA FLORES Associated Press

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia (AP) — Long lines form every morning in one of the Bolivian cities hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic as desperate people wait to buy small bottles of chlorine dioxide, a toxic bleaching agent that has been falsely touted as a cure for COVID-19 and myriad other diseases.

The rush in the city of Cochabamba to buy a disinfectant known to cause harm to those who ingest it comes even after the Bolivian Health Ministry warned of its dangers and said at least five people were poisoned after taking chlorine dioxide in La Paz, the capital.

Dr. Antonio Viruez, who is treating the five at a hospital, said one incorrectly believed he had COVID-19 and developed pneumonitis, an inflammation of lung tissue, after taking chlorine dioxide and a medication used to treat parasite infestations. The other patients are improving, he said.

"The Health Ministry cannot risk recommending something that doesn't have a scientific basis," said Miguel Ángel Delgado, a senior ministry official.

However, Bolivia's opposition-controlled congress is promoting the use of chlorine dioxide. Last week, the Senate approved a bill authorizing the emergency "manufacture, marketing, supply and use of chlorine dioxide solution for the prevention and treatment of coronavirus."

The bill would require the approval of interim President Jeanine Áñez, who is in quarantine after testing positive for the new coronavirus. She has sparred with opposition lawmakers loyal to Evo Morales, the former leader who was forced to resign last year after an election marred by irregularities.

Many fearful residents in Cochabamba, where opposition support is strong, are giving chlorine dioxide a try. Cochabamba has reported about 440 deaths from COVID-19, or one-quarter of the total number of reported deaths in Bolivia. The real toll is believed to be higher.

"I am afraid. I have to try it," said Andrés Poma, a 34-year-old teacher who is skeptical that beleaguered health services can help him if he gets sick. "What am I going to do? Wait to die at the door of the hospital or at the door of my house?"

Federico Anza, who sells chlorine dioxide at his Cochabamba store, said thousands of people have bought it, consuming it in drops.

"My wife and I took it and nothing happened to us," he said.

He said his clients had not fallen ill after taking the agent, though provincial health authorities reported 10 cases of poisoning from chlorine dioxide in the past week.

The governor of Cochabamba state, Esther Soria, said she supports a plan for a state law authorizing the use of chlorine dioxide and traditional medicine to treat COVID-19. Cochabamba's mayor, José María Leyes, said he favors the free distribution of the bleaching agent to treat patients.

But Fernando Rengel, president of the Cochabamba's scientific association, said there are old beliefs that the toxic substance is "miraculous" and cures cancer, AIDS, malaria and other diseases, "but there is no scientific study that proves that it cures any disease."

Chlorine dioxide is one of a number of fake cures that have been promoted, often by fringe groups online, since the pandemic began.

In April, a federal judge in South Florida ordered a Colombia-based group, the Genesis II Church of Health and Healing, to stop selling a related product, Miracle Mineral Solution, in the U.S. Prosecutors said Genesis marketed the solution as a treatment for COVID-19, autism and other ailments.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has previously issued public warnings that MMS can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and severe dehydration.

In April, U.S. President Donald Trump mused about whether disinfectants could be injected or ingested

to fight COVID-19, prompting intense blowback from doctors and other health officials.

Flores reported from La Paz, Bolivia.

Pentagon bans Confederate flag in way to avoid Trump's wrath

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of wrangling, the Pentagon is banning displays of the Confederate flag on military installations, in a carefully worded policy that doesn't mention the word ban or that specific flag. The policy, laid out in a memo released Friday, was described by officials as a creative way to bar the flag's display without openly contradicting or angering President Donald Trump, who has defended people's rights to display it.

Signed by Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Thursday night, the memo lists the types of flags that may be displayed at military installations. The Confederate flag is not among them — thus barring its display without singling it out in a "ban." Details of the policy were first reported by the AP.

"We must always remain focused on what unifies us, our sworn oath to the Constitution and our shared duty to defend the nation," Esper's memo states. "The flags we fly must accord with the military imperatives of good order and discipline, treating all our people with dignity and respect, and rejecting divisive symbols."

Acceptable flags listed in the memo include the U.S. and state banners, flags of other allies and partners, the widely displayed POW/MIA flag and official military unit flags.

Confederate flags, monuments and military base names have become a national flashpoint in the weeks since the death of George Floyd. Protesters decrying racism have targeted Confederate monuments in multiple cities. Some state officials are considering taking them down, but they face vehement opposition in some areas.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a statement that the American flag is the symbol of the Constitution that service members swore to protect. He added, "Each of us must create (and) maintain an environment of cohesion across the Joint Force. One way to do that is to always honor our American Flag."

According to a Defense Department official familiar with the matter, the decision not to name a specific prohibited flag was to ensure the policy would be apolitical and could withstand potential legal challenges based on free speech. The official said that the White House is aware of the new policy and that it takes effect immediately.

Trump has flatly rejected any notion of changing base names and has defended the flying of the Confederate flag, saying it's a freedom of speech issue.

According to Esper's memo, the display of unauthorized flags — such as the Confederate banner carried during the Civil War — is acceptable in museums, historical exhibits, works of art or other educational programs.

The Marine Corps has already banned the Confederate flag. Gen. David Berger, the commandant of the Marine Corps, directed his commanders in early June to remove public displays of the Confederate battle flag. That flag, which some embrace as a symbol of heritage, "carries the power to inflame feelings of division" and can weaken the unit cohesion that combat requires, Berger said.

Military commands in South Korea and Japan quickly followed suit. The new policy does not affect or rescind those bans.

The other three military services were all moving to enact similar bans, but they paused when Esper made it known he wanted a consistent policy across the whole department. Now they will instead issue this new policy to their troops and employees.

Defense leaders have for weeks been tied in knots over the incendiary issue of banning the Confederate flag.

An early draft of the Defense Department plan banned display of the Confederate flag, saying the prohibition would preserve "the morale of our personnel, good order and discipline within the military ranks

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 67 of 86

and unit cohesion." That version was shelved, and officials have been struggling since then to come up with a policy that would have the same effect but not create political havoc.

Esper discussed the matter with senior leaders during a meeting Wednesday, including some of the legal issues surrounding a variety of bans, which some officials believe could be challenged in court.

The final version is a compromise that enables Esper to enact a ban that passes legal muster and gives military leaders what they want, but doesn't infuriate the commander in chief.

According to the official, the new policy doesn't undo the bans already in place, and service chiefs and secretaries will still be able to enact additional, more stringent policies restricting symbols they believe are divisive and harmful to unit cohesion. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss decisions not yet made public.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told reporters on Thursday that he is still working on a policy that would remove all divisive symbols from Army installations.

He didn't mention the flag but said, "We would have any divisive symbols on a no-fly list."

Faces in the crowd: Cutouts provide virtual MLB audience

By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

Gabby Adamo loved the Chicago White Sox so much it influenced how she dressed and even how she drank her favorite beverages.

"She didn't despise Cubs fans, but she despised anything to do with red and blue," said her father, Vince Adamo of Frankfort, Illinois. "She would not wear anything to do with red and blue in case people thought she was a Cubs fan. From a young age, she never wore red and blue together. She never held anything red and blue. She wouldn't even drink out of a red-and-blue straw."

Gabby Adamo rooted for the White Sox even during a three-year battle with leukemia. But she never got to attend one of their opening day games.

Eight months after she died at the age of 22, her parents are doing what they can to rectify that. With no spectators permitted at stadiums due to the coronavirus pandemic, the White Sox are among Major League Baseball teams giving fans the opportunity to fill some seats with their photographs on cutouts.

So when Chicago opens July 24 against the Minnesota Twins, a cutout featuring a smiling Gabby wearing a White Sox jersey and cap will be in the stands. "We'd always talked about going to opening day," her father said. "She just always talked about the next time she'd go to a game."

The Chinese Professional Baseball League also put cutouts in the stands when it started playing games without fans in April. But the example MLB teams have cited as they offer this promotion is a German soccer club that put about 13,000 fan cutouts in the stands when the Bundesliga resumed play in May.

"The idea resonated with us," said Rick Schlesinger, the Milwaukee Brewers' president of business operations.

The Brewers sold out 500 cardboard cutouts in 90 minutes. They promptly put another 500 on sale. Now they're also planning a "Pets in the Park" section for cutouts featuring photos of fans' dogs or cats.

Cutouts at Miller Park will be placed in the back rows of the uppermost level behind home plate, where there is also a statue of Bob Uecker.

