

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 1 of 103

- 1- Church Services Today
- 2- Sunday Extras
- 15- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column
- 16- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 17- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 19- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column
- 20- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 22- SD News Watch: Worries hover over return to schools
- 30- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 33- COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLD-WIDE
- 34- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 35- July 18th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 38- Baseball Schedule
- 39- Groton Jr. Teener lose to Parker in consolation round
- 41- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 42- Weather Pages
- 45- Daily Devotional
- 46- 2020 Groton Events
- 47- News from the Associated Press



## Church Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 2 of 103

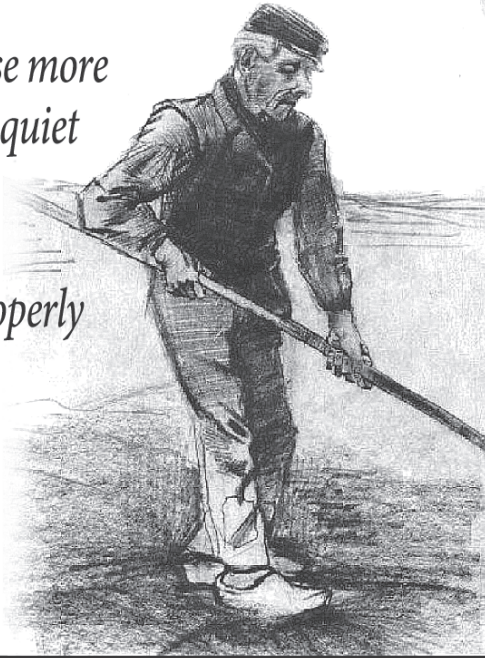
## Sunday Extras



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*...We urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:10-12*



“Peasant with a Stick” by Vincent van Gogh (1881)

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1) Is the book of Joshua in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2) In the parable of the 10 female virgins, five were called “wise, but why were the other five called “foolish”? *Washing stones, Forgot oil for their lamps, Daytime sleeping, Gossiping*

3) From 2 Kings 9, what creatures ate the carcass of Jezebel? *She-bears, Dogs, Frogs, Worms*

4) What was the first bird released from Noah’s Ark? *Raven, Pigeon, Sparrow, Dove*

5) In Proverbs 15, what does “a soft answer turneth away”? *Wisdom, Scorn, Wrath, Fear*

6. From Joshua 2 who hid two spies on a roof? *Hosea, Ezra, Satan, Rahab*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Forgot oil for their lamps (Matthew 25); 3) Dogs; 4) Raven; 5) Wrath; 6) Rahab

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

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## Comfort foods

Made fast  
and  
healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

### Zucchini Ham Pasta Salad

When the temperature and the heat index create readings of 100 in the shade, you definitely need a plan of action for supper that doesn’t add to the problem. Bring this to the supper table and see if you don’t become an instant hero!

*3/4 cup fat-free Ranch dressing*

*1/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise*

*1/4 cup reduced-fat Parmesan cheese*

*1 1/2 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained*

*1 cup chopped unpeeled zucchini*

*1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved*

*1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms*

*3/4 cup reduced-fat Cheddar cheese*

*1 1/2 cups diced 97 percent fat-free ham*

1. In a large bowl, mix Ranch dressing, mayonnaise and Parmesan cheese. Add rotini pasta, zucchini, tomatoes and mushrooms. Mix well to combine. Stir in Cheddar cheese and ham.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Serves 6 (1 full cup each).

• Each serving equals: 151 calories, 3g fat, 7g protein, 24g carb., 557mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable.

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# Groton Daily Independent

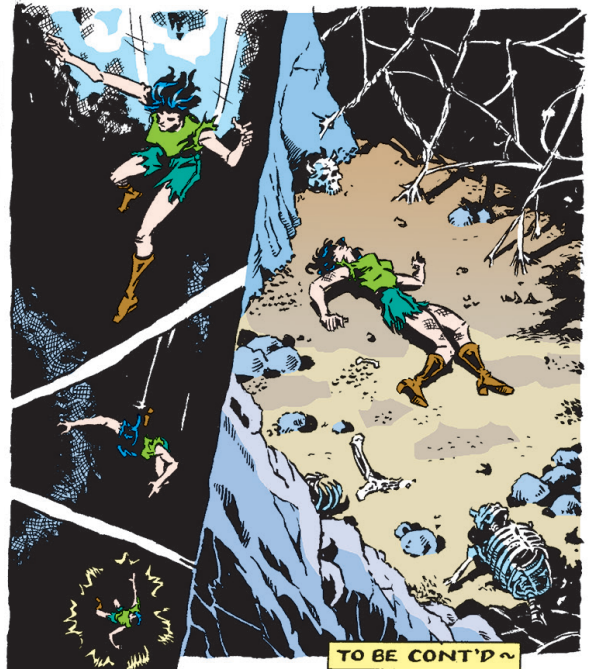
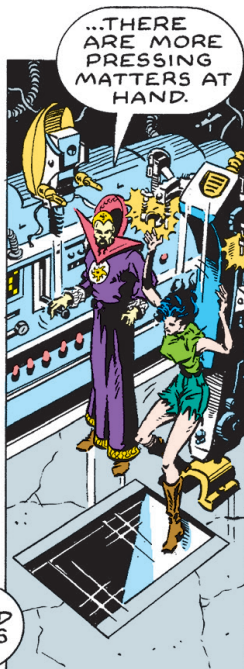
Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 4 of 103



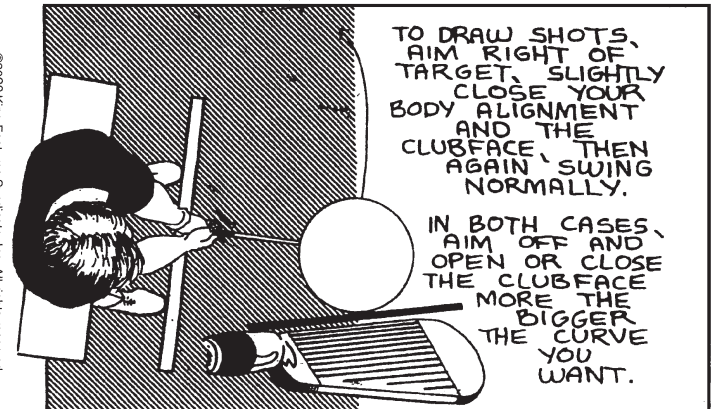
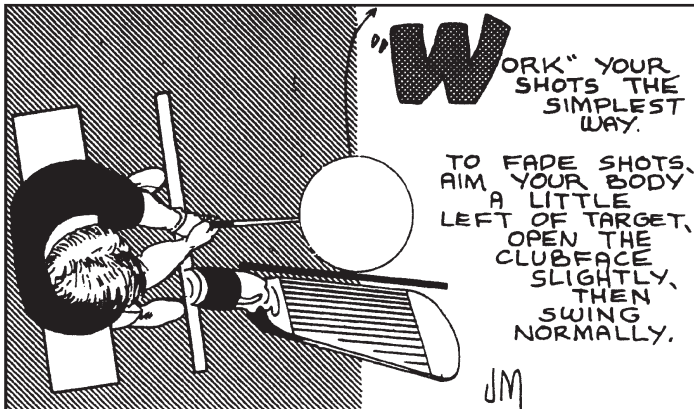
## FLASH GORDON

7-12 BY JIM KEEFE

HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, DALE PAYS THE PRICE FOR HAVING REBUFFED MING'S ADVANCES.



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## Blood in the Urine Won't Just Go Away

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I'm a 92-year-old man in better-than-average health. I have had two episodes of blood in my urine in the past two months. I know this isn't normal. At my age, I'd just like to make believe it didn't happen. What's my future like? — *Anon.*

**ANSWER:** Your future will shortly include, I hope, a visit to your regular doctor. Blood in the urine often is due to a urine infection or a kidney stone, but in older men, there is always a concern about a tumor, whether of the kidney, bladder or prostate. Pretending it didn't happen is not a good solution, and your doctors will certainly take your age into account when looking at diagnostic possibilities and treatments. Most cases will turn out to be not much to worry about, so the sooner you get in, the sooner you can find out what's going on and see what steps may be necessary.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Recently, my acupuncturist suggested that I try hyaluronic acid capsules for the arthritis in my hands, feet, back, neck and hips. I had heard of hyaluronic acid years ago and checked it out. Since it promotes cell growth, I assume it can't differentiate from good cells or cancer cells, so I avoided trying it. Is this really safe to take? — *C.F.*

**ANSWER:** Hyaluronic acid is indicated for use via injection, especially into the knee for arthritis symptoms,

but is also used for other purposes, such as a filler in cosmetic surgery. For knee injection, it appears safe and moderately effective. It isn't thought to work by promoting cell growth but rather by replacing synovial fluid, a fluid that acts as a kind of shock absorber, protecting the cartilage, bone and nerves of the knee.

There have been studies evaluating oral hyaluronic acid, and one from Japan in 2012 showed a very modest improvement compared with a placebo. I wouldn't recommend oral hyaluronic acid based on the studies done so far.

There are many reports in basic cancer research on the ability of cancer cells to grow in conditions of high hyaluronic acid; however, this does NOT mean that taking oral hyaluronic acid promotes growth of cancer cells. As far as I can tell, there is no evidence that links oral hyaluronic acid to increased cancer risk.

\*\*\*

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I suffered from constipation for years, and after consulting with a gastrointestinal specialist, I was prescribed MiraLAX. I take it every morning and have added fiber to my diet. The program has been successful. How wise is it to continue MiraLAX indefinitely? Should I worry about side effects? It has been quite pleasant to be free of constipation worries. — *Anon.*

**ANSWER:** MiraLAX is a non-absorbable chemical called polyethylene glycol. It passes through your system, bringing water with it, which makes stool less hard and easier to pass. It is very safe for short-term use. If used excessively, it can pull sodium and potassium out of a person's system.

If you are taking in enough fiber, it should be possible to decrease the MiraLAX without worrying about constipation again, but it's OK to use MiraLAX as needed.

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

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1. Leontyne Price and Dionne Warwick were related to which singer?
2. Where did Billy Idol's 1983 "Rebel Yell" get its name?
3. Name the first group to release "Soul Deep."
4. Which artist had his biggest hit with "You Don't Know What You've Got (Until You Lose It)"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Sweet dreams and flying machines in pieces on the ground."

### Answers

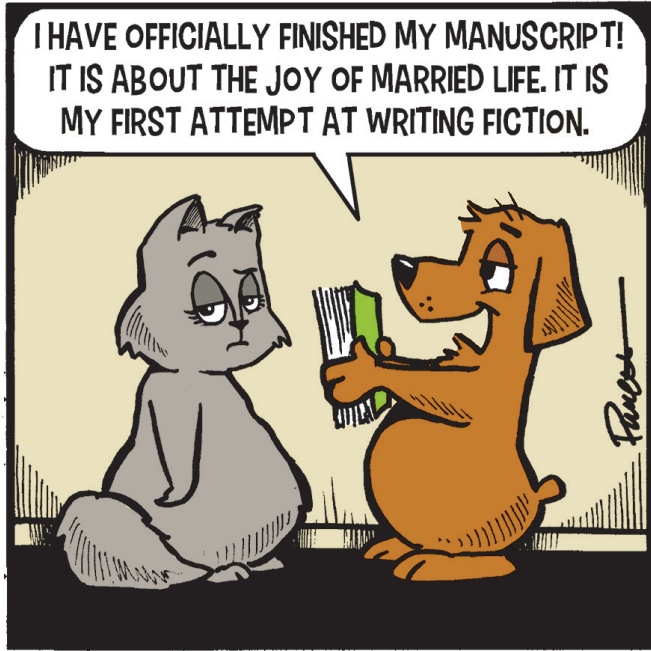
1. Whitney Houston. They were all cousins. Houston died in 2012 after a long career during which she was named by Guinness as one of the most-awarded female artists of all time.
2. Idol was with some of the Rolling Stones when they were drinking a bottle of bourbon called "Rebel Yell." The song has been used in the video game "Guitar Hero World Tour."
3. The Box Tops, in 1969. It was the last time the group would hit the Top 40 in the U.S.
4. Ral Donner, an Elvis sound-alike, in 1961.
5. "Fire and Rain," by James Taylor in 1970. Legend says that he wrote the song in response to the suicide of his childhood friend Suzanne. The "flying machine" reference wasn't about a plane crash ... it was about his band Flying Machine.

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# Groton Daily Independent

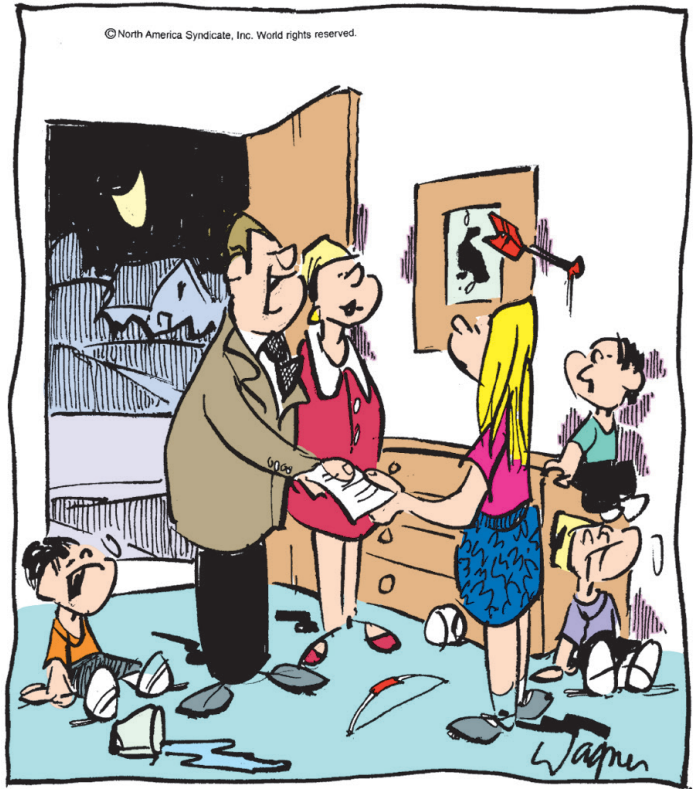
Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 6 of 103

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by</sup> Wagner

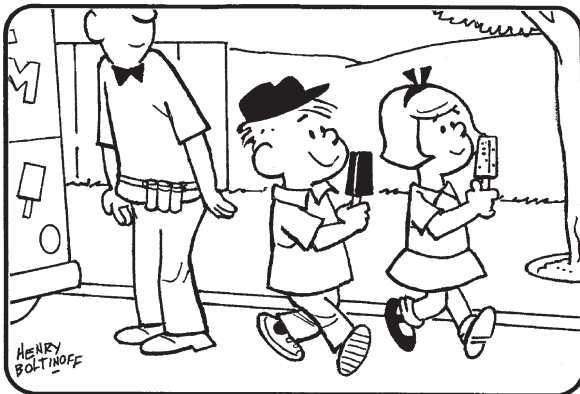


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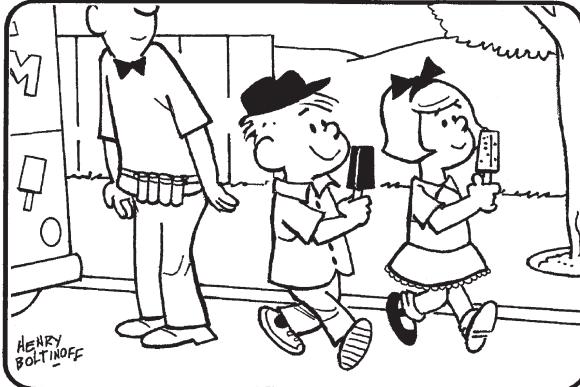
"Here's a list of threats that we use."

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Tree is fuller. 2. Change belt is different. 3. Fence is longer. 4. Girl's bow is different. 5. Boy's shirt has buttons. 6. Girl's skirt is decorated.



- Roll scarves around cardboard tubes to store flat. You'll skip the wrinkles and be able to find the scarf you want without much fuss.

- On a home improvement kick? You're not alone. Here's a wallpapering tip from way back: If your wallpaper is applied with adhesive, add a few drops of food coloring to the paste. It will give it a slight tint that will not be visible when dried. Now you can be sure that the adhesive makes it all the way to the edge of the paper for best results!

- "Ironing intricate sleeves or other difficult shapes can be made easier with the use of an oven mitt. Slip the mitt over your hand, put your hand on one side of a fabric to create a flat area to iron. Use care and go slowly, and you'll get a good press." — *E.R. in Missouri*

- Bright strips of tape can be a great safety addition to the edges of stairs. Even better is bright, textured, reflective tape for low-light areas, like basements or porch steps. The bright color makes the edges visible in daylight; the reflection does the same at night. A bit of texture makes sure they're not slippery.

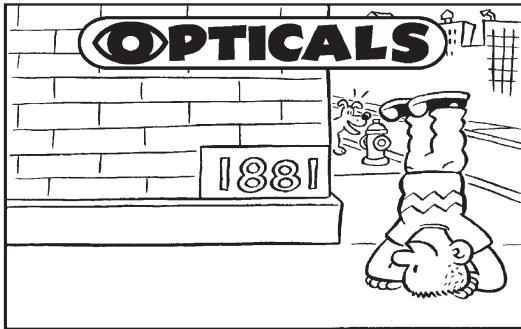
- "Here's a great sewing tip from my grandma: When you are attaching buttons, hooks, snaps, etc., tape them to the fabric with transparent tape. You can sew right through it, and it will help keep the item from slipping around while you get it secured." — *A.J. in Pennsylvania*

- "Now that my baby is entering her messy eating phase, I cut up several burp cloths to make wipe up cloths for the high chair. They are soft enough for a full face wipe and sturdy enough to sop up baby food and go right in the washer." — *P.W. in Texas*

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

# Groton Daily Independent

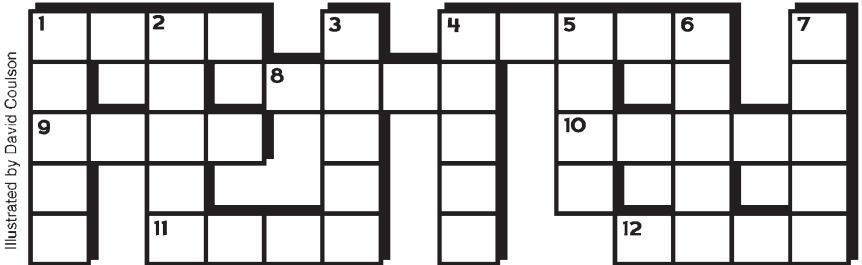
Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 8 of 103



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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

**IF YOU TURNED** the cornerstone on the above building upside down, the date would read the same. What's the nearest previous year that would read the same upside down?

Answer: 1691.

**LET'S DO A LITTLE GARDENING!** Below are words pertaining to backyard gardening that you will need to complete the puzzle grid provided. Use the trial-and error method. Start planting your words!

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 4-letter words | 5-letter words |
| CART           | BASIL          |
| IRIS           | CROPS          |
| KALE           | PATIO          |
| RIPE           | POLES          |
| ROPE           | RAKES          |
| SOIL           | STEMS          |
|                | STRAW          |
|                | WATER          |

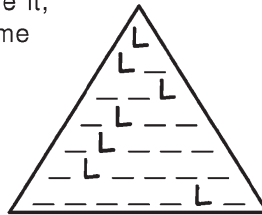
**BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL?** That's where you'll end up if you fail to solve this poser. Your problem is to arrange eight 8's so that they will add up to 1,000. It's time to rack 'n' roll!

Answer:  $8 + 8 + 8 + 88 + 888 + 1,000$ .



**THE "L" PYRAMID!** As you move down the word pyramid shown, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the L's. Here are some hints from the top down: 1. Roman numeral 50 (given).

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Musical tone        | 3. A friend.         |
| 4. An earnest request. | 5. A fold in cloth.  |
| 6. Coated with metal.  | 7. With great skill. |

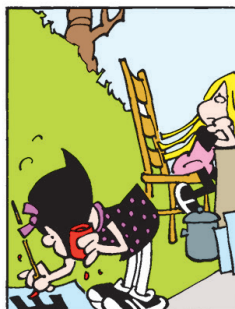
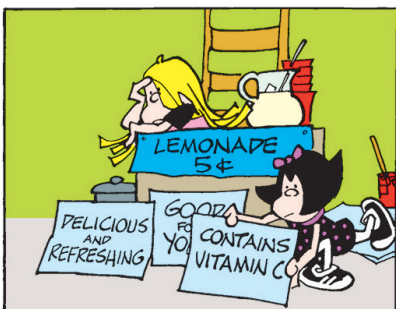
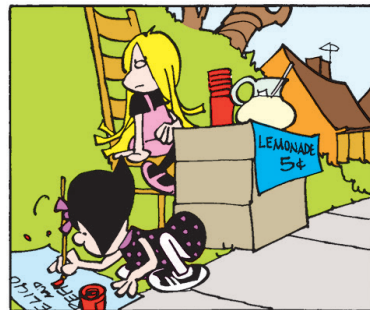
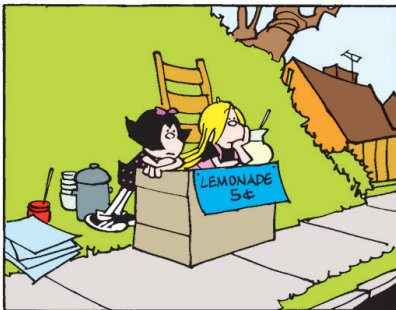


Answers: The words are l, la, pal, plea, pleat, plated, adeptly.

Answers: (Across) 1. Ripe, 4. Straw, 8. Cart, 9. Kale, 10. Patio, 11. Soil, 12. Iris. (Down) 1. Rakes, 2. Poles, 3. Basil, 4. Stems, 5. Rope, 6. Water, 7. Crops.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 9 of 103

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Fleet from faraway?
- 5 " — Impossible"
- 8 Get a look at
- 12 Strict disciplinarian
- 14 Small grimace
- 15 Geometric curve
- 16 Former European capital
- 17 Can metal
- 18 "Gracias"
- 20 Orbital point
- 23 Affair of honor
- 24 Coalition
- 25 New Jersey borough
- 28 Coquettish
- 29 Parking lot structure
- 30 Bigwig, for short
- 32 "Semper —" (Coast Guard motto)
- 34 Toy block name
- 35 Thing
- 36 Angle
- 37 Destroyer
- 40 Pod occupant
- 41 Chimney grime
- 42 Irrational fear
- 47 Lip

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

- 48 Fluidless barometers
- 49 Act
- 50 Siesta
- 51 Feed the hogs
- DOWN**
- 1 Ref
- 2 Sky safety org.
- 3 Bobby of hockey
- 4 Radio interference
- 5 A party to
- 6 Aviv lead-in
- 7 Heights
- 8 Mummify, maybe
- 9 Any time now
- 10 Play a prank on (Sl.)
- 11 Longings
- 13 Sacred wading bird
- 19 Listen to
- 20 Kimmel's net-work
- 21 Fall into a beanbag chair
- 22 Sauce source
- 23 Piece of information
- 25 Jif rival
- 26 Eye layer
- 27 Portent
- 29 Partner
- 31 Cauldron
- 33 Disturbed the peace
- 34 Argentine grasslands
- 36 Burn somewhat
- 37 Secondhand
- 38 Protuberance
- 39 Venetian magistrate
- 40 Get ready, for short
- 43 Literary collection
- 44 Lubricate
- 45 Wedding utterance
- 46 Venomous viper

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 10 of 103

## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

## LAFF - A - DAY



"Now, about this urge to dominate people —."

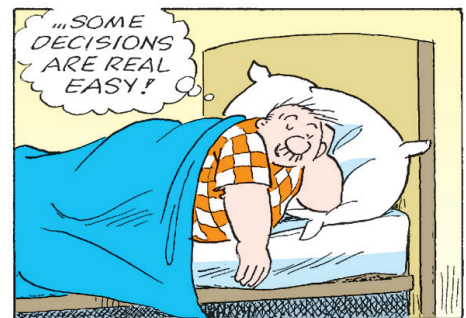
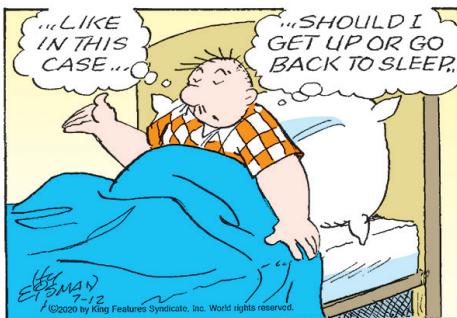
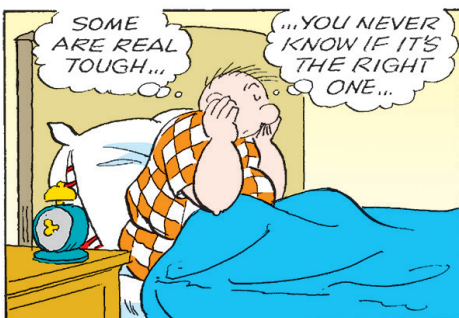
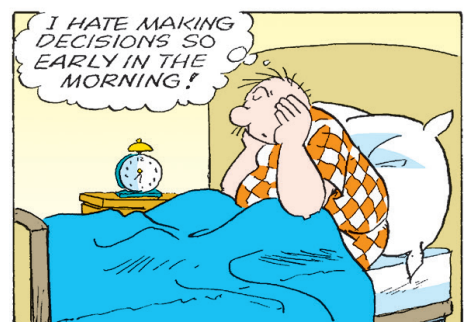
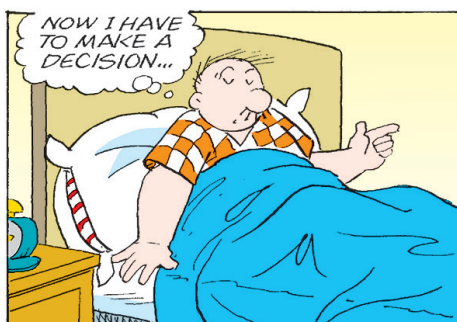
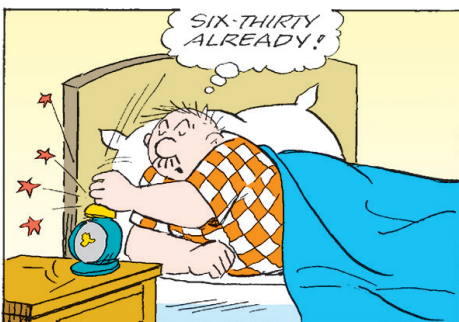
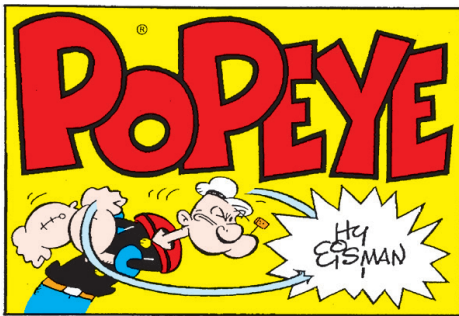
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



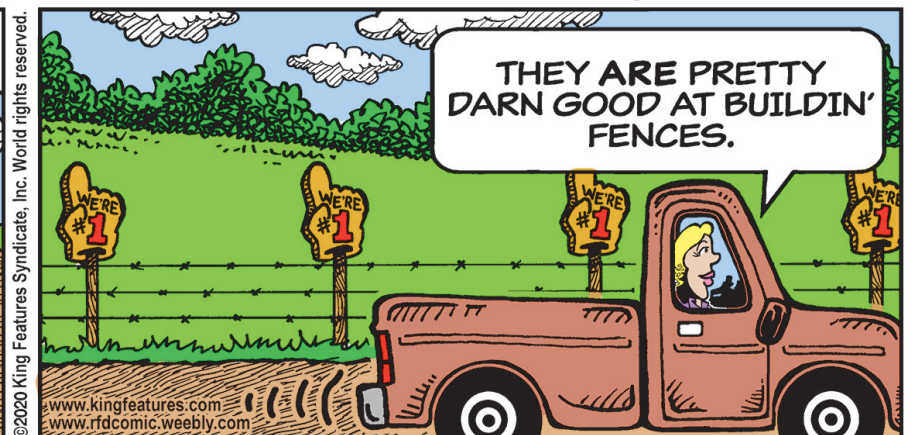
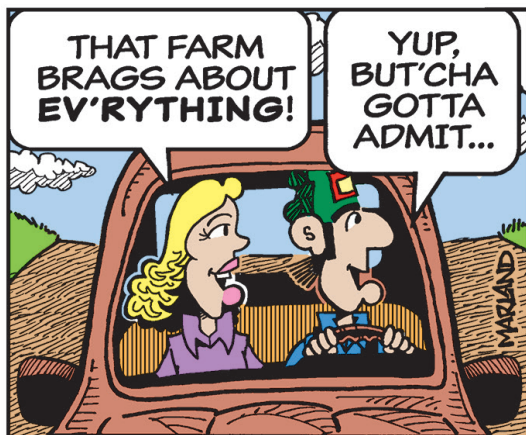
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 11 of 103



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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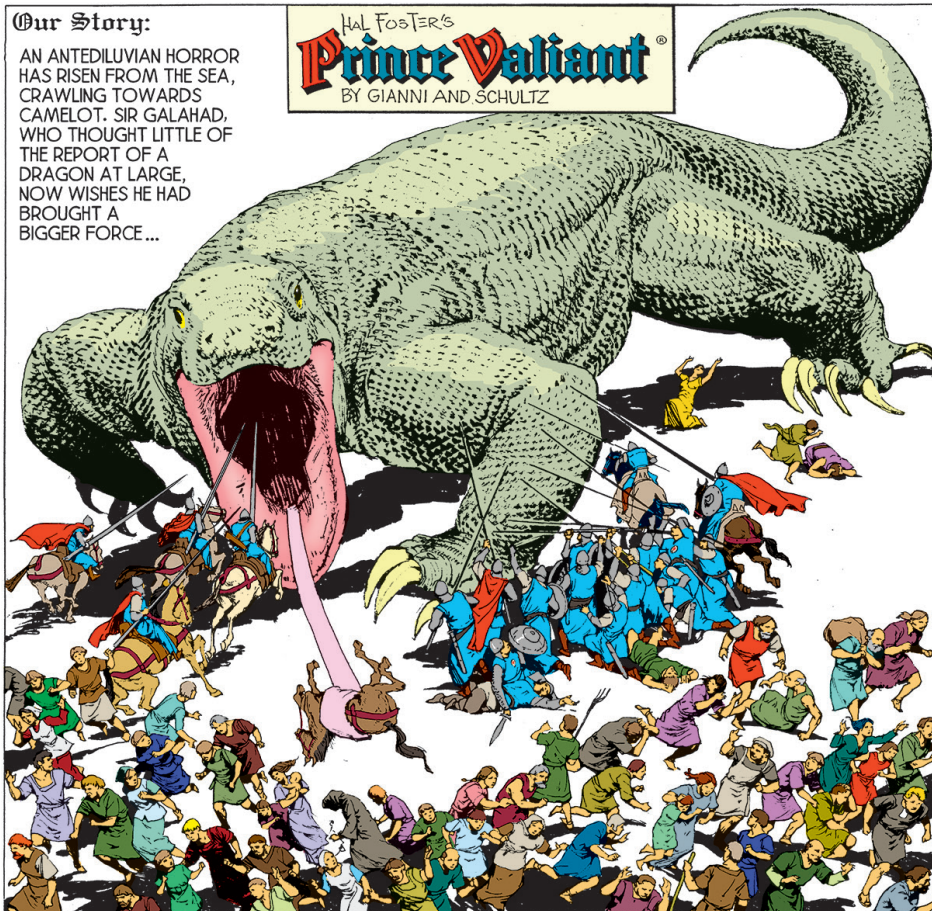
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 12 of 103

## Our Story:

AN ANTEDILUVIAN HORROR HAS RISEN FROM THE SEA, CRAWLING TOWARDS CAMELOT. SIR GALAHAD, WHO THOUGHT LITTLE OF THE REPORT OF A DRAGON AT LARGE, NOW WISHES HE HAD BROUGHT A BIGGER FORCE...

