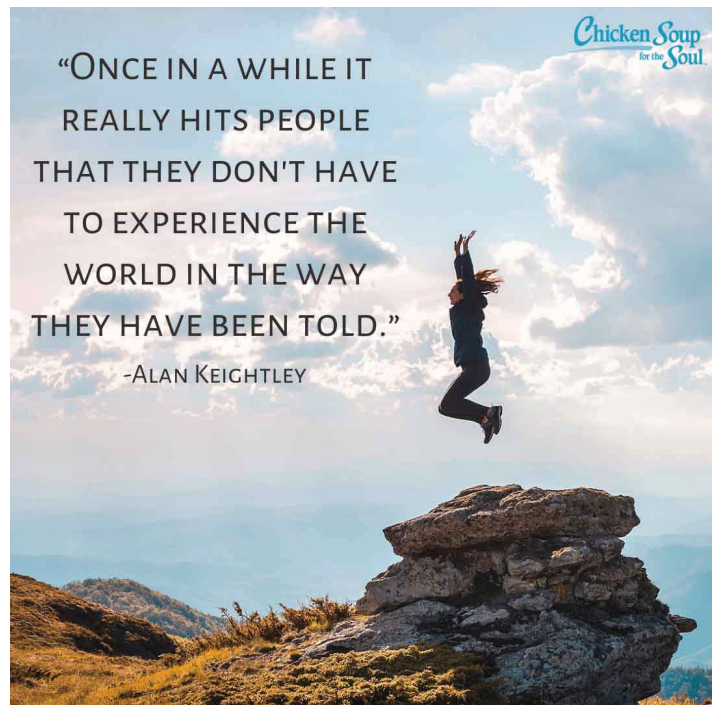


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 1 of 81

- 2- Special School Board Meeting Agenda
- 3- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 4- Prairie Doc: Choosing Healthy Habits
- 5- The Garden Bug
- 6- Hollywood
- 7- Soap Updates
- 8- They'll do it every time
- 9- Veterans Post
- 10- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 14- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 15- July 19th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 18- Baseball Schedule
- 19- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 20- Weather Pages
- 23- Daily Devotional
- 24- 2020 Groton Events
- 25- News from the Associated Press



“ONCE IN A WHILE IT
REALLY HITS PEOPLE
THAT THEY DON'T HAVE
TO EXPERIENCE THE
WORLD IN THE WAY
THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD.”

-ALAN KEIGHTLEY

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 AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

Special School Board Meeting

July 20, 2020 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and necessary action on installation of air conditioning for MS/HS building.

ADJOURN

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 3 of 81

We're all going through a lot of uncertainty in life, and it's no different for the Minnesota Vikings players and coach. Fortunately, things cleared up a little bit last week, as NFL sent a memo to all 32 teams, informing them when players are expected to arrive for training camp. If the Vikings stick the plan, rookies will show up July 21, quarterbacks and injured players will show up July 23, and the remaining players show up July 28.



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By Jordan Wright

Before we get too far into training camp updates, we continue our breakdown of the Vikings' roster.

Two years ago, the Vikings had one of the best secondaries in the league. Xavier Rhodes was coming off an All-Pro season, former first-round pick Trae Waynes had taken over a starting role, Mackensie Alexander was looking like a long-term starter in the slot, and the Vikings used a first-round pick on Mike Hughes. Unfortunately, no position was hit harder this offseason than cornerback. Mike Hughes is now the most veteran player in that group, and the Vikings are counting on several rookies to make an impact right away.

Mike Hughes is entering year three and is tied for the most experience among Vikings cornerbacks. An injury cut his rookie season short, and it took him a while to get up to speed in 2019. Hopefully he is ready to step up in his third year and become the team's shutdown cornerback.

Holton Hill is also entering his third year in the league. His rookie season he saw limited snaps, but when he stepped on the field the undrafted CB out of Texas turned some heads. He was suspended to start his sophomore season, and never fully got on track once he was reinstated. He has an inside track at a starting spot this season, but it's not guaranteed at this point.

Kris Boyd was a seventh-round pick in 2019 who saw the field in every game last season. He has an advantage over the incoming rookies because he knows the defense already. If he shows up to training camp ready to go, he can grab the third CB spot (which is a starter in today's NFL).

Jeff Gladney is a first-round pick who will be reporting on Tuesday with the rest of the rookies. The Vikings looked long and hard at all the corners in this year's draft and decided Gladney was their guy.

Cameron Dantzler was drafted two rounds after Gladney. Third-round picks usually take a couple of years before they are ready to start, but with all the uncertainty in the Vikings' secondary, he has a chance to compete for playing time right away.

Harrison Hand was drafted two rounds after Dantzler. The Vikings knew they needed a ton of help at CB, so they drafted three in the top five rounds.

The Vikings will likely keep six cornerbacks, so the following players will have a tough time making the final roster.

Nevelle Clarke is the fourth rookie on the team, although he was undrafted.

Mark Fields is entering his second year. The Vikings traded for him last season, and he appeared in one game before being stashed on the practice squad.

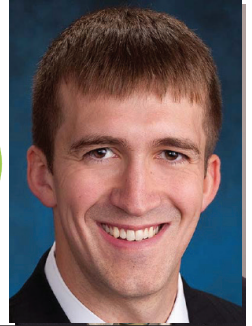
Nate Meadors is also entering his second year, and like Fields, he spent most of last season on the Vikings' practice squad.

Marcus Sayles is on his third team since entering the NFL in 2017. He has yet to see the field.

Who do you think will be the biggest surprise at cornerback this season for the Vikings? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) and let me know. Skoll!

Choosing Healthy Habits

Early on in the coronavirus pandemic with many people spending a lot of time at home, a wise friend told me that people will likely come out of this "a chunk, a hunk, or a drunk." So, here we are four months later, and I have observed these outcomes in several of my patients.



By Andrew Ellsworth, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Some admit they have been drinking more, some say they have been snacking more, and thankfully, some have actually lost weight and have been eating healthier and exercising more. One man realized early on that he could not continue letting himself go. He started counting calories, lost 20 pounds, and is feeling great. He feels he has more energy to do the things he wants to do. He is not alone, and you can do it, too!

This pandemic has disrupted our normal routines, which I believe makes this the perfect time to establish new habits. And, since we are forced to change our habits, we might as well choose healthy ones. Start with a little walk. Plan some time for a bike ride. Maybe you can borrow a used piece of home exercise equipment or dig out the old NordicTrack from the basement. If you need some motivation and could use a companion, make plans to work out with a friend or family member in person or on the phone. If you are ready for a long-term commitment, maybe get a dog and take it regularly for a walk.

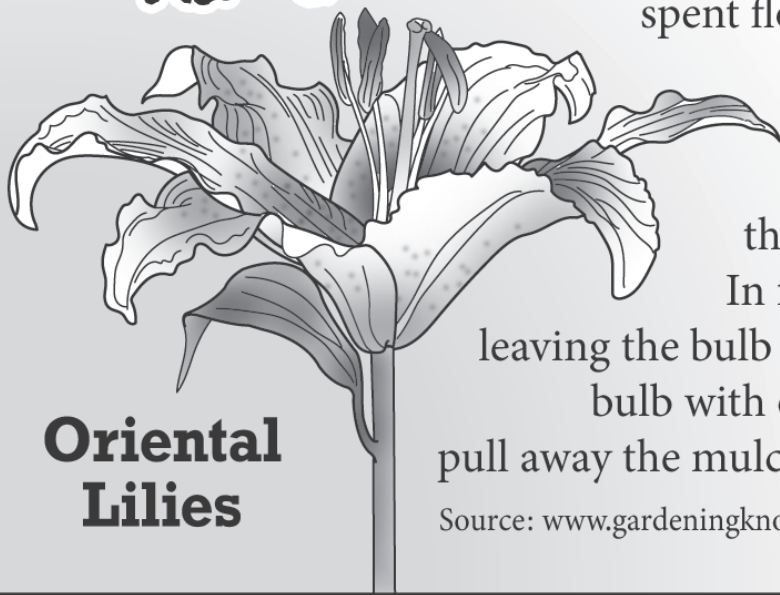
Now is also a great time to stop smoking. A new routine or being away from your regular workplace for an extended period allows you to avoid some of the triggers that make you want to smoke, such as your usual "smoke break time," your favorite locations to smoke, and perhaps the people with whom you smoke.

Certainly, times are tougher and none of this is easy, but please do not make it harder for yourself by becoming addicted to a substance. That will not solve your problems and will only make them worse. If you feel like you should cut down on your drinking, if you feel annoyed by people criticizing your drinking, if you feel guilty about your drinking, or if you find you need a drink in the morning, then it is probably time to cut down on your drinking. If cutting down is difficult, then please ask for help. Consider contacting someone from Alcoholics Anonymous, your primary care provider, a friend or family member, or do an internet search for help in your area.

Whatever you decide to do to make yourself healthier, now is the best time to start. Start small, do it regularly, and soon you will have some new habits, a healthier you, and a little silver lining from these unusual times.

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

The Garden Bug



**Oriental
Lilies**

This plant is one of the easiest to care for. Once they bloom, keep the soil slightly moist.

If blooms are very large and the stem begins to bend, stake the stem for support until the flowers are spent. Cut off any spent flowers and stalks, but allow the leaves to remain until they yellow and begin to die.

This will help fuel the bulb for the next year's blooming season. In fall, trim away any growth left, leaving the bulb in the ground. Mulch over the bulb with organic bark mulch. In spring, pull away the mulch when you see green sprouts.

Source: www.gardeningknowhow.com

-Brenda Weaver

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Could “The Big Bang Theory” have a 13th season? If there is one, CBS will have to do it without **Jim Parsons**. Even when it offered him \$30 million, Parsons said “playing Sheldon for 12 seasons was quite enough,” and that he’s not interested in revisiting the show because “it was the right time to leave.” Talk around CBS suggests moving **Simon Helberg** (Howard Wolowitz) into the central position. **Kaley Cuoco** (Penny) said “Everyone is rebooting, we might as well do it, I didn’t want to leave.”