The opportunity enticed Will Piper, a fifth-grade teacher from Mequon, Wisconsin, who watched a 2018 NL Championship Series game from that section with his wife. He's hoping to see himself on television.

"I'm planning on making it a game — who can find virtual 'Pipes' — and hopefully get some of my friends and their families to do so as well," Piper said.

Other teams such as the San Francisco Giants want virtual fans closer to the action. The Giants will put up photos of fans alongside cutouts of Bay Area celebrities such as Tony Bennett and Joe Montana.

"I think it's kind of fun," Giants manager Gabe Kapler said.

Some teams will raise money for charity in the process.

The Oakland Athletics offer a wide range of prices, but fans who pay \$149 will have cutouts of their likenesses placed on the first-base side of RingCentral Coliseum and get an autographed photo from

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 68 of 86

outfielder Stephen Piscotty. Proceeds benefit the Piscotty family foundation that's seeking a cure for ALS, the disease that killed Piscotty's mother.

If a foul ball happens to hit a cutout, the owner receives a baseball signed by Piscotty.

"I've already got a bunch of texts saying, 'Ooh, I want one!'" said Piscotty, who indicated the promotion was his father's idea. "Obviously, we'd love to sell that section out. That would be really cool."

MLB parks generally won't have as many cutouts in the stands as that German soccer club. How often the cutouts will appear depends on the team.

The Giants and New York Mets are offering cutouts to all their season-ticket holders for no extra charge and expect to use them at all home games. The Giants are also selling cutouts for \$99 to fans without season tickets. The Dodgers are charging \$149 to \$299 depending on where the cutouts will be seated, with all money going to the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation.

Rather than going with individual cutouts, the Twins are seeking submissions for a mosaic featuring photos of over 3,000 fans to go in the left-field stands at Target Field.

The White Sox are only planning to use their cutouts for the first home series, though they're considering the promotion for other games as well. They sold out their allotment of 1,500 cutouts for that opening series, with the \$49 sales benefiting White Sox Charities.

"It's an emotional purchase for some folks," said Christine O'Reilly, the White Sox's vice president of community relations and the executive director of White Sox Charities. "It's a fun purchase for some folks."

Michael and Megan Izzo of Oswego, Illinois, wanted to take their 2-year-old daughter, Aria, to her first White Sox game this year. When the pandemic spoiled that plan, the Izzos made sure to get their daughter's face on a cutout that can eventually become a family keepsake.

They selected a picture with Aria holding a sign bearing this message: "Aria's first Sox game, well, sort of."

AP Sports Writers Dave Campbell, Beth Harris, Janie McCauley, Kristie Rieken, Jake Seiner and Andrew Seligman contributed to this report.

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

Ecuadorian hummingbirds chirp ultrasonic songs of seduction

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Perched on a flowering shrub on a windy Andean mountainside, the tiny Ecuadorian Hillstar hummingbird chirps songs of seduction that only another bird of its kind can hear.

As the male sings, he inflates his throat, causing iridescent throat feathers to glisten princely purple. The female may join in a courtship dance — or chase him off.

For the first time, scientists have shown that these hummingbirds can sing and hear in pitches beyond the known range of other birds, according to research published Friday in the journal *Science Advances*.

The male's ballad is sung at around 13.4 kilohertz. That's considered "ultrasonic" for birds, which generally can't hear above 9 or 10 kilohertz.

"Something very interesting is going on in the ears of these hummingbirds to allow them to hear such sounds," said Christopher Clark, a biologist at the University of California, Riverside, who was not involved in the study.

"That's just an incredibly high pitch for a bird."

Among birds, only some owls have previously been shown to hear ultrasonic sounds — which they use to locate prey, but not to communicate. Biologists have studied other hummingbird species in South America that make high-pitched sounds, but it's been difficult to confirm whether those birds also hear the sounds.

For the new study, scientists climbed into the Ecuadorian Andes to reach high grasslands called paramos and locate the Hillstars' breeding grounds. There they recorded the males singing, then played back their romantic ballads to test the reactions of other birds.

Other Hillstars craned their necks and turned toward the speaker as it played the high-pitched chirps;

one also flew over the speaker to inspect it. In the lab, the scientists verified that the part of the brain typically engaged in auditory communication had been activated.

"We confirmed that this song has a social function," said Fernanda Duque, a study co-author at Georgia State University, where she researches hummingbird brains.

Mammals generally hear a wider range of pitches than birds. Humans can hear pitches up to about 20 kilohertz, but lose sensitivity to high-pitch sounds with age.

During fieldwork, the younger scientists could usually hear the Hillstar hummingbird songs, but the older participants couldn't, Duque said.

The researchers believe the birds may have evolved to sing at high pitches so that their love songs wouldn't compete with background noises in their environment, such as mountain winds, streams and the songs of other birds, said Marco Monteros, a study co-author and biologist at Universidad Técnica del Norte in Ibarra, Ecuador.

"For some hummingbirds, it's like a private channel of communication — other bird species don't use these high-frequency sounds," said Timothy Wright, a behavioral ecologist at New Mexico State University, who was not involved in the study.

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Stress rises for unemployed as extra \$600 benefit nears end

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and SARAH SKIDMORE SELL Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major source of income for roughly 30 million unemployed people is set to end, threatening their ability to meet rent and pay bills and potentially undercutting the fragile economic recovery.

In March, Congress approved an extra \$600 in weekly unemployment benefits as part of its \$2 trillion relief package aimed at offsetting the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. That additional payment expires next week unless it gets renewed.

For Henry Montalvo, who was furloughed from his job as a banquet server and bartender in Phoenix in mid-March, the expiration of the \$600 will cut his unemployment benefits by two-thirds. He uses the money to help support his three children and pregnant girlfriend.

"Now that it's about to end, that grim and uneasy feeling is coming back and really fast," Montalvo said.

The unemployment insurance program has emerged as a crucial source of support at a time when the jobless rate is at Depression-era levels. In May, unemployment benefits made up 6% of all U.S. income, ahead of even Social Security, and up dramatically from February, when it amounted to just 0.1% of national income.

"The increase has likely done as much or more to limit widespread hardship like food insecurity, homelessness, utility cutoffs, and mental health challenges, as any provision Congress has enacted in response to the pandemic and recession," said Indivar Dutta-Gupta, co-executive director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality.

Congress enacted the extra payment for just four months, largely on the assumption that the viral outbreak would subside by late July and the economy would be well on the way to recovery. But confirmed case counts are rising in 40 states and 22 states are either reversing or pausing their reopening efforts, threatening to slow rehiring. The number of people seeking weekly jobless aid has leveled off at roughly 1.3 million, after falling steadily in May and early June.

Eliminating the extra payment would cut benefits for most recipients by 50% to 75%, depending on the size of each state's unemployment benefit, which varies based on a worker's prior income. Arizona's maximum payment of \$240 is near the low end, while Massachusetts is among the most generous, with a weekly maximum payment of more than \$800.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 70 of 86

Other measures intended to shore up business and household finances, such as one-time payments of \$1,200 and a small business lending program, have also largely run their course. That could sharpen the impact of the pandemic-induced job losses, which have pushed the unemployment rate to 11.1%.

Another government rescue package is in the works and some sort of extended extra benefit is possible. Trump administration officials have expressed support for more aid and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has signaled a willingness to compromise.

House Democrats passed legislation last month to extend the benefits to the end of January.

"They need to buy food. These are necessities. And when you use that money for necessities they inject demand into the economy and create jobs," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday.

The extra \$600 was initially agreed upon because, for an average worker, it made their jobless benefits equal to their previous pay. Most states' antiquated unemployment systems weren't able to calculate a percentage increase in benefits that would have accomplished that for laid-off workers at different income levels.

Layoffs since the pandemic struck have been heavily concentrated in low-paying service industries such as restaurants, bars, and retailers, where workers make below-average incomes. That has made the \$600 a boon to such workers, who are disproportionately Black and Hispanic. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 42% of the people getting the extra \$600 are nonwhite.

Many businesses say they have had trouble enticing their former employees to return to their jobs given the generous unemployment benefit. Yet government data shows that in May there were four unemployed people for every available job, a sign that the biggest challenge facing the economy is a lack of jobs, not workers.

Meagan Fredette had three jobs as a freelance writer before the pandemic and lost two. She is now working just one day a week. As it is, she makes less from benefits than she did from work. If the \$600 expires, her benefits will drop to just \$200 a week in state aid, not enough to pay rent in New York City, where she lives.