Hal Footer's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ



...ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANY NUMBER OF KNIGHTS COULD COUNTER THIS MONSTER, SOON ENOUGH, HE CALLS OFF THE FOLLY...



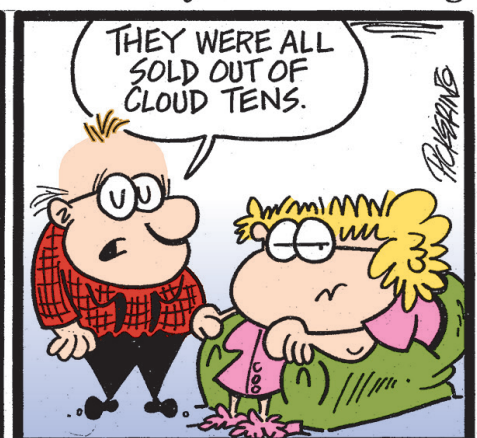
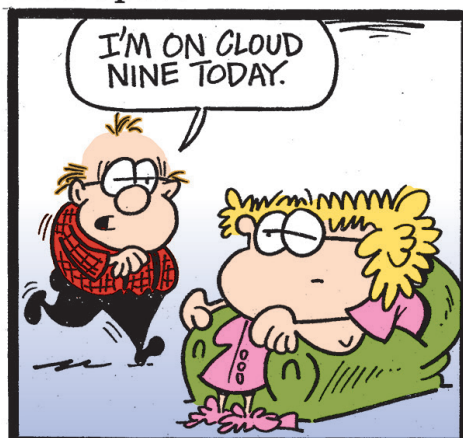
AND BEATS A HASTY RETREAT FOR CAMELOT, TO PREPARE THE ROYAL COURT FOR THE WORST!

NEXT: **Relentless**

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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Moving Won't Solve Social Isolation

Our experiences with the coronavirus have changed many of us. We've been locked down, scared to shop, startled at the number of people who refuse to wear a mask in public, and worse, we've been socially isolated.

Now we want something new. My email confirms it: Many of us believe we want to live in a different place, one that will surely be better, and retirement communities are the top choice.

We have various reasons for feeling this way. Many of us have been hit with serious lockdown depression and believe that it's from being so isolated.

Maybe the grandchildren want us closer than the other end of a Zoom conference call, and we certainly can't fly there to visit.

Maybe we want to live somewhere we perceive is safer.

However, as enticing as that idea is,

before packing up, be sure what's on the other end:

Check the health stats in your new chosen location. No need to go from one area with a few cases of the virus into a major hotspot. In many places the numbers are just now starting to climb.

Check the rules in the new location. Some areas are still locked down more than others. In some places a move doesn't qualify as essential travel.

The biggest thing to consider is this: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those who live in a retirement community are more at risk because of age and existing medical conditions. Any socializing you're hoping to do among your new neighbors will come to a screeching halt at the first sign of community transmission.

Your new neighbors will be there, but at a distance, in their own homes. No welcome parties, no exercising in the gym, no art classes, no activities calendar ... just more isolation in a new location.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 14 of 103

1. What Washington Bullets legend won both Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player for the 1968-69 NBA season?

2. At the 2012 London Summer Olympics, what South African sprinter became the first amputee runner to compete in the Olympic Games?

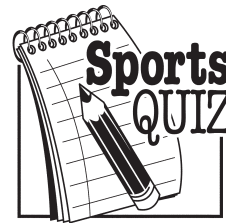
3. In 1999, Cleveland Browns offensive lineman Orlando Brown suffered an eye injury caused by what object?

4. What is the name of the horse ridden by Osceola during the pregame tradition at Florida State Seminoles home football games?

5. What former Major League Baseball pitcher/outfielder published a 2017 memoir called "The Phenomenon: Pressure, the Yips, and the Pitch that Changed My Life"?

6. Who was the last NHL player permitted to play without wearing a helmet?

7. What was the name of the football simulation video game first published



by Ryan A. Berenz

in 1988 by Electronic Arts for Apple II computers?

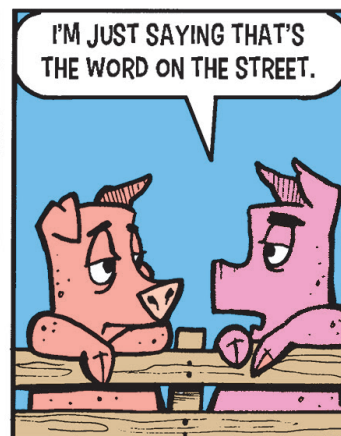
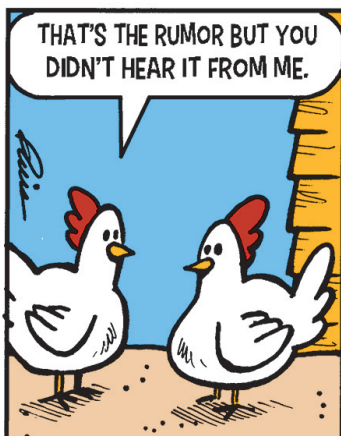
## Answers

1. Wes Unseld.
2. Oscar Pistorius.
3. A weighted penalty flag.
4. Renegade.
5. Rick Ankiel.
6. Craig MacTavish.
7. John Madden Football.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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



## Making Telehealth Permanent

In March, when things went from 0 to 100 at the beginning of the pandemic, our health care system was forced to adapt quickly on so many levels. With patients no longer allowed to visit hospitals in-person for regular appointments, we needed a solution – and fast.

Telehealth was the answer. The administration quickly expanded Medicare’s telehealth coverage during the pandemic, ensuring our seniors had access to their providers from the safety of their own home.

Prior to COVID-19, Senator Thune and I supported the CONNECT for Health Act, which would make the Medicare telehealth expansion permanent – I will continue to push for this bill as a long-term solution.

If you’ve utilized telehealth throughout the last several months – we probably shared a similar thought: “Why wasn’t this an option years ago?” The answer is two-fold – lack of awareness it existed and lack of coverage through programs like Medicare and other health insurance providers.

Telehealth is no longer a secret, and it’s likely more Americans are going to take advantage of it moving forward. That’s why I signed onto the KEEP Telehealth Options Act, which would require the Department of Health and Human Services to study the current state of telehealth and inform Congress about the areas that require improvement on the path to permanence.

It’s been a difficult few months, but I’m proud of our health care community for stepping up in more areas than one.

Because of the CARES Act, hospitals around the country were able to apply for funding through the Federal Communications Commission to increase state access to telehealth services. South Dakota hospitals were awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase telehealth equipment, ensuring our hospitals could meet the needs of patients virtually.

South Dakota is home to providers like Avera that have led the charge on telehealth services in rural communities for decades. We still have more work to do, but one thing is for certain, telehealth needs to be a permanent option for all Americans.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 16 of 103



## Senate to Focus on Families, Economy in Next COVID-19 Bill

When the Senate goes back into session the week of July 20, one of the proposals we'll be working on is a "phase four" coronavirus relief package. The last coronavirus relief bill we passed back in March—the CARES Act—included funding for the Paycheck Protection Program which helped many businesses in South Dakota stay open during the pandemic. It also included direct funding for families and individuals which was intended to help keep our economy going. It's never easy to vote for such a big piece of legislation—with a big price tag—but the coronavirus pandemic has been unlike anything we've faced before. It required us to take significant action to save lives and prevent the economy—which we greatly improved over the past few years—from crashing.

Any phase four bill is still being hashed out, so at this point in time we do not know for sure what it will include. In the discussions I'm having with other Republican senators, we're talking about keeping the focus on job creation and the economy. 7.5 million jobs were re-added back into the economy over the past two months, which is good news, but we're still short of the record-high employment numbers we experienced before the pandemic started. We have a lot of work left to do to get back to pre-pandemic unemployment levels. As more states begin reopening safely, we'll see more jobs being created.

Reopening schools in the fall so our kids can get back in the classroom will likely also be a priority in a phase four relief bill. If it can be done safely, reopening schools will be a big help to moms and dads who have been working from home while at the same time trying to teach their kids.

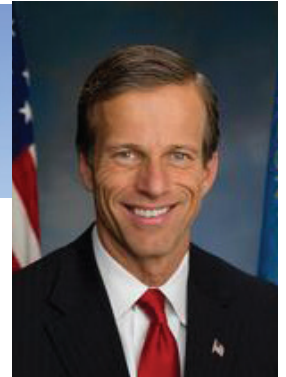
We're also talking about including liability protection for businesses, medical professionals, schools and universities to protect from lawsuits related to COVID-19. We don't want to see thousands of new lawsuits against business owners, school districts and universities because someone contracted COVID-19. We also don't want the doctors and nurses on the frontlines of this battle to be sued as they work overtime to help those who have been infected.

I can tell you what won't be included in the Senate's phase four bill: national Democrats' proposals in the House-passed HEROES Act, such as requiring taxpayers to fund abortions, incentivizing illegal immigration, promotion of cannabis and federalizing our elections. The \$3 trillion HEROES Act pushed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her members in the House was a socialist pipe dream. Because the bill was so large, she and her members were able to include many extremely liberal policies that are unpopular with the majority of Americans. The HEROES Act was not real relief for those struggling because of COVID-19.

Americans deserve a lot better than what the House is putting forward. We're working in the Senate to come up with actual relief for American families and businesses who are struggling to deal with this virus. As we begin talking about phase four, I welcome the input of South Dakotans. My contact information is on my website, [www.rounds.senate.gov](http://www.rounds.senate.gov). Email me, call me or stop in to visit.



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



## No Surprise Tax Bills for COVID Relief Workers

As New York struggled with tens of thousands of coronavirus cases, medical professionals from across the United States headed to New York City to help. Their work was crucial to New York's efforts to contain the pandemic and undoubtedly helped save lives. And in May, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced their reward: tax bills from the state of New York.

That's right. Tax bills. Doctors and nurses who voluntarily crossed state lines to come help – in some cases, sacrificing vacation time to do so – are now being informed that they will owe New York's substantial income tax on any money they made while they were there. And while individuals can generally receive a tax credit from their home state for tax paid to another state, thus avoiding double taxation of that income, many will be paying a much higher tax rate than normal on money they earned during their time in New York. This situation is even more perverse for residents of states like South Dakota that don't have an income tax against which a credit can be claimed. These individuals will simply have to absorb the entirety of the unexpected expense.

These medical professionals are not alone. They are confronting a challenge that many Americans who regularly travel for work face – a challenge that has been highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. And that is navigating the complexities of paying income tax when you spend time working in different states throughout the year.

Generally your income is taxed by the state in which your income is earned, your home state. But some states – like New York – aggressively tax individuals whom they deem to have earned income in their state, even if the "income" earned is simply what the individual makes for attending a one-day conference in the state. Other states allow individuals to work for a longer period – as long as 60 days in some instances – before they require a nonresident to file an income tax return in their state. If you work as a traveling nurse, a salesman, or a corporate trainer – all jobs that might regularly take you to multiple states in a year – tax time can be absolutely bewildering as you try to navigate the different rules of the different states in which you've worked over the past year.

The tax situation facing mobile workers has long called out for a solution. And for the past four Congresses, I've championed legislation – the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act – that would help bring certainty to workers, states, and employers by establishing a 30-day threshold that would apply to nonresident employees working in all 50 states. Spend 30 days or fewer in another state during the year, and your income would still be taxed in the state where your work "home base" is located. Spend more than 30 days in any given state, and you would be subject to income tax in your home state as well as in the state in which you're temporarily working. Establishing this uniform standard would make it a lot easier for employees to figure out when they might incur additional state income taxes as a result of work-related travel.

The pandemic has highlighted the need for this legislation – as well as the need for additional pandemic-specific measures to fully protect health care workers and remote workers from negative tax effects. I recently introduced a revised version of my bill in the Senate – the Remote and Mobile Worker Relief Act. This legislation contains all the provisions of my Mobile Workforce legislation, but it also adds a special 90-day provision governing health care workers who voluntarily traveled to other states to work during the pandemic. This should ensure that no health care workers face higher tax bills as a result of their

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 18 of 103**

willingness to help out in pandemic-stricken areas.

My revised bill also addresses the potential problems facing remote workers as a result of the pandemic. Many workers who generally work in another state from their place of residence – for example, New Jersey residents who work in New York City – worked from home during the pandemic because of stay-at-home orders and similar measures. Now, normally these workers would be taxed on the resulting income by the state in which they normally work. But their unexpected remote work has opened up the possibility of having that income taxed by their state of residence as well – which would create an unexpectedly complicated tax filing situation and possibly a higher tax bill for these workers.

My legislation would simply continue the status quo that existed at the start of the pandemic. So, for example, if you are generally taxed in the state of North Carolina because your job is there, but you live in South Carolina, your tax situation would not change simply because you worked from home during the pandemic.

My Mobile Workforce bill has received strong bipartisan support in previous Congresses, and the U.S. House of Representatives has even passed a version of my legislation several times. The only reason my bill has not advanced in the Senate is because of opposition from a handful of states who aggressively tax those temporarily working inside their borders. I hope that with the additional urgency created by the pandemic, we will be able to pass the Remote and Mobile Worker Relief Act this year, either alone or as part of a larger coronavirus relief package.

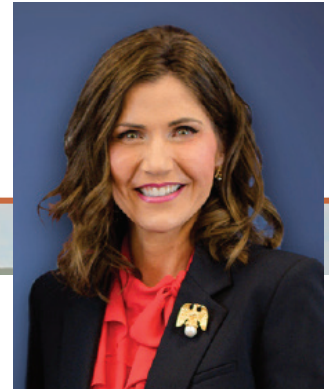
Americans have faced a very difficult few months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress should intervene to ensure that new tax burdens are not among the pandemic's effects. I intend to do everything I can in Congress to ensure that Americans who worked from home to help flatten the curve don't face a complicated tax situation as a result – and that health care workers who risked their lives to work in COVID-stricken areas are not rewarded with massive tax bills from the states whose residents they helped save.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 19 of 103



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR  
**KRISTI NOEM**



## Our South Dakota Way of Life

I came home to South Dakota after eight years serving in Congress because I love our state. I missed working with cows and horses. I missed our beautiful wide-open spaces. But more than anything else, I missed spending time with my family and our South Dakota way of life.

Our people, with their tremendous work ethic and down-to-earth values, are second-to-none. South Dakotans appreciate freedom and the things that make our country special, and that's something that I've been continuously reminded of over these past several months. When faced with difficult challenges and a once in a lifetime global pandemic, South Dakotans did not look to the government to dictate to them. Instead, they looked at all the information at their disposal and made the best decisions for themselves and their families.

These past couple weeks have given us tremendous opportunities to celebrate the things that make South Dakota such a great place to live. We showcased our state to the rest of the nation and the world when we celebrated America's birthday with President Trump and fireworks at Mount Rushmore.

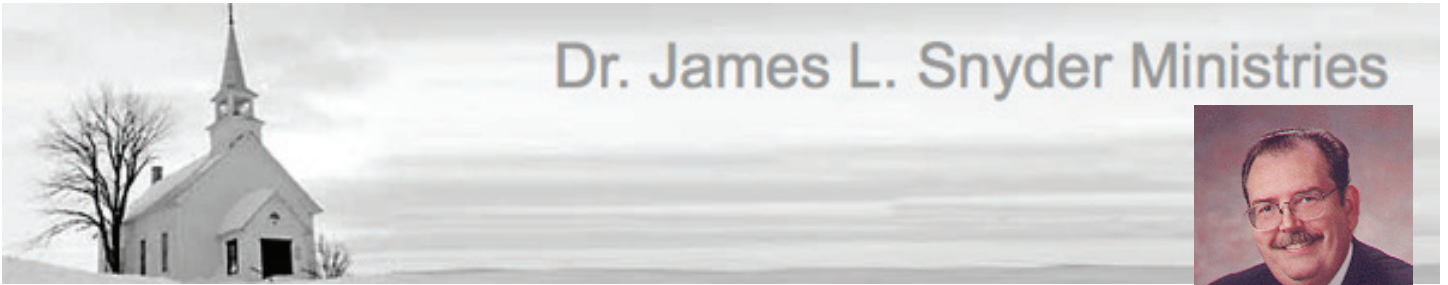
Last week, we got to showcase a different side of our state, and one that is especially dear to my heart: the cowboy side. Because South Dakota never closed, the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) decided to hold their Team Championship in Sioux Falls. To make things even better, it was the first national indoor sporting event to have fans in the stands since sports leagues closed their doors in March.

The bull riders put on quite a show, and they graciously gave me the honor of carrying Old Glory into the arena for the Star-Spangled Banner on the second night of their competition. It was a spectacular moment. South Dakotans exercised their freedom to participate in such an event, freedom that has been denied citizens of many other states. And they celebrated that freedom the way that Americans have for so long, by honoring our flag. That flag represents so much more than just our nation. It embodies the brave men and women in uniform who have followed it into battle in conflicts around the world – conflicts that were fought to protect the freedoms and liberties that make America the greatest country ever.

It's my hope that we will continue to celebrate the things that make South Dakota special; that we will protect our South Dakota way of life so that we can pass it on to those who come after us; and that we will share our way of life with as many people as we can.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 20 of 103



## If I Had a Nickel for Every Blunder I Made...

I am not very agile when it comes to finances. Do not get me wrong, I know how to spend money; it is just that I do not know how to save money. Somewhere I lost my little piggy bank.

One of my father's favorite quotes was, "A penny saved is a penny earned." It never made sense to me, but my father knew how to save money. On the other side, he was not very agile when it came to spending money especially on me.

My whole life has never been focused on making money. For me, the outdoor was busier than the indoor with money. I must confess my wife and I have struggled throughout our life on the financial side. On the relational side, we have done wonderfully; at least that is my impression.

I know some marriages seem to be based upon finances, even though they will not admit it. Their finances determine how successful they really are in their mind.

That has not been the case with us. When the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I married almost half a century ago, it had nothing to do with how much money we had. We both were working at the time, and together we could go out for dinner once a month. That seemed to be a very important time even though expensive.

The focus of our life together was not on how much money we can make and save. Our life's focus had to do with our relationship, one with another, and with God. We were a spiritual couple and tried to serve God as faithfully as we could.

The other night the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I enjoyed a quiet evening together drinking coffee and talking about this and that, more about that than this.

Then we started to play her favorite game: Do You Remember?

If statistics are correct, she remembers more than I do.

When she poses a Do You Remember question, I can never remember. Several times, I had some remembrance but never enough to qualify as an answer.

When I pose a Do You Remember question, she remembers it to the very last detail. Details that I do not remember.

I have concluded and do not let this get around, but I think her remembering things is a complete hoax. I think she is making up things that she says she remembers just to trick me. My problem is, I cannot

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 21 of 103

prove it.

Her one trick question is, "Do you remember when we first met?"

I have yet to get this question right. Every time she asked, it is always a different answer. If I challenge the answer, I look bad. Of course, I look bad as it is with questions like this.

When we ran out of energy for this game, we just sat there and watched a little TV.

When the next segment of commercials came, she said something rather curious.

"If we had a nickel," she said, looking at me, "for every mistake you made, we would be millionaires."

Then she continued, "Do you remember the first mistake you ever made?"

Of course, I could think of several mistakes I made, one being getting involved with this kind of a game. However, for the life of me, I could never think of the first mistake I have ever made.

For example, did I make that first mistake before I met her or after I met her?

I was tempted to say that my first mistake was getting involved in silly games like this, but I value my life too much.

This could be a trick. If I mentioned my first mistake, maybe it would be something she did not know before and now she does. How would that work out?

We both laughed and went back to watching TV.

I just could not get away from that question. If I really had a nickel for every mistake I made I am sure I would be a wealthy man. I just wonder how in the world I could collect on something like that.

Then there is the question as to your definition of a mistake. I am sure my definition would be quite different from my wife's. Everybody has their own definition of these things.

Even thinking about that a little bit, I began remembering some mistakes that cost me money. Things I thought would turn out great only turned out dead in the water.

Perhaps the biggest mistake anybody could make is believing that they do not make mistakes. Sometimes it takes a married person to realize what mistakes really are. And if you think you do not make a mistake, then that is a big mistake, and you will pay dearly for that.

If she had asked me what my first good choice was, I would have told her it was her. My first mistake would have been, not meeting her at all.

I remembered a very important verse of Scripture. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9).

It is not my mistakes but how I deal with them that makes all the difference in the world.



## Worries hover over return to schools

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

With a new school year fast approaching in South Dakota, the usual feelings of excitement, anticipation and opportunity have been replaced with angst, anxiety and worry.

The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a pall of uncertainty over whether students, teachers and staff can safely return to schools for in-person teaching and learning. As of mid-July in South Dakota, the vast majority of public schools appeared poised to open in late August and bring children back to the classroom, though many are offering a remote, home-based option.

Districts big and small are undergoing extensive planning to reopen as safely as possible at a time when a fierce national debate is raging about whether to bring children back, whether the coronavirus will spread among adults and children, and whether masks should be worn.

To better understand what people at all levels of the public education system are enduring, News Watch in early July contacted several South Dakotans on the front lines of the fall 2020 return to school. Here are some of their stories.

### **PARENTS FACE HEART-WRENCHING CHOICES**

Before the school year starts, Jodi Jensen and her husband are facing a decision that could have life-or-death consequences for their son, Justin.

Justin is a gregarious, high-achieving sixth-grader who loves going to school in Huron. According to his mom, Justin desperately wants to see his friends again after losing out on social interaction with them when schools closed in the spring and while isolated during the summer.

Jodi Jensen wants to send him back to school in August, but the coronavirus has created agony over the choice of whether Justin returns to classes, undergoes remote learning through the school district or begins a home-school program with his mom.

If Justin became infected with COVID-19, the likelihood of major complications, possibly even death, is high due to a number of comorbidity issues created by previous and ongoing illnesses.

Justin had whooping cough at two weeks old, which destroyed part of his bronchial function. Later, he contracted Kawasaki Syndrome, a lymphatic disorder that can cause swelling in coronary arteries but also swelling of mucous membranes in the mouth, nose and throat. Justin also has dysautonomia, which inhibits his ability to regulate body



**Justin Jensen wants to return to school in Huron and be with his teachers and friends in August, but his mother Jodi Jensen is concerned about the safety of her son, who is susceptible to illness.**

Photo: Courtesy Jodi Jensen

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 23 of 103



**Justin Jensen has undergone treatment for a variety of illnesses that may put him at higher risk of serious complications from the coronavirus.** Photo: Courtesy

Jodi Jensen

the mask creates on his face and mouth.

At this point, the risk for Justin is likely too high for him to return to school in August, Jensen said, even though she worries that isolating an intelligent, curious, fun-loving child from his peers could cause heartache or even depression.

"It's really scary based on his health," she said. "You don't want to say, 'Let's risk the child's life for social happiness,' but social happiness is also very important."

Jensen, a military veteran and former emergency medical technician, said she supports the rights of other parents to decide what is best for their children, including choosing not to wear a mask. She also understands that some working families may not have the ability to keep children home from school if they have a minor illness, which could unknowingly be COVID-19.

"They're coming to school and no masks are required, and they're coughing and sneezing and now 20 kids have got it," she said. "It's going to be the unlucky kid, and ours would probably be the one, that gets it and it doesn't react well in the body."

Jensen said the family will likely elect to keep Justin home for remote learning, at least in the fall, and then keep an eye on how the virus affects students and learning.

If things go well, or a vaccine is discovered, they may allow Justin to return to classes at some point in the 2020-21 school year, Jensen said.

In the meantime, the family has had some socially distanced visits with extended family members, bought Justin a new bike, and has gone camping four times this summer to keep Justin's mind, body and soul active during isolation.

"My son says, 'No way, I don't want to be home all day,'" Jensen said. "But right now for us, it's a

temperature, and he suffers from severe asthma.

"When he catches even the slightest cold, he gets very sick very quickly, and it turns into pneumonia very quickly," Jensen said.

Since the pandemic hit, the Jensens — who operate a farm just outside town — have primarily stayed home, and have taken strong precautions against the coronavirus when venturing out. They wear masks in public, and after Jodi has been to populated areas or a medical facility, she quickly showers in a separate bathroom to keep Justin safe from the virus.

The family is aware that sending Justin back to school, even with safety measures in place, will be risky.

"Based on the way his health works, our fear is that even if he gets the regular influenza, he's in trouble and sometimes is hospitalized for that," Jensen said. "And now you're talking about another virus that comes along that acts differently and attacks the part of his body that is already compromised, and we don't want to put him in a situation where there just isn't going to be as much control as you think."

The Huron school district is considering a plan to allow parents who don't want their children to attend school to engage in remote learning provided by the district. So far, the plan is to recommend but not require masks in schools, Superintendent Terry Nebelsick said.

Jensen pointed out that wearing a mask for a long period of time is difficult for Justin due to his asthma and the heat

Catch-22; we're damned if we do and damned if we don't."

Parent Stephany Weed is also hoping the Huron schools allow for a remote-learning option or a hybrid program in which students can learn from both home and school.

Weed, who works for the public transit system in Huron, is severely anemic and her husband is disabled, so she worries what COVID-19 could do to her family if an infection breaks out in the school system. Her son is a rising senior at Huron high.

Weed pointed out that Beadle County, where Huron is the county seat, has been a hotspot for COVID-19, with 553 cases and eight deaths, likely due in part to the meat-processing industry in town.

She questions whether schools can be made safe enough for students to return, even if precautions are taken.

"Not everybody is comfortable piling a whole bunch of kids into the schools," she said. "Yes, you're going to practice social distancing, but they're kids. There's going to be high-fives and hugging because they're kids."

During the pandemic, Weed and her family have diligently used masks and hand sanitizer and have been careful to maintain social distance when out.

Weed said she wants her son to attend school and fully enjoy his senior year, especially after missing out on prom and other important social events during his junior year. She also believes in the importance of staying connected to teachers, and wants to be sure he maintains good grades, which might be easier through in-person learning. However, as the school year approaches, Weed is seriously considering arranging to home-school her son, which could be done by her husband, who stays at home.

"There are a lot of people here in town who are shrugging it off and acting like, 'If I get it I get it, oh, well,' but what about those around you?" she said. "I just think there are other options that should be considered before just trying to pretend everything is OK and going back."

## TEACHERS FEAR FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

Susan Waagmeester, 63, is a 25-year art teacher in Sioux Falls who is worried that the school environment may be a crucible for spreading the coronavirus.

As of July 15, Minnehaha County, where Sioux Falls is the county seat, was home to about half of the state's 7,652 total COVID-19 infections, with 3,796 cases and 60 of the state's 111 deaths.

"In the Sioux Falls schools, it's like a sea of bodies wall to wall, and all it takes is one person to have it and it could just explode," she said. "I see bad things happening, just like in all the states that re-opened too early."

In addition to her concerns for the safety of her students and fellow staff members, Waagmeester is also worried that the virus could infect her or her husband, who is a custodian in a Sioux Falls elementary school.

"Every day we go to work, chances are we'll be close to someone who is infected and may be asymptomatic, because it's going to be in the halls, it's going to be in the air and in the cafeteria when 400 of them are in there eating lunch," said Waagmeester, who teaches at Lincoln High. "It's just a big worry for me; will we even be able to sleep safely in the same house at night?"

Beyond that, Waagmeester helps care for her elderly parents, frequently bringing food and supplies to the couple, ages 85 and 88, and she worries she could spread the potentially deadly virus to them.



**Sioux Falls art teacher Susan Waagmeester protested outside the school board meeting on July 13, pushing for more protections in schools against the spread of the coronavirus.** Photo: Courtesy Sioux Falls Argus Leader



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 25 of 103



**Tim Eckart**

Due to their ages, both the Waagmeesters and her parents are concerned they likely are at higher risk for serious health implications from the potentially deadly virus.

Waagmeester has been watching the planning process by Sioux Falls administrators and says more safety measures are needed. She wants all faculty, staff and students to be required to wear masks at all times, for classrooms to be sterilized between classes and for daily student attendance to be staggered so fewer students are at school and in each classroom on any given day.