Parsons, now 47, has moved on to other projects. In addition to narrating and executive producing “Young Sheldon,” he starred in the Netflix series “Hollywood” (which dropped May 1) and the Netflix filming of the 50th anniversary Broadway production of “The Boys in the Band.” Will “Bang” fans accept a “Bang” without Sheldon? Stay tuned.

Leonardo DiCaprio will star and produce the Netflix movie version of the 2014 Oscar-nominated documentary “Virunga,” about the battle to save the Congo’s endangered mountain gorillas. Leo won an Oscar for wrestling a bear in “The Revenant” (2015); maybe he can do it again wrestling a gorilla. He’ll have to make big money business to top that.

Here’s a success story we love. **Amber Ruffin** was hired as a writer for **Seth Meyers’** “The Late Show,” but they liked her so much that he featured her in on-camera bits. The show recently passed the 1,000 mark, and Meyers interviewed her as he does his big-name guests. She also did several shows relating the times she was arrested by police without cause. NBC also has taken notice and will star her in “The Amber Ruffin Show” for their new Peacock streaming service. The weekly series will show off her signature smart-and-silly take on the week.



NBC photo

Amber Ruffin

Seth Meyers and **Mike Shoemaker** are producing. A star is born.

Anne Hathaway won a best supporting actress Oscar for “Les Misérables” (2012), followed by “Interstellar” (2014), “The Intern” (2015), “Alice Through the Looking Glass” (2016), “Ocean’s 8” (2018) and “The Hustle” (2019). This year she made the Netflix political drama “The Last Thing He Wanted,” with **Ben Affleck** and **Willem Dafoe** (debuted in February) and the 2021 release of the remake of the 1990 **Anjelica Huston** fantasy comedy “The Witches,” with **Octavia Spencer**.

Somehow she found time to wed businessman **Adam Shulman** in 2012 and have two young sons, **Jonathan** and **Jack**. Hathaway should produce and star in a film about how she survived her life imploding when her fiancé, **Raffaello Follieri**, was sentenced to four years in prison for defrauding investors out of millions. He was a devil who didn’t wear Prada!

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 7 of 81

EDITOR'S NOTE: Three of the four soaps are no longer providing synopses of new episodes, as production has ceased due to the coronavirus. "General Hospital" is providing summaries of classic episodes now airing.

SOAP Updates

COMPILED BY **DANA BLOCK**

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Production has ceased due to the coronavirus. No additional synopsis will be released until production resumes.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Gabi delivered some tragic news to Jake. An unexpected funeral stirred up mixed emotions. A medical crisis threatened to derail Ciara and Ben's wedding. Ben had an unsettling dream about Jordan. Hope and Allie helped Ciara get ready for the wedding. Ben got a surprising phone call. Claire swore to Belle and Shawn that she was innocent. Xander set the record straight with Sarah. Rafe walked Ciara down the aisle. Jake invited Gabi to the wedding as his date. Belle realized that Claire lied to her. Ben and Ciara's wedding celebration ended with a stunning twist. Chaos erupted at Ben and Ciara's wedding. Sarah was impressed with Xander's heroics. Allie and Lani feared for the health of their babies. Gabi and Jake grew closer. Rafe made a decision about Allie's offer. **Wait to See:** Claire is on the hot seat. Shawn relays some upsetting news to his family. Sami and Lucas rush to the hospital to be with Allie.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Until production resumes, "GH" is replaying special episodes from years past. This week's episodes feature stories from May of this year: Diane prepared Michael for one of the most



Chris Haston/NBC.

Martha Madison is "Belle" on "Days of Our Lives."

important moments in his life. Carly confronted Chase. Nelle made a grand entrance. Anna was preoccupied. Nina gave Sasha a hard time. Nelle had a shocking announcement. Molly had a reason to celebrate. Jordan had a warning for Sonny. Ava got defensive. Josslyn felt sentimental. Sonny grew suspicious. Liz got candid with Jason. Diane took a meeting with Carly. Nelle was supportive of Nina. Franco became unsettled. Carly's credibility was questioned. Michael defended his actions. Sonny demanded answers. Franco surprised Elizabeth at the hospital. Nelle gave the performance of a lifetime. Valentin made a big announcement. Laura worried that Robert was deluding himself. Jax paid Nina a visit. Sasha acted recklessly.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

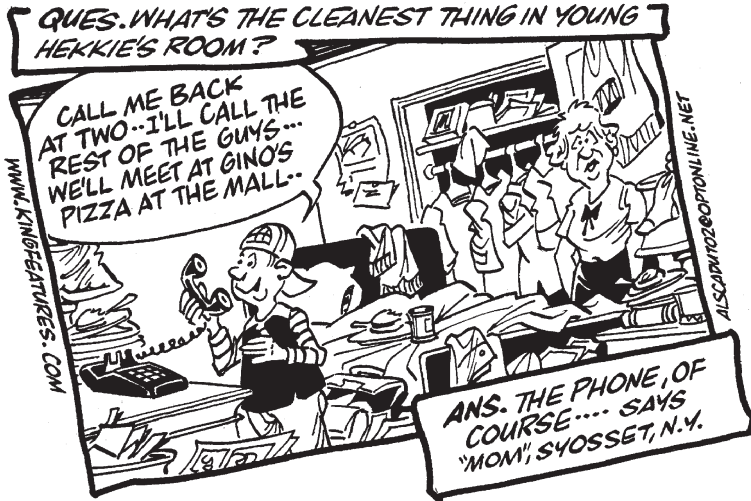
Production has ceased due to the coronavirus. Y&R will air classic episodes until production resumes.

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 8 of 81

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



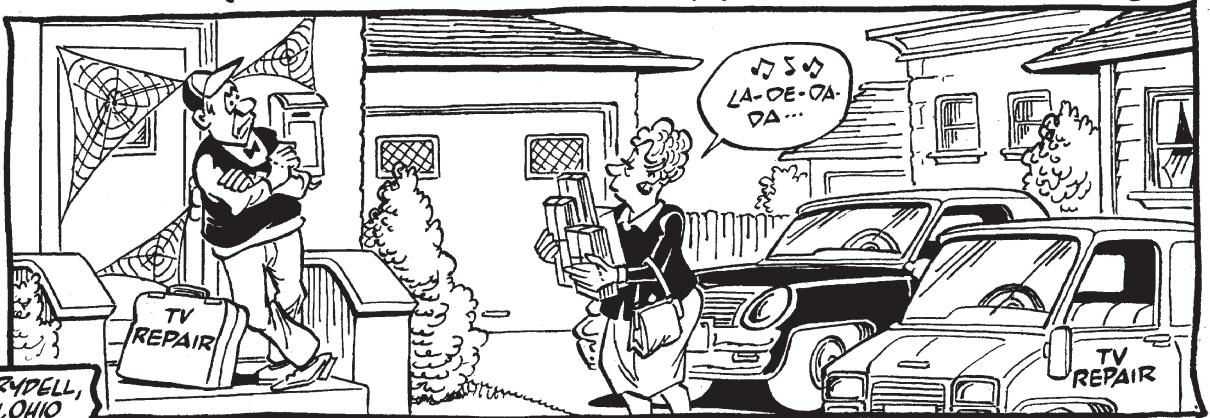
BY AL SCADUTO



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8-26

NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME... JUST ONCE, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO MAKE A REPAIRMAN WASTE A WHOLE DAY WAITING FOR YOU?



Thank to N. RYDELL, CINCINNATI, OHIO

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

Telehealth Use Soars

Use of the Department of Veterans Affairs telehealth video for appointments went up 1,000% between February and May. The VA attributes this massive increase to veterans guarding against getting or passing along the COVID-19 virus.

If you were one of the veterans who made use of the telehealth video for appointments instead of going in-person, good for you. And thank you.

For those who don't know, telehealth is a program that allows veterans to have a video appointment with VA care teams (both physical and mental health) right on a device from home.

Telehealth (known as VA Video Connect) is probably one of the best ideas that the VA has had. The program is so strong that it can handle over 25,000 appointments per day and is hitting other big milestones as well. Two million prescriptions have been refilled online in one month. Downloads at the VA's app store went up 259% in one month.

Additionally, over 26,000 tablets have been distributed to veterans who need a device to access their care, with the major wireless carriers providing access with no data charges to veterans who need telehealth.

If you're using telehealth and are incurring data charges, call your carrier and tell them you're a veteran who needs the service to access your medical team. You might be able to get those data charges dropped. If you need to know more about that, go online to mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect. The VA is working on restructuring the program so no veteran has data charges.

If you haven't used telehealth, go to that same link and scroll down. Read about which devices can be used — Apple iPads and iPhones, Windows, macOS and Android devices all will work.

Read the guide at the link and learn how to set up your device, connect for appointments and much more. For tech help, you can call 866-651-3180 Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. through 11 p.m. EST.

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 10 of 81

#147 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

I have our Sunday two-week trend report. The purpose of this two-week perspective is to look past day-to-day reporting fluctuations to the long view of where we appear to be heading.

As we are aware from the week's reporting, things continue to worsen, and they're doing so at an accelerating pace, although I guess it's good news that this pace has declined slightly. It's not much, but we'll take what we can get. We are now at 3,776,400 cases in the US, 60,300 more than yesterday. We are up to 20 consecutive days of the worst-ever, and today was our eighth-worst. This was the 41st straight day our seven-day average increased. Oregon, Louisiana, Kentucky, and South Carolina all had record numbers of new cases today. Eight states had more than 40% increase in seven-day average. We're up to 100 hospitals in Florida which are at capacity for ICU beds. Wait-times for testing results have extended well beyond a week in many regions of the country, leaving authorities blind to where spread is occurring and making contact tracing pretty much pointless.

The increases continue to accelerate. On June 28, I reported total cases had increased by 270,000 in a week or 11.6%; on July 5, those numbers were 340,000 and 13.3%; last Sunday, they were 412,000 and 14.2% and today, 461,000 and 13.9%. On June 28, the two-week increase was 476,000 or 22.3%, on July 5, it was 612,000 and 26.7%; last Sunday it was 753,400 and 29.4%; and today, 873,100 and 30.1%. We also had a record new-case day this last week.