Fredette, almost 35, says she has trouble sleeping because of the stress and anxiety.

"It's not like I don't want to work — I had three jobs," she says. "In normal times if I was experiencing this kind of financial wreck I would get a job at Whole Foods or a restaurant, but they are barely open and can barely bring back the staff they do have."

Many state limits on evictions will expire by this fall, raising the risk that more unemployed could become homeless. Congress suspended evictions from public housing in late March but only until July 25. The COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project estimates that 19 million to 23 million people could be thrown out of their apartments by the end of September.

The additional aid has also likely boosted the economy by supporting Americans' ability to spend. Sales at retail stores and restaurants rebounded in May and June to higher levels than a year ago. A new report suggests the additional aid enabled unemployed workers to actually increase their spending above pre-pandemic levels.

If the \$600 ends as scheduled, Montalvo is not sure what his next steps will be. He worked at the Phoenix Convention Center and with no one booking events, he worries that his furlough will soon become permanent.

He may have to return to his previous job in construction, where many members of his extended family work, but worries about his exposure amid a surge in cases in Arizona. More than a dozen of his family members have tested positive for the coronavirus, and two are still in the hospital.

"It's not if I get sick, it's when," he said.

Sell reported from Portland, Oregon. AP Writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

New studies clarify what drugs help, hurt for COVID-19

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

Fresh studies give more information about what treatments do or don't work for COVID-19, with high-quality methods that give reliable results.

British researchers on Friday published their research on the only drug shown to improve survival -- a cheap steroid called dexamethasone. Two other studies found that the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine does not help people with only mild symptoms.

For months before studies like these, learning what helps or harms has been undermined by "desperation science" as doctors and patients tried therapies on their own or through a host of studies not strong enough to give clear answers.

"For the field to move forward and for patients' outcomes to improve, there will need to be fewer small or inconclusive studies" and more like the British one, Drs. Anthony Fauci and H. Clifford Lane of the National Institutes of Health wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine.

It's now time to do more studies comparing treatments and testing combinations, said Dr. Peter Bach, a health policy expert at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Here are highlights of recent treatment developments:

DEXAMETHASONE

The British study, led by the University of Oxford, tested a type of steroid widely used to tamp down inflammation, which can become severe and prove fatal in later stages of COVID-19.

About 2,104 patients given the drug were compared to 4,321 patients getting usual care.

It reduced deaths by 36% for patients sick enough to need breathing machines: 29% on the drug died versus 41% given usual care. It curbed the risk of death by 18% for patients needing just supplemental oxygen: 23% on the drug died versus 26% of the others.

However, it seemed harmful at earlier stages or milder cases of illness: 18% of those on the drug died versus 14% of those given usual care.

The clarity of who does and does not benefit "probably will result in many lives saved," Fauci and Lane wrote.

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

The same Oxford study also tested hydroxychloroquine in a rigorous manner and researchers previously said it did not help hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

After 28 days, about 25.7% on hydroxychloroquine had died versus 23.5% given usual care -- a difference so small it could have occurred by chance

Now, details published on a research site for scientists show that the drug may have done harm. Patients given hydroxychloroquine were less likely to leave the hospital alive within 28 days -- 60% on the drug versus 63% given usual care. Those not needing breathing machines when they started treatment also were more likely to end up on one or to die.

Two other experiments found that early treatment with the drug did not help outpatients with mild COVID-19.

A study of 293 people from Spain published in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases found no significant differences in reducing the amount of virus patients had, the risk of worsening and needing hospitalization, or the time until recovery.

A similar study by University of Minnesota doctors in Annals of Internal Medicine of 423 mildly ill COVID-19 patients found that hydroxychloroquine did not substantially reduce symptom severity and brought more side effects.

"It is time to move on" from treating patients with this drug, Dr. Neil Schluger from New York Medical College wrote in a commentary in the journal.

REMDESIVIR

The only other therapy that's been shown to help COVID-19 patients is remdesivir, an antiviral that shortens hospitalization by about four days on average.

"The role of remdesivir in severe COVID is now what we need to figure out," Memorial Sloan Kettering's Bach wrote in an email, saying the drug needs to be tested in combination with dexamethasone now.

Details of the government-led remdesivir study have not yet been published, but researchers are eager to see how many patients received other drugs such as steroids and hydroxychloroquine.

Meanwhile, Gilead Sciences, the company that makes remdesivir, which is given as an IV now, has started testing an inhaled version that would allow it to be tried in less ill COVID-19 patients to try to keep them from getting sick enough to need hospitalization. Gilead also has started testing remdesivir in a small group of children.

Supplies are very limited, and the U.S. government is allocating doses to hospitals through September.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter: @MMarchioneAP

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Rev. C.T. Vivian, key civil rights leader, has died at 95

By DESIREE SEALS and MICHAEL WARREN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Rev. C.T. Vivian, an early and key adviser to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who organized pivotal civil rights campaigns and spent decades advocating for justice and equality, died Friday at the age of 95.

Vivian began staging sit-ins against segregation in Peoria, Illinois, in the 1940s — a dozen years before lunch-counter protests by college students made national news. He met King soon after the budding civil rights leader's leadership of the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, and helped translate ideas into action by organizing the Freedom Rides that forced federal intervention across the South.

Vivian boldly challenged a segregationist sheriff while trying to register Black voters in Selma, Alabama, where hundreds, then thousands, later marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

"You can turn your back now and you can keep your club in your hand, but you cannot beat down justice. And we will register to vote because as citizens of these United States we have the right to do it," Vivian declared, wagging his index finger at Sheriff Jim Clark as the cameras rolled.

The sheriff then punched him, and news coverage of the assault helped turned a local registration drive into a national phenomenon.

Former diplomat and congressman Andrew Young, another close King confidant, said Vivian was always "one of the people who had the most insight, wisdom, integrity and dedication."

Barack Obama, who honored Vivian with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013, tweeted Friday that "he was always one of the first in the action — a Freedom Rider, a marcher in Selma, beaten, jailed, almost killed, absorbing blows in hopes that fewer of us would have to."

"He waged nonviolent campaigns for integration across the south, and campaigns for economic justice throughout the north, knowing that even after the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act that he helped win, our long journey to equality was nowhere near finished," Obama wrote.

Obama also drew a direct line from "Vivian and all the heroes in that Civil Rights Generation" to today's generation of activists, saying "I have to imagine that seeing the largest protest movement in history unfold over his final months gave the Reverend a final dose of hope."

Among many other tributes, The King Center in Atlanta tweeted: "Rev. C.T. Vivian. Courageous. Brilliant. Sacrificial. A powerfully well-lived life that lifted humanity. We will miss you." And the Rev. Al Sharpton, who heads the National Action Network, tweeted that Vivian "made this nation and world a better place. ... RIP, my friend."

Speaking with students in Tennessee 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law, Vivian urged them to act strategically as they advocated for justice and equality. The civil rights movement was effective not only because of its nonviolence, but because activists made sure their messages were

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 73 of 86

amplified, he said.

"This is what made the movement: Our voice was really heard. But it didn't happen by accident; we made certain it was heard," Vivian said.

Cordy Tindell Vivian was born July 28, 1924, in Howard County, Missouri, but moved to Macomb, Illinois, with his mother as a young boy. He studied theology alongside future civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman John Lewis at the American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, where they trained waves of activists in nonviolent protest.

King made Vivian his national director of affiliates at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and sent him around the South to register voters, an effort that brought Vivian to Selma in 1965. Standing on the Dallas County courthouse steps as a line of Black people stretched down the block behind him, he argued for their voting rights until Clark's punch knocked him flat.

Vivian stood back up and kept talking before he was stitched up and jailed, and his mistreatment helped draw thousands of protesters, whose determination to march from Selma to Montgomery pressured Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Vivian continued to serve in the SCLC after King's assassination in 1968, and became its interim president in 2012, lending renewed credibility after the organization stagnated for years. He also co-founded VISION, the precursor to Outward Bound; the Center for Democratic Renewal; and a consulting firm that encouraged improvements in race relations.

"There must always be the understanding of what Martin had in mind for this organization," Vivian said in a 2012 interview. "Nonviolent, direct action makes us successful. We learned how to solve social problems without violence. We cannot allow the nation or the world to ever forget that."