Waagmeester donned a mask and sunglasses and joined several other protesters outside the Sioux Falls school administration building before the board meeting on Monday, July 13. She carried a sign with a picture of her parents and a message that she is their caretaker.

Her sign also read: "Taught over 6,000 students in my 25 years in education — I am valuable not expendable!!!"

Waagmeester said she protested at the meeting "just to be heard" and because she feels like the push by administrators and others to return to normal may put veteran teachers at unnecessary risk of contracting COVID-19.

"I've still got a lot to give and it's almost like we older teachers and the elderly across America are being treated as though we are expendable," she said.

Waagmeester said it will take a community-wide and school-wide effort — and some personal sacrifice — to limit exposure of students, faculty and staff to the virus in South Dakota schools in the fall.

"It's like back in World War II, it took an effort by everybody who had to give up their nylons and their metal for the war effort," she said. "We've got to all be willing to do what it takes because this is a war, too."

Sue Podoll is a special-education teacher in Rapid City and is the president of the Rapid City Education Association. Podoll said she and most other teachers are hopeful that staff, faculty and students can all return to school in the fall and do so safely.

Pennington County, home to Rapid City, had reported 674 COVID-19 cases and 22 deaths as of July 15, many cases arising in recent months amid tourism season.

Special-education students and teachers may face unique challenges, Podoll said. Some special-education students are unable to wear masks and breathe well, and others may not tolerate having a mask on their face, she said.

Special-education teachers, meanwhile, are committed to the close-up nature of teaching special-ed students, which will make social distancing nearly impossible. Special-education students also may not be as successful with remote learning, if that becomes necessary, she said.

Podoll said she was also concerned by data released by the Rapid City schools in the spring indicating that about 25% of students in the system were never contacted or never participated in any way in remote learning offered by the district when schools closed due to the pandemic.

"We know the detriments of either unsupervised learning, or if there is a lack of resources or support in a home situation, which creates a struggle that puts some of our most vulnerable kids even further behind," she said.

Low-income students may also be at a disadvantage when it comes to staying safe, including in Rapid City, where the district does not plan to provide masks to students.

"If my priority is a mask for my kid to be in school or food on the table, you know I'm going to choose food," she said.

Podoll noted that many teachers in Rapid City and across the country are in high-risk groups when it comes to the coronavirus, mainly because of their age. She pointed out that the median age of teachers in Rapid City is 41, so half are older than that.

"We're a graying group, and many have great hesitancy if they have underlying health concerns of their own, whether it's diabetes or immune compromises or they're under chemotherapy," she said. "They're concerned about their health situations and being in the classroom without students required to be masked."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 26 of 103

Teachers who refuse to go back to work over health concerns involving COVID-19 will not be protected by their teaching contracts, so they would either have to retire if eligible or quit and face breach-of-contract penalties.

Podoll said a safe return to school will require some flexibility and willingness to adapt as the COVID-19 pandemic changes throughout the school year.

She said success will require "lots of deep breaths, lots of patience, and lots of grace."

Tim Eckart, who spent four years as a band teacher at Edison Middle School in Sioux Falls, recently transitioned into a full-time position as president of the Sioux Falls Education Association.

Eckart, who is also a parent of three school-aged children, said he and his family have been wearing masks and dutifully taking precautions against the virus because a member of his extended family is immuno-compromised.

Eckart said his general position about the return to school is that the district and individuals should follow CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of infection from the coronavirus and seek sensible ways to reduce unnecessary exposure to the virus.

Eckhart said he has heard from teachers who are eager to go back to school for in-person learning and from others who are concerned for their safety.

"There's worries there," he said. "It's an unprecedented year because we haven't seen anything like this for 100 years and the people who experienced that are no longer around."

In an email sent to union members, Eckart said he urged them to work collaboratively with the district to keep schools safe.

"First and foremost, we all know that the best education is in person, but in-person education also offers the highest level of exposure for our educators and our students, and it's a difficult tightrope to walk," he said. "It will take all of our education community walking together to find success in this process."

Some school districts may be challenged logistically and financially to provide protective medical equipment for students and staff and in offering the technology to effectively teach students remotely, said Mary McCorkle, president of the South Dakota Education Association.

"There are a lot of supplies that districts need to ensure the health and safety of their students and staff, and it's in short supply as we've all found," McCorkle said. "Those things that are in short supply are very expensive as well, and if we want to provide hybrid approach, we want to make sure those students have technology infrastructure."

McCorkle, who will leave her statewide post in July, said the challenging circumstances of learning during a pandemic provide parents, teachers and administrators an opportunity to teach children valuable lessons about working together, thinking of others and making wise choices. From cleaning their own desks to making good decisions about safety to wearing masks to protect others, students can learn important lessons during the pandemic that might otherwise have gone untaught.

"I think it's about respect, being kind and taking care of your community," she said. "These are important life lessons."



**Mary McCorkle, who will soon leave her post as president of the South Dakota Education Association, said the pandemic is worrisome but also provides some opportunities for children to learn valuable life lessons.** Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

## ADMINISTRATORS SCRAMBLE TO BE READY



**Terry  
Nebelsick**

In Huron, located in a county that has seen hundreds of cases of COVID-19, 93% of parents surveyed by the district said they want their children to attend schools in the fall, said Superintendent Nebelsick.

The unique makeup of Huron's student population — roughly half of students are non-white, 69% receive free or reduced-priced lunches and nine languages are spoken within the district — has required extensive planning and preparation to work toward a safe return in the fall, Nebelsick said.

"A goal cannot be to open up schools no matter what; our goal has to be to open up schools as safety as possible as soon as possible," Nebelsick said. "We have to balance the protection from the virus the best we can with also meeting the other needs of our children."

Though the final return plan is a work in progress, Nebelsick said the district intends to offer in-person and remote learning options, and will encourage mask use but not require it.

"The more we do guidelines and the less we do mandates, the more participation we are going to have, and I really believe that," Nebelsick said.

Seating in school classrooms will be reconfigured, and plastic barriers will be used to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, he said.

**"A goal cannot be to open up schools no matter what; our goal has to be to open up schools as safety as possible as soon as possible. We have to balance the protection from the virus the best we can with also meeting the other needs of our children."**

-- Huron Superintendent Terry Nebelsick

To reduce any spread during band or choral classes or rehearsals, among the most dangerous activities during the pandemic, students will sing or play outside or be spaced well apart in the auditorium, Nebelsick said.

For students who do wear masks, Nebelsick said the district would seek situations in which social distancing will allow for removal of masks to provide breaks

from any discomfort.

Throughout the planning, Nebelsick said he has tried to remain fully informed on the latest information on the virus, how to prevent its spread and how to create the safest possible environment in Huron schools.

Nebelsick, president of the state association of superintendents, has participated in numerous state and national education programs for school administrators during the pandemic. The goal is to be prepared and be willing to adapt quickly if things change.

"If certain grades have to be shut down, so be it, and if an entire school has to be shut down, so be it, but we have to be ready," Nebelsick said. "Behind the scenes, we're trying to create situational decision-making based on the situation in the schools."

The Rapid City area school system, the second-largest in the state, is still working out many details of its back-to-school plan but expects to offer in-person classes and a remote-learning option for parents who don't feel comfortable having their children in schools, said Katy Urban, spokeswoman for the district. The remote-learning option could also be used by students who get sick or are exposed to the virus and must isolate, she said.

The district is facing difficulty in trying to increase social distancing at a time when roughly half its schools are already at capacity or overcrowded, Urban said.

"We are already crunched for space, so there are some pretty big issues with that given our space constraints," she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 28 of 103

The district will provide masks and personal protective equipment to teachers and staff, but not to its 14,000 students, and wearing of masks is not expected to be mandatory except perhaps in some limited situations, she said.

The mask debate — whether to require them and whether parents will tell their children to wear them — has been a hot topic in across the state and nation, fueled in part by mixed messages about the efficacy of masks by the administration of President Donald Trump and South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.

“It is political, whether we like it or not, and I’ve already seen a great debate happening on social media posts the district has had, where we’ve seen parents fighting back and forth,” Urban said. “I can only imagine that some of our kids will pick up on that as well.”

Challenges have arisen in filling positions such as substitute teachers, bus drivers and other non-teaching jobs in the district that are often held by retirees or older workers who may be at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, Urban said.

The district learned many lessons while conducting emergency remote teaching in the spring, Urban said. In the fall, the district will feature more classes that are broadcast live to students at home so they can ask questions and interact with teachers in real time, she said.

“In the spring, mostly they were given assignments and asked to join in on a Zoom call once a week, and not every teacher was doing the same thing,” she said. “They were kind of all over the place, so this will be more consistent.”

Enhancing safety and offering both in-person and remote learning will add expenses to school districts. The Sioux Falls schools, for example, recently announced that adaptations made during the pandemic could cost as much as \$8 million in the coming year.

In Rapid City, officials have delayed the start of school by a week, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 8, to give teachers, staff, parents and students more time to prepare to return.

Smaller, more rural school districts are facing many of the same concerns as larger districts when it comes to keeping kids safe, though they may have some advantages, said Rod Weber, superintendent in Woonsocket, a district with about 250 students located 35 miles north of Mitchell.

“The smaller schools might be able to social distance better,” Weber said. “We’re talking about our school with 70 kids compared with a school of 1,000 students, so we’re not packed in here shoulder to shoulder.”

In classes, desks will be spread out, sanitizer will be available and disinfectants will be used between classes. The district installed auto-flush toilets and water stations that allow for hands-free refilling of water bottles that will be provided to students. Temperature checks will be done in morning classes to scan for fevers. Masks will not be required of students or staff, Weber said. An at-home learning plan will be available to parents who do not feel comfortable sending their children to school, Weber said.

The district is adding employees to the lunch room to reduce student contact within the food-selection and clean-up processes.

Weber said the less-populous, close-knit nature of Woonsocket also played a role in how well the district reached students during emergency remote education in the spring. Learning packets and lunches were



**Rod Weber, superintendent of schools in Woonsocket, said small school districts may find it easier to engage in social distancing than larger districts with greater student populations.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 29 of 103

hand-delivered to all students at their homes, he said. Only 2% of students did not initially complete all assignments, and eventually all students made up the work and graduated to the next grade.

The district's return plan is not finalized, but Weber said that, no matter what, the district would remain flexible on how students are taught as the year goes on. As of mid-July, Sanborn County, where Woonsocket is the county seat, had 12 COVID-19 cases and no deaths.

"I'm feeling confident that we're going to be able to serve our students well," Weber said. "I'm not confident that we're going to just have a regular school day throughout the year. We're probably going to go in and out of phases depending on what the spread may be in our schools or in our community."

## STATE OFFICIALS PUSH FOR AND PREPARE FOR RETURN



**Ben Jones**

At the highest level of state government, Gov. Kristi Noem is pushing for schools to re-open for in-person classes.

In a statement to South Dakota News Watch, Noem's communications director Ian Fury wrote: "Given how important it is for our kids to be back in school this fall, our Department of Education team is working around the clock to get school districts all the information they need to make decisions that best fit their unique situations. We expect each district may approach this differently, but our common goal is one everyone agrees with – our kids must have access to the full educational experience this fall."

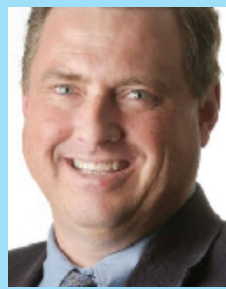
In response to questions from News Watch, Department of Education Secretary Ben Jones said his agency issued guidelines for school districts called the "Starting Well 2020" plan in June, developed in conjunction with local school leaders across the state, which he said "carefully balances public health considerations with the known benefits of a full school experience."

Jones wrote that the American Academy of Pediatrics supports a return to in-person learning for children and has documented the "negative impacts on children" due to school closures in the spring of 2020.

"It goes without saying, our children are our future and they need the academic, emotional, social, nutritional and physical benefits of the full school experience," Jones wrote to News Watch.

In the run up to the start of school, education department employees are holding regular phone calls and online webinars with superintendents and education associations, Jones said. The department has two web pages dedicated to information about the upcoming school year, including the Starting Well page and at the Hot Topics tab on the department website at [doe.sd.gov](http://doe.sd.gov).

### ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



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

## #146 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The figures I have for today look better by quite a bit from yesterday. With weekend reporting, I'm not going to get too excited, but it's nice for once to mention the number of new cases is decreased. We're now at 3,715,100, which is 59,100 or 1.6% more than yesterday. This is 10,000 new cases less than yesterday. I have 43 states and territories with 14-day averages increasing and just two that are declining. Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, Georgia, and North Carolina all set records for new cases today. States with the most new cases this week were California, Arizona, Texas, Georgia, and Florida.

There are serious testing backlogs; one lab in Arizona has more than 60,000 tests pending. To address the problem, the FDA has issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for pooled testing, something we talked about a couple of weeks ago. This is when specimens from several patients are pooled and tested all at once, only doing individual tests when the pool shows positive. The strategy has its drawbacks, but has the potential to ease the testing capacity shortfall.

We reported 781 new deaths today, increasing the total number of deaths by 0.6% to 139,879. Seven-day average deaths are higher than they were at the beginning of the month, so that rise in deaths we've been anticipating has materialized. Arizona set a record today for new deaths.

It appears something that's going to cause trouble for those trying to manage this pandemic in their localities is a data problem occurring since the federal government has changed reporting procedures. Some states and some hospitals do not have access to the new HHS system. This system is significantly different from the CDC system that had been in use, which is, itself, causing issues in reporting; apparently, the data sets for reporting are poorly-defined, so hospitals aren't sure how to report, a problem to need extra time to sort this out when their resources are stretched to breaking anyway.

The greater issue, though, is that, in at least some states, organizations no longer have access to data they have been using to guide state-wide planning by tracking numbers hospitalized and availability of resources. A spokesman for the Missouri Hospital Association says, "And, for now, we will have very limited situational awareness. That's all very bad news." And a public health researcher says, "The only way that we know where things are going up and where things are going down and where we need to be putting resources and where we need to be planning is because of those data." Those data would be the data they can no longer access. In Missouri, there is work underway to build an alternative reporting system to circumvent the problem--just one more thing hospitals will have to do in a time of crisis. The same problems have surfaced in Kansas; I'm not sure how many other states are also experiencing this issue. I'll watch for further reports.

A new study from South Korea yields dismaying news: Children older than 10 spread coronavirus as efficiently as adults do; only younger children transmit less often. This paper resulted from analysis of 59,073 contacts from 5706 index patients in January, February, and March. The study was possible because of rigorous contact tracing done in that country for every case reported. Each index case was the first-identified laboratory-confirmed case within a cluster. The sample size was large and representative, and although the study has limitations, as do pretty much all epidemiologic studies, this one is solid science that has significant implications for how and when we reopen schools. It was just a few days ago we were discussing that one of the pieces of information we lack to make good decisions about schools was just how great a role children play in transmission. Well, we have information on that today; it may not be the information we wanted, but we're stuck with it now. Dr. Michael Osterholm, infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota, says about the implications of these findings, "There will be transmission. What we have to do is accept that now and include that in our plans."

Here's some unsettling news on the medical front. This is not new (couple of months old), but it's new to me: A paper in Nature pulls together data from other studies and addresses effects in the urogenital system. There's a lot of talk about autopsy findings and lab work; I'll skip over most of that and distill what I saw there.

Acute kidney injury (AKI): More than half of patients showed protein in the urine and abnormal lab values

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 31 of 103

which indicate renal (kidney) injury upon admission to the hospital, which tells us the injury happens early in infection; about a quarter of those progressed to AKI, which had a five-times higher mortality than we see in those without AKI. (For those who care, the damage is appearing in renal tubules, not glomeruli; tubular endothelium has the ACE2 receptors this virus needs to break into your cells.)

Chronic kidney disease (CKD): Patients with pre-existing CKD have an increased risk of poor clinical outcome. One study showed that CKD was the best parameter for predicting mortality, particularly in older people.

Orchitis (inflammation of the testes): This is a condition we've long associated with other viral infections, and it is also being seen in Covid-19 patients. Destruction of sperm-generating cells and very low numbers of sperm cells were observed, and a particular hormone ratio used to predict gonadal function (serum testosterone to luteinizing hormone, T to LH) in patients was dramatically decreased in male patients. As a result of these findings, it is recommended that young men who wish to have children receive a consultation regarding their fertility after recovery.

Public health researchers continue to look at superspreading events, outbreaks of infection that are likely initiated by one highly infectious individual who may be entirely asymptomatic and shares enclosed spaces with others. More than 1000 such events have now been cataloged in a database in the Netherlands, which makes taking a look easier. The thinking is that these superspreading events are the primary drivers behind this pandemic rather than routine transmission between one infected person and a few others. We have been talking about these events since early on—that church in Korea, the choir practice in Washington, and more recently a bar in Michigan, while other large gatherings have yielded very few or no cases at all.

A few weeks ago, we talked here about the speculation that perhaps 10% or 20% of infected people are transmitting to 80% of the cases. It appears that  $R_0$  or  $R_e$ , being an average, actually obscures the real patterns of transmission. Evidence is building that the infection expands in a community, not evenly over time, but in fits and starts. A detailed analysis of patterns in Hong Kong shows that superspreading individuals, 20% of the total, were causing 80% of transmissions, another 10% of infected people transmitted to one or two other people, and the remaining 70% of cases did not transmit to anyone at all. There have been epidemiologic analyses of other events which trace the bulk of infections back to an even smaller number, as few as 1 to 10% of infected people.

There is interest, therefore, in figuring out how to spot these folks. They appear to be young (under 40), social, and asymptomatic, for the most part. And we're thinking some people are what we're calling super-emitters, that is, they have higher viral loads and release them more efficiently when they talk, shout, or sing. Some people have billions more virus particles than others, and given we're pretty sure infection is dose dependent, that could be very significant. It is possible that asymptomatic individuals have a higher tolerance for virus and so may harbor greater loads; and viral load can influence how much virus they shed. And a study done in college students found wide variation in the size of particles they emitted; a small percentage were more efficient aerosol emitters than the rest—and those small particles are the ones that float on the air for longer. We are also finding wide variation in how long a person is transmitting virus: One individual in China who infected ten people on public transportation did all of his dirty work in four hours and then, as far as we know, never infected another person. While this is likely an unusual case, there is variation; and this virus does have a fairly narrow window of infectivity, at most, four to nine days, although there is the possibility that asymptomatic individuals could shed more virus for longer. Lots left to sort out here.

The current thinking is that this is likely linked to airborne transmission. There has been a great deal of uncertainty whether airborne spread is or is not a significant factor with Covid-19; but now we're wondering whether the virus is more easily spread via the airborne route in some environments which, if it turns out to be accurate, could have big implications for reopening businesses and schools, as well as in congregate living and certain work settings (hello, meat-packing plants) with high transmission risk. Nearly every superspreader event took place indoors or in an indoor-outdoor space. We're thinking, if we can pinpoint the conditions under which these clusters occur, we could lower the overall  $R_e$  enough to stop the spread

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 32 of 103

of this virus. Donald Milton, professor of environmental health at the University of Maryland, says, "If you could stop these events, you could stop the pandemic. You would crush the curve."

So where does that leave us? We're looking at indoor gatherings, especially where there is crowding or poor ventilation. We need an awareness that regions with low numbers of infections are the most vulnerable because "almost everyone would theoretically be susceptible to infection and a single unlucky confluence of an infectious person in the right environment could very quickly set off a chain reaction of transmissions." According to Morgan Kain, who does mathematical modeling of transmission at Stanford University, "That's why it's particularly dangerous in the United States that places that don't have cases are opening up, going back to indoor restaurant, bars, gyms where infected people move about."

It may make sense to focus efforts on identifying potential super-emitters and on limiting random interactions while loosening restrictions on regular contacts, setting up social bubbles like the ones we've discussed in schools. There are also folks looking at technology for some part of the solution: breathalyzers that will detect active virus, ultraviolet lights built into ventilation systems, and air filtration. While filters cannot generally trap particles as small as the coronavirus, since the viruses are transmitted on larger particles or droplets, filtration remains a viable means for reducing transmission, the same way a fabric mask can stop virus despite having pores larger than virus particles.

Despite the remaining unknowns, I find this work provides hope that there is a path out of the mess we're in, even before we have a vaccine. If we can apply what we do know to the current situation for now—masking, distancing, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly-ventilated indoor spaces, being watchful for duration of exposures, handwashing, and applying reasonable public health measures—maybe we can get through this together.

There's a group of musicians in Brooklyn who play Haitian and jazz music in bars and restaurants—or they did until the pandemic shut those venues down. The band's leader, Alegba Jahyile, was feeling restless during the lockdown in New York and needed to get out of the house, so one day he grabbed his guitar and went to Prospect Park, just to relax, play some music, and get a little fresh air. He says, "And people just started coming over. And they were like, 'Thank you!' And then it took a life on its own."

One woman came up to him, crying, and said, "You made my day. It's been a terrible week for me and my family. Listening to you, singing, I felt the joy, I found a little bit of serenity, of peace to my day." And he decided, then and there, to make it a regular thing. The band now plays in the park an hour or two each evening, seven days a week. People bring children and dogs, spread out their blankets or bring chairs and a picnic, and listen to the music. A fan says, "[J]ust hearing them, reminds you that it's still summertime, and we can still be a community."

There's a reminder we could all use from time to time. There's been so much rancor just lately, so many harsh words, so many attacks. We're forgetting we share our cities and towns and we have a country and a world in common. Here's a suggestion for this weekend: Let's each look for one simple act we can perform, something that will remind others "we can still be a community." Let me know how it goes; sometimes I need the reminder too.

And be well. I'll be back tomorrow.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 33 of 103

## COVID CASES OVER THE WEEKS WORLDWIDE

**3 Weeks Ago**

**2 Weeks Ago**

**Last Week**

**This Week**

Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed	Total Confirmed
<b>10,004,643</b>	<b>11,288,094</b>	<b>12,739,269</b>	<b>14,313,491</b>
2,510,323 US	2,839,917 US	3,247,782 US	3,712,445 US
1,313,667 Brazil	1,577,004 Brazil	1,839,850 Brazil	2,074,860 Brazil
633,542 Russia	680,283 Russia	849,522 India	1,077,781 India
528,859 India	673,165 India	726,036 Russia	770,311 Russia
311,739 United Kingdom	299,080 Peru	322,710 Peru	350,879 South Africa
275,989 Peru	291,847 Chile	312,029 Chile	349,500 Peru
267,766 Chile	286,414 United Kingdom	295,268 Mexico	338,913 Mexico
248,469 Spain	252,165 Mexico	290,504 United Kingdom	328,846 Chile
240,136 Italy	250,545 Spain	264,184 South Africa	295,632 United Kingdom
222,669 Iran	241,419 Italy	257,303 Iran	273,788 Iran

Global Deaths
<b>602,776</b>
140,120 deaths US
78,772 deaths Brazil
45,358 deaths United Kingdom
38,888 deaths Mexico
35,042 deaths Italy
30,155 deaths France

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 34 of 103

## Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19
Minnesota	43,170	43,742	44,347	45,013	45,470
Nebraska	21,717	21,979	22,134	22,361	22,481
Montana	1,952	2,096	2,231	2,366	2,471
Colorado	37,686	38,155	38,726	39,344	39,788
Wyoming	1581	1,605	1,644	1,678	1,713
North Dakota	4493	4565	4668	4792	4907
South Dakota	7572	7652	7694	7789	7862
United States	3,431,574	3,499,398	3,576,430	3,649,087	3,712,445
US Deaths	136,466	137,419	138,360	139,278	140,120

Minnesota	+398	+572	+605	+666	+457
Nebraska	+318	+262	+155	+227	+120
Montana	+109	+144	+135	+135	+105
Colorado	+444	+469	+571	+618	+444
Wyoming	+36	+24	+39	+34	+35
North Dakota	+51	+72	+103	+124	+115
South Dakota	+48	+80	+42	+95	+73
United States	+68,518	+67,824	+77,032	+72,657	+63,358
US Deaths	+861	+953	+941	+918	+842

	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

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 35 of 103

## July 18th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

Tripp and Deuel counties have joined the list of fully recovered counties as 11 counties are now fully recovered. Potter and Harding counties remain virus free at this point. In South Dakota, there were 73 positive cases but 83 have recovered moving the active cases down 10 to 855. There are no new deaths in the Dakotas. Brown County had one positive case and no new recoveries. Day County had two recoveries leaving just one active case in that county.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: +1 (22)  
Recovered: 0 (342)  
Total Positive: +1 (366)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (19)  
Deaths: 2  
Negative Tests: +28 (3619)  
Percent Recovered: 93.4% (-.3)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +73 (7862 total)  
Negative: +1,201 (89,385 total)  
Hospitalized: +8 (771 total). 70 currently hospitalized (Up 9 from yesterday)  
Deaths: 0 (116 total)  
Recovered: +83 (6891 total)  
Active Cases: -10 (855)  
Percent Recovered: 87.7 +.3

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 Tripp, Deuel): Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Deuel 5-5, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Jones 1-1, Miner 10-10, Sanborn 12-12, Stanley 14-14, Sully 1-1, Tripp 19-19.

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	Campbell: Fully Recovered
Beadle (9): +5 positive, +6 recovered (41 active cases)	Charles Mix: +1 recovered (39 active cases)
Bennett: 1 active case	Clark: 2 active cases
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered	Clay: 8 active cases
Brookings: +1 positive, +5 recovered (13 active cases)	Codington: +2 positive, +2 recovered (22 active cases)
Brown (2): +1 positive (22 active cases)	Corson: 4 active cases
Brule: +3 positive (6 active cases)	Custer: +1 recovered (1 active case)
Buffalo (3): +8 positive, 1 recovered (21 active cases)	Davison: +1 positive, +7 recovered (13 active cases)
Butte: +1 positive, +1 recovered (3 active cases)	Day: +2 recovered (1 active case)
	Deuel: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 5-5)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 36 of 103

Dewey: 41 active cases  
 Douglas: +1 positive, +2 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Edmunds: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Fall River: +1 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Faulk (1): 3 active cases  
 Grant: 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 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: 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): +2 positive, +6 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +1 positive (3 active cases)  
 Lincoln (1): +5 positive, +3 recovered (40 active cases)  
 Lyman (1): +2 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Marshall: 1 active case  
 McCook (1): 6 active cases  
 McPherson: 1 active case  
 Meade (1): +3 recovered (5 active cases)  
 Mellette: 5 active cases  
 Miner: Fully Recovered  
 Minnehaha (61): +24 positive, +18 recovered (231 active cases)  
 Moody: +2 positive (6 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (1): +3 recovered (31 active cases)

Pennington (22): +9 positive, +9 recovered (149 active cases)  
 Perkins: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Potter: No infections reported  
 Roberts: +3 positive (11 active cases)  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: 3 active cases  
 Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: Fully Recovered  
 Todd (3): 8 active cases  
 Tripp: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED 19-19)  
 Turner: +1 positive (6 active cases)  
 Union (2): +2 positive, +3 recovered (21 active cases)  
 Walworth: 4 active cases  
 Yankton (2): +3 recovered (8 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 2 active cases

The NDDoH & private labs report 4,793 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 116 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 4,907. NDDoH reports no new deaths.

State & private labs have reported 251,695 total completed tests. 4,029 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	713	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	993	13%
Hispanic	1145	15%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1285	16%
Other	786	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2940	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

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 37 of 103

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	35	33	330
Beadle	566	516	1675
Bennett	4	3	458
Bon Homme	13	13	651
Brookings	103	90	2131
Brown	366	342	3619
Brule	37	31	621
Buffalo	99	75	573
Butte	5	2	637
Campbell	1	1	74
Charles Mix	98	59	1002
Clark	16	14	352
Clay	95	87	1113
Codington	103	81	2335
Corson	22	18	224
Custer	11	10	678
Davison	66	53	1928
Day	19	18	491
Deuel	5	5	336
Dewey	42	1	1510
Douglas	13	9	366
Edmunds	10	8	350
Fall River	14	11	831
Faulk	24	20	150
Grant	17	16	614
Gregory	6	4	315
Haakon	1	1	262
Hamlin	13	12	545
Hand	7	6	231
Hanson	14	12	154
Harding	0	0	47
Hughes	76	62	1426
Hutchinson	20	15	785

Hyde	3	3	110
Jackson	7	2	395
Jerauld	39	37	250
Jones	1	1	45
Kingsbury	8	6	469
Lake	49	32	778
Lawrence	22	19	1760
Lincoln	411	370	5302
Lyman	83	69	816
Marshall	5	4	348
McCook	21	14	549
McPherson	6	5	183
Meade	58	52	1658
Mellette	13	8	287
Miner	10	10	219
Minnehaha	3846	3554	22652
Moody	26	20	528
Oglala Lakota	126	94	2793
Pennington	713	542	9118
Perkins	4	1	112
Potter	0	0	239
Roberts	62	51	1376
Sanborn	12	12	189
Spink	16	13	970
Stanley	14	14	200
Sully	1	1	59
Todd	65	54	1695
Tripp	19	19	537
Turner	31	25	767
Union	159	136	1644
Walworth	18	14	470
Yankton	90	80	2685
Ziebach	3	1	230
Unassigned****	0	0	3139

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3816	60
Male	4046	56

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	898	0
20-29 years	1641	1
30-39 years	1624	6
40-49 years	1223	7
50-59 years	1210	13
60-69 years	724	23
70-79 years	286	17
80+ years	256	49

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 38 of 103

## Baseball Schedule

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



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

<b>Castlewood</b>					
Friday 11:00 AM	(1)	<b>Castlewood</b>			
Groton		Saturday 5:00 PM			
		(7)	<b>Canova</b>		
Canova		<b>Canova</b>			
Friday 2:00 PM	(2)				
Parker			Championship		
			(11)		
Mount Vernon/Plankinton			Sunday 5:00 PM		Champion
Friday 5:00 PM	(3)	<b>Gregory</b>			
Gregory		Saturday 8:00 PM			
		(8)	<b>Gregory</b>		
FH Hitmen					
Friday 8:00 PM	(4)	<b>Hitmen</b>			
Webster				<b>Castlewood</b>	
				3rd / 4th	
				Sunday 2:00	(10)
				<b>Hitmen</b>	3rd Place
<b>Groton</b>					
Saturday 11:00 AM	(5)	<b>Parker</b>			
Parker		Sunday			
		Consolation Championship			
		(9)			
<b>Mt. Vernon-P</b>		11:00 AM			
Saturday 2:00 PM	(6)	<b>Mt. Vernon-P</b>	Consolation Champion		
Webster					

VFW William Radigan Sportsmanship Award:

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 39 of 103

## Travnicek's Walk-Off Seals The Deal In SDVFW 14U Parker Victory Over SDVFW 14U Groton

A walk-off walk propelled SDVFW 14U Parker to a decisive, dramatic victory over SDVFW 14U Groton, 6-5. The game was tied at five with SDVFW 14U Parker batting in the bottom of the seventh when Raymond Travnicek drew a walk, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Parker earned the victory despite allowing SDVFW 14U Groton to score three runs in the second inning. SDVFW 14U Groton's big inning was driven by a walk by Ryan Groeblichhoff and a fielder's choice by Kaleb Hoover.