Florida has reported more than 10,000 new cases for five consecutive days. Deaths in the state have increased 78% in the last two weeks. New cases in Colorado have been rising for more than a month. The average daily new case number in Ohio has risen from 400 to almost 1700 in the last month. Things are getting worse faster in many places.

I track 55 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and 30 of these showed two-week rates of increase greater than 30%; that number has gone from 20 to 25 to 27 and now to 30 states and territories in the three weeks since I started tracking this on June 28. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: US Virgin Islands (165.18% - huge increase), Montana (108.99%), Idaho (91.82% - improved), Florida (74.93%- another big improvement), Texas (66.65% - also better), Alaska (65.94%), Nevada (59.08%), Oklahoma (58.62%), South Carolina (56.06% - also better), Alabama (52.46%), Puerto Rico (52.39% - huge increase), Tennessee (51.26%), West Virginia (51.18%), Missouri (48.51% - another large increase), California (47.08%), Arizona (46.39% - another big drop), Georgia (46.16%), Louisiana (42.72%), Oregon (42.48%), Kentucky (41.11%), Mississippi (37.99%), Kansas (37.86%), North Carolina (36.75%), Arkansas (36.61% - better), Utah (36.44%), Hawaii (35.22%), Wisconsin (32.24%), North Dakota (31.32%), Ohio (31.11%), and Wyoming (30.11%). New entrants on this list this week were Kentucky, Wisconsin, and North Dakota; no one came off it.

Fourteen-day trends in new case reporting have 43 states and territories increasing, three more than last week, as follows: Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Vermont, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Twelve states and territories are not showing much change, as follows: Guam, Utah, Arizona, South Dakota, New Hampshire, New York, New

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 11 of 81

Jersey, Connecticut, and South Carolina. Only two states are showing declines in new case numbers, as follows: Maine and Delaware.

New deaths today are down from yesterday at 453, a 0.3% increase to 140,332. We are reporting around 5000 deaths per week; compared to our neighbor to the north, Canada's, total deaths of 8800 since January, we aren't looking so good. (True, Canada has only one-tenth our population, but they have one-sixteenth our deaths. Hard to reconcile that.)

There is a strange phenomenon that has turned up here and there, but not everywhere, across the developed world: a marked decline in preterm births. A normal pregnancy usually lasts 40 weeks; delivery before 37 weeks is defined as preterm. Another indicator frequently used is classification of a baby born under 3.3 pounds as very low birth weight, virtually always a sign of a preterm birth. And the number of these births has plummeted in many places.

For the past 20 years, very low birth weight characterized around eight out of every thousand live births at University Maternity Hospital Limerick in Ireland. In 2020, it's closer to two in a thousand. And extremely low birth weight (under 2.2 pounds) fell from three per thousand to zero. In Denmark, similar declines were noted. At Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen, nationwide births during their lockdown (March and April) were compared with the same period over five years; 31,000 infants were included in the study. There, the rate of babies born before 28 weeks gestation dropped by 90%. At the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, premature births were found to have dropped in Calgary by half, a phenomenon that was most pronounced in the earliest babies. A smaller drop-off was seen in the Netherlands. And declines were noted in Australia.

There is at least one similar report in the US. Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, saw about 20% fewer babies in its NICU than typical numbers seen in March. Most of the drop-off was driven by a decline in premature births; the numbers of sick full-term babies was fairly steady.

No one really seems to know what's operating here, but lockdowns seem to have an association with declining rates of preterm birth in some places. This is contrary to what we might have expected, given preterm births have been steadily on the rise for years and that stress is a factor highly associated with preterm birth—and no one's going to claim we're experiencing a dramatic decrease in stress these days. There is some hope that studying the phenomenon and sorting out what's different between places noting it and others with no change from the usual patterns will yield information on just why preterm births happen and offer us insight into how to prevent them. An international collaboration has begun to study how lockdowns may have affected early births. I guess it's an ill wind that blows no good. Dr. Michael Christiansen in Copenhagen, who led the Danish effort to analyze the nation's births, said, "For years, nothing has advanced in this very important area, and it seems it took a virus attack to help us get on track." So there you go.

Today, I saw an interview about findings published last week in the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine that critically-ill Covid-19 patients are much less likely to survive if they are treated at smaller hospitals than larger ones, the break-point between larger and smaller being 50 ICU beds. The study of 2200 patients in 65 hospitals nationwide is based on more than 800 data points for each patient, so it was quite comprehensive. It showed those in smaller hospitals with a more than three-times larger risk of death. The overall risk of death within 28 days of ICU admission was 35%.

Patient risk factors were many of the usual suspects: older age, being male, obesity, and cancer. Treatments used varied significantly from hospital to hospital: medications used and other interventions like

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 12 of 81

proning (which we've discussed here in the past). The study did not account for staffing, hospital strain, or socioeconomic status of patients, but the difference in mortality is very large. This is not a great surprise since larger hospitals generally have better outcomes with patients who require mechanical ventilation for other causes too; it is true they simply have more resources. The risk-adjusted mortality ranged from 7% at the lowest risk hospital to 80% at the highest risk one. That's a big deal.

The interviewee, senior author Dr. David Leaf from Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital said there is more work being done on this data set, so there will be more findings and conclusions forthcoming. There is a second paper in the works which develops a prognostic scoring system "where you plug in the patient's age and gender and other elements, and it tells you that you have a 90% chance of death or a 10% chance of death, for example." That should hold real value in assessing potential outcomes. There is also a view toward using these same data to identify treatments which can improve outcomes. The same group has papers under review on these topics too.

And this is something I had not heard about until today: an effort to treat certain seriously ill Covid-19 patients at home to ease the pressure on the health care system. This was widely used in New York during the height of their outbreak once insurers relaxed their definition for who is "homebound" and eligible for home health services. Some patients lived alone, so did not have a caretaker on site, and it still was successful. After a care manager visited the patient at home to do a thorough assessment, equipment was delivered—oxygen equipment, intravenous equipment, monitoring equipment—and the patient then received a daily nurse visit and a daily call with a pulmonologist. Patients were educated how to monitor their temperature and blood oxygen level, then report changes. Patients who were in respiratory distress were transferred to a hospital, but most were able to remain at home. The same approach was used in patients who were discharged, but still required care.

Not only did this reduce the patient load in overtaxed hospitals, it enabled patients who were scared to go to the hospital or who didn't want to be isolated from family because they would not be permitted to visit them if they were admitted. I'm thinking it must have provided much lower-cost care too. With this experience, physicians have developed evidence-based protocols for this sort of care, even to the seriously ill or those with underlying health conditions; and it appears outcomes were not negatively affected by this approach. Physicians in New York are currently in discussion with those in Florida, where several hospitals have reached capacity. I guess this is another way this virus has helped advance the state of medical knowledge.

I want to extend our conversation of mortality from a couple of days ago because I keep hearing this virus has such a low mortality rate (by whatever measure) that it's really no big deal. While it is correct that IFR (infection mortality rate) runs below one percent, this is certainly not our only concern. Thing is, those who die—and a whole lot of those who pull through—are seriously taxing the health care system and costing billions to treat, putting hospitals in very precarious financial condition and hospital employees in precarious mental and physical condition as they work double shifts caring for very intensive patients, watch patient after patient die despite their best efforts, get exposed and lose colleagues to the virus, and wonder every day whether they're taking it home to their families, something that really happens, sometimes with disastrous outcomes.

Because, here's the thing. No one really knows who will be the ones who are going to die. We do know who has a higher risk, but previously healthy people in their 40s and 20s and teenagers are going to the hospital and dying—and not just one or two of them, many thousands of them.

And what about those who survive, only they've had multiple strokes and have leftover disability from

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 13 of 81

them which will never go away and those whose kidneys failed so that now they are dependent on dialysis and those whose lungs are permanently scarred and those left with damage to their heart muscle so it no longer pumps the way it should? What about people with damage from brain inflammation? There are financial costs to all that disability and personal costs to the disabled people and to their families—maybe job loss, financial problems, dads and moms who can't care for their kids, spouses who need to quit working to care for their partner, personal suffering. There are crazy rehab costs for the stroke patients and the others with brain injury. Nursing home costs for the very disabled run in excess of \$75,000 per year—plus the loss of income if they can no longer work. Medical costs for dialysis are generally borne by the taxpayer and run in excess of \$70,000 per year.

So a less-than one-percent mortality doesn't come close to the real cost—financial and personal—of this infection to individuals and to our society. At this point, comparisons to other viral infections simply fail because we haven't seen anything like this before.

Victor Edalia is an urban farmer in Nairobi, Kenya. He converted a trash dump into a garden and was prepared to start selling his vegetables to hotels to supplement his income when the pandemic hit. Since that was off the table, he changed his plan, hoping to find a way to "give back." So three times per week he has been giving free vegetables to ten needy families. Moses Omondi, team leader at Adopt a Family, a local organization that also seeks to reduce food insecurity, said of feeding people, "In addition to supporting struggling families during these tough times that face starvation while at home, it helps to reduce anxiety and helplessness."

Now there's something we all need, however we are situated in society. We will feel anxiety and helplessness from time to time; the surest way I know to relieve those feelings is to exert some control—to be helpful instead of helpless. All we need to do is to find somewhere to help and pitch in. There are so many ways to do this. Helping someone helps us. Let's do it.