Vivian died at home in Atlanta of natural causes Friday morning, his friend and business partner Don Rivers confirmed to The Associated Press.

Vivian had a stroke about two months ago but seemed to recover, Rivers said. Then, "he just stopped eating," he said.

Rivers, 67, said he was 21 when he met Vivian at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Back then, he worked as an audio director when Vivian was the dean of the university's divinity school. The two remained close over the years and Rivers said he handled the business side of Vivian's work.

"He's such a nice, gentle, courageous man," Rivers said, adding that the reverend wasn't in it for the money. "He was always giving, giving, giving."

Warren reported from Decatur, Georgia.

Taliban make big changes ahead of expected talks with Kabul

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban have put the son of the movement's feared founder in charge of their military wing and added several powerful figures to their negotiating team, Taliban officials said. The shake-up, one of the most significant in years, comes ahead of expected talks with Kabul aimed at ending decades of war in Afghanistan.

As head of a newly united military wing, 30-year-old Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob brings his father's fiercely uncompromising reputation to the battlefield.

Equally significant is the addition of four members of the insurgent group's leadership council to the 20-member negotiating team, Taliban officials told The Associated Press.

The shuffle, overseen by Taliban leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhunzada, is meant to tighten his control over the movement's military and political arms, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the inner workings of the Taliban.

Analysts say the shake-up could be good news for negotiations with the Afghan political leadership, and a sign of how seriously the Taliban are taking this second — and perhaps most critical — step in a deal Washington signed with the insurgents in February.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 74 of 86

"I'd say it appears to be a positive development because the Taliban are creating a delegation that seems more senior and more broad-based than they've used to date, or than might be strictly necessary for the opening stages of talks," said Andrew Wilder, vice president of the Asia Program at the Washington-based U.S. Institute of Peace.

"If you want to see the glass as half full, this strengthened Taliban delegation could be interpreted as a sign that the group is planning to engage in serious discussions," he said.

When the U.S. signed the deal with the Taliban on Feb. 29, after more than a year and a half of negotiations, it was touted as Afghanistan's best chance at peace in four decades of war. It was also seen as a road map for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war.

On Monday, four-and-a-half months since the signing, chief U.S. negotiator and peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad tweeted that "a key milestone in the implementation of the U.S.-Taliban agreement" had been reached as American troop numbers dropped to 8,600 from about 12,000 and five bases were closed in Afghanistan.

Even as Khalilzad chastised increased insurgent attacks on Afghan security forces, he said the Taliban had been true to their word not to attack U.S. and NATO troops.

"No American has lost his/her life in Afghanistan to Taliban violence. Regional relations have improved," he tweeted.

The Taliban have stepped up their military activity against Afghan government forces since Yaqoob's appointment in May, a sign the militants under his leadership may see battlefield wins as upping their leverage at the negotiating table.

"I can see a lot of reasons for the Taliban to be pushing the envelope — perhaps as a negotiation tactic, but equally likely as a means to test U.S. limits," said Daniel Markey, a senior research professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. "So far, the Trump administration looks like it is heading for the exit, no matter what. Why not ratchet up the violence to see what greater victories can be won? "

Surprisingly, the shuffle also sidelined senior Taliban leader Amir Khan Muttaqi, removing him from the negotiating committee. Seen as close to neighboring Pakistan, his removal could limit Pakistan's influence and buttress their position with Kabul, which is deeply suspicious of Islamabad.

Already a deputy head of the movement, the sudden appointment of the son of Mullah Mohammed Omar as the Taliban military chief reportedly ruffled feathers among members of the leadership council, who had not been consulted. Yaqoob, however, met with the council and won over the dissenters, said the Taliban officials.

"Yaqoob's appointment appears to be, at least in part, an effort by Mullah Akhundzada to shore up oversight of battlefield operations at a key moment ... as the insurgents ramp up violence to strengthen their negotiating position in preparation for potential peace talks with the Afghan government," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center.

In recent weeks, hopes have been raised of a July start to negotiations but the Taliban and the Kabul government have become bogged down in the final release of prisoners, a prerequisite for the start of negotiations. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told the AP on Friday that the Taliban reject government efforts to substitute prisoners from the originally negotiated list for the exchange.

Countries have been lining up to host the talks, with Germany being the latest to put in an offer and Turkey, Iran, Indonesia, Japan and Norway reportedly among the nations volunteering. However, the Taliban and Afghan government officials say the first round is likely to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office.

The newly strengthened negotiating team includes Abdul Hakeem, the Taliban's chief justice and confidant of Akhundzada, as well as Maulvi Saqib, who was chief justice during the Taliban rule.

Under the U.S.-Taliban deal, the Taliban — who during their rule of Afghanistan hosted al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden as he planned the 9/11 attacks — have pledged to no longer host any terror groups. They also guarantee that Afghanistan will not be used as a launching arena for future attacks against America.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 75 of 86

In a tweet this week, Khalilzad said "more progress is needed on counter-terrorism," without elaborating. This week, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also spoke about the controversy surrounding the White House over reports of Russian money being paid to Afghan militias — reportedly with links to the Taliban — to kill U.S. troops.

"There's a lot of Russian footprint; there are Russian weapon systems there. We have made clear to our Russian counterparts that we ought to work together to get a more sovereign, more independent, peaceful Afghanistan," he said.

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee in Washington and Tameem Akghar in Kabul, Afghanistan contributed to this report.

Days grow long at nursing homes as virus lockdowns drag on

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. (AP) — In the activity room, where birthdays were celebrated and Sunday services were held, the aquarium and its brightly colored tropical fish are the only signs of life.

Off quiet hallways, Southern Pines residents pass the time with word-search books or a nap. Meals once were a social time enjoyed at tables of neighbors; now most are delivered bedside. Visitors are resigned to muffled conversations through windowpanes, and the only tickets out may be a trip to dialysis or an ambulance ride to the hospital — or something worse.

Life has frozen at this nursing home, walled off for four months by a virus that's zeroed in on the old. And with the pandemic raging outside, there's no telling when the thaw might come.

"It's really not normal," says Christen Washington, a nurse who handles social services and admissions at Southern Pines. "I don't know what that is anymore."

Like facilities nationwide, Southern Pines followed the federal government's March 13 guidance to halt all visits, a move that spurred some backlash but seemed prescient as the news exploded of deadly outbreaks elsewhere. The home went six weeks with no infections at all.

When the lucky streak ended, the on-edge early days of the pandemic gave way to a weeks-long fight to contain it, with more than a quarter of residents infected. Today, Southern Pines is like many nursing homes, neither in the heat of panicked battle nor past it. Normalcy remains a distant hope, the threat is as persistent as at the onset, and no clear path forward has emerged.

And so everyone just waits.

Watching over this community is administrator Donna Stefano, who, on a whim, once answered an ad for a clerical job at a nursing home. Thirty-five years later, she finds herself minding Southern Pines' twin populations: Those who call this home, but live walled off from those they love in sometimes oppressive isolation. And those who have taken on the back-breaking, near-poverty work of caring for them.

Both cling to hope that the end to all this is near — even as infections in the outside world surge, deaths creep up, and the lockdown continues.

"We're going to have to run different for a long while," says Stefano. "Otherwise it's going to come back and next time we may not be so lucky."

The morning starts with a blare of sunshine but threatens to deliver a fourth straight day of showers. By the time Kendell Floyd sets up in Southern Pines' in-house beauty salon, the dark clouds have already amassed and a resident has an early review of her shampooing technique.

"You're too gentle!" the woman offers, asking for a more vigorous scrub.

Floyd is 25 and handles record keeping and supplies at the home, but like everyone else here, has had her routine upended by the virus. The facility can't let hairdressers inside, leaving the job to staff on site. Residents, however blunt they may be with their advice, ooze with gratitude too.

In between wash-and-style sessions, Floyd is summoned to a resident's room where she's asked about the status of a run to Dollar Tree for popcorn and word-search books. She hasn't made the trip yet, but

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 76 of 86

assures the woman she will, and the resident offers parting words of appreciation.

"I'll sure be glad whenever we take these masks off," she says, "so I can see you smile again."

Southern Pines is in central Georgia, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Macon. About 70% of its population is female. There are a handful of younger residents, including a man in his 30s, and a range of older ones, from those in a haze of dementia to those as lucid as they were a half-century earlier. Some never finished high school, some have college degrees. They were truck drivers and teachers, people who worked all their lives and people who never could.