SDVFW 14U Groton took an early lead in the second inning. Hoover hit into a fielder's choice, scoring one run.

Logan Bridges led things off on the pitcher's mound for SDVFW 14U Parker. He allowed three hits and five runs over three innings, striking out four.

Groeblichhoff led things off on the mound for SDVFW 14U Groton. He went four and two-thirds innings, allowing three runs on five hits and striking out six. Hoover and Teylor Diegel entered the game from the bullpen, throwing one and two-thirds innings and one-third of an inning respectively.

SDVFW 14U Parker tallied eight hits on the day. Gabe Gillespie, Travnicek, and Brenden Pesicka all had multiple hits for SDVFW 14U Parker. Pesicka, Travnicek, and Gillespie each collected two hits to lead SDVFW 14U Parker. Gillespie led SDVFW 14U Parker with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with eight stolen bases.

Bradin Althoff led SDVFW 14U Groton with three hits in four at bats.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 40 of 103

Groton  
Parker

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Groton	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	5	4
Parker	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	6	8	1

## SDVFW 14U Groton [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bradin Althoff	4	2	3	1	0	0
Ryan Groeblichhoff	2	0	1	2	1	1
Kaleb Hoover	3	0	0	1	1	2
Colby Dunker	3	0	0	0	0	2
Logan Ringgenberg	2	0	0	0	0	1
Taylor Diegel	1	0	1	0	0	0
Kaleb Antonsen	2	0	0	0	0	1
Jacob Zak	1	0	0	0	1	1
Dillon Abeln	2	2	0	0	2	1
Braxton Imrie	3	0	0	0	0	1
Brevin Fliehs	1	0	0	0	0	0
Korbin Kucker	3	1	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>

### Batting

**2B:** Ryan Groeblichhoff  
**3B:** Bradin Althoff  
**TB:** Bradin Althoff 5, Taylor Diegel, Ryan Groeblichhoff 2  
**RBI:** Bradin Althoff, Ryan Groeblichhoff 2, Kaleb Hoover  
**SAC:** Ryan Groeblichhoff  
**FC:** Bradin Althoff, Kaleb Hoover  
**HBP:** Colby Dunker, Logan Ringgenberg  
**SB:** Dillon Abeln 2, Bradin Althoff, Taylor Diegel, Jacob Zak

### Totals

**Team QAB:** 18 (50.00%)  
 Dillon Abeln 2, Bradin Althoff 2, Colby Dunker, Ryan Groeblichhoff 4, Kaleb Hoover 3, Braxton Imrie, Korbin Kucker 2, Logan Ringgenberg 2, Jacob Zak

**Team LOB:** 10

### Fielding

**E:** Dillon Abeln, Kaleb Antonsen, Colby Dunker, Korbin Kucker  
**DP:** Bradin Althoff, Jacob Zak

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Ryan Groeblichhoff	4.2	98	.633	5	3	2	6	3	0
Kaleb Hoover	1.2	30	.667	2	1	1	1	1	0
Taylor Diegel	0.1	30	.433	1	2	0	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>.601</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

### Pitching

**HBP:** Taylor Diegel 2, Ryan Groeblichhoff  
**Pitches-Strikes:** Taylor Diegel 30-13, Ryan Groeblichhoff 98-62, Kaleb Hoover 30-20  
**Groundouts-Flyouts:** Taylor Diegel 0-0, Ryan Groeblichhoff 4-2, Kaleb Hoover 3-1  
**First pitch strikes-Batters faced:** Taylor Diegel 1-6, Ryan Groeblichhoff 11-23, Kaleb Hoover 5-8

## SDVFW 14U Parker [more stats](#)

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Raymond Travnick	4	1	2	1	1	0
Levi Berens	4	1	1	0	0	1
Gabe Gillespie	4	2	2	0	0	1
Logan Bridges	2	0	1	1	1	0
Ethan Kasten	2	0	0	0	0	2
Jake Coleman	0	1	0	0	1	0
Seth VanVliet	3	1	0	1	1	2
Charlie Patten	3	0	0	0	0	0
Brenden Pesicka	3	0	2	1	1	1
Devin Kuchta	2	0	0	0	0	0
Alek Kuchta	2	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

### Batting

**2B:** Logan Bridges, Raymond Travnick  
**TB:** Gabe Gillespie 2, Levi Berens, Logan Bridges 2, Brenden Pesicka 2, Raymond Travnick 3  
**RBI:** Logan Bridges, Brenden Pesicka, Raymond Travnick, Seth VanVliet  
**ROE:** Gabe Gillespie, Charlie Patten, Seth VanVliet  
**HBP:** Logan Bridges, Jake Coleman, Charlie Patten  
**SB:** Gabe Gillespie 2, Levi Berens, Jake Coleman, Charlie Patten, Raymond Travnick 2, Seth VanVliet

### Totals

**Team QAB:** 18 (48.65%)  
 Gabe Gillespie 3, Levi Berens 2, Logan Bridges 3, Jake Coleman, Alek Kuchta, Devin Kuchta, Charlie Patten 2, Brenden Pesicka, Raymond Travnick 3, Seth VanVliet

**Team LOB:** 8

### Fielding

**E:** Raymond Travnick

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	SO	BB	HR
Logan Bridges	3.0	90	.533	3	5	5	4	5	0
Seth VanVliet	4.0	64	.609	2	0	0	7	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>.565</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

### Pitching

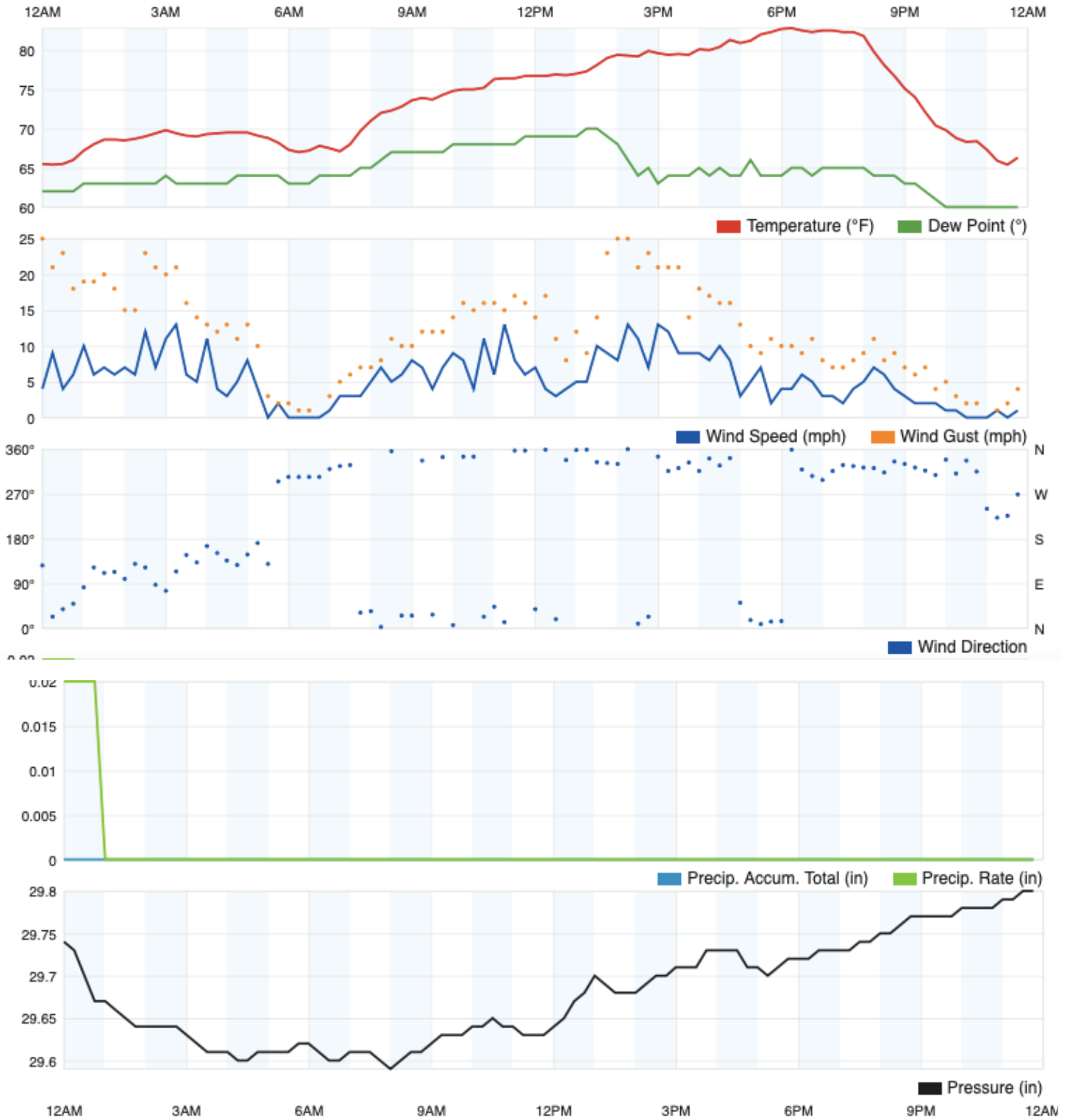
**HBP:** Logan Bridges 2  
**Pitches-Strikes:** Logan Bridges 90-48, Seth VanVliet 64-39  
**Groundouts-Flyouts:** Logan Bridges 2-3, Seth VanVliet 4-1  
**First pitch strikes-Batters faced:** Logan Bridges 13-21, Seth VanVliet 5-15



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 41 of 103

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 42 of 103

Today

Tonight

Monday

Monday  
Night

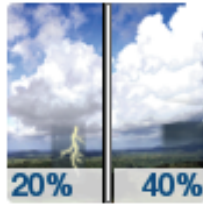
Tuesday



Sunny



Mostly Clear



Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Chance  
Showers



Chance  
T-storms



Chance  
T-storms then  
Sunny

High: 85 °F

Low: 58 °F

High: 84 °F

Low: 61 °F

High: 81 °F

Today/Tonight:  
Mostly sunny today.  
Central SD could see a few showers  
or t-storms this afternoon/tonight.  
Highs Today: 80s

Monday/Monday Night:  
Showers and thunderstorms possible.  
A few thunderstorms may be severe.  
Monday Highs: 80s

Conditions will be mostly sunny and dry today, although portions of central South Dakota could see a few showers or thunderstorms later this afternoon and overnight. Winds will be breezy for northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota late this morning and early afternoon, but should subside relatively quickly. A better chance for showers and thunderstorms is Monday and Monday night where severe weather will be possible across the forecast area. Damaging winds and large hail are expected to be the primary threats at this point. Highs today and Monday will be in the 80s.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 43 of 103

## Today in Weather History

July 19, 1933: An F2 tornado moved ESE from west of Tulare to 3 miles ENE of Hitchcock. About ten farms had damage, and several barns were destroyed.

July 19, 2010: Severe storms produced a wide swath of hail and high winds from northern Butte County, through southern Meade, eastern Pennington, Jackson, and Bennett Counties. Millions of dollars in crop damage was reported, along with some damage to homes and automobiles.

1886: The 1886 Atlanta Hurricane season was a very active year with ten hurricanes, seven of which struck the United States. During the evening hours of July 18th, a category 1 storm made landfall near Homosassa Springs, Florida. Damage was slight as the area was thinly inhabited. The hurricane weakened to tropical storm status south of Gainesville and emerged on the eastern side of Florida, south of Jacksonville during the morning hours of the 19th. This was the fourth hurricane to make landfall in the United States.

1960 - Cow Creek and Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, CA, reported morning lows of 102 degrees. The afternoon high at Greenland Ranch was 124 degrees, and the high at Cow Creek that afternoon was 126 degrees. The coolest low for the entire month for both locations was 82 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1974 - A severe thunderstorm with winds to 80 mph and up to two inches of rain washed out four to five foot deep sections of roadway in Lake Havasu City, AZ. Three persons in a station wagon died as it was carried 3000 feet down a wash by a ten foot wall of water. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of southwestern Pennsylvania. Some places receive more than twelve inches in a seven hour period. The heavy rains cause flash flooding along streams resulting in widespread severe damage. The cloudburst floods Johnstown with up to ten feet of water resulting in 76 deaths, countless injuries, and 424 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the western and the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Winnemucca, NV, with a reading of 33 degrees. Flagstaff AZ reported a record low of 34 degrees. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in New York State and New Jersey. High winds and hail two inches in diameter injured two persons and caused considerable damage to crops in the Pine Island area of central New York State. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced more than five inches of rain at Red Cloud, including two inches in fifteen minutes. Torrid temperatures continued over California, with record highs of 115 degrees at Red Bluff and 116 degrees at Redding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms in the Lower Mississippi Valley produced 5.50 inches of rain south of Alexander, AR, in just ninety minutes, and flash flooding which resulted claimed the life of one woman. Thunderstorms in Indiana produced 4.95 inches of rain in twelve hours east of Muncie. Eight cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees, and Phoenix, AZ, with a high of 116 degrees. The low that night at Phoenix of 93 degrees was the warmest of record for that location. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - A severe heat wave gripped the region during early to mid-July. Las Vegas, NV tied their all-time record high temperature of 117 degrees, equalling the old record set on July 24, 1942.

2006 - The first of two severe thunderstorms hits the St. Louis area, causing the largest power outage in the city's history with over 570,000 people losing electricity.

2006: A derecho impacted a sellout crowd of almost 44,000 St. Louis Cardinals fans, packed into the new Busch Stadium. Winds of about 80 mph whirled around the St. Louis area, sending the fans running for shelter. The winds knocked out power and broke windows out of the press box. Nearly two minutes after the winds began at 100 mph, they stopped, and it started to rain. In all, about 30 people were injured at the stadium.

# Groton Daily Independent

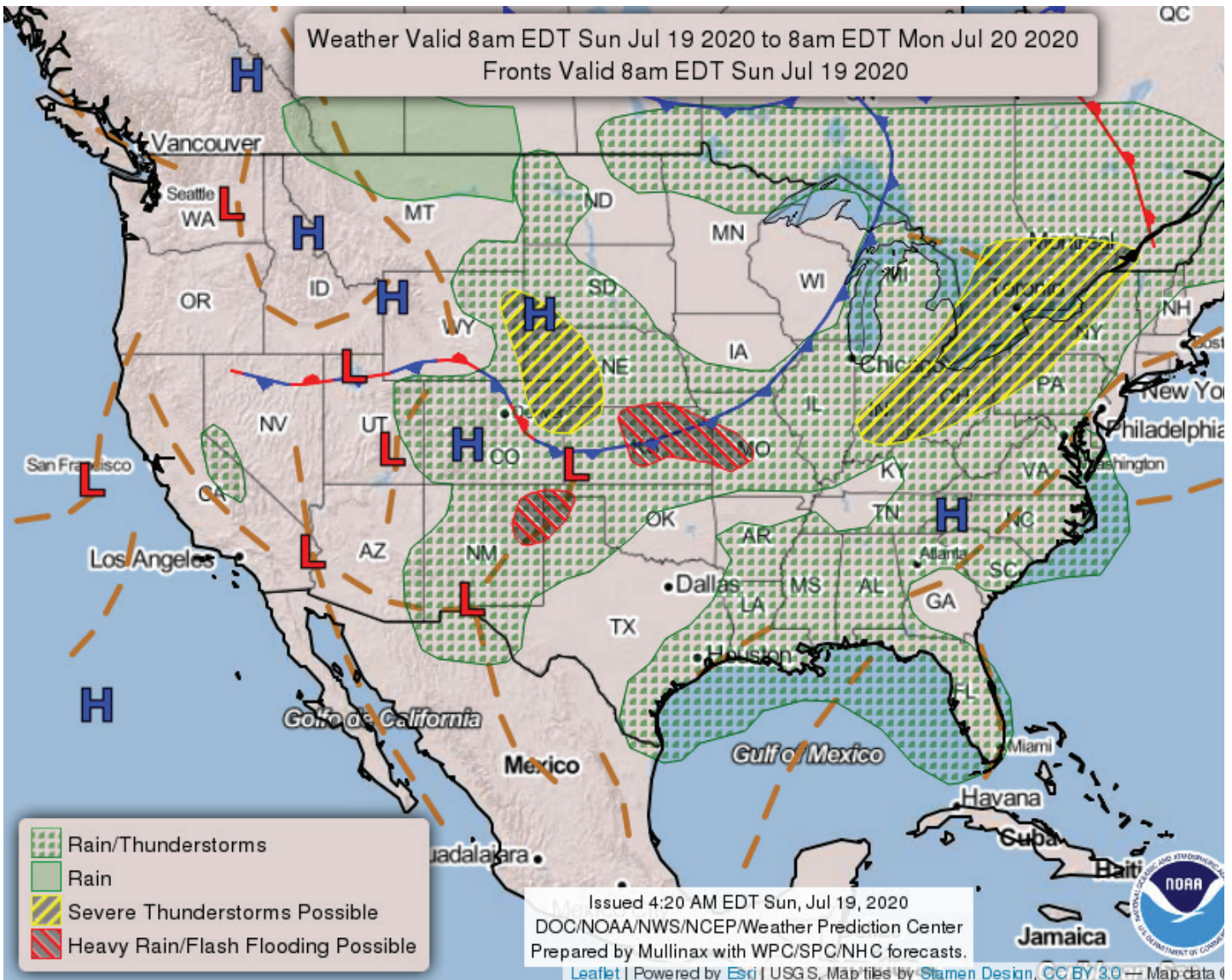
Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 44 of 103

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 83 °F at 6:02 PM**  
**Low Temp: 65 °F at 12:05 AM**  
**Wind: 25 mph at 2:32 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 106° in 1932**  
**Record Low: 42° in 1900**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 60°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 1.87**  
**Precip to date in July.: 0.53**  
**Average Precip to date: 12.71**  
**Precip Year to Date: 8.85**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:15 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 45 of 103



## GREAT MEN - GREAT GOD

When General Ulysses S. Grant lay dying, he called for his pastor. As his pastor stood by his bedside, Grant asked, "Tell me, will God receive me?"

"Yes," he replied, "for the Lord said, 'Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.'"

General Grant, at that moment, came to the Lord. The pastor, both amazed and grateful for this startling conversation, said, "God's Kingdom has just gained a great man!"

Quietly, but with great sincerity and dignity, Grant said to his pastor, "God does not need great men, but great men need God."

General Grant put things in the proper perspective. It is not uncommon for those who achieve status and power, prestige and importance, to believe that God needs their help to keep the universe orderly. We hear much about the résumés and financial statements of prominent people who dominate the news. We offer our respect and esteem to those who move across the world's stage, attempting to control events. We speak of the efforts and accomplishments of influential people as though they are the ones who keep our planet in orbit.

But, in the final analysis, even the most famous need God's grace, mercy, and salvation as do those of lesser status. God, without man, is still God. But without God, we are nothing, and life becomes meaningless and empty. He alone can bring purpose and dignity into our lives.

Prayer: Father, we thank You with grateful hearts for Your salvation through Jesus Christ, Your Son. May we recognize our need for You, and serve You faithfully. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. John 6:37

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 46 of 103

## 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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

09-15-17-22-33

(nine, fifteen, seventeen, twenty-two, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$64,000

Lotto America

23-34-44-47-48, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 5

(twenty-three, thirty-four, forty-four, forty-seven, forty-eight; Star Ball: one; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.5 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$113 million

Powerball

13-16-32-58-59, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 2

(thirteen, sixteen, thirty-two, fifty-eight, fifty-nine; Powerball: nine; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$97 million

### 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 48 of 103

"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 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 pan-



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 49 of 103

demic, 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 50 of 103

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.

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."

## The Latest: Pope reassures those struggling with virus

By The Associated Press undefined

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is assuring his closeness to all those grappling with COVID-19 and its "economic and social consequences."

Speaking on Sunday from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square, Francis said that "the pandemic is showing no sign of stopping."

He said he was thinking in particular about all those whose suffering in the pandemic is worsened by conflicts.

Citing a recent U.N. Security Council resolution, he renewed his appeal for a worldwide, immediate cease-fire that he said "will permit the peace and security indispensable to supplying the necessary humanitarian assistance."

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 51 of 103

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

- As virus surges in some US states, emergency rooms swamped
- Doctor who survived COVID-19 bewildered by public disregard
- 'We really need help': Coronavirus overwhelms rural Oregon
- The Blue Jays won't play their home games in Toronto this year because Canada's government doesn't think it's safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Police in Barcelona have closed access to a large area of the city's beaches due to the excess of sunbathers who ignored the urging of authorities to stay at home amid a resurgence of the coronavirus.
- New York City has been cleared to take the next step in reopening next week. Gov. Andrew Cuomo says the city can begin a limited version of the fourth phase of the statewide reopening process starting Monday.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Cyprus' health minister says there's concern that coronavirus-infected migrants could be seeping through the ethnically divided island nation's porous cease-fire line.

Minister Constantinos Ioannou on Sunday pointed to "a problem" after a number of migrants who recently crossed from the breakaway north to seek asylum in the internationally recognized south have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Ioannou said the government had ordered two months ago that all migrants undergo testing for the virus before they enter reception centers for processing.

Reportedly at least eight Syrian migrants who crossed southward in the last week tested positive for the virus.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong is tightening anti-coronavirus measures following a recent surge in cases. The wearing of masks will be mandatory in all public places and nonessential civil servants will again work from home.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam introduced the measures on Sunday, saying the situation in the Asian financial hub is "really critical" and that she sees "no sign" that it's under control.

Travelers flying to Hong Kong from areas where the risk of infection is considered particularly severe will have to show a negative coronavirus test before boarding their flight, undergo another test upon arrival and undergo a 14-day quarantine in a hotel. Previously, those arriving could quarantine themselves at home. The nations included in the new regulation were given as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Africa.

Hong Kong had appeared to have largely contained the coronavirus, but new cases reported last week have brought the city's total to 1,777, including 12 deaths.

China, which runs Hong Kong as a semi-autonomous region, has ordered all arrivals from Hong Kong to be quarantined for two weeks, sharply reducing the volume of cross-border traffic.

NEW DELHI — A record 24-hour surge of 38,902 new cases has taken India's coronavirus total to 1,077,618. The Health Ministry on Sunday also reported 543 additional deaths for a total of 26,816.

The number of people who have recovered continues to grow. The Health Ministry data shows 677,422 patients have been cured so far across the country, putting the recovery rate at 62.82%.

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

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani authorities reported 1,579 new COVID-19 cases, the lowest number in more than a month, as health officials plan to resume a much-awaited nationwide anti-polio campaign next week.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 52 of 103**

Authorities conducted 22,559 tests in the past 24 hours. The additional cases bring to 263,500 the total number of confirmed infections, out of which 53,652 are active. Pakistan has reported 5,568 deaths.

The improvement in infections coincides with Monday's three-day anti-polio drive that aims to reach 800,000 children.

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria are the three countries where polio — a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the polio virus — is still endemic.

Johns Hopkins University says the global death toll from COVID-19 has surpassed 600,000.

The university's tally as of Saturday night says the United States tops the list with 140,103 deaths. It is followed by 78,772 fatalities in Brazil and 45,358 in the United Kingdom.

The number of confirmed infections worldwide has passed 14.2 million, out of which 3.7 million are in the United States. There are over 2 million in Brazil and more than 1 million in India.

The World Health Organization again reported a single-day record of new infections with 259,848.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported less than 40 additional cases of the coronavirus for a second straight day, as authorities struggle to suppress an uptick in local infections.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday it has reported 34 additional cases, raising the country's total to 13,745 with 295 deaths.

The agency says 21 of the newly confirmed cases were domestically infected patients, all of them found in the densely populated Seoul area or two central cities. It says the rest 13 cases were from overseas.

Health authorities have said imported case of COVID-19 are less threatening than local transmissions because South Korea is mandating testing and enforcing two-week quarantines on all people arriving from abroad.

South Korea on Saturday recorded 39 new cases.

MEXICO CITY -- Mexico continues to register near-record levels of confirmed coronavirus infections, frustrating plans to reopen the economy.

The Health Department reported 7,615 more cases Saturday and 578 more deaths. That brings Mexico to a total of 38,888 confirmed COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began and 338,913 cases. Those numbers are widely considered significant undercounts because Mexico has done so little testing. Government labs have administered slightly more than 800,000 tests so far, or about one out of every 150 people in the country with a population of nearly 130 million.

Mexico had hoped to begin a gradual reopening starting in June, but several states have had to reverse course, closing beaches and hotels again.

BEIJING — China on Sunday said another 13 confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported in the northwestern city of Urumqi, raising the total in the country's most recent local outbreak to at least 30.

An additional three cases were brought into the country from overseas, increasing China's total number of confirmed cases to 83,660 with 4,634 reported deaths.

Despite the Urumqi outbreak, China has just 251 people remaining in treatment for COVID-19, according to the National Health Commission.

Another 151 people were being monitored in isolation for showing signs of having the virus or for testing positive without showing symptoms. At least 23 of those asymptomatic cases were in Urumqi, although China does not include those in the numbers of confirmed cases.

Urumqi has responded by reducing subway, bus and taxi service, closed off some residential communities and is now conducting tests on people city-wide, beginning with those in communities where cases had been reported, according to state media. Some restrictions on people leaving the city have also been imposed, with the number of flights from the city reduced.

The Urumqi outbreak 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, but local

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 53 of 103

authorities on Saturday said commercial operations in the city have largely recovered. The Chinese capital has gone 13 days without a domestically transmitted case, although business at many restaurants and shops remains poor.

Urumqi is the capital of the Xinjiang region, where China has been accused of human rights abuses among its native Muslim minority groups. China has deployed a massive security presence in the region, which it says is needed to prevent terrorist activity.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Authorities in Amsterdam are urging people not to visit the city's famous red light district and have closed off some of the historic district's narrow streets because they are too busy.

After months of coronavirus lockdown measures, sex workers in the Netherlands were allowed to resume work on July 1 and as other restrictions also have eased, the red light district has gotten busier again.

Late Saturday night, amid fears that visitors could not maintain social distancing, Amsterdam Municipality took action, closing roads in the area and tweeting in Dutch and English: "Don't come to the red light district. It is too busy."

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa now ranks fifth in the world for confirmed coronavirus cases caseload as the African continent faces the pandemic's first wave head-on.

South Africa on Saturday reported 13,285 new confirmed cases for a total of 350,879. That puts the country ahead of Peru and makes up roughly half the cases in Africa. The only four countries with more confirmed cases — the U.S., Brazil, India, and Russia — all have far more people than South Africa's 57 million.

The virus arrived on the continent a little later than elsewhere, giving officials more time to prepare, but Africa has fewer health care resources than any other region and South Africa's public hospitals struggle to handle the growing number of patients.

Gauteng province, home to Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria, is now Africa's epicenter for the virus. It has one-quarter of the country's population and many of the poor are crowded in township areas with inadequate access to clean water and sanitation.

South Africa has seen 4,948 reported virus deaths, but the South African Medical Research Council in its most recent report shows the country had 10,944 "excess deaths" between May 6 and July 7.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. -- No employee or resident has tested positive at Yosemite National Park's health clinic, and no visitors have reported being sick since the park began reopening last month, but tests of the park's raw sewage have confirmed the presence of the virus.

Dozens of people are believed to have been infected.

The public health officer for Mariposa County, who is overseeing coronavirus testing in the Yosemite area, said the emergence of the coronavirus will not likely lead to policy changes because the park is already following local and state restrictions. Eric Sergienko said he believes the confirmed presence of the virus in Yosemite will make people more vigilant.

Yosemite, which typically attracts more than 4 million visitors each year, is cutting the number of vehicle passes to the park by half. Visitor centers remain closed, while campgrounds, gift shops and hotels are limiting services to allow for physical distancing.

The World Health Organization is again posting a single-day record of new confirmed coronavirus cases. It announced 259,848 new cases on Saturday.

The WHO on Friday posted more than 237,000 confirmed cases around the world. The back-to-back records come as many nations struggle with new waves of infections after loosening lockdown restrictions.

Data compiled by Johns Hopkins University show more than 14 million cases worldwide since the start of the pandemic.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 54 of 103

PHOENIX — Arizona health officials reported a daily record of 147 deaths from the coronavirus and 2,742 new confirmed cases.

The Department of Health Services say the additional deaths included 106 newly attributed to COVID-19 after health officials' latest periodic reviews of death certificates. It says the additional cases didn't include figures from a laboratory that missed the reporting cutoff. The department says the missing cases will be reported Sunday.

The additional deaths and cases reported Saturday increased the statewide confirmed totals to 2,730 deaths and 141,265 infections.

Gov. Doug Ducey's lifted stay-home orders and other restrictions in May. Last month, he reversed course and authorized local governments to impose masking requirements. Ducey's recent messaging has promoted use of masks, social distancing and hand washing.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri has set another record for daily increases of coronavirus cases with 958. The addition brought the state total to 32,248 confirmed cases and exceeded Missouri's previous one-day high of 936 on Tuesday.

As of Saturday, the seven-day average of new cases reported by the state is 731, up from 560 a week ago. The number of deaths also increased by nine to 1,130, according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

## As pandemic surges, election officials seek poll workers

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Wanted: Poll workers willing to brave a global pandemic in November.