Stay safe, and we'll talk again.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 14 of 81

Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20
Minnesota	43,170	43,742	44,347	45,013	45,470	46,204
Nebraska	21,717	21,979	22,134	22,361	22,481	22,583
Montana	1,952	2,096	2,231	2,366	2,471	2,533
Colorado	37,686	38,155	38,726	39,344	39,788	40,142
Wyoming	1581	1,605	1,644	1,678	1,713	1,728
North Dakota	4493	4565	4668	4792	4907	5019
South Dakota	7572	7652	7694	7789	7862	7906
United States	3,431,574	3,499,398	3,576,430	3,649,087	3,712,445	3,773,260
US Deaths	136,466	137,419	138,360	139,278	140,120	140,534

Minnesota	+398	+572	+605	+666	+457	+734
Nebraska	+318	+262	+155	+227	+120	+102
Montana	+109	+144	+135	+135	+105	+62
Colorado	+444	+469	+571	+618	+444	+354
Wyoming	+36	+24	+39	+34	+35	+15
North Dakota	+51	+72	+103	+124	+115	+112
South Dakota	+48	+80	+42	+95	+73	+44
United States	+68,518	+67,824	+77,032	+72,657	+63,358	+60,815
US Deaths	+861	+953	+941	+918	+842	+414

	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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 15 of 81

July 19th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

North Dakota and South Dakota each recorded two more deaths. North Dakotas total is 92 and South Dakota's is 118. In South Dakota, one male and one female died. One was in the 50-59 age group and the other was 80+ years of age. One was in Minnehaha County and the other in Pennington County. Seven people got to go home in time for the weekend as the number of people currently hospitalized dropped to 63. Active cases went down by 19 with 44 positive cases and 61 recovered cases. Brown County had no new positive cases and 3 recovered cases.

Brown County:

Active Cases: -3 (19)
Recovered: +3 (345)
Total Positive: 0 (366)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (19)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +17 (3636)
Percent Recovered: 94.3% (+.9)

South Dakota:

Positive: +44 (7906 total)
Negative: +796 (90,181 total)
Hospitalized: +3 (774 total). 63 currently hospitalized (down 7 from yesterday)
Deaths: +2 (118 total)
Recovered: +61 (6952 total)
Active Cases: -19 (836)
Percent Recovered: 87.9 +.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding +3 (47), Potter +4 (241), unassigned +195 (3334).

Fully recovered from positive cases: 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
Beadle (9): +5 positive (46 active cases)
Bennett: +1 positive (2 active cases)
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered
Brookings: +1 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)
Brown (2): +3 recovered (19 active cases)
Brule: 6 active cases
Buffalo (3): +5 positive, 2 recovered (24 active cases)
Butte: 3 active cases
Campbell: Fully Recovered

Charles Mix: 39 active cases
Clark: 2 active cases
Clay: +2 positive, +1 recovered (9 active cases)
Codington: +2 recovered (20 active cases)
Corson: 4 active cases
Custer: 1 active case
Davison: +1 positive (14 active cases)
Day: 1 active case
Deuel: Fully Recovered
Dewey: +3 positive (44 active cases)
Douglas: +1 positive (5 active cases)
Edmunds: 2 active cases

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 16 of 81

Fall River: 3 active cases
 Faulk (1): +1 recovered (2 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): +2 positive, +1 recovered (12 active cases)
 Hutchinson: 5 active cases
 Hyde: Fully Recovered
 Jackson (1): +1 recovered (3 active cases)
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases
 Jones: Fully Recovered
 Kingsbury: 2 active cases
 Lake (1): -1 positive, +5 recovered (10 active cases)
 Lawrence: 3 active cases
 Lincoln (1): +2 positive, +5 recovered (37 active cases)
 Lyman (1): +1 positive, +4 recovered (10 active cases)
 Marshall: 1 active case
 McCook (1): +2 recovered (4 active cases)
 McPherson: 1 active case
 Meade (1): 5 active cases
 Mellette: +1 positive (6 active cases)
 Miner: Fully Recovered
 Minnehaha (62): +8 positive, +9 recovered (229 active cases)
 Moody: 6 active cases
 Oglala Lakota (1): +1 positive, +5 recovered (27 active cases)
 Pennington (23): +7 positive, +10 recovered (145

active cases)
 Perkins: +1 recovered (2 active cases)
 Potter: No infections reported
 Roberts: +3 recovered (8 active cases)
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered
 Spink: 3 active cases
 Stanley: Fully Recovered
 Sully: Fully Recovered
 Todd (3): +2 recovered (6 active cases)
 Tripp: Fully Recovered
 Turner: +2 positive (8 active cases)
 Union (2): +2 positive, +3 recovered (20 active cases)
 Walworth: 4 active cases
 Yankton (2): 8 active cases
 Ziebach: 2 active cases

The NDDoH & private labs report 5,533 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 113 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 5,019. NDDoH reports two new deaths. (92 total)

State & private labs have reported 257,223 total completed tests.

4,131 ND patients are recovered.

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	714	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	993	13%
Hispanic	1149	15%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1301	16%
Other	791	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2958	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	62
Oglala Lakota	1
Pennington	23
Todd	3
Union	2
Yankton	2

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 17 of 81

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	35	33	333
Beadle	571	516	1677
Bennett	5	3	461
Bon Homme	13	13	657
Brookings	104	91	2157
Brown	366	345	3636
Brule	37	31	626
Buffalo	104	77	573
Butte	5	2	643
Campbell	1	1	75
Charles Mix	98	59	1006
Clark	16	14	352
Clay	97	88	1117
Codington	103	83	2348
Corson	22	18	226
Custer	11	10	682
Davison	67	53	1950
Day	19	18	495
Deuel	5	5	336
Dewey	45	1	1541
Douglas	14	9	366
Edmunds	10	8	350
Fall River	14	11	850
Faulk	24	21	153
Grant	17	16	616
Gregory	6	4	318
Haakon	1	1	262
Hamlin	13	12	547
Hand	7	6	233
Hanson	14	12	154
Harding	0	0	47
Hughes	78	63	1440
Hutchinson	20	15	788

Hyde	3	3	111
Jackson	7	3	398
Jerauld	39	37	252
Jones	1	1	45
Kingsbury	8	6	472
Lake	48	37	779
Lawrence	22	19	1775
Lincoln	413	375	5343
Lyman	84	73	819
Marshall	5	4	351
McCook	21	16	552
McPherson	6	5	183
Meade	58	52	1662
Mellette	14	8	286
Miner	10	10	221
Minnehaha	3854	3563	22785
Moody	26	20	531
Oglala Lakota	127	99	2813
Pennington	720	552	9193
Perkins	4	2	115
Potter	0	0	241
Roberts	62	54	1405
Sanborn	12	12	192
Spink	16	13	983
Stanley	14	14	203
Sully	1	1	60
Todd	65	56	1709
Tripp	19	19	538
Turner	33	25	770
Union	161	139	1645
Walworth	18	14	477
Yankton	90	80	2691
Ziebach	3	1	233
Unassigned****	0	0	3334

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3835	61
Male	4071	57

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	907	0
20-29 years	1656	1
30-39 years	1632	6
40-49 years	1227	7
50-59 years	1215	14
60-69 years	726	23
70-79 years	286	17
80+ years	257	50

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 18 of 81

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

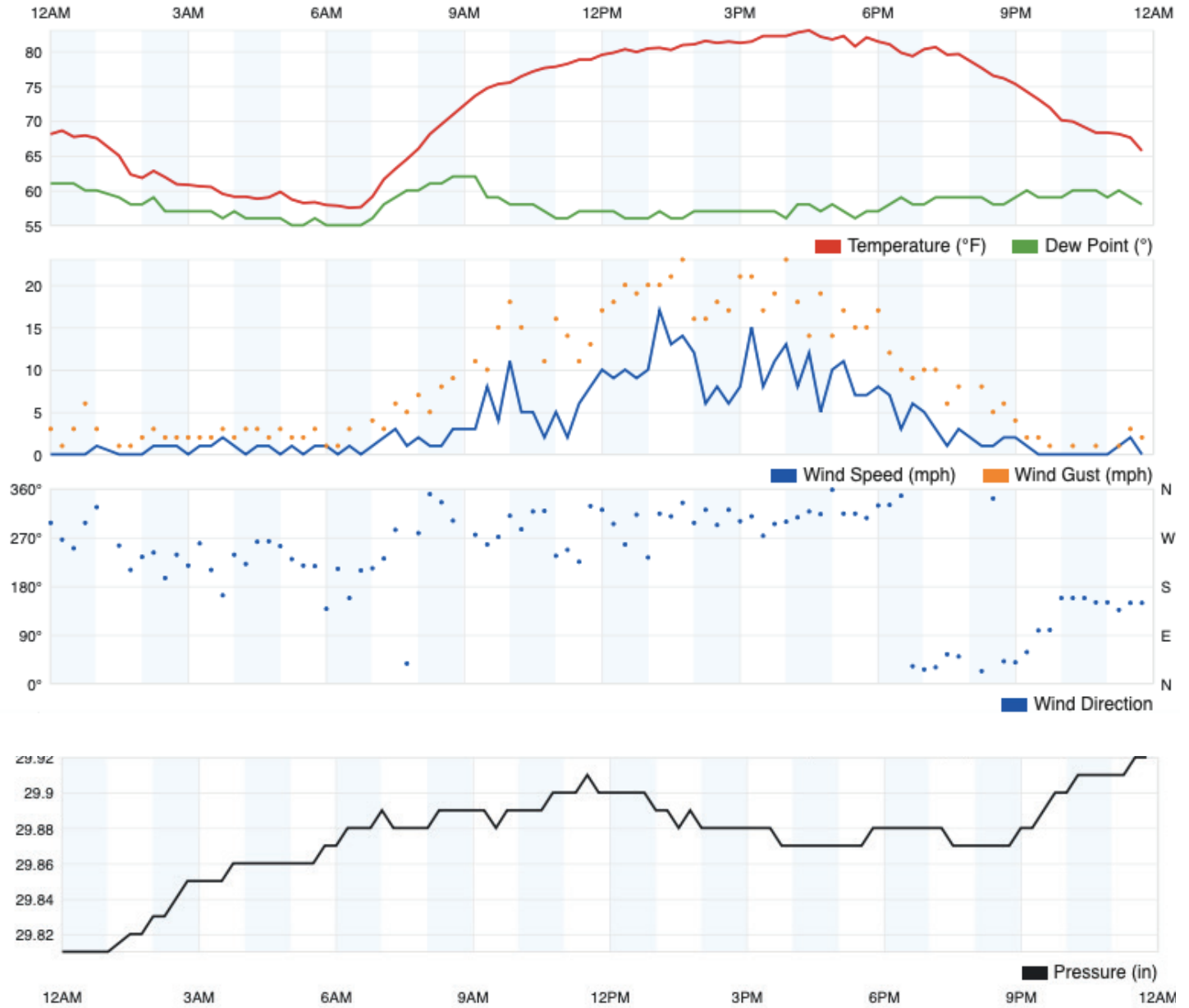
Home/Visitor will be determined by coin toss **before** each game
No Opening Ceremonies due to Covid-19

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 19 of 81

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 20 of 81

Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday
Night

Wednesday



Sunny then
Chance
T-storms

T-storms
Likely

Mostly Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny

High: 83 °F

Low: 62 °F

High: 81 °F

Low: 59 °F

High: 85 °F

SLIGHT RISK of Severe T-Storms

ISSUED: 3:34 AM - Monday, July 20, 2020

WHAT

Scattered severe thunderstorms possible. These storms could produce **damaging winds, large hail, and one or two tornadoes** mainly in areas along and west of the Missouri.