Before the clock hits 11 a.m., activities director Tomica Mace has the bingo cards set on long tables outside, and some of the game's regulars are arriving, all masked and spaced out from neighbors. Nine residents congregate, but Mace's voice is the only one that rises as the players concentrate on their cards.

"Everybody ready?" Mace bellows before the first ball appears. "N-45!"

When Southern Pines shut outsiders out, life inside transformed too. The dining room closed, with meals delivered to rooms. Most group activities were nixed. One of the only mainstays to survive was bingo, and that morphed into a socially distanced game largely played with residents seated in their doorways, aides in the hallways parroting Mace to ensure the numbers are heard.

Today, the game came with a breath of fresh air, each suspected win followed by a check of a player's card and crisp dollar in their palm when Mace confirms with glee, "That's a good bingo!"

Before long, though, the sky rumbles and the drops begin to fall and the players are ushered away from the wafting aroma of towering pines, back into a spotless, sterile hallway, while "The Price Is Right" plays on TVs affixed beside nurses' stations on each end of the home.

Bingo ends with no wins for Kay Gee, but when she gets back to her room, the midday news brings a happy update: A deal has been reached to bring a beloved sport back to her screen.

"Baseball's coming back!" she says. In other news: "It's gonna rain. That's what they say every day."

Gee is 80, a retired office worker who wound up in a home when back surgery brought problems with her right leg a year and a half ago. She hopes to live outside a facility again, but nothing seems so sure these days.

She misses visits from her four children and three grandchildren. She misses plunging her hand into the fur of Annie, her poodle, and Mugsy, her dachshund, when they would visit. Sometimes she feels little urge to do any more than sink into a book. Other days it all feels harsher.

"Some days you feel like you could scream," she says.

Angie Shepard, the home's 53-year-old nursing director, says she and her staff have done their best to hold residents' hands, rub their backs and otherwise bring those touches that have been missing in the lockdown. They know these people are hurting. They're hurting, too.

Americans were first shaken to the arrival of COVID-19 when an outbreak raged at a nursing home outside Seattle. The dozens of deaths were shocking and the images of families paying visits through windows at once both peculiar and heartbreaking.

They were just a tiny precursor of what was to come as the virus took hold in facilities around the country.

As the pandemic proliferated, Shepard sank to her knees in prayer, pleading to keep the virus out of this place that's like a second home, away from these people she's come to love.

At Southern Pines, it started on April 26, when a woman with a low-grade fever went to the hospital with what the home thought was a urinary tract infection. It was, but she tested positive for the coronavirus as well. That unleashed a search for who else was infected, and a frightening revelation: A dozen of Southern Pines residents were infected, though most showed few symptoms, if any.

In the end, all survived.

When Shepard returned home, she isolated herself, using a different door, staying in a different room and phoning her husband so they could chat without shouting. She went five weeks without a hug from her son. When his 23rd birthday came, she missed the party, and when it was time to mark 25 years since the death of her 10-week-old daughter to sudden infant death syndrome, she went to the cemetery alone.

Shepard is being treated for ovarian cancer and underwent surgery just before the pandemic started.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 77 of 86

Her husband asked if she might go on leave, but she couldn't consider it.

"I'm here for a reason and it's to take care of these people," she says. "That's all I ever wanted to do."

Lunchtime arrives and 26-year-old Unterria Redd, in fuchsia scrubs, delivers the trays. Most still eat in their rooms, but as Southern Pines saw some residents' weight drop, they reopened the dining room, hoping a semblance of normalcy might nudge them to clear their plate. A few residents now sit, socially distant, at tables topped with flowers in glass milk jugs.

Redd is a certified nursing assistant, the bedrock of a home like this one. The field's high turnover rate reflects the grueling shifts undertaken by a workforce that is overwhelmingly female, a majority of them members of minority groups.

Southern Pines, like homes around the U.S., has struggled to fill CNA openings and the pandemic has only made it harder. The work is steady and demand is growing, but injuries are rampant and the salary is low. Aides hired by the home earn \$9.50 to \$11.50 an hour; those like Redd working for an agency that contracts with the home are paid a few dollars more.

"You can go to McDonald's and make more," says Shepard.

But Redd never saw herself working at that kind of job. In those dark first days of the virus, she worried as she covered herself head to toe, donning an N95 mask and a face shield, and she found herself lying awake at night. But it grew as familiar as any other routine. She's been doing this work for six years and can't picture doing anything else.

"If we're not here to do this who else is going to do it?" she asks after dropping lunch to Judy Morey in Room 107.

Morey has a stone cross in a window facing a Baptist church with a white steeple that blends with a cloudy sky. Solar-powered plastic sheep, snowmen and anthropomorphic flowers dance beside plaques with inspirational quotes. Next to a word hunt book in the basket on Morey's walker are two dollar bills, reminding of her bingo prowess today.

She is 71, and wears neat black pants and a beige blouse embroidered with leaves. Morey was born with cerebral palsy and lived with her brother and sister-in-law until eight years ago when she began needing more help. She is president of the home's resident council and, before the pandemic, she enjoyed playing cards and huddling close with friends to put together a puzzle. Those simple joys are gone, along with those frequent pop-ins from her brother.

She wonders if things will even change by the time her birthday arrives next month. For now, she says she's coping as best she can even as the days feel far longer than any that came before.

"All I kind of want to do is taking naps all day long out of boredom," she says.

And, with lunch over and little else to do, she returns to bed.

At 3 p.m., when the first shift is over, aides meet with their replacements on each of Southern Pines' four hallways. They are short meetings today, with no recorded falls, no skin tears, no notable behavioral issues and, importantly, no new infections.

"We love uneventful days," says Tammie Williams, a 40-year-old CNA with thick pink eyeshadow, huge fake eyelashes, blue hair and a top with a fittingly colorful array of superheroes.

In the lobby, a young woman in a "Golden Girls" T-shirt arrives with a complaint about her father's care, asking why he fell from bed, and shuffling paperwork she needs to file to grant her power of attorney. And outside Room 303, 88-year-old Barbara Fowler taps on the window of her 90-year-old husband William, who has been recovering at Southern Pines after breaking a hip.

She's brought him a favorite treat, vanilla Ensure, calls him as she stands outside the glass, tells him she loves him and earns a broad smile. This is the routine, three times a week: Fleeting glances, muted voices and a resounding hope that something will change soon.

"It's very lonesome and stressful," she says.

For many Americans, ending up in one of the country's 15,000 nursing homes is seen as a worst-case scenario of lost freedom and faculties. Many will wind up in one anyway, at least for a time.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 78 of 86

Homes were no stranger to bad press when the virus began sweeping through and the pandemic only exacerbated negativity, with rampant problems with infection control coming into plain view. At least 60,000 residents and staff of U.S. long-term care facilities have died of COVID-19, a disproportionately high figure. It represents about 40% of the total U.S. virus deaths.

To move past this, to guard safety while acknowledging the rights of residents and their families and the toll of isolation, testing is key. With staff constantly coming and going — a key source of the virus in nursing homes — the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which regulates the facilities, has called for weekly testing of employees. It is just a recommendation, though, and like most things in American health care, it's viewed through a lens of money.

Southern Pines, like seven in 10 U.S. nursing homes, is a for-profit enterprise. About 90% of its residents have their care paid by Medicaid, for which the home receives about \$186 a day. Shorter-term rehabilitation stays paid by Medicare can deliver a daily rate several times that.

Each staffer at Southern Pines underwent testing for COVID-19 in April, but barring a government mandate there is no plan to require tests at regular intervals. The cost is too high.

"You start doing the math," says Stefano.

As a girl, Stefano visited nursing homes with her Girl Scout troop and Sunday school class and didn't step foot in one again until answering that newspaper ad. Over the years, she's run nursing homes' housekeeping and laundry and kitchens, coordinated admissions and, in her most lasting role, led them as an administrator.

Her two children practically grew up in nursing homes and became used to middle-of-the-night calls that sent mom back to work. Her husband and son run a business that sells janitorial supplies to nursing homes and that, as the virus raged, made sure Stefano had hand sanitizer in stock. Her daughter is a pediatric nurse, but Stefano, 61, is convinced she'll make a change.

"She'll flip to geriatrics before it's done, I guarantee you," she says.

Southern Pines had a previous life as a nursing home under a different name, but it was closed a couple years back, then gutted and rechristened when it reopened five months ago. On Stefano's first day, March 26, the doors were already plastered with signs advising of the shutdown.