Governments across the country are scrambling to find people to staff polling places for the presidential election this fall as the coronavirus sows doubt about how safe it will be to cast a ballot in person and thins out an already scarce pool of workers.

Recruitment efforts are increasingly targeting younger people, who are less at risk of developing serious illness from the virus, as officials and advocates aim strategies toward professional associations, students and sports teams to make sure election sites stay open. Still, a big unknown remains.

"Everything having to do with this election will be determined by where we are with the virus, and obviously, indicators are not very encouraging," said Neil Albrecht, former executive director of the Milwaukee election commission, which had worker shortages and was forced to shutter all but five of the city's 180 polling places earlier this year.

Expert say finding enough poll workers is always difficult, even when there isn't a pandemic killing thousands of people, forcing widespread shutdowns and spawning a series of evolving safety rules. Normally, long hours, low pay and lots of stress might keep folks away. Now add face shields, protective barriers and fears of getting sick.

More than two-thirds of poll workers are over age 61, putting them at higher risk of the COVID-19 disease. Scores of workers dropped out during this year's primary season, taking with them decades of experience as the pandemic stifled efforts to train replacements.

Richard Dayton, 68, has been a poll worker for five years in Columbus, Ohio, but decided not to work the state's primary over concerns about the pandemic. He's not yet certain whether he'll be staffing an election site in the fall.

"I'm not a young man anymore, and I have to look out for my health," he said.

State and local elections officials hope to have their recruiting and polling place staffing in place well before Election Day in November. In primaries held during the initial coronavirus outbreak, some polling places were late to open after poll workers failed to report.

"If on Election Day morning people just weren't showing up for work, that would be among the worst case scenarios," said Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose.

Local governments are typically responsible for recruiting poll workers, but states have been stepping

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 55 of 103

in as the pandemic exacerbates an already fragile system. Some states are partnering with professional organizations such as real estate commissions and state bar associations to have their members staff the polls in exchange for continuing education credits. Ohio has a program to encourage high schoolers to work election sites.

In Georgia, local election officials and the Atlanta Hawks have announced they will use the NBA team's arena as an early voting site for a primary runoff in August, and will train stadium and team staffers to be election workers. Other sports teams are moving forward with or are considering similar measures.

West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner has urged young people to work the polls as a call-to-arms similar to joining the military after the 9/11 terror attacks.

"What that poll worker effort does is it keeps those options to vote open," he said, adding that officials have been reaching out to county clerks, civic groups, rotary clubs, athletic teams and other groups.

Kayleigh Bergh, a 23-year-old recent college graduate from Haverhill, Massachusetts, plans to work a polling place this November. She said her decision to do so was about stepping up during a pandemic and getting politically engaged. Plus, she said, it doesn't look bad on a resume.

"I want to help the state and make everything better since I know my generation is going to take over at some point," said Bergh, adding that she's been trying to recruit friends who have been furloughed from their jobs.

Advocacy groups also are mobilizing.

Scott Duncombe of Power the Polls, a newly-formed poll worker recruitment group that includes Comedy Central, Levi Strauss & Co., the Fair Elections Center, Uber and several other organizations, said it plans to flood digital media, offer incentives for poll workers and have companies encourage staffers to volunteer. Duncombe said the group will gear a lot of its campaign toward young people, hoping that it can harness the nation's recent political activism into civic duty.

"This is really the first step to make sure the government and civic life looks like us and feels like us," he said of becoming a poll worker.

Election officials said making sure poll workers feel safe on the job is key to the recruitment effort. Mary Cringan is a 65-year-old retired school principal in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, who has worked the polls in just about every election over the last five years. She plans to wear a mask when she staffs a polling place later this year.

"I would just hate to have the scare of health not allow people to go out and exercise their right to vote," she said. "The clerks in all the cities and towns have their work cut out for them."

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## How the Black Lives Matter generation remembers John Lewis

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

Of all the ways that John Lewis influenced American life and politics, his indelible impact on young people may be among the most enduring. From student activist to elder statesman, Lewis continually encouraged the nation's youth to start "good trouble" — and modeled just how to do that.

He was arrested alongside millennial activists pushing for comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration laws in 2013. He led a sit-in in the House of Representatives over gun control following a mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in Orlando in 2016. And when he was not protesting, he was helping young people understand history, as when he cosplayed as his younger self at San Diego's Comic-Con to celebrate the release of his Selma, Alabama-themed graphic novel series in 2015.

Lewis, the Black civil rights icon who some called the "conscience of Congress," died Friday.

In one of his last public appearances, he posed for a picture in June, standing on the Black Lives Matter Plaza mural painted just outside of the White House amid nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 56 of 103

For the Black Lives Matter generation, the connection to Lewis is deeper than many may realize. As a young man, through clouds of teargas and a hail of billy clubs, Lewis nearly lost his life marching against segregation and for voting rights. As a Georgia congressman, Lewis was generous with his time, taking meetings and sharing stages with activists who, from Sanford, Florida, to Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore to Minneapolis, also withstood teargas — as well as rubber bullets, pepper spray and arrests — in their own protests against racism.

"He didn't have to stand with us, he chose to," Malkia Devich Cyril, the founder and senior fellow of MediaJustice, which advocates for open and democratic media and technology platforms, told The Associated Press. "That's real leadership."

In exclusive interviews with the AP, prominent organizers from the Black Lives Matter movement reflected on Lewis' example and his kinship with their generation:

BRITTANY PACKNETT CUNNINGHAM, Ferguson activist and educator:

"I remember sitting on the other side of President Obama from (Lewis) at this pretty historic, multigenerational civil rights meeting, and understanding the optical placement of the generations in that moment. And I just kept thinking to myself, do not let John Lewis down. ... I was finally able to thank him, face to face, eye to eye, for treading the path my generation was now walking. ... With kindness in his eyes and determination in his voice, he reminded me that the road to freedom is never easy — and that's precisely why we have to keep taking it. 'You'll have setbacks,' he told me. 'Keep going. Be consistent. You will get there.'"

PHILLIP AGNEW, co-founder of the Dream Defenders, a police and prison abolition group, and organizer in the Movement for Black Lives:

"I think the first time I ever met him was at (Congressional Black Caucus Foundation), the legislative forum that they have every year. This is kind of after Dream Defenders had taken over the Capitol of Florida, and there was a big buzz about our little fledgling group at that time. I didn't think that he would know who I was — I absolutely knew who he was. ... And I remember him coming and speaking to me and saying how proud he was, looking at the things that we had done in Florida."

PATRISSE CULLORS, co-founder of Black Lives Matter and its global network of chapters:

"The first time I was introduced to Congressman Lewis was through (the 1990 PBS docuseries) 'Eyes on the Prize.' And I was like, 'Oh, that's me.' He was a young, radical Black man who was challenging not just the status quo in government, but also the older leadership in the movement. And I felt really moved by him. ... What I witnessed significantly in 'Eyes on the Prize' was police terror and police brutality, and the way that it was used against the (Edmund) Pettus Bridge protesters ... who were brutalized fighting for a more equitable America, for Black people in particular. And so, we fast forward to 2020, when we have been in the streets, and the same tactics of the police being used against us as a way to deter us from fighting for Black freedom. And yet, that never deterred Congressman Lewis. ... That is a deeply moving commitment to Black people."

ALENCIA JOHNSON, political strategist and movement organizer:

"I had the opportunity to staff (former Democratic presidential candidate) Sen. Elizabeth Warren, when we did the Edmund Pettus Bridge crossing, the Sunday before Super Tuesday, when I was working on her campaign. And (Lewis) came. It was like he was literally passing the torch to everyone who was there. ... That symbol of him coming from his sick bed, all the way to Selma was just so, wow, I'm actually getting emotional thinking about that. ... He was so intentional and persistent about ensuring that people who are fighting know that they have his support and his admiration. He talked about how he admires how young people are showing up now."

ASH-LEE WOODARD HENDERSON, co-executive director of the Highlander Center for Research and Education, a social justice leadership training school:

"I've been thinking about how important John Lewis' life has been and will continue to be for weeks. And this moment still feels so freaking unfair. ... I remember the stories and encouragement. The never-wavering mandate. ... I will remember a man who reminded us all that our optimism isn't futile. That building a global neighborhood and a building beloved community are similar but not the same. ... That's



the legacy. That's the work. I'm so grateful, in this sea of grief, for such a divine human who loved us so deeply."

CHARLENE CARRUTHERS, founding national director of BYP100, a Black youth organizing group, and Movement for Black Lives organizer:

"Looking at his work and his story, if I can even do half of that with my life then I'd consider it a worthy contribution. And it's not about being perfect. But it is about saying, 'I'm going to be in this for my entire life.' I'm in this thing. Not for fame, not for glory. He could have done something else. His legacy is one of making a lifetime commitment to Black people."

CHELSEA FULLER, spokesperson for the Movement for Black Lives and deputy communications director for Blackbird, which supports grassroots movements:

"In 2000, I was 12 years old and, like most children that age, struggling to comprehend the possibilities of who I could become. ... He asked me if I liked school and what I wanted to do when I was all grown up. I told him I didn't know, but that I liked to write and that I liked Black history, but didn't think there was much I could do outside of being a professor. He took my hand and looked me square in the eye and said that loving my people and being a storyteller were not small things; but that they were powerful. ... Congressman John Lewis encouraged me to see the power in stories about our people and our fight for freedom."

Morrison is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>.

## Asia Today: Masks mandatory as cases rise in Australia state

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — After a one-day respite, coronavirus cases in the Australian state of Victoria have risen again, prompting a move to make masks mandatory in metropolitan Melbourne and the nearby shire of Mitchell.

Health officials on Sunday recorded 363 new cases in the past 24 hours. Two men and a woman in their 90s died, taking the national death toll from COVID-19 to 122.

On Saturday, Victoria's new cases fell to 217 from a record high of 428 the previous day.

By Wednesday, masks or face coverings will be mandatory for people who leave their homes to exercise or to purchase essential goods.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said up to 3 million face masks are on order by the state government and the first batch of 300,000 is due to arrive this week.

Andrews said those who fail to wear a mask will be fined 200 Australian dollars (\$140).

"There's no vaccine to this wildly infectious virus and it's a simple thing, but it's about changing habits, it's about becoming a simple part of your routine," Andrews said.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— A record 24-hour surge of 38,902 new cases has taken India's coronavirus total to 1,077,618. The Health Ministry on Sunday also reported 543 additional deaths for a total of 26,816. The number of people who have recovered continues to grow. The Health Ministry data shows 677,422 patients have been cured so far across the country, putting the recovery rate at 62.82%. Experts say India is likely to witness a series of peaks as the infection spread in rural areas.

— Hong Kong is tightening anti-coronavirus measures following a recent surge in cases. The wearing of masks will be mandatory in all public places and nonessential civil servants will again work from home. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam introduced the measures on Sunday. Travelers flying to Hong Kong from areas where the risk of infection is considered particularly severe will have to show a negative coronavirus test before boarding their flight, undergo another test upon arrival and undergo a 14-day quarantine in a hotel. Previously, those arriving could quarantine themselves at home. The nations included in the new regulation were given as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Africa.

— China on Sunday reported another 13 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the northwestern city

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 58 of 103

of Urumqi, raising the total in the country's most recent local outbreak to at least 30. An additional three cases from overseas increased China's total number of confirmed infections to 83,660 with 4,634 reported deaths. Despite the Urumqi outbreak, China has just 251 people remaining in treatment for COVID-19. Another 151 people were being monitored in isolation for showing signs of having the virus or for testing positive without showing symptoms. At least 23 of those asymptomatic cases were in Urumqi, although China does not include them in confirmed cases. Urumqi has responded by reducing subway, bus and taxi services, closed off some residential communities and is now conducting citywide tests, beginning with areas where cases had been reported, according to state media. Some restrictions on people leaving the city have also been imposed, with the number of flights from the city reduced.

— South Korea has reported less than 40 additional cases of the coronavirus for a second straight day, as authorities struggle to suppress an uptick in local infections. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday the 34 new cases raise the country's total to 13,745 with 295 deaths. The agency says 21 of the newly confirmed cases were domestically infected, all of them in the densely populated Seoul area or two central cities. The rest were from overseas. Health authorities have said imported case of COVID-19 are less threatening than local transmissions because South Korea is mandating testing and enforcing two-week quarantines on all people arriving from abroad.

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

## **Virus deaths top 600,000 and Hong Kong warns of resurgence**

By CARA ANNA and GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The number of people around the world who have died as a result of the coronavirus has passed the 600,000 mark as countries from the U.S. to South Africa to India struggle to contain infections. Hong Kong also warned of a resurgence in the virus as it issued tougher new rules on the wearing of face masks.

Concerns are rising that the pandemic has found fresh legs over the past few weeks, with Johns Hopkins University and the World Health Organization both recording daily highs in newly reported infections.

Pope Francis said that "the pandemic is showing no sign of stopping" and pointed to those whose suffering from the outbreak is worsened by conflicts.

While the U.S. leads global infections, South Africa now ranks as the fifth worst-hit country in the pandemic with more than 350,000 cases, or around half of all those confirmed on the continent. Its struggles are a sign of potential trouble to come for nations with even fewer health care resources.

India, which has now confirmed more than a million infections, on Sunday reported a 24-hour record surge of 38,902 new cases.

In Europe, where infections are far from their peak in the spring but local outbreaks are causing concern, leaders of the 27-nation European Union haggled for a third day in Brussels over a proposed 1.85 trillion-euro (\$2.1 trillion) EU budget and coronavirus recovery fund.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there is "a lot of good will, but there are also a lot of positions" in the talks, which have laid bare the fissures in the bloc about how the countries hit hardest by the pandemic, such as Italy and Spain, should be helped and under what conditions. She said the talks, which were initially scheduled to end on Saturday, could still end without a deal.

Confirmed global deaths from or with COVID-19 rose to more than 602,000, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins. The United States tops the list with over 140,000, followed by more than 78,000 in Brazil, 45,000 in the United Kingdom and 38,000 in Mexico.

The number of confirmed infections worldwide has passed 14.2 million, with 3.7 million accounted for by the United States alone. Brazil has witnessed more than 2 million while India has recorded over 1 million. Experts believe the true numbers around the world are higher because of testing shortages and data collection issues in some nations.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 59 of 103

Infections have been soaring in U.S. states such as Florida, Texas, Arizona, with many blaming a haphazard approach to the lifting of the lockdowns as well as the resistance of some Americans to wearing masks.

Even where the situation has been largely brought under control, new outbreaks continue to worry authorities and prompt the return of some restrictions.

Following a recent surge in cases, Hong Kong made the wearing of masks mandatory in all public places and told non-essential civil servants to work from home. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said the situation in the Asian financial hub is "really critical" and that she sees "no sign" that it's under control.

Police in Barcelona are limiting access to some of the city's beaches because sunbathers are ignoring regulations amid a resurgence of the coronavirus. Authorities in Amsterdam are urging people not to visit the city's famous red light district and have closed off some of the historic district's narrow streets because they are too busy.

Slaughterhouses also have featured in several outbreaks. Authorities in northwestern Germany's Vechta county said Saturday that 66 workers at a chicken slaughterhouse tested positive. That is much smaller than a recent outbreak in western Germany that prompted local authorities to order a partial lockdown.

Cases in the Australian state of Victoria rose again on Sunday, prompting a move to make masks mandatory in metropolitan Melbourne and the nearby district of Mitchell for people who leave their homes for exercise or to purchase essential goods.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said those who fail to wear a mask will be fined 200 Australian dollars (\$140).

"There's no vaccine to this wildly infectious virus and it's a simple thing, but it's about changing habits, it's about becoming a simple part of your routine," Andrews said.

Speaking on Sunday from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis renewed his appeal for an immediate worldwide cease-fire that he said "will permit the peace and security indispensable to supplying the necessary humanitarian assistance."

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Moulson contributed from Berlin. Associated Press writers around the world contributed to this report.

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

## EU summit drags into 3rd day amid splits on virus fund

By MIKE CORDER and RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Acrimonious European Union talks over an unprecedented 1.85 trillion-euro (\$2.1 trillion) EU budget and coronavirus recovery fund entered a third day Sunday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel warning that the summit of 27 leaders could still end without a deal.

The bitter marathon negotiations, which are taking place amid the unprecedented crisis of the coronavirus pandemic, have underscored the deep fissures within the 27-nation bloc with the traditional Franco-German alliance struggling to get its way.

"Whether there will be a solution, I still can't say," Merkel said as she arrived early for the extra day of talks at what had been planned as a two-day summit in Brussels. "There is a lot of good will, but there are also a lot of positions. So I will join in working for it. But there may also be no result today."

Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron walked out of heated talks late Saturday with a group of five so-called frugal nations led by the Netherlands pushing to limit the grants given to countries whose economies have been hardest hit by the pandemic and to impose strict conditions on how the money is spent.

"They run off in a bad mood," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said in the early hours of Sunday after Merkel and Macron's departure from talks.

The so-called Frugals were in talks with summit host Charles Michel early Sunday but the chances of quick progress appeared remote. Merkel and Macron refused to water down their proposals of aid while

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 60 of 103

Rutte and others also stuck to their demands.

"It is a decisive moment," said an EU official, who asked not to be identified because the negotiations were ongoing.

Rutte is widely seen as the leader of the nations known as the Frugal Four — the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark and Sweden. He has long been known as a European bridge builder, but this weekend, his tough negotiating stance is being blamed for holding up a deal.

While Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said he has a good personal relationship with Rutte, he said the "clash is very hard" and that Rutte's threat of wielding a veto "is an unwarranted request."

Rutte and his small group of allies are pushing for labor market and pension reforms to be linked to EU handouts and a "brake" enabling EU nations to monitor and, if necessary, halt projects funded by the recovery fund.

"He can't ask us to do specific reforms," Conte said. "Once (the aid) is approved, each country will present its proposals."

Rutte also wants a link to be made between the handout of EU funds and the rule of law — a connection that is clearly aimed at the likes of Poland and Hungary, countries that many in the EU think are sliding away from democratic rule.

"I don't know what is the personal reason for the Dutch prime minister to hate me or Hungary, but he's attacking so harshly and making very clear that because Hungary, in his opinion, does not respect the rule of law, (it) must be punished financially," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said.

The urgency of the talks is clear. The coronavirus pandemic has pitched the bloc into its worst recession ever and killed around 135,000 of its citizens.

The EU executive has proposed a 750 billion-euro fund, partly based on common borrowing, to be sent as loans and grants to the most needy countries. That comes on top of the seven-year 1 trillion-euro EU budget that leaders have been haggling over for months.

All nations agree they need to help but the four richer nations in the north, led by the Netherlands, want strict controls on spending, while struggling southern nations like Spain and Italy say conditions should be kept to a minimum.

Macron said leaders need to compromise Sunday.

"I think it is still possible, but these compromises, I say very clearly, will not be made at the cost of European ambition," he said.

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Mike Corder reported from The Hague, Netherlands. Associated Press writer Geir Moulson contributed from Berlin.

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## Syrians vote for new parliament amid measures against virus

By ALBERT AJI Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrians headed to polling stations in government-held parts of the war-torn country on Sunday to elect a new parliament amid strict health measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The vote is the third to take place in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011. It has killed more than 400,000, displaced half the country's population and sent more than five million as refugees mostly into neighboring countries.

The vote this year follows a new wave of U.S. sanctions that came into effect last month and a campaign to fight corruption that saw a wealthy cousin of President Bashar Assad come under pressure to pay back tens of millions of dollars to the state.

Some 1,656 government-approved candidates are running this year for the 250-seat People's Assembly.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 61 of 103

The total number of eligible voters hasn't been announced.

As in previous votes in Syria, the vote will produce a rubber-stamp body loyal to the president.

Inside polling stations, all workers were wearing masks and gloves and voters had to use their own pens in the sanitized booths. Once they cast the ballots they had to leave immediately as no gatherings were allowed inside. People also had to keep a safe distance while waiting for their turn.

In the morning, Assad and his wife, Asma, both wearing masks, voted in Damascus at the Ministry of Presidential Affairs.

The vote is a message to "emphasizes the cohesion of the Syrian homeland, that after nine years of war, Syria will not kneel," Information Minister Imad Sarah told reporters after casting his ballot.

Assad has twice postponed the country's parliamentary elections this year in light of restrictions in place to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Assad himself is not standing for election.

Syria, that had a pre-war population of 22 million, has reported 496 cases of infections and 25 deaths because of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus. However, the actual numbers are likely far higher and increases have been reported in recent days.

The head of the Higher Judicial Committee for the Elections, Judge Samer Zumriq, confirmed on Saturday in a statement to state news agency SANA that more than 7,400 polling stations have been set up in 15 voting districts. They include 1,400 stations where troops and members of the country's security services will vote.

No vote was being held in the northwestern province of Idlib, the last rebel stronghold in Syria or in the country's northeast, which is controlled by U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters.

Polling centers opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and are scheduled to close 12 hours later. Results are expected to be announced the following day.

Some 167 seats are allocated for Assad's ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party — guaranteeing it a solid majority — while the rest are allocated for independents, including merchants, businessmen and industrialists.

"We hope that the members of the new council would work to improve the living conditions of citizens by enacting new legislation," said Samir Sulaiman, a 50-year-old employee.

This year's vote comes as the country is also witnessing harsh economic conditions including a crash in the local currency worsened by U.S. sanctions and an economic crisis in neighboring Lebanon.

The so-called Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, envisages sanctions on Syrian troops and others responsible for atrocities committed during Syria's civil war and also provides funding for war crimes investigations and prosecutions.

Syria calls the sanctions acts of "economic terrorism."

Outgoing legislator Mohannad Haj Ali, who is under U.S. and European sanctions, said the country is experiencing a "suffocating economic and political siege." He also said Syrian citizens are aware of corruption within state institutions adding that Assad has started "dealing with corruption by tracking down on the corrupt."

Haj Ali did not give any names but his comments came after Assad's maternal cousin Rami Makhlouf, who was once described as central to Syria's economy, has been pleading for Assad to help prevent the collapse of his business.

The last parliament was elected in April 2016, when large parts of Syria were outside of government control and people there did not take part in the polling. Since then Assad's forces have captured much of Syria with the help of his allies Russia and Iran.

## Netanyahu's graft trial resumes amid Israeli virus anger

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial will resume in earnest in January, with thrice-weekly evidentiary hearings set to begin then, a Jerusalem court decided Sunday.

It was not immediately clear if Netanyahu would be required to be present at each hearing, although some Israeli media reported he would. Regardless, the grueling judicial schedule will keep Netanyahu's

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 62 of 103**

legal woes firmly in the national consciousness and conversation — and continue to raise questions over whether he can keep serving while simultaneously standing trial.

The court's decision came after the trial's second hearing, a procedural deliberation that set the pace for the remainder of the proceedings.

The trial opened in May after a two-month delay prompted by concerns over the coronavirus. Its resumption comes as Netanyahu faces mounting discontent over his handling of the health crisis and its economic fallout.

Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of scandals in which he is alleged to have received lavish gifts from billionaire friends and exchanged regulatory favors with media moguls for more agreeable coverage of himself and his family.

Netanyahu denies wrongdoing, painting the accusations as a media-orchestrated witch-hunt pursued by a biased law enforcement system.

At the first hearing in May, just before appearing in front of the judges, Netanyahu took to a podium inside the courthouse and flanked by his party members bashed the country's legal institutions in an angry tirade.

Netanyahu did not appear at Sunday's hearing.

According to Israeli media, the judge decided that the trial's evidentiary stage would begin in January and would take place three times a week.

Media also reported that Netanyahu's lawyer asked for a delay in the proceedings because of the virus, saying mask-wearing impeded his job of questioning witnesses.

The trial resumes as Netanyahu faces widespread anger over his government's handling of the coronavirus crisis.

While the country appeared to have tamped down a first wave of infections, what's emerged as a hasty and erratic reopening has sent infections soaring. Yet even amid the rise in new cases Netanyahu and his emergency government — formed with the goal of dealing with the crisis — appeared to neglect the numbers and moved forward with its reopening plans and other policy priorities.

It has since reimposed restrictions, including a weekend only lockdown set to begin later this week.

Israel has seen nearly 50,000 virus cases since the outbreak began, with 406 deaths. More than 21,000 people have recovered.

Netanyahu and his government have been criticized for a baffling, halting response to the new wave, which has seen daily cases rise to nearly 2,000. It has also been slammed for its handling of the economic fallout of the crisis.

While Israel has pledged billions of dollars worth of aid, it hasn't all been doled out to those in need, and a plan to give a stipend to all Israelis, even the wealthy, has been panned by the country's leading economists. The first and second round of restrictions has battered the economy and sent unemployment skyrocketing to more than 20%, up from 3.9% before the outbreak.

The anger has boiled over into protests over the past few weeks that have culminated in violent clashes with police.

The protests haven't been on a massive scale, partly due to restrictions on large gatherings, but the rising frustration appears to be among the greatest challenges Netanyahu has faced in his decade-plus in power.

The trial's resumption thus comes at inopportune timing for the long-serving leader. Netanyahu had hoped to ride on the goodwill he gained from overcoming the first wave of infections going into his corruption trial but the increasingly souring mood has dropped his approval ratings and may deny him the public backing he had hoped for.

Although his base remains firmly behind him, only a smattering of supporters turned up outside the court to voice their backing for the prime minister, far fewer than the throngs who converged at the trial's opening.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 63 of 103

## Fires set, fences moved: Police call Portland protest a riot

By ANDREW SELSKY and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Protesters broke into a building, set it on fire and started dumpster fires late Saturday night in Oregon's largest city, police said, as demonstrations that have been taking place since the death of George Floyd intensified for another night in Portland.

The fire at the Portland Police Association building was put out a short time later, Portland police said on Twitter. The department declared the gathering a riot, and began working to clear the downtown area.

Tear gas was deployed, according to pictures and video from the scene. Fencing that had been placed around federal courthouse had also been removed by protesters and made into barricades, police tweeted.

President Donald Trump has decried the demonstrations, and Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf blasted the protesters as "lawless anarchists" in a visit to the city on Thursday.

Before the aggressive language and action from federal officials, the unrest had frustrated Mayor Ted Wheeler and other local authorities, who had said a small cadre of violent activists were drowning out the message of peaceful protesters in the city. But Wheeler said the federal presence in the city is now exacerbating a tense situation and he has told them to depart.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Wheeler said Friday.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum late Friday sued Homeland Security and the Marshals Service in federal court. The complaint said unidentified federal agents have grabbed people off Portland's streets "without warning or explanation, without a warrant, and without providing any way to determine who is directing this action."

Rosenblum said she was seeking a temporary restraining order to "immediately stop federal authorities from unlawfully detaining Oregonians."

The administration has enlisted federal agents, including the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group and an elite U.S. Customs and Border Protection team based on the U.S.-Mexico border, to protect federal property.

But Oregon Public Broadcasting reported this week that some agents had been driving around in unmarked vans and snatching protesters from streets not near federal property, without identifying themselves.

Tensions also escalated after an officer with the Marshals Service fired a less-lethal round at a protester's head on July 11, critically injuring him.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Oregon, issued a joint statement Saturday denouncing the Trump administration's actions.

"We live in a democracy, not a banana republic. We will not tolerate the use of Oregonians, Washingtonians — or any other Americans — as props in President Trump's political games. The House is committed to moving swiftly to curb these egregious abuses of power immediately," they said.

Hundreds of people had gathered Friday night for a vigil outside the downtown Justice Center, which is sandwiched between two federal buildings, including a courthouse, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. Across the street, dozens of other protesters entered two recently closed city parks after dismantling chain-link fencing that blocked access.

Federal agents emerged from an office building next door and used impact munitions, stun grenades and tear gas to clear the area, the news organization reported. It said its journalists did not observe any incident that might have prompted the use of the weapons.

Federal officers deployed tear gas again just before midnight after a few protesters placed dismantled fencing in front of plywood doors covering the entrance of the federal courthouse.

Early Saturday, Portland police declared the gathering unlawful, saying protesters had piled fencing in front of the exits to the federal courthouse and the Multnomah County Justice Center and then shot off fireworks at the Justice Center.

Federal officers and local police then advanced simultaneously on the demonstrators to clear the streets, making arrests as protesters threw bottles and pieces of metal fence at police, the Portland Police Bureau said. Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell told reporters Friday that his officers are in contact with the federal

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 64 of 103

agents, but that neither controls the others' actions.

The overnight action by Portland's police was condemned Jo Ann Hardesty, a prominent member of the City Council. Hardesty said Saturday that local police "joined in the aggressive clampdown of peaceful protest."

Hardesty also slammed Wheeler, telling the mayor he needed to better control local law enforcement. Hardesty, who oversees the city's fire department and other first-responder agencies, said in an open letter to Wheeler if "you can't control the police, give me the Portland Police Bureau."

In a statement Saturday, Portland Police said as they responded to the overnight protests — which included people throwing projectiles at them — some federal agencies took action "under their own supervision and direction." Portland Police said city officers arrested seven people, and one officer sustained a minor injury.

The statement said the city's police supports peaceful protests, and beginning Saturday night Department of Homeland Security police wouldn't work in the Portland Police incident command center.

## Congress confronts new virus crisis rescue as pandemic grows

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — It stands as the biggest economic rescue in U.S. history, the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief bill swiftly approved by Congress in the spring. And it's painfully clear now, as the pandemic worsens, it was only the start.

With COVID-19 cases hitting alarming new highs and the death roll rising, the pandemic's devastating cycle is happening all over again, leaving Congress little choice but to engineer another costly rescue. Businesses are shutting down, schools cannot fully reopen and jobs are disappearing, all while federal emergency aid expires. Without a successful federal plan to control the outbreak, Congress heads back to work with no endgame to the crisis in sight.

"It's not going to magically disappear," said a somber Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., during a visit to a hospital in his home state to thank front-line workers.

Lawmakers return Monday to Washington to try to pull the country back from the looming COVID-19 cliff. While the White House prefers to outsource much of the decision-making on virus testing and prevention to the states, the absence of a federal intervention has forced the House and Senate to try to draft another assistance package.