WHERE

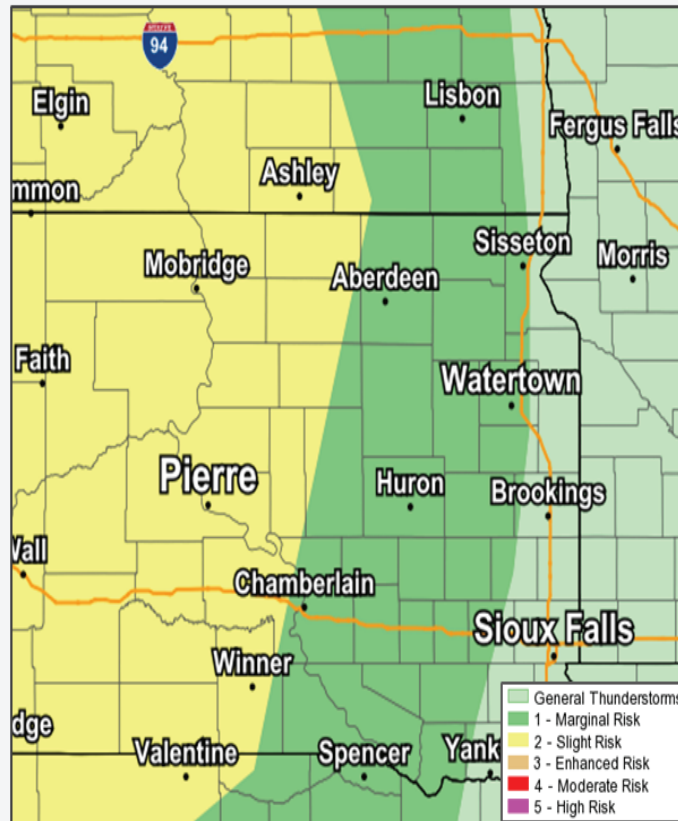
Most of South Dakota, with the best chances west of the James River Valley.

WHEN

This afternoon into the overnight hours. The highest risk period will be from 3 pm to 9 pm.

Impacts

Flying debris from strong winds, large hail, frequent lightning, and isolated tornadoes can lead to personal injury and property damage.



There will be another chance of severe thunderstorms this afternoon and into tonight for most of South Dakota as a trough passes through the Dakotas today. Storms should work their way into western and north central South Dakota this afternoon and then progress to the southeast. The biggest threat with these storms is large hail and damaging winds, although a tornado or two cannot be ruled out mainly for areas along and west of the Missouri River.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 21 of 81

Today in Weather History

July 20, 1951: From the southeast residential section of Watertown, an estimated F2 tornado moved east, passing near Kranzburg and Goodwin. The storms destroyed one home and several barns.

July 20, 2002: A powerful severe thunderstorm moved over Rapid City and across the adjacent plains east of town. Downburst winds and the associated gust front caused damage along a nearly 30-mile long path. Extensive tree damage occurred throughout the eastern half of the city with countless trees and branches more than 24-inch diameter fell. Two roofs were torn off by the winds. Flying debris damaged numerous cars and buildings. The NWS office in downtown Rapid City measured an 80 mph wind gust, with meteorologists noting winds were sustained at 60 to 70 mph for 5 minutes. Ellsworth AFB wind equipment measured a 106 mph wind gust from the thunderstorm as it passed.

1915: A record high temperature of 115 degrees occurred in Yosemite Valley at the National Park Headquarters, California (around 4,000 feet elevation). This reading was the warmest day in a streak of 7 consecutive days of 110 degrees or higher at Yosemite Valley from the 19th through the 25th.

1930 - The temperature at Washington D.C. soared to an all-time record of 106 degrees. The next day Millsboro reached 110 degrees to set a record for the state of Delaware. July 1930 was one of the hottest and driest summers in the U.S., particularly in the Missouri Valley where severe drought conditions developed. Toward the end of the month state records were set for Kentucky with 114 degrees, and Mississippi with 115 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1934 - The temperature at Keokuk, IA, soared to 118 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Twenty-two inches of hail reportedly fell northeast of Dickinson, ND. (The Weather Channel)

1977: A flash flood hits Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on this day in 1977, killing 84 people and causing millions of dollars in damages. This flood came 88 years after the infamous Great Flood of 1889 that killed more than 2,000 people in Johnstown.

1986 - The temperature at Charleston, SC, hit 104 degrees for the second day in a row to tie their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 87 mph at Mosinee, WI, and strong thunderstorm winds capsized twenty-six boats on Grand Traverse Bay drowning two women. Thunderstorms produced nine inches of rain at Shakopee, MN, with 7.83 inches reported in six hours at Chaska, MN. Thunderstorms in north central Nebraska produced hail as large as golf balls in southwestern Cherry County, which accumulated to a depth of 12 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The temperature at Redding, CA, soared to an all-time record high of 118 degrees. Showers and thunderstorms produced much needed rains from New England to southern Texas. Salem, IN, was deluged with 7.2 inches of rain resulting in flash flooding. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region soaked Wilmington, DE, with 2.28 inches of rain, pushing their total for the period May through July past the previous record of 22.43 inches. Heavy rain over that three month period virtually wiped out a 16.82 inch deficit which had been building since drought conditions began in 1985. Thunderstorms in central Indiana deluged Lebanon with 6.50 inches of rain in twelve hours, and thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 84 mph at Flagler Beach. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005: Hurricane Emily made landfall in northern Mexico. When the central pressure fell to 29.43 inches of mercury, and its sustained winds reached 160 mph on the 16th, Emily became the strongest hurricane ever to form before August, breaking a record set by Hurricane Dennis just six days before. It was also the earliest Category 5 hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin, beating Hurricane Allen's old record by nearly three weeks.

Groton Daily Independent

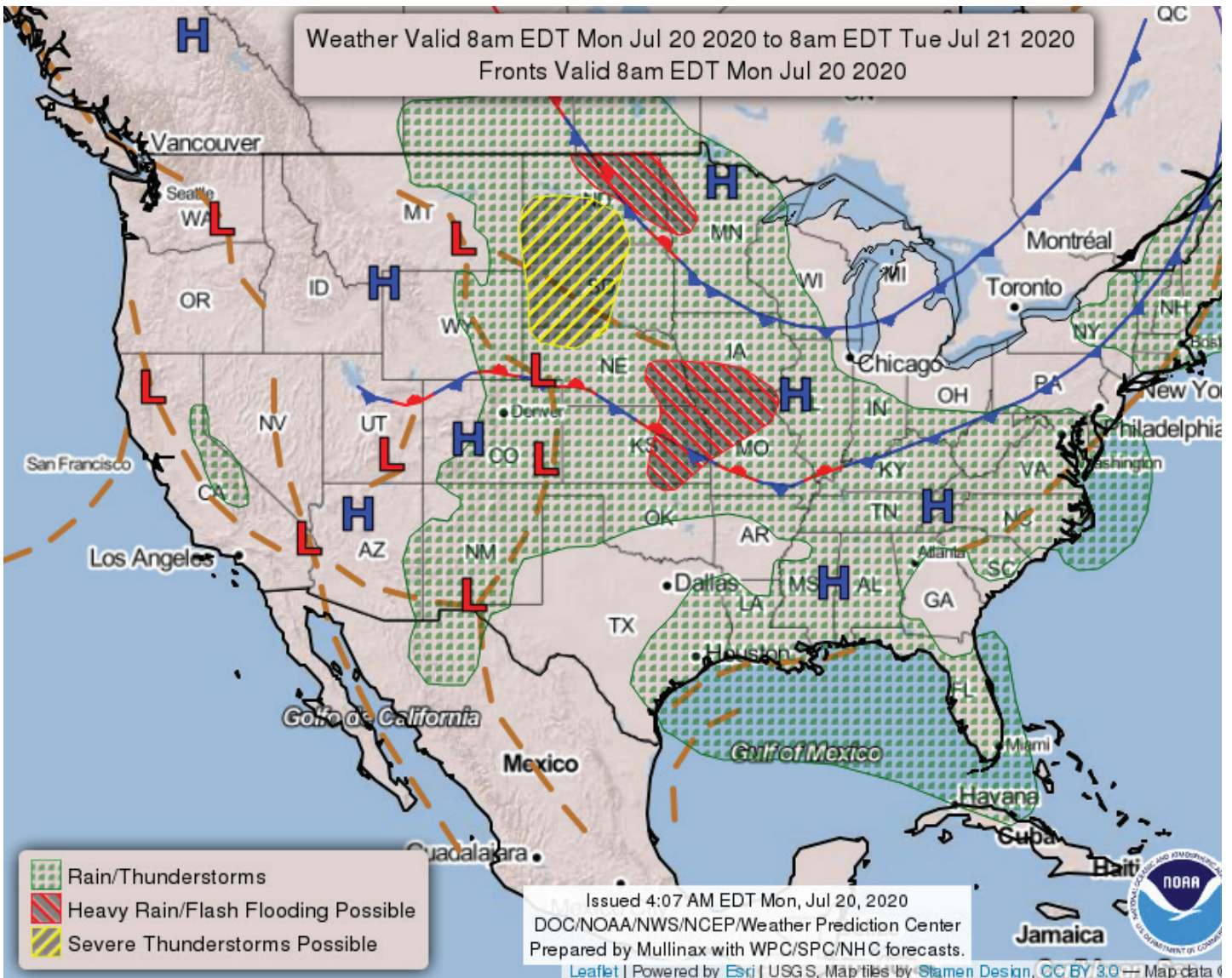
Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 22 of 81

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83 °F at 4:27 PM
Low Temp: 57 °F at 6:38 AM
Wind: 23 mph at 1:00 PM
Precip: .00

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1934
Record Low: 43° in 1970
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.97
Precip to date in July.: 0.53
Average Precip to date: 12.81
Precip Year to Date: 8.85
Sunset Tonight: 9:14 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:06 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 23 of 81



WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?