No one thought it would last quite this long.

Dinner is chicken tenders with roasted potatoes, zucchini and a biscuit, and 72-year-old Butch McAllister is home in Room 306 when the tray arrives. His bulletin board is full of photos and two small American flags, and bottles of orange Fanta are neatly lined in front.

On the windowsill are remnants of his May 13 birthday — a balloon and a sign his family made — alongside a football, stuffed animals, a Bible and a sign that says, "I Love That You're My Dad."

McAllister is a retired glass salesman who wears a cap from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg where, he notes, he "jumped out of perfectly good airplanes."

When the virus tests came back, McAllister's was positive, forcing a move from his room into isolation. He'd heard all the horror stories, but says he turned it over to God and didn't fret.

He felt fine the whole time, eventually tested negative, and returned to 306.

McAllister's wife is at a different nursing home and they haven't seen each other in months. His daughter and a grandson visit at the window, a nice sight, but he wishes he could touch them too.

He admits feeling lonely at times and can't wait for in-person visits, just as he salivates thinking about going out for a meal at a Greek restaurant or a favorite steakhouse.

"Nobody can come in and nobody can go out," he says. "I'm ready for it to happen."

Though most American nursing homes remain locked down, restrictions are beginning to ease in some places. Some states have allowed a trickle of visitors back into homes, but most have tip-toed back with rules like Indiana's, where relatives must have a negative virus test in order to sit, masked and distanced from their loved one, outside of the facility. In other places, like California, the rules have changed to allow visits, but facilities have been wary to reopen.

At Southern Pines, a state emergency order barring nursing home visits has been extended another

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 79 of 86

month to Aug. 12. With Georgia recording a sharp spike in virus cases, residents and staff alike know another delay is possible. And they know they are not out of the woods.

A nurse at the home grew worried this month when she opened a bottle of nail polish and didn't smell anything. She tested positive for the virus, prompting new tests for the 30 residents she'd come in contact with. To great relief, all were negative.

As night falls, the resident count grows to 47 as two people arrive from the hospital. Out front, a sign says "Heroes Work Here"; down the road, shiny black hearses are parked at the mortuary, and in simple ranches, people retire to bed. Here, the halls grow quiet and the staff thins.

Stefano gets home late, enjoying a glass of chardonnay while doing the laundry and playing slots on her iPad. She'll go to sleep without a crisis erupting at work, no calls to stir her awake.

She knows everything remains imperfect, but on a day like today, when no one fell ill, when the fight to keep the virus away was victorious, it almost feels like the old days at Southern Pines.

"Anytime it feels like it used to feel," she says, "that is a good thing."

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Associated Press investigative researcher Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

China says it's not trying to replace US, won't be bullied

BEIJING (AP) — China isn't seeking to confront or replace the United States as the world's top technological power, but will fight back against "malicious slander" and attacks from Washington, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Friday, responding to a litany of recent accusations from the Trump administration.

Hua Chunying said China's chief concern is improving the livelihoods of its citizens and maintaining global peace and stability, despite what critics say is an increasingly aggressive foreign policy that looks to expand Chinese influence in the military, technology, economic and other spheres.

"As an independent sovereign state, China has the right to safeguard its own sovereignty, security and development interests, to defend the achievements made by the Chinese people with hard work, to refuse any bullying and injustice against China, and to fight back against malicious slander and attacks by the U.S. against China," Hua said at a daily briefing.

Her comments came in response to a speech Thursday by U.S. Attorney General William Barr in which he cautioned American business leaders against promoting policies favorable to Beijing. He asserted that China at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic had not only dominated the market for protective gear, exposing American dependence on Beijing, but had also hoarded supplies and blocked producers from exporting them to countries in need.

Barr also accused hackers linked to the Chinese government of targeting American universities and businesses to steal research related to coronavirus vaccine development, leveling the allegation against Beijing hours after Western agencies made similar claims against Russia.

"The People's Republic of China is now engaged in an economic blitzkrieg — an aggressive, orchestrated, whole-of-government (indeed, whole-of-society) campaign to seize the commanding heights of the global economy and to surpass the United States as the world's preeminent technological superpower," Barr said.

Numerous Trump allies have issued strongly worded messages over China in recent days, coming at a time when bilateral relations have fallen to their lowest point in decades over issues from accusations of technology theft to China's claims in the South China Sea.

Hua dismissed Barr's accusations of cybertheft related to vaccine development as "absurd."

"Because everyone knows that China is in a leading position in the research and development of new coronavirus vaccines, we have first-class scientific research personnel, and we do not need to gain a leading position with theft," Hua said.

Chinese companies have moved swiftly to develop a coronavirus vaccine, as countries compete for the prestige and profits that would come with being the first to bring such a product to market.

Vatican indicates support to exhume babies at Irish home

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican has indicated its support for a campaign to provide a proper Christian burial for hundreds of babies and toddlers by first exhuming their bodies from the grounds of a Catholic-run Irish home for unwed mothers.

The Vatican's ambassador to Ireland, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, said in a July 15 letter to the amateur Irish historian behind the campaign that he shared the views of the archbishop of Tuam, Ireland, Michael Neary.

Neary has said it was a "priority" for him to re-inter the babies' bodies in consecrated ground. If the Irish government refuses to authorize the exhumations, Neary promised to bless the ground where they were originally buried.

Historian Catherine Corless has been campaigning since 2014 to give the babies a dignified burial after she tracked down the death certificates for nearly 800 children who died at the home in the town of Tuam, north of Galway, but couldn't find corresponding burial records.

Excavations of the site in 2017 showed "significant quantities of human remains" in a 20-chamber underground structure near a decommissioned sewage tank. DNA analysis confirmed the ages of the dead children ranged from 35 weeks gestation to 3 years and were buried chiefly in the 1950s.

The Tuam home, which was run by the Sisters of Bon Secours order of Catholic nuns, closed in 1961.

Based on Corless' research, the Irish government instituted a commission of inquiry in 2015 into the Tuam facility and several other mother and baby homes where unwed mothers, orphans and children whose parents couldn't care for them were housed.

It was part of a process of reckoning in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Ireland to come to terms with a history of abuses in Catholic-run institutions, including the shunning and shaming of unwed mothers, many of whom were pressured into giving up babies for adoption.

The commission is only looking into burial arrangements at the homes. It said in its most recent interim report more than a year ago that it still couldn't understand why the babies and young children buried outside the one in Tuam were handled in such an "inappropriate manner." The commission said local Galway authorities bore "particular responsibility" since they owned the home.

Seeking to nudge the government to finally honor the Tuam children and bring closure to their relatives, Corless wrote last month to the Vatican ambassador asking his views. She had been heartened by Pope Francis' horror when he learned about the Tuam burials during his 2018 visit to Ireland.

"My query to you is, as papal nuncio, do you think it proper in the name of Jesus to allow these little souls (they are all baptized) to be left in a sewage tank, or do you agree that they be exhumed and given a Christian burial?" Corless wrote Okolo on July 13.

Okolo noted in his reply letter two days later, which Corless provided to The Associated Press, that the final report of the government's commission of inquiry is pending.

But he quoted Neary, who previously said "it remains a priority for me, in cooperation with the families of the deceased, to seek to obtain a dignified re-interment of the remains of the children in consecrated grounds in Tuam."

Neary reaffirmed that position as recently as last month, but has also said that if the government chooses to leave the bodies where they are, he would bless the ground.

"I share his views," Okolo wrote Corless. "It is my conviction that through sincere love, a calm mind, clear-sightedness and mutual understanding, everyone concerned can cooperate to rectify the mistakes of the past."

Pope Francis himself has urged the church in Ireland to do whatever it can to make reparations for the Tuam burials, which he learned about first-hand from the country's then-minister for children, Katherine Zappone, with whom he met during his 2018 visit.

In a letter to the pope that she hand-delivered Aug. 27, 2018, Zappone said the Tuam babies were owed the "dignity and respect" that had been denied them in death, and noted the option of exhuming their

remains and performing DNA tests on them. She urged the church to "contribute substantially" to whatever decision is taken by the government.

Francis was clearly moved by her appeal, and told Irish Jesuits later that day that he wanted the Irish church to "put an end to this." "I don't mean simply turn the page, but seek out a cure, reparation, all that is necessary to heal the wounds and give life back to so many people," he told the priests.