It's a massive undertaking, hardly politically popular, but the alternative is worse. Experts predict an even more dire public health outlook for winter. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease official, says the U.S. needs to "regroup."

As McConnell prepares to roll out his \$1 trillion-plus proposal, he acknowledges it will not have full support. Already the White House is suggesting changes, Republicans are divided and broader disagreements with Democrats could derail the whole effort.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., already pushed through a more sweeping \$3 trillion relief bill to bolster virus testing, keep aid flowing and set new health and workplace standards for reopening schools, shops and workplaces.

She said recently she finds herself yearning for an earlier era of Republicans in the White House, saying that despite differences, even with President Richard Nixon, who resigned facing impeachment, "At least we had a shared commitment to the governance of our country."

The political stakes are high for all sides before the November election, but even more so for the nation, which now has more coronavirus infections and a higher death count than any other country. On Friday, two former Federal Reserve Board leaders urged Congress to do more.

"Time is running out," Pelosi said.

There were just a few hundred coronavirus cases when Congress first started focusing on emergency spending in early March. By the end of that month, as Congress passed a \$2.2 trillion bill, cases soared past 100,000 and deaths climbed past 2,000.

Today, the death toll stands at more than 139,000 in the U.S., with 3.6 million-plus confirmed cases.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 65 of 103

The virus that first tore into New York, California and America's big cities is now plaguing places large and small, urban and rural, burning through the South, West and beyond without restraint.

Freezer cases that stored bodies outside New York hospitals are now on order in Arizona. The mobilization of military medical units to help overworked health care providers has shifted now to Texas.

Lawmakers hardly wore facial masks when they voted in March as the Capitol was shutting down and sending them to the ranks of work-from-home Americans. Trump and his allies still rarely wear them. But at least 25 governors from states as diverse as Alabama to Oregon now have mask requirements. The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said this past week that if everyone wore a mask, it could help "drive this epidemic to the ground."

Just as the pandemic's ferocious cycle is starting again, the first round of aid is running out.

A federal \$600-a-week boost to regular unemployment benefits expires at the end of the month. So, too, does the federal ban on evictions on millions of rental units.

With 17 straight weeks of unemployment claims topping 1 million — usually its about 200,000 — many households are facing a cash crunch and losing employer-backed health insurance coverage.

Despite flickers of an economic upswing as states eased stay-home orders in May and June, the jobless rate remains at double digits, higher than it ever was in the last decade's Great Recession.

Pelosi's bill, approved in May, includes \$75 billion for testing and tracing to try to get a handle on the virus spread, funnels \$100 billion to schools to safely reopen and sends \$1 trillion to cash-strapped states that are pleading for federal dollars to pay essential workers and prevent layoffs. The measure would give cash stipends to Americans, and bolster rental and mortgage and other safety net protections.

McConnell hit "pause" after passage of the last aid package as Republicans hoped the economy would rebound and stem the need for more assistance. He now acknowledges additional intervention is needed.

His bill centers on a five-year liability shield to prevent what he calls an "epidemic of lawsuits" against businesses, schools and health care providers. The bill is expected to provide up to \$75 billion for schools, another round of \$1,200 direct payments to Americans and grants to child care providers. There is likely to be tax credits to help companies shoulder the cost of safely reopening shops, offices and other businesses.

Unlike the other virus aid packages that passed almost unanimously, McConnell says this one will be more difficult to approve.

In the two months since Pelosi's bill passed, the U.S. had 50,000 more deaths and 2 million more infections.

"If we don't invest the money now, it will be much worse," Pelosi said.

## Dress rehearsal: MLB holds first COVID-era exhibitions

By JAKE SEINER AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Didi Gregorius watched over the top of his face mask as his drive off Washington ace Max Scherzer sailed into empty outfield seats.

Fake cheers — meant to encourage the hometown Nationals — accidentally piped through the stadium as the Philadelphia Phillies shortstop rounded the bases. After touching home plate, he pantomimed air-fives to teammates.

"This is 2020 baseball," Scherzer said. "Embrace it and have fun with it."

Exhibition games in Washington, New York and Pittsburgh on Saturday gave Major League Baseball its first look at coronavirus-era games — cardboard cutouts for fans, sound effects for crowds and more. Still, for clubs limited to practices and intrasquads in their own ballparks for the past two weeks, Saturday stood as an important mile marker as the sport tries to start a shortened 60-game season next Thursday amid a pandemic.

"In some ways, this is very much a dress rehearsal for the new world we're in," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said before an exhibition at the crosstown Mets.

No fans rushed off the 7 train in Flushing at Citi Field, and no masses hurried over the Clemente Bridge in Pittsburgh — not with MLB planning to start this pandemic-shaken season at empty stadiums. At Nationals Park, several people watched from a building balcony far beyond the left field wall.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 66 of 103

Umpires wore face masks, as did some players. Backups watched from the stands to maintain social distancing in dugouts. They all tried to follow safety protocols, including a ban on licking fingers or spitting.

Another new look — the Mets became the first club to sell ad space on the field itself, spray painting a Ford logo on the back of the pitcher's mound.

Gregorius drilled a three-run homer in the first inning in Washington, the first big fly by a player in any of Saturday's games.

The 30-year-old Phillies newcomer is one of a handful of players who has said he'll wear a mask full-time this season. Gregorius has a chronic kidney disorder that makes him high risk for the coronavirus.

Scherzer is expected to throw the first pitch of the regular season when the Nats host new ace Gerrit Cole and the Yankees on Thursday night. The right-hander struggled in his final tuneup, also allowing a three-run shot to former teammate Bryce Harper.

Booed heartily last season after spurning Washington in free agency, Harper heard no such jeers this time.

For their first exhibition game since the virus outbreak shut down spring training in mid-March, Yankees players took a team bus from the Bronx to Queens to meet the Mets — no subways for this series.

The pregame routine looked familiar enough — soaring batting practice homers from Giancarlo Stanton and Pete Alonso, ground ball work for Gleyber Torres and Robinson Canó.

Signs of the times were certainly there. Some coaches hit fungoes in face masks, and the usual high fives and hugs between opponents around the batting cage were replaced by elbow taps and distanced chats — including one between Yankees general manager Brian Cashman and Mets counterpart Brodie Van Wagenen.

With no fans filing in for first pitch, nearly 1,000 cardboard likenesses of Mets supporters were set up behind home plate. The team plans to have 5,000 in place by opening day.

Reserve players watched from under large awnings build behind both dugouts. Mets backups gave a standing ovation to scheduled starter Rick Porcello as he returned from the bullpen, then started a chant of "Let's go, Mets!"

The first homer in Flushing also came from a masked player — Yankees outfielder Clint Frazier. The 25-year-old, who says he's taken heat on social media for his decision to wear a face covering at all times, drove a two-run homer into the second deck in the fourth inning.

The Cleveland Indians loaded into three buses Saturday for the 2-hour-plus drive to Pittsburgh. Manager Terry Francona said the team adhered to social-distance guidelines — and staggered arrival times — for the team's first trip since camp re-opened.

"I think it's a good experience for all of us," he said. "We're not used to getting on a bus and get your temperature taken and things like that, so it's good to go through that."

Cleveland made a public show of support for social justice before its 5-3 win, standing with their right hands over their hearts and their left hands on the right shoulder of their teammates during the national anthem.

A few fans gathered outside PNC Park, hoping to catch some sort of game action.

Michael Kirkpatrick, 73, and his son, Zac, stood on the Clemente Bridge beyond center field — the same place they crammed shoulder to shoulder during the NL wild-card game in 2013. No trouble finding a spot this time.

"I just need to hear a bat hit a ball," Zac said.

In Washington, a moment of silence was held for late civil rights trailblazer John Lewis. Players stood socially distanced for the national anthem — an acoustic rendition by the U.S. Army Brass Quintet performed before Game 4 of last year's World Series and replayed on the video scoreboard.

"Definitely has a different feeling to it," Nationals center fielder Michael A. Taylor said.

Postgame handshake lines got a shakeup, too. The Yankees air-fived each other outside the dugout after finishing a 9-3 win, and Cleveland celebrated its victory by tapping toes with teammates.

NO CANADA

The Blue Jays were denied approval by the Canadian government to play in Toronto due to the cross-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 67 of 103

border travel required.

As for where it could play home games, the team has been looking at its spring training site in Dunedin, Florida, one of the states hardest-hit by the virus, and its Triple-A site in Buffalo.

The Blue Jays are scheduled to start the season July 24 at Tampa Bay. Their home opener was set for five days later against Washington.

## BACK IN CAMP

A pair of All-Stars remain uncertain for opening day after missing the start of summer camp due to positive coronavirus tests — Atlanta's Freddie Freeman and the Yankees' DJ LeMahieu.

Freeman was at Truist Park on Friday about an hour after receiving his second negative test for the coronavirus, earning him medical clearance to return. On Saturday, the four-time All-Star revealed he had a high temperature of 104.5 degrees early on and was fearful of losing his life.

"I said a little prayer that night," Freeman said.

LeMahieu participated in his first practice Friday after testing positive at his home in Michigan last month. The three-time Gold Glove winner said it was "shocking" to get the result because he had no symptoms.

AP Sports Writers Will Graves and Howard Fendrich and Associated Press Writer Rob Gillies contributed to this report.

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## No Canada: Blue Jays barred from playing games in Toronto

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The Blue Jays won't play their home games in Toronto this year because Canada's government doesn't think it's safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States, one of the countries hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic.

Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino said Saturday the federal government had denied the Blue Jays' request to play at Rogers Centre, confirming what an official familiar with the matter had told The Associated Press ahead of the announcement.

The Blue Jays were informed via a phone call. The team's alternate sites for home games include its training facility in Dunedin, Florida, which is among the states that are virus hotspots, as well as Sahlen Field in Buffalo, New York, which is home to Toronto's Triple-A affiliate and just across the Niagara River from Canada.

The Blue Jays are scheduled to start the season July 24 at Tampa Bay. Their home opener was set for five days later against Washington.

Mendicino told the AP frequent travel to the U.S., where COVID-19 cases are surging, was the biggest issue.

"There were serious risks if we proceeded with the regular-season proposal of the MLB and the Jays and therefore we concluded it was not in the national interest," Mendicino said.

The team had been given clearance by city and provincial governments to play in its home stadium and was awaiting approval from Canada's federal government. The other 29 Major League Baseball teams plan to play in their home ballparks, without spectators, when the pandemic-shortened 60-game season begins on July 23.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz have pushed for the team to relocate to the city.

"Let's find a way to make them the 'Buffalo Blue Jays' this year," Poloncarz wrote in a text to the AP.

Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro said player health is a concern in Florida. He said the team has spent more time examining Buffalo in recent days but said the stadium has infrastructure challenges. A lack of

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 68 of 103

space in the clubhouse makes social distancing difficult, but Shapiro said some players could have their lockers set up in suites.

Sahlen Field also needs upgrades to its field lights and its training facilities, he said.

"Dunedin is the only one that is 100% seamless right now and ready to go. That from a player-health standpoint has some challenges," Shapiro said. "Buffalo is certainly one that we've spent an increasing amount of time on in the past few weeks. That is not done. There are some infrastructure and player-facility challenges to get that up to major league standards. And then we have other alternatives that are real that we continue to work through that may be better for us."

He declined to say what other sites they are considering. He said they would look to improve batting cages, weight rooms and training rooms in Buffalo if it is picked.

"Buffalo is the place we've spent the most time on in the last 10 days," Shapiro said. "There is a lot we have to do. Some of it might get done after we start playing but I'm confident Buffalo is a viable alternative. With the amount of resources that we would marshal if we focused solely on Buffalo we can make it what it needs to be for us in time to play games."

No affiliated minor league teams are playing this year, so the Bisons' stadium is empty.

"We are continuing to explore the best ways to adapt the available spaces in our ballpark to meet the needs of the Blue Jays," said Mike Buczkowski, the president of Rich Baseball Operations, which oversees the team.

Washington pitcher Max Scherzer said the Blue Jays' situation is the latest wrinkle in the virus-delayed season.

"Whatever the challenge is, wherever you've got to play, wherever you've got to go, just keep a smile on your face," Scherzer said. "Who knows where we're going to play them — but we're going to play baseball. We're going to find a way to play them and get the games going. And when we do play them, it's going to be fun, so just keep a smile on your face and try not to get too down about all the hoops we're going to have to jump through."

Shapiro called Canada's decision disappointing but gave health officials credit for mitigating the spread of the virus.

"Without any hesitation we respect the decision. It's not hard to think about how well managed and well led the virus has been throughout Toronto and Canada by public health and political leaders," Shapiro said.

Mendicino said the government is open to considering future restart plans for the postseason should the risk of virus transmission diminish.

"We've committed to maintaining an open line of communication with both MLB and the Toronto Blue Jays and we will reassess in due course," he said.

MLB needed an exemption to a requirement that anyone entering Canada for nonessential reasons must self-isolate for 14 days. The U.S.-Canada border remains closed to nonessential travel until at least Aug. 21.

"In Canada you've seen us flatten the curve. You've seen that cases have decreased significantly and that is largely attributable to the sacrifices Canadians have made. We can ill afford a step back," Mendicino said.

"We think this is the right call and it is backed by the evidence and advice of our health experts. And fans who still would like to see baseball will still be able to watch the broadcast, just from a different location."

The NHL has received an exemption for its restart to the season, but that was a far simpler case because the games are restricted to two hubs — Edmonton and Toronto.

The Blue Jays received an exemption for summer camp, during which the players agreed to isolate in the hotel attached to Rogers Centre and create a quarantine environment. Players are not allowed to leave the stadium or hotel and violators face fines of up to \$750,000 Canadian (\$551,000 U.S.) and up to six months in jail.

"COVID-19 still exists and there are hardworking people on the front line trying to battle the virus. You have to respect the Canadian government's decision to keep the nation safe," Blue Jays pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu said through a translator.

"We don't even know where we are going to end up playing the regular-season games but as players we are all just trying to rally together," he said.

Toronto Mayor John Tory had lobbied the federal government to approve the plan but said Saturday he understands the decision given the situation in the U.S.

Dr. Andrew Morris, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Toronto and the medical director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Sinai-University Health Network, said the city and province were wrong to push for games to be played in Canada.

"Having people coming from the U.S. repeatedly is not the right thing to do," Morris said. "This should have been by a decision made in Toronto or by the province. It's a bit disappointing it had to be made in Ottawa."

AP Sports Writer Howard Fendrich contributed to this report.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## As virus surges in some US states, emergency rooms swamped

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

A fast-rising tide of new coronavirus cases is flooding emergency rooms in parts of the United States, with some patients moved into hallways and nurses working extra shifts to keep up with the surge.

Patients struggling to breathe are being placed on ventilators in emergency wards since intensive care units are full, officials say, and the near-constant care they require is overtaxing workers who also are treating more typical ER cases like chest pains, infections, and fractures.

In Texas, Dr. Alison Haddock of the Baylor College of Medicine said the current situation is worse than after Hurricane Harvey, which swamped Houston with floodwaters in 2017. The state reported a new daily record for virus deaths Friday and more than 10,000 confirmed cases for the fourth consecutive day.

"I've never seen anything like this COVID surge," said Haddock, who has worked in emergency rooms since 2007. "We're doing our best, but we're not an ICU."

Patients are waiting "hours and hours" to get admitted, she said, and the least sick people are lying in beds in halls to make room for most seriously ill.

Around Seattle, which was the nation's first hot spot for the virus that causes COVID-19, a new wave of patients is showing up at emergency departments, said nurse Mike Hastings.

"What's really frustrating from my side of it is when a patient comes into the emergency department, and is not really having symptoms of COVID, but they feel like they need that testing," said Hastings, who works at an area hospital and is president of the Emergency Nurses Association. "Sometimes we're not able to test them because we don't have enough test supplies, so we're only testing a certain set of patients."

In Florida, another state that is seeing surging case numbers, hospitals say they are in desperate need of remdesivir — a medication that has been shown to shorten average hospitalization times — to treat the coronavirus patients who are filling up beds.

In response, Gov. Ron DeSantis announced 30,000 vials of the drug were being shipped to the state — enough to treat about 5,000 patients.

On Saturday, Florida reported more than 10,200 new cases of the virus and 90 additional deaths, while Missouri recorded a pandemic-high 958 new cases in one day. Arizona, which conducts periodic reviews of death certificates, reclassified 106 deaths as having been from COVID-19, bringing the number of fatalities reported Saturday to 147.

Confirmed coronavirus cases around the world have surpassed 14 million, and deaths rose above 600,000, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University. On Saturday, the World Health Organization, which also tracks the virus, reported a single-day record of new infections — over 259,000 worldwide — for the second day in a row. The true toll of the pandemic is thought to be even higher, in part because of shortages in testing and shortcomings in data collection.

The United States, Brazil and India top the list of cases, and South Africa — with more than 350,000 cases, roughly half of all confirmed infections in Africa — entered the top five this weekend.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 70 of 103

In the United States, where infections are soaring in many Sunbelt states, Megan Jehn, associate professor of epidemiology at Arizona State University in Tempe, said it's important to monitor emergency room visits since increases there can signal that the virus is spreading more rapidly.

But it's difficult to get a complete picture of how emergency rooms are faring in many places. In Arizona, one of the few states that reports data on visits to the emergency room by people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 symptoms, numbers started to spike in early June and peaked earlier this month. More than 2,000 people went to an ER with coronavirus symptoms on a single day, July 7.

On Friday, COVID-19-related hospitalization figures for Arizona were near but below recent records set after the state became a national hot spot.

Dr. Robert Hancock, who works at multiple hospitals in Texas and Oklahoma and serves as president of the Texas College of Emergency Physicians, said some Texas emergency rooms are facing backups of patients awaiting ICU beds. And many of them are on ventilators, meaning they require more attention than other patients.

"Unfortunately, because of the increased demand for personnel, there typically isn't anybody free to come down to the ER to help a lot of times from a nursing standpoint," he said.

Burnout could await these health workers, as it did some in New York City, when it was the epicenter of the nation's outbreak in the spring.

Emergency room doctors and nurses were caught off guard by the relentless stream of severely sick patients during shifts that often lasted 12 hours, said Dr. Bernard P. Chang of New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center.

"You were on high alert the whole shift," Chang said. "It was a brutal, sustained battle."

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Associated Press writers Kevin McGill in New Orleans, Jonathan J. Cooper in Phoenix, and Carla K. Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

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

## One reporter, two executions and haunting last words

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Daniel Lewis Lee, a condemned man and convicted murderer, was asked if he wanted to make a final statement from the execution chamber, with its institutional green-tiled walls and plate-glass interior window, moments before he too would die.

He did. He leaned his head up and we locked eyes.

"You're killing an innocent man," Lee said, looking directly at me.

Those were his last words. He said them to me.

Lee's execution, one of two that I witnessed this past week at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana, played out slowly, after painstaking hours of final, futile legal appeals, before prison officials administered a lethal injection and the federal government carried out capital punishment for the first time in almost two decades. A third execution came later in the week.

Before the lethal injection for Lee, there had been a lot of waiting. Prison officials searched me extensively each time I arrived, then sent me back to my hotel during the legal maneuvering, only to call me back to the maximum-security facility.

As part of a small group of other reporters, I was an official witness to Lee's death, one that took place in the middle of a pandemic.

Lee, who was convicted of killing an Arkansas gun dealer, his wife and young daughter in the late 1990s, was scheduled to be executed Monday at 4 p.m. EDT.

But there would be a long wait as his legal appeals made their way to the Supreme Court. Along with other reporters, I was lodged inside a former bowling alley that was now a prison staff training center. It was guarded by heavily armed prison officers. We were all wearing blue surgical masks. Our temperatures

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 71 of 103

were taken.

We could carry only identification into the prison as we loaded into two unmarked white vans that took us a short distance down "Justice Drive" to the penitentiary building for a security screening.

Inside, correction officers outfitted in full protective gear — N95 masks, face shields, gloves and paper gowns — told us we'd be going through the equivalent of a souped-up airport screening. They even took my glasses to X-ray them.

But then came another delay. Officials told us to grab dinner, so we did, then returned to the prison and waited. By midnight, all of us left again for our hotels nearby.

At 2:10 a.m. the Supreme Court ruled the execution could proceed. About a minute or so later, a Bureau of Prisons official was on the phone saying the execution was scheduled for 4:15 a.m.

We rushed back to the prison. The clock in the van read 4:16 when we hopped out and headed into the execution chamber.

Lee was already there — strapped to a gurney.

We were brought into a small witness room. There were plastic chairs facing the window, a notepad, a pen, small bottle of hand sanitizer and a single sanitizing wipe on each seat. A correction officer pulled the large metal door closed and a booming click echoed through the room. We were locked in.

The curtain was shut, but I could hear noises coming from the other side of the wall. We couldn't make small talk. A man, albeit a convicted murderer, who was supposed to die soon could probably hear us.

We were all uncomfortable. A reporter next to me scribbled "legal issue?" on his notepad and gestured to me. "I guess so," I replied.

There was no clock in the room. We lost track of how long we had been in there. Eventually someone asked if anyone knew what time it was. When a correction officer replied it was 6:10 a.m., there was a collective gasp of surprise.

At 7:46 a.m. the curtain began to rise slowly. By that time we'd been locked in the room with Lee just on the other side of the glass, strapped in, for nearly four hours.

There he was. His arms were strapped down and a light blue sheet covered most of his body. I was annoyed with one of the reporters who was moving around vying for a better view. Of a man's death. It bothered me somehow, even though we were all there.

A U.S. marshal inside the room with Lee picked up a black phone hanging on the green tiled wall.

"This is the marshal inside the execution chamber," he said. Washington headquarters was on the other end. The marshal asked if there were any legal impediments that would prohibit the execution. He listened, then said, "I understand there are no impediments."

And then Lee said those last words, looking right at me.

He rested his head back down and the drug quickly did its deadly work. His lips turned blue. His chest stopped moving. He was pronounced dead.

I rushed back to my computer and filed my story.

It wouldn't sink in until later that I had just watched a man die. My face was one of the last he saw. I've been a crime reporter for years, but this felt different. It was clinical. It was like watching someone go to sleep.

And there wasn't much time to dwell on the experience, because another execution was scheduled for the next day.

Wesley Ira Purkey was convicted of kidnapping a 16-year-old girl from her Kansas neighborhood, raping and killing her in the late 1990s and also killing an 80-year-old.

But his time to die too was already delayed well into the evening. We arrived at the staff training center at 4 p.m. But this time we weren't allowed to leave.

As the hours ticked by, everyone became more anxious, at times pacing in circles.

By 10 p.m., the Bureau of Prisons officials offered us peanuts and chips. They didn't want to let us go back to the hotels because it would take too long to bring us all back through security.

Just before midnight came more food — Lunchables, dug out from a prison fridge somewhere.

At 2:45 a.m. — about 11 hours after we arrived — we were told to leave our electronics and loaded back

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 72 of 103

into the vans. This time we stopped just outside of the execution chamber.

And we sat there for five hours. I dozed off for a bit in my seat.

Eventually, after Purkey's legal avenues were exhausted, we were brought into the witness room. The curtain rose at 7:55 a.m. We were again looking into the execution chamber. The same officials were standing beside Purkey, his arms strapped down with black restraints. He apologized to the family of the teenage girl he killed and to his own daughter.

"This sanitized murder really does not serve no purpose whatsoever," he said. "Thank you."

I glanced over at his spiritual adviser — a Zen Buddhist priest who had sued the Bureau of Prisons to try to stop the execution because of fears over the coronavirus. He was wearing a mask under a face shield and appeared to be praying. I wondered if he was afraid he'd get the virus. I wondered if I would get the virus.

A few minutes later, Purkey was declared dead. The curtain came down.

In one week, I had spent more than 32 hours inside a prison. And watched two men die.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Michael Balsamo is the lead Justice Department and federal law enforcement writer for The Associated Press. He has covered criminal justice and policing issues since 2014.

## Cost, hassle of stamps questioned as mail-in voting surges

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Even if it weren't for her disability and fear of catching COVID-19, Delinda Bryant said getting the necessary postage to cast a ballot this year will be a struggle.

Bryant, 63, doesn't have \$10 for a book of stamps, a printer to make them at home or a working car.

"My car needs its transmission fixed, but my utilities are so high I can't afford it," the south Georgia woman said in testimony for a federal voting rights lawsuit. "Ten dollars for a book of stamps is a hardship."

As more states embrace mail-in voting amid the coronavirus pandemic, the often overlooked detail of postage has emerged as a partisan dividing line.

Questions over whether postage will be required for absentee ballot applications and the actual ballots, who pays for it and what happens to envelopes without stamps are the subject of lawsuits and statehouse political brawls.

Lawsuits filed in Florida by the Democratic super PAC Priorities USA, in Georgia by Black Voters Matter and elsewhere argue that stamps constitute a monetary requirement akin to an illegal poll tax. Voting-rights groups say stamp requirements are another impediment that hits lower-income and minority communities hardest.

"Charging money for the right to vote is unconstitutional, whether it's a penny or a dollar," said Sean Young, legal director of the ACLU of Georgia, which is representing Black Voters Matter. "Many voters lack internet access. Many voters lack a credit card, which is required to buy stamps online. One voter did not receive his book of stamps for two weeks after he ordered it."

The postage debate has become vehement in Ohio, where the state elections chief, a Republican, has asked for the authority to pre-pay postage on absentee ballot applications and the ballots themselves. So far, the GOP-led Legislature has resisted.

Opponents of the proposal by Secretary of State Frank LaRose argue that pre-paying postage could lead to more mail-in ballots being requested than used. Voters who requested a mail-in ballot but for whatever reason — choose to vote in person on Election Day will have to cast a provisional ballot so local election boards can be sure they did not vote twice. About 20% of provisional ballots are typically rejected.

During floor debate in June, state Rep. Bill Seitz, a Cincinnati Republican, said it's also an added expense in a year the virus has ravaged government budgets. It would cost the state \$1.5 million on top of the \$1.5 million Ohio already is paying to mail ballot applications for November's presidential election.

"So it would be expensive at a time when we're facing economic depression, economic problems throughout the state," he said. "And this is not the time to be needlessly spending money."



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 73 of 103

Democrats and voting-rights advocates disagree.

"We always hear the same rhetoric," said Aklima Khondoker, Georgia state director of All Voting is Local. "It's too expensive, it's going to lead to fraud, it's an administration issue.' No, it's not. It's racism."

She said postage requirements disproportionately affect people of color, who are less likely to have the income, transportation or time to obtain stamps.

The postage debate has extended this year to include young voters, who have little experience sending and receiving paper mail and visiting post offices. As part of its lawsuit, the Georgia ACLU submitted statements from young voters who had never used a stamp.

Another complication with requiring stamps is knowing how much postage to use.

Election boards are required by federal postal regulations to include in a voter's packet exactly how much postage is required to return their ballot. Some states, however, require a copy of a valid ID, verification of college enrollment status or notary documentation, and that can add an unknown amount of weight to the ballot, which requires more postage.

Marti Johnson, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service, said the post office delivers every piece of election mail to its destination — with or without adequate postage.

"We are proactively working with state and local election officials on mailing requirements, including postage payment," she said in a statement. "In cases where a ballot enters the mailstream without the proper amount of postage, the Postal Service will collect postage from the appropriate Board of Elections."

Advocates argue that most voters, and particularly voters who fear being disenfranchised, aren't likely to mail a ballot without postage and trust the system to deliver it.

But Khondoker, of All Voting is Local, said the exact amount required is beside the point.

"The stamp issue is not about two adhesive pieces of paper that we put on an envelope," she said. "It's about what it means to families and individuals. It's about an additional sacrifice they have to make to exercise a right that's fundamental to our democracy, one they're guaranteed in the Constitution."

Not all court rulings have gone in advocates' favor.

In Florida last month, U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle rejected a motion by liberal groups that would have required free postage for mail-in ballots on the grounds that stamps represent a poll tax. Hinkle compared stamps to the costs voters incur when driving or riding the bus to the polls.

"Postage charged by the United States Postal Service — like the fee charged by any courier or the bus fare for getting to the polls to vote in person — is not a tax," Hinkle wrote.

Facing a similar legal argument in South Carolina, the state's Election Commission recently went the other way. It agreed as part of a stipulation to provide prepaid absentee ballots for the November election "regardless of the number of voters deemed qualified to vote by absentee ballot."

\_\_\_ Associated Press writer Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

## Rights activists, political leaders mourn Rep. John Lewis

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

Rights activists, politicians from both parties and many other people touched by the legacy of John Lewis mourned the congressman and pillar of the civil rights movement Saturday, lauding the strength, courage and kindness of a man whose lifelong struggle against racial discrimination took him from a bridge in Selma to the nation's Capitol.

"As a young man marching for equality in Selma, Alabama, John answered brutal violence with courageous hope," said former President George W. Bush. "And throughout his career as a civil rights leader and public servant, he worked to make our country a more perfect union."

Former President Barack Obama, America's first Black president, recalled being sworn in for his first term: "I hugged him on the inauguration stand before I was sworn in and told him I was only there because of the sacrifices he made."

Lewis died Friday, several months after the Georgia Democrat announced that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 74 of 103

Lewis, 80, often recalled his upbringing in the segregated South, including how he was denied a library card because the library was for "whites only." He was determined to destroy segregation, joining with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to help plan the 1963 March on Washington.

Two years later, Lewis helped lead the "Bloody Sunday" voting rights march intended to go from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. White police, state troopers and thugs blocked their way on the bridge out of Selma, attacking the peaceful marchers with clubs, bullwhips and tear gas. Lewis suffered a cracked skull.

He went on to make a career in politics, representing Atlanta in Congress for more than 30 years, and all the while imploring people to press for justice — to make what he came to call "good trouble, necessary trouble."

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms described that call as "a generational rallying cry for nonviolent activism in the pursuit of social justice and human rights."

"He fought harder and longer than anyone in our nation's continuing battle for civil rights and equal justice," the NAACP said in a written statement.

He also scrapped with President Donald Trump, refusing to attend his inauguration and calling him a racist. Trump ordered flags flown at half-staff to honor Lewis — as required by law for sitting members of Congress. More than 14 hours after his death, following an array of unrelated retweets and a golf outing, he offered condolences.