Karl Wallenda was one of the world's greatest tightrope performers. In 1978 he fell to his death.

Sometime later, his wife was speaking of the tragedy. "All Karl thought about," she recalled, "for three straight months before his death was falling. It was the first time he had ever thought about death, and it seemed to me that he put all of his energies into not falling rather than in walking the tightrope."

Paul warned us about focusing on the wrong things. In his letter to the Philippians, he advised them to "look forward to what lies ahead. (Let's) strain to reach the end of the race, and receive the prize for which God through Christ Jesus is calling us to receive in heaven."

The future is in front of all of us. And, often it is not the future that causes us problems, but the past. We can't feel sorry about the issues that may happen in the future, nor can we become discouraged about mistakes we might make in the future. And, neither can we regret sins that we may commit tomorrow. But, unfortunately, we often become overwhelmed with problems and mistakes and sins in our past that we hold tightly to and refuse to let go.

When we allow the past to compete or interfere with our future, we take our eyes off the "prize" that God has waiting for us. We must never surrender our standards or lower our expectations if we want to be all that we can be through Christ. If we do, we lose the prize.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to keep our eyes on You and the prize that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we allow no one or nothing to distract, destroy, or defeat us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:13-14

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 24 of 81

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

Girls wrestling coming to South Dakota

By JEREMY HOECK Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — If you were to ask Nevaeh Leonard what sparked her interest in wrestling, she wouldn't have to wait long to respond.

There are two factors, according to the sophomore-to-be at Yankton High School.

First, watching her brother once wrestle for the Bucks caused her to want to give it a try. And second?

"The one on one competition," Leonard told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan.

For six years, she's worked hard at her craft, and those around Leonard have seen first-hand how dedicated she's become, according to YHS head coach Riley Smith

"In the wrestling room, she's eager to learn, always looking to improve and always asking questions," Smith said. "I know her work ethic has made an impact on some of our other guys."

Last season as a freshman, Leonard wrestled primarily on Yankton's junior varsity team, although she did see four matches at the varsity level.

All of those matches came against a male.

That will change this upcoming season for Leonard, as well as every other female wrestler in South Dakota.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) approved last month the formation of a girls division in wrestling, effective for the upcoming 2020-21 school year.

Coaches who were contacted by the Press & Dakotan said they were excited about the opportunity for female wrestlers, and so too was Leonard.

"Immediately what came to mind is getting a fairer shot at making the state tournament," she said.

During the 2020-21 season, the girls wrestling division will feature one classification and four weight classes. The top-eight participants in each weight class will qualify for the state wrestling tournament, and the girls division will be contested at the same event as the boys divisions.

The decision to add a girls division provides an opportunity to grow the sport, according to Parker head coach John Silvernail.

"I really hope we as coaches in South Dakota see this as an opportunity," said Silvernail, a Yankton native.

"I am hopeful that females will have opportunities at tournaments and ultimately a culmination at the state tournament."

Yankton's head coach agreed.

"I think it's a great thing for the sport of wrestling and for the state of South Dakota," Smith said. South Dakota becomes the 25th state to sanction girls wrestling.

Will it open the door for more interested female wrestlers?

That's the hope, according to coaches and officials.

"In every other state that has implemented girls wrestling, they've seen tremendous growth in participation numbers over the first several years," said SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand.

That should be the case in South Dakota, as well, according to Silvernail.

"I am not sure on overall participation right now, but like any other 'new thing,' we will get females out for wrestling," he said.

"I think it is awesome for our smaller schools too. We know the more students that are participating, the better the school environment will be."

For those girls who have either already wrestled or are thinking about it, the new opportunity should result in continually climbing numbers, according to Leonard.

"I definitely think so," she said. "They probably won't be as nervous now, because otherwise they'd be jumping right into wrestling against boys."

A decade ago, John Donovan had his first experience coaching a female wrestler, and the way the Chamberlain High School head coach remembers it, "she was good; really good."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 26 of 81

That female wrestler, who had transferred from Missouri, defeated a seeded male opponent and eventually advanced all the way to the finals of a tournament.

It was an experience Donovan said changed the way he viewed having a female wrestler take the mat against a male opponent.

"Sometimes it's a no-win situation, because everybody has a different take on it," Donovan said. "I had a different take until I coached a girl."

Now, with the opportunity provided for a female wrestler to compete against other females instead of taking the mat against a male, the number of females in the sport should start to climb, according to Donovan, the president of the South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Association.

"I've had some girls in the past who wanted to go out, but had no desire to wrestle boys," Donovan said. "They wanted to compete against girls."

"To me, that's fair."

The prospect of having to compete against a male proved to be nerve-wracking, according to Leonard.

"There are a lot of nerves before the matches," she said.

Given the number of states that had already sanctioned a girls wrestling division, Donovan said the South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Association knew it was only a matter of time before South Dakota did the same.

According to the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA), women's wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports at the scholastic and collegiate levels.

"A lot of people are getting into it," Donovan said. "Our U.S. freestyle teams are having great success in the women's divisions, and a lot of colleges are starting women's wrestling."

In Leonard's case, she said she "definitely" plans on pursuing wrestling through the remainder of her high school career and then hopefully into college.

In addition to the collegiate opportunities that wrestling can provide a competitor, it also provides life lessons that they wouldn't otherwise receive, according to Silvernail.

"I am proud to say that wrestling has done a great job of molding young boys into men, and I know it will be the same for our upcoming females," he said.

Original artist working to restore replica fish car

By WENDY PITLICK Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — In 1999, local sign painter Tim Peterson helped paint a former passenger rail car when it was converted into a historically accurate replica of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries Car No. 3, one of the nation's original fish cars.

Now, 21 years later, Peterson is recreating his original artwork to restore the signage on the car, the pinstriping, and other painted details that create a historically accurate depiction of the rail car.

"The artwork I am doing now, the lettering and the striping, is based on a model that is in the museum," Peterson said of his original artwork on the rail car. "I made drawings of the rail car in the museum and I've got those drawings in my files. I redrew them in full size and applied them to the rail car, and copied what I saw off the model. That was my template."

Hatchery Superintendent Carlos Martinez said the rail car is a replica of the original Fish Car No. 3 from 1884, which were once the U.S. government's way of quickly transporting fish and their eggs to lakes and hatcheries across the country. The 10 original fish cars were recycled during World War II for materials. Thus, a passenger rail car was converted into a historically accurate fish car — based on an original architectural model from 1898. The fish car helps to effectively tell the story of hatcheries.

"This is U.S. Bureau of Fisheries Car No. 3. It's the only replica of a federal fish car in the country," Martinez told the Black Hills Pioneer, adding that the rail car is important to the history of fisheries across the country. "We get people from all over the country coming here just to see the rail car. Train enthusiasts, fisheries historians, they come here specifically to see this. Then they see the rest of the facility and they fall in love with it."

Since the fish car is so important to telling the story of fisheries across the country, including D.C. Booth

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 27 of 81

Fish Hatchery, Martinez said it is important to keep it maintained, and part of that is doing regular painting. Peterson said he was thrilled to restore his original artwork on the rail car.

"It was looking kind of shabby," Peterson said of the paint job. He added that he is especially happy to work on the project with his son, Bill. Peterson primarily paints signs with his business, Flat Earth Art Company. But Bill Peterson's painting business — Peterson Painting — focuses more on exterior painting and finishing. Because of the different nature of their businesses, Tim said this is the first project they've done as a father-son team.

"That was pretty interesting to me," he said. "This is the first time we've done our own thing."

Martinez said he is thrilled to have the Peterson team help with the restoration, especially with Tim as the original artist.

"Anytime you can have the same artist, and the same methodology, and the same paint, it's good," he said. "We called him to do this. I knew he had done the work on here and I had worked with him on some other projects. I approached him before we even knew we could pay for it and got a quote. Things fell together. We're super excited to have him work on this."

Martinez added that the restoration work comes right in time for the D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery's 125th Anniversary celebration next year.

The effort to restore the fish car back to its original grandeur as a replica was made possible with several funding sources, including the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Retirees Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Booth Society. The project is a joint venture between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Booth Society, and is expected to be completed in August.

South Dakota looks at extending pheasant season

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials are looking at extending the pheasant hunting season.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has proposed some changes to the length of the hunting season. Under the proposal, the pheasant season would start two hours earlier at 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of October. The season would also last longer, running to Jan. 31 instead of its current end date of the first Sunday of January.

Tom Kirschenmann, the Wildlife Division director for Game, Fish and Parks, told KELO-TV that an extended season would give more opportunity to hunters.

Kirschenmann said a 10 a.m. start time also would give hunters more opportunities in a day.

"Especially later in the fall, it gets dark earlier and shortens shooting hours," Kirschenmann said.

"Too many people hang up their shotguns and their bird dogs come Thanksgiving and it'd be fun to get more people out there and see that late season active," said Matt Morlock, state coordinator with Pheasants Forever.

Another proposed change would increase the bag limit each day for hunters. Instead of three roosters apiece, hunters would be able to take four.

If approved, the changes would take effect for the upcoming 2020 season. A public hearing on the proposed changes will be held Sept. 2.

South Dakota reports 2 new COVID-19 deaths; toll now at 118

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials are reporting two new coronavirus deaths.

One of the deaths reported Sunday was a man and the other was a woman. One death was in Minnehaha County and the other in Pennington County. That brings South Dakota's death toll since the pandemic began to 118.

The South Dakota Department of Health reports 44 new, confirmed cases of the coronavirus. That brings the total of positive cases in the state to 7,906.

The Argus Leader reports Minnehaha County added eight cases, bringing that county's total to 3,854

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 28 of 81

total, with Pennington County adding seven, Beadle County five and Lincoln County two.