Francis later wrote to Zappone assuring her of his concern and praying "in particular that efforts made by the government and by the local churches and religious congregations will help face responsibly this tragic chapter in Ireland's history."

While Zappone announced later in 2018 that the site would indeed be exhumed, the commission's final report has been delayed, Zappone is no longer minister and to date the burial site remains intact.

The Irish government has estimated that the cost of exhuming the site would cost between 6 million and 13 million euros; the Bon Secours Sisters have offered to pay 2.5 million euros, Irish news reports have said, quoting Zappone.

Biden's bid touts faith, courts even religious conservatives

By ELANA SCHOR and JACK JENKINS undefined

President Donald Trump's appeal to religious conservatives is a cornerstone of his political identity. But Joe Biden is a different kind of foe than Trump has faced before: one who makes faith a central part of his persona — often literally wearing it on his sleeve.

In fact, Biden's practice of carrying a rosary that belonged to his late son Beau caught the attention of one of his Democratic presidential rivals when the two were awaiting a debate last year. Standing backstage next to Biden, Pete Buttigieg asked the lifelong Catholic about the prayer beads and fell into a conversation about loss, family and faith.

Biden "often talks about the comfort and meaning that he's drawn from faith," said Buttigieg, Biden's primary rival-turned-endorser. "That's something that will resonate with Americans a lot more than usual."

Democrats are betting on Biden's evident comfort with faith as a powerful point of contrast with Trump. The faith-focused work underway within Biden's campaign suggests that, while he may not significantly undercut the president's popularity among white evangelicals, he could chip away at Trump's base by appealing to pockets of conservative faithful.

Biden's identity as "a very devout Catholic and person of deep faith," deputy political director John McCarthy said, is "baked into the core messaging and core functions of the campaign."

Biden has framed his presidential bid as a fight for "the soul of the nation," a subtle invocation of the Catholic beliefs that have guided his life. His campaign has released three digital ads focused on faith, including one crediting his religious practices with instilling a "sense of solace."

It's a notable contrast with Hillary Clinton, who lost in 2016 after a campaign that largely sidelined her Methodist faith.

As Trump promises to be evangelicals' "champion" on policy, Biden is making a less transactional play for religious support, betting that a beliefs-focused brand will be more persuasive than agreement on an agenda.

"For faith and values voters," McCarthy said, Biden's spiritual authenticity is "the quality they're looking for." They might disagree on a particular issue, he added, but can connect with Biden through a shared worldview.

That often may depend on the issue in question. The presumptive nominee's shift leftward on federal funding for abortions is a potential liability with evangelicals as well as many Catholics, for example.

But Biden has used moral language and quoted Pope Francis when discussing other issues that many Catholics do support, such as immigration reform, expanding health care access and tackling climate change.

"My faith teaches me that we should be a nation that not only accepts the truth of the climate crisis, but leads the world in addressing it," Biden wrote in a Religion News Service editorial.

As the coronavirus pandemic and unrest over racial injustice roil Trump's presidency, Biden's team sees

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 82 of 86

an opening to claim the moral high ground. Joshua DuBois, who led religious outreach for former President Barack Obama, described the political climate as “the perfect storm” for the president.

Biden could make “small but meaningful gains” among white evangelicals, whose support for Trump has fluctuated by as many as 15 points in recent polls, by contrasting himself as “the type of person who’s going to speak to our better angels,” DuBois said.

The campaign has yet to match the denomination-level outreach that Obama’s 2008 team deployed, beyond releasing a specific agenda aimed at fellow Catholics, but insiders say that’s by design. McCarthy said the campaign bakes religious elements into other programs, holding faith-focused calls with LGBTQ, Asian American, African American, Latino, Jewish and Muslim communities, among other constituencies.

As for evangelicals, McCarthy said the campaign is targeting three subgroups that may be more on the fence: Latinos, white suburban women and youth, whom surveys have shown to lean less conservative.

The campaign signaled its seriousness Thursday with the hiring of Josh Dickson to oversee faith engagement. Dickson, a former Republican who declared in 2012 that “I’m a Democrat because of my evangelical faith,” previously worked on religious outreach for the Democratic National Committee and Obama’s 2012 campaign.

“Faith-motivated voters — including those traditionally more moderate and conservative — are especially eager to see a President who both shares and leads with the values important to them,” Dickson said in a statement. “Vice President Biden has stood and fought for these values — loving our neighbor, caring for the poor and vulnerable, fighting against injustice and oppression — his entire career.”

It’s a strategy that aims for marginal gains with evangelicals.

“We are going to go after every vote, but I do not think we will suddenly win the evangelical vote with 80 percent,” McCarthy acknowledged.

Indeed, in a recent survey by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, 7 in 10 evangelicals approved of Trump’s handling of the presidency.

Meanwhile the GOP is stepping up efforts to court evangelicals of color. Thousands of Hispanic faith leaders and congregants have participated in Trump Victory Committee events, with specific programming focused on evangelicals, Republican National Committee spokeswoman Mandi Merritt said.

Tony Perkins, a prominent conservative evangelical Trump backer, said evangelicals backed the GOP overwhelmingly in 2016 not “because they embraced everything about the president (but) because they embraced what he was going to do.”

“Evangelicals are focusing on the policy,” added Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Biden’s team has also worked with African American pastors in multiple states, building on a connection that helped vault him to the nomination. It hired a Muslim outreach director in March and a Jewish outreach director this week.

The campaign has already held dozens of faith-focused events — some under the banner of “Believers for Biden” — which have included Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del.

A Yale Divinity School graduate and Biden confidante, Coons described Biden’s ability to connect with those who share his experience of lost family as a “ministry of presence.”

“The guy does pastoral care better than most of my (divinity) school classmates,” he quipped.

Elana Schor reports for The Associated Press and Jack Jenkins reports for Religion News Service.

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Voters to get say in dropping ‘plantations’ from R.I.’s name

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Voters will get another chance to strip the words “and Providence Plantations” from Rhode Island’s formal name after lawmakers approved a joint resolution to put the question on the November ballot.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 83 of 86

Although the word "plantations" in Rhode Island's name does not specifically refer to a place where slaves labored, it elicits such imagery, say sponsors of the bill approved Thursday.

"The images that come to mind when I hear the word 'plantations' are the inhuman and degrading treatment of the African Americans who came before me, families ripped apart by slave sales, rapes, castrations and lynchings. It is a hurtful term to so many of us," state Sen. Harold Metts, D-Providence, one of the bill's sponsors, said in a statement.

Metts, who traces his own family history to a Virginia plantation, points out that Rhode Island built its colonial economy on being a leader in the slave trade.

Rhode Island was incorporated as The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations when it ratified the Constitution in 1790, but the name dates to pre-Revolutionary times.

A similar effort a decade ago failed overwhelmingly.

But calls to drop the word "plantations" from the state name have intensified recently as protesters nationwide demand racial justice in the aftermath of the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

"When you have more than 10,000 Rhode Islanders showing up in a pandemic for a march calling for an end to police brutality and to affirm that Black Lives Matter, we can take this ugly, painful word out of the name of our beautiful state," state Rep. Anastasia Williams, D-Providence, said in a statement.

Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo last month signed an executive order to remove the phrase "and Providence Plantations" from some official documents and executive agency websites.

General Treasurer Seth Magaziner also said he would remove the words from the state's checks, letterhead, citations and other correspondence, and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza ordered the word "plantations" deleted from the state name on official city documents.

The ballot question would make the change official in the state's constitution if approved by a simple majority of voters.

Princess Beatrice marries in private ceremony at Windsor

LONDON (AP) — Princess Beatrice got married in a private ceremony Friday, with her grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, in attendance, Buckingham Palace said Friday.

Beatrice married Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi at The Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, Windsor. The monarch, the Duke of Edinburgh and other close family members attended.

Guidelines in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 were followed, the palace said.

Beatrice, the daughter of Prince Andrew and his former wife Sarah Ferguson, had originally planned to marry the property tycoon on May 29 in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace. The ceremony was postponed because of the pandemic.

Friday's ceremony had not been announced and images of the ceremony were not immediately released.

The families of the newlyweds have known one another for many years. The pair are said to have started a relationship after meeting again at the wedding of Beatrice's sister, Princess Eugenie.

Andrew and Sarah, who remain on very good terms despite their 1996 divorce, said at the time of Beatrice's engagement that they were "thrilled" with the news.

Their younger daughter, Eugenie, married Jack Brooksbank in 2018.