"Saddened to hear the news of civil rights hero John Lewis passing," Trump tweeted. "Melania and I send our prayers to he and his family."

Those mourning included baseball legend Hank Aaron, who said he and Lewis "connected to the roots."

"By that I mean we were born and grew up in the highly racist and segregated south, in the state of Alabama," Aaron said. "He committed his life to the struggle for justice and equality for all people."

Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris of California noted that Lewis stood not just for an end to racial discrimination, but for gay rights, such as when he opposed the federal ban on gay marriage, and for immigrant rights, such as an end to family-separation policies.

There was no immediate announcement on funeral plans, which could be affected by the coronavirus pandemic. In an order, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said flags on state buildings would be lowered through sunset on the day of Lewis' interment.

Kemp praised Lewis as "a Civil Rights hero, freedom fighter, devoted public servant, and beloved Georgian who changed our world in a profound way."

State law says Kemp must schedule a special election to fill the current term of Lewis, who was first elected to represent Georgia's majority Black 5th District in 1986, said Georgia Deputy Secretary of State Jordan Fuchs. A vote would have to be held within 30 days.

Separately, Democrats can appoint a replacement candidate to fill Lewis' slot on the November ballot since he already had won the nomination for another term, said Fuchs.

In Congress, Democratic senators signaled a fight over Lewis' legacy after Majority Leader Mitch McConnell issued a statement lionizing him.

"I will never forget joining hands with John as members of Congress sang We Shall Overcome at a 2008 ceremony honoring his friend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," McConnell wrote. "It could not have been more humbling to consider what he had suffered and sacrificed so those words could be sung in that place."

The Democrats noted that McConnell had refused to bring the 2020 Voting Rights Act, passed by the House, up for a vote before the Republican-controlled Senate. The measure would restore federal oversight of state elections, after the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated much of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in 2013.

Harris, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and others urged McConnell to allow a vote, and several said it should be given a new name: the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

## 14 hours later, Trump says he is 'saddened' by Lewis' death

By AAMER MADHANI and LYNN BERRY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the hours after the death of American civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis, President Donald Trump took to Twitter to retweet old missives about Democratic rival Joe Biden and lash out at his former national security adviser and his niece for writing tell-all books about him.

Trump then headed to his golf course in northern Virginia with a political confidant, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, for a nearly four-hour outing.

Shortly after 2 p.m., as Trump was returning from his golf outing — and more than 14 hours after Lewis' death was announced — he offered his and the first lady's condolences in a two-sentence Twitter message.

"Saddened to hear the news of civil rights hero John Lewis passing. Melania and I send our prayers to he and his family," Trump wrote.

By that point all four living former U.S. presidents, Vice President Mike Pence and scores of lawmakers had publicly remarked on the passing of the lawmaker whose brutal beating on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, 50 years earlier marked a turning point in the civil rights movement.

Trump had battled publicly with Lewis, 80, the youngest and last living member of the Big Six civil rights activists who organized the 1963 March on Washington.

Lewis, D-Ga., memorably tangled with Trump days before the president's inauguration in 2017. The congressman said he did not see Trump as a "legitimate president," prompting Trump to blast Lewis as "all talk" and denigrate his majority Black district as "crime infested" and "falling apart."

For the second time during his long service in Congress, Lewis in 2017 skipped the swearing-in ceremony. He also skipped George W. Bush's inauguration in 2001 after his contentious victory over Al Gore.

In December of that year, Lewis refused to speak at the opening of Mississippi civil rights and history museums because Trump would be there. He said the president's "hurtful policies are an insult to the people portrayed in this civil rights museum."

Then, as this year's election battle heated up in the spring, Lewis threw his weight behind Biden and urged young Black voters to help make sure the former vice president wins in November.

He didn't mention Trump by name during his April endorsement, but made clear that he saw Biden's mission as a chance to "redeem the soul of America."

Rep. Karen Bass, the Democratic chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, wrote on Twitter that she hoped that Trump would stay silent about Lewis' death.

At that point, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany had noted that Lewis "was an icon of the civil rights movement," and Pence had issued a statement praising Lewis for his place in American history and noting that as colleagues in the House that "even when we differed, John was always unfailingly kind."

Bass wrote: "@realDonaldTrump while the nation mourns the passing of a national hero, please say nothing. Please don't comment on the life of Congressman Lewis. Your press secretary released a statement, leave it at that."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment about Bass' statement.

The White House also issued a proclamation from the president ordering the lowering of U.S. flags at federal buildings for Lewis' death. By law the flag is lowered the day after a sitting member of Congress passes.

In some ways, Trump's perfunctory offering of condolences showed a measure of restraint compared with some past episodes involving political opponents.

The president was not invited to attend Sen. John McCain's funeral in 2018. Trump had said earlier that he didn't think McCain was a hero because the senator was captured in Vietnam. McCain was tortured and held prisoner for more than five years.

Trump seemed unable to forget one of McCain's Senate votes in particular, the thumbs-down that sank the Republican effort in 2017 to repeal the Obama health care law. Trump was furious, and it showed even after McCain's death. The administration lowered the American flag over the White House to half-staff, but then raised it again two days later. The flags were lowered again after a public outcry.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 76 of 103

And Trump's anti-McCain Twitter tirades continued long after his death from brain cancer. The president also complained that he was never properly thanked for McCain's funeral at Washington's National Cathedral.

Trump drew criticism late last year for suggesting the late Rep. John Dingell, a Democrat, might be "looking up" from hell during a rally in Dingell's home state of Michigan.

The dig at Dingell, whose wife, Rep. Debbie Dingell, succeeded him in the House, came during Trump's impeachment. Days earlier, Trump expressed anger that the congresswoman had supported his impeachment.

"The last time I spoke to Debbie Dingell was her call thanking me for granting top memorial and funeral service honors for her then just departed husband, long time Congressman John Dingell," Trump tweeted. "Now I watch her ripping me as part of the Democrats Impeachment Hoax. Really pathetic!"

This story has been corrected to show that Lewis skipped the 2001 inauguration of George W. Bush as well as Trump's inauguration in 2017.

## Oregon sues feds over Portland protests as unrest continues

By ANDREW SELSKY and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's attorney general is seeking an order to stop federal agents from arresting people in Portland as the city continues to be convulsed by nightly protests that have gone on for seven weeks and have now pitted local officials against the Trump administration.

Federal agents, some wearing camouflage and some wearing dark Homeland Security uniforms, used tear gas at least twice to break up crowds late Friday night, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Demonstrations against systemic racism and police brutality have happened every day in Oregon's largest city since Minneapolis police killed George Floyd on May 25. At 10 p.m. Saturday, several hundred peaceful demonstrators against police brutality rallied in front of downtown's Multnomah County Justice Center and the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, which has a newly built fence around it.

President Donald Trump has decried the disorder, and Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf blasted the protesters as "lawless anarchists" in a visit to the city.

Before the aggressive language and action from federal officials, the unrest had frustrated Mayor Ted Wheeler and other local authorities, who had said a small cadre of violent activists were drowning out the message of peaceful protesters in the city. But Wheeler said the federal presence in the city is now exacerbating a tense situation and he has told them to depart.

"Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city," Wheeler said Friday.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum late Friday sued Homeland Security and the Marshals Service in federal court. The complaint says that unidentified federal agents have grabbed people off Portland's streets "without warning or explanation, without a warrant, and without providing any way to determine who is directing this action."

Rosenblum said she was seeking a temporary restraining order to "immediately stop federal authorities from unlawfully detaining Oregonians."

"The current escalation of fear and violence in downtown Portland is being driven by federal law enforcement tactics that are entirely unnecessary," Rosenblum said in a statement.

The administration has enlisted federal agents, including the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group and an elite U.S. Customs and Border Protection team based on the U.S.-Mexico border, to protect federal property.

But Oregon Public Broadcasting reported this week that some agents had been driving around in unmarked vans and snatching protesters from streets not near federal property, without identifying themselves.

Tensions also escalated after an officer with the Marshals Service fired a less-lethal round at a protester's head on July 11, critically injuring him.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Oregon, issued a joint statement Saturday denouncing the Trump administration's actions.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 77 of 103

"We live in a democracy, not a banana republic. We will not tolerate the use of Oregonians, Washingtonians -- or any other Americans -- as props in President Trump's political games. The House is committed to moving swiftly to curb these egregious abuses of power immediately," they said.

On Friday night, hundreds of people gathered for a vigil outside the downtown Justice Center, which is sandwiched between two federal buildings, including a courthouse, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. Across the street, dozens of other protesters entered two recently closed city parks after dismantling chain-link fencing that blocked access.

Federal agents emerged from an office building next door and used impact munitions, stun grenades and tear gas to clear the area, the news organization reported. It said its journalists did not observe any incident that might have prompted the use of the weapons.

Federal officers deployed tear gas again just before midnight after a few protesters placed dismantled fencing in front of plywood doors covering the entrance of the federal courthouse.

Early Saturday, Portland police declared the gathering unlawful, saying protesters had piled fencing in front of the exits to the federal courthouse and the Multnomah County Justice Center and then shot off fireworks at the Justice Center.

Federal officers and local police then advanced simultaneously on the demonstrators to clear the streets, making arrests as protesters threw bottles and pieces of metal fence at police, the Portland Police Bureau said. 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.

The overnight action by Portland's police was condemned by a prominent member of the City Council. On Saturday Jo Ann Hardesty said local police "joined in the aggressive clampdown of peaceful protest."

Hardesty, who said she was downtown speaking at the protest Friday night, slammed Wheeler, telling the mayor he needed to better control local law enforcement. Hardesty, who oversees the city's fire department and other first-responder agencies, said in an open letter to Wheeler if "you can't control the police, give me the Portland Police Bureau."

In a statement Saturday, Portland Police said as they responded to the overnight protests — which included people throwing projectiles at them — some federal agencies took action "under their own supervision and direction." Portland Police said city officers arrested seven people, and one officer sustained a minor injury.

The statement said the city's police supports peaceful protests, and beginning Saturday night Department of Homeland Security police won't work in the Portland Police incident command center.

## 'Black Lives' mural outside Trump Tower defaced for 3rd time

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A "Black Lives Matter" mural painted on the street in front of President Donald Trump's namesake New York City tower has quickly become a target for vandalism, defaced with bucketfuls of paint three times in less than a week.

In the latest incident, two women were arrested around 3 p.m. Saturday after police said they poured black paint on the block-long mural outside Trump Tower on Manhattan's chic Fifth Avenue.

Bystander video showed police officers surrounding one of the women as she rubbed the paint on the mural's bright yellow letters and screamed: "they don't care about Black lives" and "refund the police."

One of the officers slipped on the paint and tumbled to the ground, sustaining injuries to his head and arm, police said. He was listed in stable condition at Bellevue Hospital.

A police department spokesperson said the women's names and information on possible charges against them weren't immediately available.

The city's largest police union, the Police Benevolent Association, tweeted: "Thankfully our brother will be OK, but this nonsense needs to stop. Our city is in crisis. Paint on the street helps no one."

Saturday's vandalism happened less than 24 hours after three people were caught on surveillance video smearing blue paint on the mural around 4 p.m. Friday while a woman littered it with flyers that referenced

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 78 of 103

the recent shooting death of a 1-year-old boy in Brooklyn, police said.

Officers found the trio nearby a short time later with blue paint on their hands and clothing, police said. According to the video of the incident, one of them was wearing an "All Lives Matter" shirt as well as other apparel indicating support for President Donald Trump.

They were arrested, charged with criminal mischief and released with a order to appear in court at a later date.

The woman, 64, was issued a criminal court summons for illegal posting of flyers. A photo provided by police showed one of the flyers designed like an internet meme, with a close-up picture of 1-year-old shooting victim Davell Gardner Jr. under the words "DID MY LIFE MATTER" followed by a crying emoji.

Next to Gardner's picture was a message written in red marker: "I wasn't killed by a cop. I was killed by a Black person. Where's BLM?"

Police have released surveillance video showing two men running and pointing guns who are believed to be suspects in the July 11 shooting. Witnesses say they jumped out of a car and fired multiple shots at the group before driving away. No arrests have been made.

Meanwhile, police are continuing to look for a man in black shorts and a dark blue T-shirt who was seen splashing red paint on the "Black Lives Matter" mural around noon on Monday.

The words "Black Lives Matter" have been painted on streets in New York and elsewhere in recent weeks to show support for the movement demanding justice and reforms after the recent police killings of George Floyd and other Black people.

Mayor Bill de Blasio helped paint the mural in front of President Donald Trump's namesake tower last week.

Trump said last month in a tweet that affixing the words to Fifth Avenue in front of his building would denigrate "this luxury Avenue."

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Follow Michael Sisak on Twitter at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## 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' 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.

More brutality would loom in his life's last chapter. He wept watching the video of George Floyd's death at the hands of police in Minnesota. "I kept saying to myself: How many more? How many young Black

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 79 of 103

men will be murdered?" he said last month.

Yet he declared, or at least dared to hope: "We're one people, we're one family. We all live in the same house, not just the American house but the world house."

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.

He was a guiding voice for a young Illinois senator who became the first Black president.

"I told him that I stood on his shoulders," Obama wrote in a statement marking Lewis's death. "When I was elected President of the United States, I hugged him on the inauguration stand before I was sworn in and told him I was only there because of the sacrifices he made."

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 80 of 103

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 belatedly backed 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."

Trump ordered flags at half-staff at the White House and all federal public buildings and grounds, including embassies abroad and all military posts and naval stations, throughout the day Saturday.

"Saddened to hear the news of civil rights hero John Lewis passing. Melania and I send our prayers to he and his family," Trump said via Twitter.

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."

The rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and the racial diversity of the crowds protesting racism and police brutality gave him encouragement in his last weeks even as the unrest exposed anguished division that would not be overcome in his lifetime.

"It was very moving, very moving to see hundreds and thousands of people from all over America and around the world take to the streets to speak up, to speak out," he said on "CBS This Morning."

He urged protesters seeking justice in Floyd's killing and the authorities confronting them to be nonviolent, because "there's something cleansing, something wholesome, about being peaceful and orderly."

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.

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.

## Oregon officials decry federal agents after protest clashes

By ANDREW SELSKY and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Militarized federal agents deployed by the president to Portland, Oregon, fired tear gas against protesters again overnight as the city's mayor demanded that the agents be removed and as the state's attorney general vowed to seek a restraining order against them.

Federal agents, some wearing camouflage and some wearing dark Homeland Security uniforms, used tear gas at least twice to break up crowds late Friday night, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Protests against systemic racism and police brutality have been a nightly feature in deeply liberal Portland since Minneapolis police killed George Floyd on May 25. President Donald Trump has decried the disorder and Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf blasted the protesters as "lawless anarchists" in a visit to the city, helping make the clashes between police and demonstrators a national focus.

The administration has enlisted federal agents, including the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group and an elite U.S. Customs and Border Protection team based on the U.S.-Mexico border, to protect federal property. But Oregon Public Broadcasting reported this week that some agents had been driving around in unmarked vans and snatching protesters from streets not near federal property, without identifying themselves.

Tensions also escalated after an officer with the Marshals Service fired a less-lethal round at a protester's head on July 11, critically injuring him.

The agents' actions have prompted outrage from elected officials and civil liberties groups, with Mayor Ted Wheeler demanding at a news conference Friday: "Keep your troops in your own buildings, or have them leave our city."

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Trump is looking for a confrontation in the hopes of winning political points elsewhere and distracting from his widely panned response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the Department of Homeland Security and Marshals Service on Friday on behalf of journalists and legal observers who had been hit with tear gas and rubber bullets, adding the federal agencies to a lawsuit the organization had already filed against local police.

"Usually when we see people in unmarked cars forcibly grab someone off the street we call it kidnaping," said Jann Carson, interim executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum also sued Homeland Security and the Marshals Service in federal court Friday night. The complaint alleges that unidentified federal agents have grabbed people off Portland's streets "without warning or explanation, without a warrant, and without providing any way to determine who is directing this action."

Rosenblum said she was seeking a temporary restraining order to "immediately stop federal authorities from unlawfully detaining Oregonians."

"The current escalation of fear and violence in downtown Portland is being driven by federal law enforcement tactics that are entirely unnecessary," Rosenblum said in an emailed statement. "They not only make it impossible for people to assert their First Amendment rights to protest peacefully. They also create a more volatile situation on our streets."

Even local U.S. Justice Department authorities have raised eyebrows at the tactics. U.S. Attorney Billy Williams in Portland noted that for 50-plus nights agents had faced difficult circumstances, rebuffing protesters who tried to enter the federal courthouse or who shot commercial fireworks. But he said Friday he had asked the DHS inspector general to investigate reports that agents arrested people without probable cause.

On Friday night, hundreds of people gathered for a vigil outside the downtown Justice Center, which is sandwiched between two federal buildings, including a courthouse, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 82 of 103

Across the street, dozens of other protesters entered two recently closed city parks after dismantling chain-link fencing that blocked access.

Federal agents emerged from an office building next door and used impact munitions, stun grenades and tear gas to clear the area, the news organization reported. It said its journalists did not observe any incident that might have prompted the use of the weapons.

Federal officers deployed tear gas again just before midnight after a few protesters placed dismantled fencing in front of plywood doors covering the entrance of the federal courthouse.

Early Saturday, Portland police declared the gathering unlawful, saying protesters had piled fencing in front of the exits to the federal courthouse and the Multnomah County Justice Center and then shot off fireworks at the Justice Center.

Federal officers and local police then advanced simultaneously on the demonstrators to clear the streets, making several arrests as protesters threw bottles and pieces of metal fence at police, the Portland Police Bureau said. 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.

Federal authorities have charged more than a dozen people with crimes related to the protests so far, Oregon Public Broadcasting has reported.

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 while refusing to identify themselves.

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 eyes so he couldn't see, he said.

Pettibone said he was put into a cell but allowed to leave after he asked for a lawyer.

"Authoritarian governments, not democratic republics, send unmarked authorities after protesters," Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley tweeted.

## Mass protests rock Russian Far East city, challenge Kremlin

By YULIA KHOROVENKOVA and DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

KHABAROVSK, Russia (AP) — Mass rallies challenging the Kremlin rocked Russia's 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.

The massive unauthorized crowds gathered despite local officials' attempts to discourage people from taking to the streets, citing the coronavirus epidemic and an alleged averted terrorist threat.

Local media estimated the rally in the city 3,800 miles east of Moscow drew 15,000 to 50,000 people, while city authorities put the number at 10,000. Hundreds of people have rallied in the city 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 importing consumer goods ranging from timber and metals. Khabarovsk residents dismissed the charges against him as unsubstantiated.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 83 of 103

ated 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 can simply take away our choice," protester Mikhail Yerashchenko 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 was 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 governments over the past two years.

During his two years in office, Furgal earned a reputation of being "the people's governor." He cut his own salary, ordered the sale of an expensive yacht that 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.

Last Saturday, crowds of reportedly up to 35,000 people rallied in Khabarovsk. Protesters demanded that Furgal's trial be moved to Khabarovsk, with one 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 unauthorized protests are the largest ever 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.

Police didn't interfere with Saturday's rally. Protesters held banners demanding Furgal's freedom 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 protester in Khabarovsk, told the AP.

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Litvinova reported from Moscow.

## Doctor who survived COVID-19 bewildered by public disregard

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Dr. Michael Saag spends much of his time treating patients fighting for their lives and working with colleagues who are overwhelmed and exhausted by the relentless battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

But he enters a different world when he walks out the door of his Alabama clinic: one where many don't wear masks, keep their distance from others or even seem aware of the intense struggle being waged against a virus that has cost about 140,000 lives nationwide and made so many — including the doctor — seriously ill.

The disconnect is devastating.

"It's a mixture of emotions, from anger to being demoralized to bewilderment to frustration," Saag said.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have increased an average of more than 1,500 a day over the past week in Alabama, bringing the total to more than 62,100 since the pandemic began in March. At least 1,230 people have died and health officials say fewer than 15% of the state's intensive care beds are available for new patients. Some hospitals are completely out of room.

It's not just an Alabama problem. About 250 miles (400 kilometers) from Birmingham, Dr. Chad Dowell warns that his hospital in tiny Indianola, Mississippi, is filling up and so are others, making it difficult to locate beds for the sickest patients even as people debate on social media whether the pandemic is real.

Inside the hospital at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, doctors and nurses in protective gear

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 84 of 103

rush from one emergency to another. They struggle to comfort heartbroken visitors forced to say good-bye to dying relatives long distance via cellphone, Saag said, all while coping with the stress of whether they'll be infected next.

The sharp increase in confirmed virus cases in Alabama has coincided with the reopening of restaurants, bars, theaters, gyms, sports leagues and churches that were all closed down when the virus first hit. Although most have opened at a diminished capacity and with restrictions in place, many patrons haven't been following recommended precautions.

In metro Birmingham, where Saag lives, it has been common to see fewer than half the people inside stores wearing masks. The doctor said he got particularly dispirited recently after stopping by a restaurant on the way home from work to pick up a takeout order of sushi. There were as many as 60 people inside, he said.

"Myself and one other person were the only two people wearing masks. And everybody else, not only were they not wearing masks, they were congregating together," he said. "And they look at me like I'm some sort of pariah wearing a mask."

In response, Gov. Kay Ivey this week ordered all Alabama residents 6 and older to wear masks when in public and within 6 feet (2 meters) of someone who is not a relative. Cast against a pandemic that has become increasingly political, the move drew both praise as a potentially life-saving step and harsh criticism from those who called it an unnecessary affront to freedom.

Saag said he hopes the order helps, but it all depends on compliance. Ivey herself said the rule will be hard to enforce, and some police and sheriff's offices have said they won't even try.

During the initial outbreak, doctors and nurses were hailed as heroes in the fight against COVID-19. Some say they now feel more like cannon fodder in a war that has become increasingly divisive.

"People continue to regard the virus as a political scheme or conspiracy theory. People continue to ignore recommended guidelines on how to help slow the virus' spread. People continue to complain about wearing a mask. We've got to do better as a community," Dowell, the Mississippi doctor, wrote in a Facebook message released by South Sunflower County hospital.

For Saag, the fight is personal. In early March, both he and his adult son came down with the virus after a trip to Manhattan when the epidemic was raging there. First came a cough, followed by fever, a headache, body aches and what Saag called "fuzzy thinking," or an inability to concentrate.

"The mornings I'd feel fine, thought I was done with it. And then every night it would come right back as if it was just starting all over again," he said. "The hardest part of the night was that feeling of shortness of breath and not knowing if it's going to get worse."

During eight suffocating nights, Saag wasn't sure whether he'd survive without a ventilator. It never came to that. He is now fully recovered and feels closer than ever to the people he treats.

"When I talk to a patient and I say, 'Hey, I've had it too,' it's like we're connected in a way that I really, honestly haven't felt with patients ever before — and I've been doing this 40 years," Saag said.

Outside the examination room, Saag has participated in news conferences and done media interviews to encourage basic public health practices, but he knows many people just aren't listening.

He said it is disheartening to see a widespread disregard for safety measures and worries about Alabama's future at a time when the virus is posing more of a threat than ever.

"I'm just thinking, 'Oh, my goodness. We're going to be in trouble very soon,'" Saag said.

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This story has been corrected to show that about 140,000 people have died of the coronavirus in the U.S., not hundreds of thousands.

## Trump talks less about virus, states look inward for answers

By AAMER MADHANI and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has taken an increasingly hands-off approach to the coronavirus crisis in recent days even as COVID-19 cases and deaths have surged to record highs in a huge slice of the country, including areas where he has enjoyed strong support.

Meanwhile, governors and big city mayors in much of the United States are sending a blunt message to their constituents: Don't expect a federal cavalry to save the day.

Throughout the crisis, the president has been quick to convey certitude, with threats to state and local officials who did not heed his warnings. But as the pandemic has continued to ravage the nation, his actions have largely been muted.

Large districts in Los Angeles, Houston and suburban Washington are among those to defy Trump's demand that schools fully reopen this fall. They announced this past week that the escalating virus cases will cause them to delay opening their buildings for in-person learning. Others districts, including New York City and Chicago, have laid out initial plans for a combination of in-person and online learning.

At the same time, governors and mayors have largely stopped pleading for more federal government help. Instead, they are making it clear that it will be on the shoulders of communities to stem the accelerating spread of the virus.

"Our future truly lies in our own hands," Republican Gov. Mike DeWine told Ohioans this past week.

The caution coming from many statehouses and city halls contrasts with the upbeat outlook from Trump. He has limited his comments on the virus recently and shifted his attention to his administration's efforts to revive the economy and attack the presumptive Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden.

But with Trump's public approval ratings sinking over his handling of the crisis less than four months before Election Day, administration officials say the president may need to pivot to a more aggressive approach.

Kellyanne Conway, a White House senior adviser, noted that polls early in the crisis showed that a majority of Americans approved of his handling of the outbreak. This was when Trump was holding near daily briefings.

"I just think the people want to hear from the president of the United States," Conway said. "It doesn't have to be daily. It doesn't have to be for two hours. But in my view, it has to be."

In the meantime, the crisis continues to worsen. On Thursday, the U.S. reported more than 70,000 new COVID-19 cases, a single day record.

The Florida Department of Health reported 156 new coronavirus-related deaths on Thursday, the most yet in a 24-hour period. It was one of 10 states to reach a record for deaths in a single day this past week, joining Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

On Thursday, Trump made a brief detour during an event to spotlight his administration's deregulation record to praise himself for his handling of the pandemic.

"No administration in history has removed more red tape more quickly to rescue the economy and to protect the health of our people," Trump said.

A day earlier during a visit to a UPS facility in Georgia, a hot spot where confirmed cases have surged, he only mentioned the virus in passing. He instead rehashed old attacks on China.

This hands-off approach to the virus contrasts with his words and actions against what he's described derisively as the "left-wing mob," protesters who have taken to the streets around the country to decry racial injustice following the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Trump deployed militarized federal agents to Portland, Oregon, angering city and state officials when the agents detained people far from the federal property they were sent to protect. Portland's mayor demanded Friday that Trump remove them.

Despite Trump's optimistic outlook on the pandemic, some top public health experts on the White House coronavirus task force, most notably infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, are raising red flags.

Fauci has warned that the United States could soon see 100,000 infections per day. "We haven't even begun to see the end of it yet," Fauci said during a talk hosted by Stanford University's School of Medicine.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 86 of 103

But at this point, elected officials are looking past the White House and confronting the shifting crisis on their own terms. The talk at the local level, particularly in Democratic-run cities, seems disconnected from Trump's assurances that a vaccine will be developed at "warp speed" and that the economy is already "getting back" to where it was before the pandemic.

A former Food and Drug Administration commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, said the dynamic has led to a series of state-based strategies to head off the virus.

"In some respects, it has allowed states to tailor solutions to their individual challenges and their individual resources," Gottlieb said. "And in other states it would be preferable to have a more coordinated national approach, particularly when it comes, for example, to testing, where we don't really have a surge capacity that we can move around this country to try to get testing into the hot spots."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, a Democrat and co-chair of Biden's campaign, laid blame squarely on Trump.

"None of us can look at the map of the country right now and have confidence that this administration has done what they need to do to keep us safe," she said.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, wrote in The Washington Post that the White House failed to issue public warnings, draw up a 50-state strategy or effectively deliver medical gear or lifesaving ventilators from the national stockpile to American hospitals.

"It was hopeless, waiting around for him," wrote Hogan, retelling his frustration with Trump that led him, with the help of his South Korean-born wife, to acquire 500,000 virus test kits from the South Korean government early in the crisis. "Governors were being told that we were on our own. It was sink or swim."

Back in April, weeks into a lockdown of the economy, Trump feuded with governors over whether the president or state leaders had the authority over reopening the economy.

With Trump ceding that debate, states have settled into a scattershot approach.

Even as Trump pushes for schools to reopen, state leaders have largely ignored his rhetoric, noting that the president's ability to pressure states to do as he says is limited by the reality that states and municipalities largely control the funding and operations of schools.

Early on, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, sought to develop a working relationship with the administration, even traveling to the White House in May to meet with the president. But as the crisis has worn on, Polis has expressed frustration with the lack of a national strategy.

"We need a coordinated national response to the coronavirus that we currently lack, but that's not something that I, as your governor, can deliver," Polis said. "We have to live with the president and administration we have rather than the administration that we may want."

Amiri reported from Columbus, Ohio. Associated Press writers Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut; David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan; Patty Nieberg in Denver; and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

## Religious faith was a lifelong constant for Rep. John Lewis

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — From his childhood, when he preached to chickens in the dirt-poor South, to his decades as a moral force in Congress, religious faith was a constant in the life of Rep. John Lewis.

Lewis spent boyhood days as a make-believe minister, preaching to a congregation of clucking birds at his rural home in Alabama. As a teen, inspired by the oratory and leadership of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., he went on to become a civil rights activist in his own right while attending a Baptist college in Tennessee. Like the earliest evangelists of Christianity, he was beaten and jailed for speaking out when others were silent.

In later years, as an elder member of the U.S. House, Lewis advocated for both justice and reconciliation. Returning to a tactic he first learned nearly 60 years earlier, Lewis led a sit-in on the House floor in 2016 to protest the failure of gun-control measures.

Lewis died Friday at age 80.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 87 of 103

Despite memories that sometimes brought him to tears, and defying the diminishing strength that came with advancing age, Lewis for years led annual pilgrimages to the Deep South for fellow members of Congress seeking to both honor the legacy of the civil rights movement and push it in new directions.

"He is the reason I come," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, a longtime participant in the pilgrimages, said of Lewis during the 2019 tour, sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute in Washington.

Born in 1940, Lewis grew up near Troy, Alabama, at a time when racial segregation was the law and ministers were typically leading members of the Black community. Since his sharecropper family lived in a state run by and for white people, Lewis had virtually no Black political leaders to emulate as a role model.

So, as Lewis often recounted, he would gather together a congregation composed of siblings, cousins and fowl in the yard and emulate the preachers he heard on Sunday at church with his family.

"And I would start speaking or preaching. And when I look back, some of these chickens would bow their heads. Some of these chickens would shake their heads. They never quite said 'Amen,' but I'm convinced that some of those chickens that I preached to during the '40s and the '50s tended to listen to me much better than some of my colleagues listen to me today," he said in an interview with C-SPAN in 2012.