Coronavirus patients were occupying 3% of staffed hospital beds in South Dakota on Sunday while 51% of hospital beds were available, according to the state Health Department. Coronavirus patients were occupying 4% of intensive care unit beds, and 30% of ICU beds were available.

Son of US District Judge Esther Salas killed, husband shot

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

A gunman shot and killed the 20-year-old son of a federal judge as he answered the door of the family home Sunday in New Jersey and shot and wounded the judge's husband before fleeing, according to judiciary officials.

The shootings occurred at the North Brunswick home of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas, and killed her son, Daniel, Chief District Judge Freda Wolfson told The Associated Press. Her husband, defense lawyer Mark Anderl, was injured in the attack, Wolfson said.

Salas was in the basement at the time and wasn't injured, according to a judiciary official who wasn't authorized to comment and spoke anonymously to the AP.

The perpetrator, believed to be a lone gunman posing as a FedEx delivery person, was not in custody, the official said. The FBI tweeted Sunday night that it's looking for one suspect in the shootings.

Daniel Anderl, a college student, was the judge's only child, the official said.

Salas, seated in Newark, was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed in 2011. Prior to that she served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in New Jersey, after working as an assistant public defender for several years.

Her highest-profile case in recent years was the financial fraud case involving husband-and-wife "Real Housewives of New Jersey" reality TV stars Teresa and Joe Giudice, whom Salas sentenced to prison for crimes including bankruptcy fraud and tax evasion. Salas staggered their sentences so that one of them could be available to take care of their four children.

In 2017, she barred federal prosecutors from seeking the death penalty against an alleged gang leader charged in several Newark slayings, ruling the man's intellectual disability made him ineligible for capital punishment. Salas later sentenced the man to 45 years in prison.

More recently, Salas has presided over an ongoing lawsuit brought by Deutsche Bank investors who claim the company made false and misleading statements about its anti-money laundering policies and failed to monitor "high-risk" customers including convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Democratic New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, who backed Salas's nomination to the federal bench, said in a statement Sunday night, "My prayers are with Judge Salas and her family, and that those responsible for this horrendous act are swiftly apprehended and brought to justice."

In an emailed statement, Democratic New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy called the shooting "a senseless act" and said "this tragedy is our latest reminder that gun violence remains a crisis in our country and that our work to make every community safer isn't done."

Associated Press reporter David Porter contributed to this report.

Portland police: Federal agents used gas against protesters

Associated Press undefined

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Portland police early Monday detailed another night of conflict between protesters and federal forces outside the U.S. courthouse in Oregon's largest city, including a small fire outside the building and tear gas deployed to disperse the crowd.

A department statement said police officers did not engage with the the crowd, and that federal authorities periodically came of out of the courthouse to keep demonstrators at bay, according to police and news outlets.

Video posted online also showed protesters taking down fencing that had surrounded the courthouse.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 29 of 81

"Dozens of people with shields, helmets, gas masks, umbrellas, bats, and hockey sticks approached the doors" before federal law enforcement came out and dispersed the crowd," police said.

"At 1:34 a.m. people lit a fire within the portico in front of the federal courthouse. Others gathered around the fire adding wood and other debris to make it larger. At 1:42 a.m. federal law enforcement came out of the courthouse, dispersed the crowd and extinguished the fire," the statement said.

Gas was used at least twice to remove protesters, the statement said, but Portland officers "were not present during any of the activity" or deploy any "CS gas."

The statement comes as some local and state leaders have voiced their displeasure with the presence of federal agents in the city that has seen protests every day since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis nearly two months ago.

Speaking on CNN's 'State of the Union,' Democratic Mayor Ted Wheeler said federal officers "are not wanted here. We haven't asked them here. In fact, we want them to leave."

Top leaders in the U.S. House said Sunday they were "alarmed" by the Trump administration's tactics against protesters in Portland and other cities, including Washington, D.C. They've called on federal inspectors general investigate.

"This is a matter of utmost urgency," wrote House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-New York, Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, D-Mississippi, and Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, D-New York, in a letter to the inspectors general of Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security.

The Democratic lawmakers are seeking an investigation "into the use of federal law enforcement agencies by the Attorney General and the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security to suppress First Amendment protected activities in Washington, D.C., Portland, and other communities across the United States."

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 last Thursday.

"We are trying to help Portland, not hurt it," Trump tweeted Sunday. "Their leadership has, for months, lost control of the anarchists and agitators. They are missing in action. We must protect Federal property, AND OUR PEOPLE. These were not merely protesters, these are the real deal!"

Late Saturday, Portland police declared demonstrations near the federal courthouse a riot after saying protesters broke into the Portland Police Association building and started a fire. Dumpster fires were also set and fencing was moved and made into barricades, police said.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum sued Homeland Security and the Marshals Service in federal court late Friday. 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."

It's unclear whether anyone was arrested or detained during the protest Sunday night.

Biden eyes GOP supporters while Trump focuses on his base

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

In the four months since Joe Biden effectively won the Democratic presidential nomination, he has focused on consolidating the party's divergent and often warring factions. As the closing stretch of the campaign nears, that effort will expand to include Republicans disaffected with President Donald Trump.

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican and frequent Trump critic, has been approached and is expected to speak at the Democratic National Convention on Biden's behalf next month, according to a person with direct knowledge of the plans who insisted on anonymity to discuss strategy. Kasich is among a handful of high-profile Republicans likely to become more active in supporting Biden in the fall.

Trump, meanwhile, is doing virtually nothing to expand his appeal beyond his most loyal supporters. Some GOP operatives believe the suburbs are lost while a contingent of high-profile Republicans are openly

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 30 of 81

questioning the president's reelection message. In an acknowledgment of the mounting challenges, Trump named a new campaign manager last week.

With about 100 days until Election Day, there's time for sudden developments that could shift the trajectory of the campaign. The Friday announcement that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's cancer has returned was a reminder of the potential volatility ahead. In 2016 Trump effectively used the prospect of Supreme Court appointments to win over conservatives who otherwise found him distasteful.

And in crucial battleground states such as Florida, some Democrats are concerned that Biden's current standing could be a high-water mark. Some polls suggest Biden's strength comes more from voters' displeasure with Trump than excitement over Biden, whose regular gaffes, long Washington record and recent attempts to appease progressives leave him in a tougher spot than some Democrats would like to believe.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, the only Democrat elected to statewide office there, praised Biden's message and said he could appeal to rural and middle-class voters. But she says "it's way too early" to predict a victory.

"As we get closer, polls are going to get tighter," Fried said.

That happened in 2016 when Trump narrowly won the election after trailing Hillary Clinton in the polls for months. The Democrats' reluctance to enjoy the current moment reflects the sting of that loss, Biden's nagging vulnerabilities and Trump's mountain of campaign cash.

Trump's campaign has reserved \$146 million in television advertising this fall led by a \$36.3 million investment in Florida alone, according to data compiled by Advertising Analytics. That's more than double the next closest state, Ohio, where Trump has reserved \$18.4 million. Biden, so far, hasn't reserved any fall advertising, although he's amassed a fortune in recent months that will allow him to compete, even if he can't match Trump dollar for dollar.

Trump this fall plans to spend big trying to flip at least three states Democrats carried in 2016, according to the advertising reserves, which show he's investing \$14 million in Minnesota, \$6.7 million in New Hampshire and \$6.1 million in Nevada.

While the specific ads have yet to be finalized, Trump's team signaled it was preparing to ramp up attacks on Biden's record and mental competence designed to "redefine" the lifelong politician and scare away tentative supporters. Underlying the strategy is a risky assumption that the coronavirus and related economic devastation will improve before voting begins.

"A lot of people know Joe Biden. They don't know about Joe Biden's record. Right now, he is this blank canvas," said Nick Trainer, the Trump campaign's director of delegates and party organization. "As they get more and more information about what Joe Biden's done and what he'll do, I'm more and more confident."

With early voting set to begin in several states in just two months, however, there are no signs yet that the strategy is helping Trump expand his support.

Republicans working on congressional races across several battleground states believe the nation's suburbs, where higher-educated white voters have traditionally favored the GOP, are almost completely lost for Trump. These voters, they warn, are more intensely opposed to Trump's reelection than they were during the 2018 midterm elections, when a suburban backlash allowed Democrats to seize the House majority.

The suburban shift is emblematic of Biden's potential to expand the Democratic coalition to include more women, seniors and moderate Republicans, who may have reluctantly voted for Trump or a third-party candidate in 2016 but may vote for a Democrat in 2020 after watching Trump struggle to govern.

Biden's team would not confirm specific discussions with Kasich, but deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield acknowledged the campaign has begun working with Republicans, just as it has worked with progressives in recent months. At the least, she said GOP backers could help mute Trump's efforts to paint Biden as a tool of the left.

"In terms of Republican supporters, I think it speaks to a career of being able to work across the aisle, of being able to actually get things done," Bedingfield said. "We welcome the support of anybody who'd rather see Joe Biden be president than Donald Trump."

Trump's Republican allies are finding it harder to defend his inconsistent leadership as the coronavirus explodes across the country. In a Sunday interview with Fox News, Trump defended his statement from

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 31 of 81

earlier in the month that coronavirus would eventually “sort of just disappear.”

“I’ll be right eventually,” the president said.

Former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Trump supporter, praised the president’s recent decision to wear a face mask for the first time in public. He said Trump and his allies could help stop the spread of the virus and speed up the economic recovery if they embraced mask usage.

But Walker said he has no clear sense of Trump’s campaign message or political strategy. He encouraged Trump’s team to focus on Biden’s history of “saying or doing anything to get elected” instead of some of the attacks against his mental competence or links to his party’s left wing.

“They’ve got to be focused and disciplined — not go out on 100 different tangents,” Walker said in an interview.

Acknowledging concerns about his campaign, Trump named veteran GOP operative Bill Stepien as his new campaign manager. But the change is not expected to lead to major strategic shifts given that Stepien was already guiding much of the political operation and Trump himself ultimately drives the campaign.

Trump’s team believes the president will eventually benefit when the explosion of coronavirus infections begins to subside and the economy recovers.