1 quest for justice helps fuel Black rights fight in France

By ARNO PEDRAM and JEFFREY SCHAEFFER Associated Press

IVRY-SUR-SEINE, France (AP) — Assa Traoré has been fighting for justice ever since her brother Adama died in the custody of French police on his 24th birthday four years ago. And she's determined to keep fighting until "the end," she says: until someone is convicted for his death.

But recently, her goal has grown larger. She's now at the forefront of a new movement to wipe out what activists deem to be systemic racism in policing, fight for Black rights and to challenge France's official vision of itself as a colorblind society.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 84 of 86

"We became soldiers in spite of ourselves," Assa Traoré, whose family is of Malian origin, told The Associated Press this week. "There's a movement today. We call it the Adama generation, these people who are not afraid anymore, and these youth who will not shut up."

The 35-year-old, who gave up her job as a special education teacher in a small Paris suburb to lead a movement demanding justice for her brother, has renewed purpose since George Floyd died after being restrained by Minneapolis police.

"George Floyd is our brother here in France, too," Traoré said in an interview ahead of a demonstration Saturday marking the anniversary of Adama's death — her speech determined, her energy palpable. "When you see George Floyd's death, you imagine the death of my brother Adama Traoré."

It is not the first time that France has reckoned with its colonial history and relationship with its Black and North African citizens. Deaths involving police often lead to protests, most memorably in the form of nationwide unrest in 2005 sparked by the deaths of two boys who were electrocuted while hiding in an electric substation after fleeing police.

But now France is seeing a growing pushback against police violence, and against racism that many activists say is exacerbated by the country's official doctrine of colorblindness, which encourages immigrants to integrate and bans the government from collecting census data on race.

While four officers involved in Floyd's arrest have been charged — including one with murder who is behind bars — no one has been charged in Adama Traoré's death. It wasn't filmed, and the cause of death is still the subject of fierce debate.

On July 19, 2016, police approached Adama and his brother for an identity check in the town of Beaumont-sur-Oise north of Paris, where the large family grew up. Adama ran away because he didn't have his ID. Gendarmes caught up with him and arrested him. Within hours he was declared dead.

One gendarme initially said three officers jumped on Traoré to pin him down, according to early police reports. The gendarme later denied any of them pinned him down.

The exact cause of death is not even clear. A dozen court-ordered medical reports found various cardiac diseases were responsible. The Traoré family countered those with an independent autopsy and medical reports pointing to asphyxiation instead. Lawyers for the officers deny police were at fault.

The family's lawyer Yassine Bouzrou said Friday that since early June, investigators have made 17 new requests for information, including a new medical examination by independent doctors in Belgium. Speaking to broadcaster France-Info, Bouzrou called that a sign that the investigation is being taken more seriously than before Floyd's death thrust it back into the spotlight.

In her quest for justice for her brother, Assa Traoré has met with families of those who died at the hands of police, toured struggling French suburbs where most of the population is immigrant or non-white, and organized activists across racial, geographical and economic lines.

In June, as France was reopening from virus lockdown and videos of Floyd's killing circulated around the world, she rallied tens of thousands of protesters to call attention to French racial minorities' own problems with police.

"We have to change everything, this systemic racism, we need to break it," Traoré said. She called for banning dangerous techniques that police use to immobilize people that "overwhelmingly kill Black, Arabs and non-whites."

She also thinks France needs to scrap the police oversight agencies, which are currently composed of police themselves, in favor of independent bodies.

In 2016, France's top official for defending citizens' rights, Jacques Toubon, reported that Black and Arab French people were 20 times more likely to be stopped by police than others were. In 2020, Toubon published a study detailing systemic racism in the Paris police. The government has pledged to root out racism in police forces but blames the problem on a few bad apples.

Traoré has built bridges with other social movements — like the yellow vest one against economic injustice and the climate crisis movement.

"It's been four years of going to every poor neighborhood in France," Traoré said. "We've been in the most remote places in France, in small villages, it's been four years of alliances with domestic workers,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 85 of 86

undocumented people, yellow vests, climate groups.”

This Saturday’s march was organized with climate activists under the slogan: “We want to breathe.”

“Today the fight for Adama Traoré does not belong to the Traoré family anymore,” Traoré said. “It’s representative of a big unease and dysfunction of the French state, so it’s a struggle we take on together.”

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 18, the 200th day of 2020. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On July 18, 2013, Detroit, which was once the very symbol of American industrial might, became the biggest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, its finances ravaged and its neighborhoods hollowed out by a long, slow decline in population and auto manufacturing.

On this date:

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union troops spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of Black soldiers, charged Confederate-held Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. The Confederates were able to repel the Northerners, who suffered heavy losses; the 54th’s commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was among those who were killed.

In 1872, Britain enacted voting by secret ballot.

In 1913, comedian Red Skelton was born in Vincennes, Ind.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

In 1940, the Democratic National Convention at Chicago Stadium nominated President Franklin D. Roosevelt (who was monitoring the proceedings at the White House) for an unprecedented third term in office; earlier in the day, Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to the convention, becoming the first presidential spouse to address such a gathering.

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1964, nearly a week of rioting erupted in New York’s Harlem neighborhood following the fatal police shooting of a Black teenager, James Powell, two days earlier.

In 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick (chap-uh-KWIH’-dihk) Island near Martha’s Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK’-nee), 28; some time later, Kennedy’s car went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald’s in San Ysidro (ee-SEE’-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1986, the world got its first look at the wreckage of the RMS Titanic resting on the ocean floor as videotape of the British luxury liner, which sank in 1912, was released by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda’s 14-week-old civil war.

In 2018, FBI Director Christopher Wray said Russia was continuing to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to sow discord in the United States. European regulators fined Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company’s Android operating system to install Google’s search and browser apps.

Ten years ago: Pakistan and Afghanistan sealed a landmark trade deal in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who pushed the two neighbors to step up civilian cooperation and work together against al-Qaida and the Taliban. A suicide bomber struck anti-al-Qaida Sunni fighters waiting for paychecks southwest of Baghdad, killing 45. Gunmen fired indiscriminately into a crowd of mainly young

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 18, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 015 ~ 86 of 86

people in a rented hall in Torreon, Mexico, killing 17 people. Louis Oosthuizen (WUHST'-hy-zen) of South Africa shot a 1-under 71 for a seven-stroke victory at 16-under 272 in the British Open.

Five years ago: Saudi Arabia announced it had broken up planned Islamic State attacks in the kingdom and arrested more than 400 suspects in an anti-terrorism sweep, a day after a powerful blast in neighboring Iraq killed more than 100 people in one of the country's deadliest single attacks since U.S. troops pulled out in 2011. Actor Alex Rocco, 79, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: A man stormed into an animation studio in the Japanese city of Kyoto, setting it on fire and leaving 34 people dead. President Donald Trump announced that he would nominate Eugene Scalia, son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, to be his new labor secretary. (Scalia was confirmed in September.) Trump said a U.S. warship had destroyed an Iranian drone on the Strait of Hormuz after it threatened the ship, the latest escalation of tensions between the countries less than a month after Iran downed an American drone. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said temperatures in June, worldwide, were the hottest on record for that month.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 91. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 85. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 82. Musician Brian Auger is 81. Singer Dion DiMucci is 81. Actor James Brolin is 80. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 80. Singer Martha Reeves is 79. Pop-rock musician Wally Bryson (The Raspberries) is 71. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 71. Business mogul Richard Branson is 70. Actress Margo Martindale is 69. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 66. Actress Audrey Landers is 64. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 63. Rock musician Nigel Twist (The Alarm) is 63. Actress Anne-Marie Johnson is 60. Actress Elizabeth McGovern is 59. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 58. Rock musician Jack Irons is 58. Talk show host-actress Wendy Williams is 56. Actor Vin Diesel is 53. Actor Grant Bowler is 52. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 49. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 48. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 48. Actor Eddie Matos is 48. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 45. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 45. Actress Elsa Pataky ("The Fast and the Furious" films) is 44. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (formerly with Eve 6) is 42. Movie director Jared Hess is 41. Actor Jason Weaver is 41. Actress Kristen Bell is 40. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 39. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 38. Actress Priyanka Chopra is 38. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 37. Actor Chace Crawford is 35. Actor James Norton is 35. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 34. Actor Travis Milne is 34. Bluegrass musician Joe Dean Jr. (formerly with Dailey & Vincent) is 31.