Lewis was 15 when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, about 60 miles north of Lewis' hometown. He had already witnessed the harsh reality of "white only" signs on public restrooms and water fountains. He was drawn to scratchy radio broadcasts by King, then a young minister in his first pastorate in Montgomery, and later the leader of the yearlong bus boycott that followed Parks' arrest.

"He was not concerned about the streets of heaven and the pearly gates and the streets paved with milk and honey," Lewis said of King in an interview for the documentary "Eyes on the Prize," released in 1987. "He was more concerned about the streets of Montgomery and the way that Black people and poor people were being treated in Montgomery."

After meeting King during a trip to Montgomery, Lewis enrolled at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he considered becoming a minister. He learned the concepts of nonviolent protest through ministers and the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, an arm of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, plus the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Activism fueled by religion guided Lewis' life. In later years he worried aloud that some people failed to understand civil rights activism as an extension of faith for many participants in the movement, rooted in stories about Jesus and the words of Gandhi, who was born Hindu and embraced many teachings.

"In my estimation, the civil rights movement was a religious phenomenon. When we'd go out to sit in or go out to march, I felt, and I really believe, there was a force in front of us and a force behind us, 'cause sometimes you didn't know what to do. You didn't know what to say, you didn't know how you were going to make it through the day or through the night. But somehow and some way, you believed — you had faith — that it all was going to be all right," Lewis told PBS in 2004.

## UN chief: World 'at the breaking point' due to inequalities

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Saying "we are at the breaking point," the U.N. secretary-general made a sweeping call Saturday to end the global inequalities that sparked this year's massive anti-racism protests and have been further exposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

"COVID-19 has been likened to an X-ray, revealing fractures in the fragile skeleton of the societies we have built," Antonio Guterres said as he delivered the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture.

"It is exposing fallacies and falsehoods everywhere: The lie that free markets can deliver health care for all, the fiction that unpaid care work is not work, the delusion that we live in a post-racist world, the myth that we are all in the same boat."

He said developed countries are strongly invested in their own survival and have "failed to deliver the support needed to help the developing world through these dangerous times."

The U.N. chief's address marked what would have been the birthday of former South African president

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 88 of 103

and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mandela.

South Africa, the world's most unequal country a quarter-century after the end of the racist system of apartheid, is quickly becoming one of the world's hardest-hit nations in the pandemic and now makes up roughly half of Africa's confirmed coronavirus cases. Already its public hospitals are nearly overwhelmed.

The speech by the U.N. chief took aim at the vast inequality of wealth — "The 26 richest people in the world hold as much wealth as half the global population," Guterres said — and other inequalities involving race, gender, class and place of birth.

These, he said, are seen in the world's fragmented response to the pandemic as governments, businesses and even individuals are accused of hoarding badly needed testing, medical and other supplies for themselves.

The legacy of colonialism still reverberates, Guterres added, and it shows in global power relations.

Developing countries, and especially African nations, are under-represented at the levels of power including at financial institutions like the World Bank and political ones like the U.N. Security Council, whose five most powerful members — the U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China — date from the 1940s when the world body was created.

"Inequality starts at the top: in global institutions. Addressing inequality must start by reforming them," Guterres said, offering some solutions.

A new generation of social protection is needed, including universal health coverage and perhaps maybe even a universal basic income he said, adding "individuals and corporations must pay their fair share."

Education spending in low and middle-income countries should more than double by 2030 to \$3 trillion a year, he said. And in the face of enormous shifts due to climate change, governments should tax carbon instead of people.

Answering questions after his speech, Guterres called for "massive support" for the developing world including debt write-offs. He said the suspension of debt payments until the end of this year, which was agreed upon by the G-20, the world's 20 major economic powers, "is clearly not enough."

And he noted, without naming names, that "leadership and power are not always aligned."

"Let's face facts," Guterres said in his address. "The global political and economic system is not delivering on critical global public goods: public health, climate action, sustainable development, peace."

The U.N. chief called for a new model of global governance with inclusive and equal participation.

"We see the beginnings of a new movement," he said, adding it's time to right the wrongs of the past.

## Given a chance, Trump would push court pick before election

By AAMER MADHANI and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have tried to make it clear: Given the chance, they would push through a Supreme Court nominee should a vacancy occur before Election Day.

The issue has taken on new immediacy with the disclosure Friday that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is receiving chemotherapy for a recurrence of cancer after four earlier bouts with the disease. The 87-year-old liberal, who apologized in 2016 for her pointed public criticism of Trump during his first campaign, says she has no plans to retire.

The development has focused even more on what's at stake this election, with the winner in position to help shape the trajectory of the court for years to come.

Trump administration officials have underscored that Trump would not hesitate to fill an opening before voters have their say Nov. 3, less than four months away, on whether to give him a second term.

Four years ago, also in a presidential election year, the GOP-controlled Senate refused to hold a hearing or vote when President Barack Obama, a Democrat, nominated federal judge Merrick Garland to succeed Justice Antonin Scalia after his death in February. Nine months before that year's election, McConnell said voters should determine who would nominate the person to fill that seat.

Fast forward to this past week. Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, told reporters: "I can't imagine



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 89 of 103

that 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 spoke shortly after the court said Ginsburg was briefly hospitalized, but before the justice announced she had a recurrence of cancer and has been treated with chemotherapy since May 19.

Ginsburg is the oldest justice, followed by Stephen Breyer, 81, Clarence Thomas, 72, and Samuel Alito, 70. Trump sees his efforts at reshaping the judiciary as a signature achievement of his presidency. Last month he marked his 200th judicial appointment. Earlier in his term, he won confirmation of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the high court.

The president has sought to remind fellow Republicans that should he win a second term, he would have the chance to push the Supreme Court and lower courts further to the right.

Last month, after the court rejected his administration’s attempt to end an Obama-era program that provided legal protections to roughly 650,000 immigrants illegally brought to the United States as children, Trump said more needed to be done to push the court to the right.

He said he would release a “new list of Conservative Supreme Court Justice nominees” by Sept. 1. “Based on decisions being rendered now, this list is more important than ever before (Second Amendment, Right to Life, Religious Liberty, etc.) – VOTE 2020!” he tweeted.

Carl Tobias, a University of Richmond law school professor, said Republicans “have shown no consistency” between their refusal to give Garland a hearing and their insistence it would be proper to move forward on a vacancy during the waning days of a potentially lame-duck presidency.

Tobias said Trump and Republicans are calculating that playing up their commitment to adding another conservative justice is such an attractive pitch to base voters that it’s worth risking being labeled hypocrites by their opponents.

Leading Republicans, including the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, now say it’s OK to consider an election-year appointment when the Senate and the White House are held by the same party.

“Merrick Garland was a different situation,” Graham said in May. “You had the president of one party nominating, and you had the Senate in the hands of the other party. A situation where you’ve got them both would be different.”

McConnell was even more blunt. “Yeah, we’d fill it,” he said in a February interview.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, a member of the Judiciary panel who is facing reelection, told Iowa PBS on Friday that she would also be supportive of holding hearings and a vote on a Trump nominee this year, even if the president lost reelection.

“There’s likely not to be a lot of disagreement” between the Senate and the White House on the selection of a nominee, unlike in 2016, Ernst said.

At least one key Republican has expressed reservations.

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the former chairman of the Judiciary panel who blocked Garland’s nomination in 2016, said two years ago that he would not take up a new nomination if he were still the committee chairman in 2020 and there were a Supreme Court vacancy. But Grassley, who now heads the Senate Finance Committee, said if there were a different chairman that person would have to make the call.

Grassley told Fox News in 2018 that he wouldn’t take up the nomination because “I pledged that in 2016 ... That’s a decision I made a long time ago.”

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Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

## Trump’s trouble in suburbs key to suddenly competitive Ohio

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and DAN SEWELL Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — During a background briefing with reporters in December, President Donald Trump’s reelection campaign team gave only passing mention of Ohio. Certainly no one suggested a full-scale fall advertising strategy for the state he carried convincingly in 2016.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 90 of 103

But less than four months until this November's election, Trump is facing an unexpectedly competitive landscape in Ohio because he has lost ground in metropolitan and suburban areas, threatening the overwhelming advantages he has in rural areas, state data show.

Trump's campaign has budgeted \$18.4 million in television advertising in Ohio for this fall, second only to Florida, according to campaign advertising tracking data.

Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has named Aaron Pickrell, a former top Ohio adviser to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, as a senior strategist, Biden campaign officials said. Four other campaign staff members in the state were announced Friday. But the Biden campaign has not gone so far as to book its own television advertising in Ohio, where 18 electoral votes are at stake. Trump won Ohio by 8 percentage points four years ago.

Still, Trump's heavy investment in Ohio and a series of midterm and municipal government gains by Democrats since 2016 suggest the president probably will have even more difficult terrain in other pivotal states in the industrial heartland — Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin — that he won by much smaller margins.

"These are all big, flashing warning signs," said former Obama senior adviser David Axelrod. "If he were a patient, and you were a doctor, you'd look at this and say, 'You've got problems, buddy.'"

Republican presidential candidates have been steadily losing support in Ohio's once reliably GOP suburbs around Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. But Trump's fall was particularly sharp, according to state voting data and census records compiled by Mike Dawson, a public policy consultant and creator of ohioelectionresults.com.

For instance, in the affluent northern Columbus-area suburb of Upper Arlington, Republican George H. W. Bush won by 34 percentage points in 1992. Twenty years later, Republican Mitt Romney's winning margin there was 8 percentage points. In 2016, Trump lost Upper Arlington to Hillary Clinton by 16 percentage points.

A similar picture emerged in the 10 wealthiest suburbs outside Cleveland in Cuyahoga County. In Franklin County outside Columbus, Trump lost nine of the 10 most affluent suburbs, a sharp decline from other Republicans over the past 24 years.

The trend was worst in suburban Hamilton County outside Cincinnati, where Trump's losing margin in the 10 richest suburbs was at least 50% of Republicans' total decline since 1992.

"College educated suburbanites in Ohio, particularly college educated women, were not as supportive of the president in 2016 as they've traditionally been of Republican presidential nominees, and that will continue in 2020," said Karl Rove, senior adviser to President George W. Bush's presidential campaign in 2004, when the Republican won election in part by narrowly carrying Ohio. "Trump has a problem with them."

Andrea Granieri, 34, from the eastern Cincinnati suburb of Anderson Township, had been a lifelong Republican, until Trump.

"I could not vote for Donald Trump. I just couldn't do it," Granieri said, noting the explanation she would owe her two children some day. "I could not endorse the way he talks to people and how he talks about people."

Still, Rove said that Trump maintains a clear path to carrying Ohio: "It's to repeat his 2016 performance in 2020."

That includes matching and, in some instances, exceeding his overwhelming margins in the GOP-heavy counties along the Indiana border and the struggling industrial Mahoning River Valley corridor and along the Ohio River to the south.

But Rove said Trump must also "do what he did in 2016 in suburban Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland and Columbus."

History suggests that's going to be hard, some Ohio Republicans say.

"Can the electoral leakage for Republicans in these first- and second-ring suburbs continue to be offset by running up the score along the Ohio River?" said former state Republican Party Chair Kevin DeWine, a former state representative and second cousin to Republican Gov. Mike DeWine. "We have to be honest as Republicans and say we are dangerously close to that tipping point."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 91 of 103

During an August 2018 special election, Danny O'Connor came within 1,700 votes out of more than 200,000 of becoming the first Democrat in 36 years to win Ohio's 12th Congressional District, which includes once solidly Republican Delaware County. Trump came to campaign for O'Connor's opponent, Rep. Troy Balderson, and helped pull him to victory.

Democrats continued making inroads in 2018, picking up six suburban state legislative seats.

That November, Erik Yassenoff, in losing his bid for a northern Columbus-area district, became the first Republican candidate for Ohio General Assembly to lose Upper Arlington.

"I think you're seeing people in the suburbs align more with the urban populations," Yassenoff said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chair David Pepper has watched as younger, educated and often more racially and ethnically diverse families have sought the top schools and other comforts of Ohio's booming suburbs since the mid-2000s.

The trend was especially clear last year as Democrats scored victories in local suburban elections.

"This is where the fundamental shift has happened, what used to be the base of the Republican Party, these larger, generally white-collar suburbs around Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland and Akron," Pepper said.

In Yassenoff's Upper Arlington, voters elected their first Democrats to its City Council. In nearby Hilliard, Democrats won their first seat on the City Council in three decades. There were similar Democratic municipal gains in Republican-leaning suburbs around Toledo and Dayton, as well as in communities outside Cleveland.

Perhaps most telling, southeast of Columbus in the old Republican suburb of Reynoldsburg, Democrats swept the municipal elections and elected three Black female council members, a first for the city.

"What it tells us is that more people are becoming engaged and involved," said Meredith Lawson-Rowe, among the new Reynoldsburg council members.

Even as Trump's standing began to fall after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Ohio was not seen as a concern, campaign officials said. But polls in other states showing close races in Iowa, Georgia and even Texas have also now shaken the firm grip on Ohio.

Biden's team and national Democrats think they can compete at a minimum to force Trump to defend Ohio, perhaps with money that could be spent in its must-win regional neighbors.

Spokesman David Bergstein of the Democratic National Committee put it simply: "I'd say Trump is clearly facing headwinds in Ohio and he's being squeezed."

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this report.

## 'We really need help': Coronavirus overwhelms rural Oregon

By SARA CLINE Associated Press/Report For America

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Heather Griggs presses a phone to her ear in a makeshift office in the small brick courthouse that once served as a jail in rural Pendleton, a place best known for its annual rodeo.

Her assured tone masks her exhaustion when she tells the person on the other end that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. It's a call she has made thousands of times since March, but lately there has been a heightened sense of urgency.

The coronavirus has torn through the small Oregon community where farmers grow crops such as potatoes, onions and grains. In Umatilla County, where Pendleton is located, the rate of people testing positive for COVID-19 is about 16%. That's a measure of how widespread the disease is in the community, and the World Health Organization recommends it stay below 5%.

In the county with a population of 77,000, the virus has infected more than a thousand people and killed nine, overwhelming its limited resources and employees.

"I'm tired," said Griggs, who's working as a contact tracer.

The pandemic sweeping through major U.S. cities is now wreaking havoc on rural communities, with some recording the nation's most new confirmed cases per capita in the past two weeks. The virus is infecting

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 92 of 103

thousands of often impoverished rural residents every day, swamping struggling health care systems and piling responsibility on government workers who often perform multiple jobs they never signed up for.

Officials attribute much of the spread in rural America to outbreaks in workplaces, living facilities and social gatherings. Food processing plants and farms, where people typically work in cramped quarters, have proven to be hot spots.

Umatilla County has Oregon's highest number of confirmed infections per capita, sometimes reporting a figure this month above that of Multnomah County, which is 10 times larger and includes Portland. The surge in Umatilla and most of Oregon's rural counties is driving the state's rise in confirmed cases.

In response to the pandemic, Umatilla County divided virus-related tasks among the 30-person public health department.

For Griggs, that meant her role supervising the agency's maternal-child section turned into contact tracing and investigating. She spends her days asking people with positive test results about those they interacted with and then calling to warn those people.

"We are a small county, so I don't think there is a single person here at public health who hasn't been involved in some way," said Griggs, who works with eight other contact tracers.

Other rural counties also are seeing virus cases soar.

Forested Hot Spring County in Arkansas leads the nation in the number of confirmed new cases per capita in the past two weeks, according to data compiled by The Associated Press.

Also near the top of the list are even more remote places, such as Scurry and Crockett counties in Texas.

The Scurry County judge announced last week that 169 inmates and 11 employees at the prison there had tested positive for COVID-19. In Crockett County, whose population density is less than two people per square mile, 71 people have tested positive. The number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

Officials recognize that rural case numbers are low compared with city totals, but even a slight increase can push a small community over the edge.

"We've discovered we are getting really overwhelmed by the rapid numbers in the rise we are seeing now," Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock said. "We really need help."

The county has received guidance, contact tracers, case investigators and equipment from the state, but Murdock says more help might be necessary. Officials need housing alternatives for people who have COVID-19 or are living with multiple families and field teams to serve at-risk residents and distribute federal aid to poor families, he said.

The fact that many rural jobs can not be done from home has exacerbated the virus's impact, Murdock said. Officials have noted cases where people continued to work despite having minor coronavirus symptoms, which led to outbreaks.

"They are forced to go to work in order to survive. They don't have benefits. You can't telecommute on a production line," he said.

Of Oregon's 23 rural counties, 12 have reported workplace outbreaks at farms or meat and seafood processing plants. Umatilla County has reported six workplace outbreaks since mid-June.

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

To confront the surge in cases, rural governments are rearranging and shuffling responsibilities for workers already juggling multiple roles.

Lt. Melissa Ross updates journalists about drug busts and fatal crashes as the public information officer for the Morrow County sheriff in eastern Oregon. She also oversees the records and civil department. Adding to her duties, she's now the spokeswoman for the county's Emergency Management Team, which gives updates on case numbers and other virus-related information.

"That's what happens when you live in small rural America I guess," Ross said.

Those communities are relying on already limited medical systems.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 93 of 103

Lake County, where southern Oregon meets California and Nevada, has just one hospital. The next one is 90 miles (145 kilometers) away.

To serve its 7,000 residents, the county took the unusual step of asking the Lake Health District to not only run the hospital but also oversee its health department during the pandemic.

"We think that works better on coordinating care for our entire population," district CEO Charles Tveit said. "That's why we got involved."

Murdock of Umatilla County said that while rural areas have fewer resources than major cities, they have the same responsibility to keep people safe.

"Out here, we are kind of used to being on our own," he said. "But this is bigger than us."

Sara Cline is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

## Play ball? Experts send mixed signals on MLB 60-game season

By JAKE SEINER AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thirty baseball teams from 28 cities, trying to play 60 games each amid a coronavirus pandemic that seemingly hasn't peaked in the United States.

Plausible? Worthwhile? Unconscionable?

Even among experts, it depends on who's talking:

"Baseball games can work," said Dr. David Hamer, professor of global health at the Boston University School of Public Health. "I think it's feasible."

"There are certain sports that are higher risk versus lower risk," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "Baseball is sort of an intermediate risk."

"I'm very nervous about MLB's plan," said Dr. Zach Binney, an epidemiologist at Emory University. "It could be a disaster."

Public health experts have mixed feelings about baseball's hopes to open its season July 23. There is optimism because of the nature of the sport itself, which produces less on-field risk than basketball, football or hockey. Then again, players and their families face a daunting task staying safe away from the ballpark, especially with teams traveling to and from hard-hit regions, including Florida and Texas.

Unlike the NBA and NHL, Major League Baseball teams won't be sequestered into bubbles — they'll be traveling all around the country.

Most of all, though, there's uncertainty.

"I don't think you can completely quantify exactly what the risk will be," Adalja said.

MLB has provided teams with a 113-page operations manual detailing protocols for its pandemic-shortened 60-game regular season.

Players will be tested every 48 hours. Masks and social distancing are a must at all times, except on the field. Backups can watch games from the stands instead of the dugout. No sunflower seeds. No spitting. No licking fingers. Even the mascots won't be allowed to get close.

There are protocols for air travel, bus travel, private cars and hotels, along with general guidance to avoid contact with people outside of the baseball world.

Can all of that keep players safe? Can it keep MLB from straining resources in their host communities? What if fans are allowed to attend games in September and October, as some team owners have suggested?

In short, can it work?

Two weeks into preseason camps, there's some reason for optimism.

According to data released Friday by MLB, just 0.4% of samples from players and coaches tested since June 27 have come back positive. That's far below the national positive rate of about 9%.

There have been delays in testing, most notably around the July 4 weekend, and all but two of the 30 teams have had at least one person test positive.

Still, the results are undoubtedly encouraging.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 94 of 103

"That's a good starting point," said Hamer, an infectious disease specialist at Boston Medical Center who has advised other pro sports leagues.

It's too soon to say if that can last.

Testing is a critical pillar of MLB's plan, but it's hardly foolproof. Set aside frustrating delays that forced several teams to cancel practice — even when screenings are handled perfectly, there are flaws.

Players and on-field personnel provide samples every 48 hours, and results are supposed to take one to two days to process. That means players can take a test, participate in one or two games or practices and not find out until after that they have COVID-19.

"There's so many cases, you may not catch them fast enough," Binney said.

So transmission risk has to be kept low, even with coronavirus-positive players in uniform.

The nature of the sport should help.

"It's not fleeting contacts that spread this virus," said Adalja, who is also on the NCAA's COVID-19 advisory panel. "It's close contact for 10 to 15 minutes, so something like people hanging out in the dugout is much more likely, epidemiologically, to lead to the spread of the virus."

The field of play — even the batter's box — should be fairly safe, except perhaps for the catcher and plate umpire. Adalja also said the baseball itself shouldn't be an issue, since surface-based transmission is less common.

"The risk of onward transmission to teammates is going to be very low," Hamer said.

Adalja and Hamer are hopeful about MLB's protocols, noting that exposure can be limited on socially distanced chartered flights, in hotels and at spacious ballparks without fans.

"The risk of aerosol transmission on a plane is pretty much limited to the row you're in and maybe a row ahead and a row behind," Hamer said.

"I do think that they do provide substantial benefit and decrease the risk of transmission," Adalja said of baseball's off-field protocols. "But it's not going to be ironclad."

Binney is more concerned. He thinks bubble systems like those used by the NBA and NHL are a worthwhile gamble, but he's worried that MLB's protocols will be inadequate in virus-stricken areas like Florida and Texas.

"That can all stop a few cases, and maybe even a moderate number of cases," he said of MLB's plans. "But if you're getting cases from the community left and right, I have some concerns about its ability to withstand that."

Experts aren't worried that traveling ballclubs might endanger communities in a significant way. The traveling parties will be relatively small, and because they'll be using private transportation, there shouldn't be much interaction with people not affiliated with the league in some manner.

In fact, the opposite is likely true — if the league fails, it may be because players can't avoid the virus in the hours when they're away from teammates.

"I'm more worried honestly about the exposures in the community," Hamer said. "Going out for dinner or drinks or whatever after the game, and what kind of exposures they might have there that increase the risk of being infected rather than the other way around."

MLB is also trying to ensure its roughly 10,000 weekly tests don't strain public resources by using private facilities. Adalja said such a conflict might arise in some regions, but he also thought MLB's investment might encourage much needed innovation and increased production in testing.

There's one way MLB could pose a grave public risk, according to Binney — by opening its doors to fans.

Owners of the New York Yankees, Texas Rangers and Houston Astros have said they hope to host limited-capacity crowds by the end of the season. Binney called the idea "completely unreasonable" until a vaccine is developed.

"When you start talking about fans, you're adding a whole lot of risk, particularly to the public's health," Binney said. "And the only benefit is money in the pocket of owners and stadium authorities."

Adalja and Hamer think that socially distancing a stadium — bleachers, bathrooms, concession lines and elsewhere — was plausible but tricky.

Before any of that can be considered, though, the virus has to be curbed.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## French protesters mark death of Black man in police custody

By ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

BEAUMONT-SUR-OISE, France (AP) — Singing “No justice, no peace!” thousands of protesters marched through 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 festive demonstration and concert 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 was also about broader anti-government grievances, and climate activists co-organized this year’s protest.

Since George Floyd’s killing by Minneapolis police in May, campaigning by Traoré’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.

Traoré’s sister Assa, who has led the family’s long legal fight, called Saturday for police to be charged with homicide in her brother’s death, saying her brother “took the weight of gendarmes” for several minutes.

Investigative efforts into the Traoré case have revived in recent weeks, in the wake of Floyd-related Black Lives Matter protests.

“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,” Assa Traoré said Saturday.

“Why did those investigations happen four years later?” Assa Traoré asked reporters. “These investigations are because the people put pressure on.”

On July 19, 2016, gendarmes approached Adama Traoré and his brother for an identity check in Beaumont-sur-Oise north of Paris. Traoré 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.

Saturday’s broad-based march was the result of years of community organizing by the Traoré family. Undocumented migrants, climate activists and yellow vest protesters for economic justice were among those taking part, under the rallying cry “we want to breathe.”

The procession was led by a truck with banner representing Floyd’s and Traoré’s faces blended together, and marched past the building where Traoré was arrested and the police station where he was pronounced dead.

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.

Protesters also demanded that police convicted of violence be removed from their jobs.

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.

Protester Teissir Ghrab of climate activist group Alternatiba said France's poor suburbs, home to large immigrant and non-white populations living in cramped, neglected housing projects, "are the most impacted by climate change, by polluted air and water," and called for an alliance between anti-police violence activists and climate activists.

Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

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

Follow all AP stories about climate change issues at <https://apnews.com/Climate>.

## Chipmunks, fattened up on acorns, are driving people nuts

By The Associated Press undefined

There were plenty of acorns this spring, and now the chipmunks are driving people nuts.

Their frenetic activities can be entertaining. But this summer in New England the varmints are making a nuisance of themselves, darting to and fro, digging holes in gardens, and tunneling under lawns.

Plentiful acorns last fall meant there was still plenty of food on the ground when the chipmunks emerged from winter and got busy breeding this spring, said Shevenell Webb, a small mammal biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The result is a bumper crop of the critters.

"They're cute. They're fun to watch in the forest as they duck in and out of the holes and play peek-a-boo," Webb said. When their cheeks aren't bulging with nuts, chipmunks make a distinctive "chip" sound, she said.

But they're also destructive. They can destroy lawns and gardens with their burrowing, and can even get into homes, Webb said.

"We can't grow a tulip without them digging it up," Steven Parren, wildlife program diversity manager for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, said of the chipmunks in his yard. "They don't even pause."

There were so many acorns in one of the areas that he monitors that the rodents that rely on them couldn't stash them all away for the winter. Plenty remained on the ground this spring. In addition to chipmunks, he said, he's seeing more squirrels, rabbits and a variety of different kinds of mice.

People needn't get too alarmed over an overpopulation. Small mammal populations tend to explode, then crash and burn.

Such is life near the bottom of the food chain, where food supply ebbs and flows and chipmunks are easy prey for owls, hawks, snakes, foxes and raccoons. Even if their lives aren't cut short, individual chipmunks tend to live only for three years, Webb said.

Many New Englanders recall a similar spike in squirrel populations in 2018 in New England. The boom-and-bust cycle was punctuated by a memorable number of road kills.

"We've never seen anything like that. That was a once in a lifetime event," Webb said.

## 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



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 97 of 103

be infected in coming months, again without citing the basis for his estimate. Iran's population is around 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 98 of 103

monitored for virus exposure.

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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 99 of 103

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 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 100 of 103

## HUNTER BIDEN

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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 101 of 103

## ENFORCEMENT

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

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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## 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 102 of 103

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 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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 19, the 201st day of 2020. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 19, 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue."

On this date:

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.

In 1943, Allied air forces raided Rome during World War II, the same day Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met in Feltre in northern Italy.

In 1944, the Democratic national convention convened in Chicago with the nomination of President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered a certainty.

In 1961, TWA became the first airline to begin showing regularly scheduled in-flight movies as it presented "By Love Possessed" to first-class passengers on a flight from New York to Los Angeles.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

In 1985, Christa McAuliffe of New Hampshire was chosen to be the first schoolteacher to ride aboard the space shuttle. (McAuliffe and six other crew members died when the Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff in January 1986.)

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**Sunday, July 19, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 016 ~ 103 of 103**

In 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which suffered the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

In 1990, baseball's all-time hits leader, Pete Rose, was sentenced in Cincinnati to five months in prison for tax evasion.

In 2006, prosecutors reported that Chicago police beat, kicked, shocked or otherwise tortured scores of Black suspects from the 1970s to the early 1990s to try to extract confessions from them.

In 2014, a New York City police officer (Daniel Pantaleo) involved in the arrest of Eric Garner, who died in custody two days earlier after being placed in an apparent chokehold, was stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty. (Pantaleo was fired in August 2019.) Actor James Garner, 86, died in Los Angeles.

In 2016, Republicans meeting in Cleveland nominated Donald Trump as their presidential standard-bearer; in brief videotaped remarks, Trump thanked the delegates, saying: "This is a movement, but we have to go all the way."

Ten years ago: The Agriculture Department pressured Shirley Sherrod, an administrator in Georgia, to resign after a conservative website posted video it claimed showed her making racist remarks. (After reviewing the entire video, the White House ended up apologizing to Sherrod.) A train slammed into another at a station north of Calcutta, India, killing at least 63 people. Australian David Warren, who'd invented the "black box" flight data recorder, died in Melbourne at age 85.

Five years ago: Saying they felt a "deep sense of ethical responsibility for a past tragedy," executives from Japan's Mitsubishi Materials Corp. offered an unprecedented apology to a 94-year-old former U.S. prisoner of war for using American POWs as forced labor during World War II; James Murphy of Santa Maria, California, accepted the apology during a solemn ceremony hosted by the Museum of Tolerance at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Dutch actor Rutger Hauer, who was known for menacing roles in "Blade Runner" and other films, died at his home in the Netherlands at the age of 75. Iran seized a British-flagged oil tanker and briefly detained a second in the Strait of Hormuz, increasing tensions in the strategic waterway.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Helen Gallagher is 94. Country singer Sue Thompson is 94. Singer Vikki Carr is 80. Blues singer-musician Little Freddie King is 80. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 76. Actor George Dzundza is 75. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 74. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ilie Nastase is 74. Rock musician Brian May is 73. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 73. Actress Beverly Archer is 72. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 69. Actor Peter Barton is 64. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 60. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 60. Actor Campbell Scott is 59. Actor Anthony Edwards is 58. Country singer Kelly Shiver is 57. Actress Clea Lewis is 55. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 55. Country musician Jeremy Patterson is 50. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 49. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 49. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 46. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 44. Actress Erin Cummings is 43. TV chef Marcela Valladolid is 42. Actor Chris Sullivan ("This is Us") is 40. Actor Jared Padalecki is 38. Actor Trai Byers is 37. Actress Kaitlin Doubleday ("Nashville") is 36. Actor/comedian Dustin Ybarra is 34. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 30.