So far, the numbers are moving in the opposite direction. The nation continues to break new records of daily infections and several states have scaled back reopening plans.

“It’s really a perfect storm coming. It’s like Trump’s on a sinking ship,” said former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a prominent Biden ally.

“Everybody everyday is now dealing with coronavirus in their personal lives,” he said in an interview. “Yeah, they’re going to blame Trump. They should. And there’s nothing he can do about it.”

Still, McAuliffe warned: “If any party can screw this up, it’s the Democratic Party.”

Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Asia Today: Outbreak in northwest China spreads to 2nd city

BEIJING (AP) — China’s latest coronavirus outbreak has spread to a second city in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

One of the 17 new cases reported on Monday was in the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar, the regional government said on its official microblog. The remainder were in the regional capital of Urumqi, where all other cases have been reported since the outbreak that has now infected at least 47 people emerged earlier this month.

Authorities in Urumqi have tried to prevent the spread by closing off communities and imposing travel restrictions.

Xinjiang is a vast, thinly populated region of mountains and deserts and had seen little impact from the pandemic that emerged from the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year and was largely contained within China in March.

Another five new cases reported Monday by the National Health Commission were imported.

China also said 5,370 people had been arrested for pandemic-related crimes between January and June. More than 40% were charged with fraud, the state prosecutor’s office announced on its official microblog. Another 15% were charged with obstruction of law enforcement, with others accused of producing and selling fake and shoddy goods, creating public disturbances, and transporting and selling endangered species.

China has strengthened protection for wild animals following the emergence of the virus, which may have originated in bats before jumping to humans via an intermediary species such as the anteater-like pangolin.

No specific figures were given for those accused of violating quarantine rules and travel restrictions, although there have been relatively few such cases reported in official media.

Although faulted for allowing the virus to spread from Wuhan, China’s government has been credited with imposing rigid and sometimes draconian measures to contain the outbreak, and people have overwhelmingly complied with orders to wear masks, display certificates of good health and maintain social distancing.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 32 of 81

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— A record surge of 40,425 reported cases of coronavirus in the past 24 hours took India's total to 1,118,043. The Health Ministry on Monday also reported another 681 deaths, taking total fatalities to 27,497. India has the third most cases and eighth most deaths in the world. A country of 1.4 billion people, India has been conducting nearly 10,000 tests per million population. More than 300,000 samples are being tested daily, according to the Indian Council of Medical Research, India's top medical research body. With India's national lockdown largely lifted, local governments have been ordering focused lockdowns on high-risk areas where new outbreaks are surging.

— Australia's hard-hit Victoria state reported 275 more COVID-19 cases on Monday, a third daily figure that was below last Friday's peak. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the impact of the lockdown on Australia's second-largest city Melbourne should become apparent Wednesday, which is two weeks after the six-week shutdown began. "It is a wicked enemy, it is unstable and until we bring some stability to this, I don't think we'll be able to talk about a trend," Andrews said. Victoria had conducted more than 1.3 million coronavirus tests among a population of 6.5 million, which represented one of the highest testing rates in the world, he said.

— South Korea has reported its smallest daily jump in local COVID-19 transmissions in two months as health authorities express cautious optimism that the outbreak is being brought under control. South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday still reported 26 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus, including 22 that were tied to international arrivals. Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip said the four local cases were the first below 10 since May 19. He continued to plead for vigilance, encouraging people to avoid crowded places or even stay at home during the summer holiday period.

— Hong Kong reported 73 new coronavirus infections on Monday, 66 of which were locally transmitted, as the city grapples with a new outbreak. Of the locally transmitted infections, 27 were from unknown sources while the remaining 39 were linked to previously known clusters. Among the new patients was a doctor who visited an elderly care home. Hong Kong's health officials said tighter anti-virus measures may be required if the trend does not come down over the next few days. Hong Kong has reported a total of 1,958 coronavirus infections, with 12 deaths.

Trump not ready to commit to election results if he loses

By AAMER MADHANI, COLLEEN LONG and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote, as he scoffs at polls showing him lagging behind Democrat Joe Biden. Trump says it's too early to make such an ironclad guarantee.

"I have to see. Look ... I have to see," Trump told moderator Chris Wallace during a wide-ranging interview on Fox News Channel. "No, I'm not going to just say 'yes.' I'm not going to say 'no,' and I didn't last time, either."

The Biden campaign responded: "The American people will decide this election. And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Trump also hammered the Pentagon brass for favoring renaming bases that honor Confederate military leaders — a drive for change spurred by the national debate about race after George Floyd's death. "I don't care what the military says," the commander in chief said.

The Republican president described the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as a "a little bit of an alarmist" about the coronavirus pandemic, and Trump stuck to what he had said back in February — that the virus is "going to disappear." On Fox, he said, "I'll be right eventually." The United States tops the global death toll list, with more than 140,000, and has the most confirmed infections, with 3.7 million.

It's remarkable that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in the American democracy's electoral process. But for Trump, it comes from his insurgent playbook of four years ago,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 33 of 81

when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton he said he wouldn't commit to honoring the election results if the Democrat won.

Pressed during an October 2016 debate about whether he'd abide by the voters' will, Trump responded he'd "keep you in suspense." His remarks to Fox are certain to fuel conversation on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers had already been airing concerns in private about a scenario in which Trump disputes the election results.

Trump has seen his presidential popularity erode over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and in the aftermath of nationwide protests centered on racial injustice that erupted after Floyd's death in Minneapolis nearly two months.

Trump contends that a series of polls that show his popularity eroding and Biden holding an advantage are faulty. He says Republican voters are underrepresented in such surveys.

"First of all, I'm not losing, because those are fake polls," Trump said in the taped interview, which aired Sunday. "They were fake in 2016, and now they're even more fake. The polls were much worse in 2016."

Trump was frequently combative with Wallace in defending his administration's response to the pandemic, weighing in on the Black Lives Matter movement and trying to portray Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, as lacking the mental prowess to serve as president.

Among the issues discussed was the push for wholesale changes in policing. Trump said he could understand why Black Americans are upset about how police use force disproportionately against them.

"Of course I do," he said, adding his usual refrain that "whites are also killed, too."

He said he was "not offended either by Black Lives Matter," but at the same time defended the Confederate flag, a symbol of the racism of the past, and said those who "proudly have their Confederate flags, they're not talking about racism."

"They love their flag, it represents the South, they like the South. That's freedom of speech. And you know, the whole thing with 'cancel culture,' we can't cancel our whole history. We can't forget that the North and the South fought. We have to remember that, otherwise we'll end up fighting again. You can't just cancel all," Trump said.

Wallace challenged Trump on some of his claims, such as when Trump falsely asserted "Biden wants to defund the police." The former vice president has not joined with activists rallying behind that banner. He has proposed more money for police, conditioned to improvements in their practices.

Trump stood behind his pledge to veto a \$740 billion defense bill over a requirement the Defense Department change the names of bases named for Confederate military leaders. That list includes Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Hood in Texas and Fort Benning in Georgia.

The president argued there were no viable alternatives if the government tried. "We're going to name it after the Reverend Al Sharpton?" Trump asked, referring to the prominent civil rights leader. "What are you going to name it?"

Trump, 74, stuck to a campaign charge that Biden, 77, is unable to handle the rigors of the White House because of his age. As for polls showing the incumbent is trailing, Trump noted he was thought to be behind for much of the 2016 contest. "I won't lose," he predicted.

The president and top advisers have long accused Biden of using the pandemic as an excuse to stay in "his basement" in his Delaware home. Biden has indeed shifted much of his campaign online but frequently travels in Delaware and Pennsylvania, organizing speeches and small gatherings with voters and community leaders within driving distance of his home. Biden's campaign says it'll begin resuming normal travel and campaign activities when health officials and state and local authorities say it's safe.

Questioned about the coronavirus, Trump chided Fauci, the National Institutes of Health expert, and repeated false claims that anybody could get a test and that increased testing was the only reason that the U.S. was seeing more cases.

Cases are rising because people are infecting each other more than they were when most everyone was hunkered down. The percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus has been on the rise across nearly the entire country.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 34 of 81

Associated Press writers Hope Yen and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

5 things to know today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **STRIKING FOR BLACK LIVES** Tens of thousands of workers are set to walk off the job Monday morning in more than two dozen U.S. cities to protest systemic racism and economic inequality.
2. **A TALE OF TWO CAMPAIGNS** Just over 100 days before the elections, voters across the political spectrum are condemning President Trump's erratic leadership during the pandemic, while Joe Biden has doubled down on an empathetic message of hope and competence.
3. **STRUGGLING TO COPE IN KABUL** The intensive care unit at the Afghan capital's premier hospital for COVID-19 patients is a medical nightmare, and a stark warning that the country's war-ravaged health care system is on the verge of collapse.
4. **A MISSION FAR, FAR AWAY** A United Arab Emirates spacecraft blasted off to Mars, starting the Arab world's first interplanetary trip.
5. **INSPIRED BY SEVE BALLESTEROS** Jon Rahm joins his idol as the only Spaniards to be ranked No. 1 in the world with his victory in the Memorial Tournament at the Muirfield Village golf club.

Insults, slammed fists: EU virus summit goes into 4th day

By RAF CASERT and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Weary and bleary, European Union leaders were gearing up Monday for a fourth day of fighting over an unprecedented 1.85 trillion-euro (\$2.1 trillion) EU budget and coronavirus recovery fund, barely recovered from a weekend of walkouts, fists slamming into tables and insults.

With a brilliant sun warming the negotiating sundeck at the Europa summit center early Monday, there finally was a glimmer of hope that the talks to help the continent emerge from the pandemic through an unprecedented economic aid package are not doomed after all.

"It looks more hopeful than when I thought during the night: 'It's over,'" said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, the target of much of the criticism. The meeting — one of the longest-running ever in the bloc's history — broke up temporarily and is due to resume on Monday afternoon.

"All want a solution instead of shelving the problem," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said. Alluding to the infighting, he added, "It also shows: massive efforts are needed to make Europe strong again together. The corona pandemic shocked all of us."

It took a heart-tugging dinner speech by EU Council President Charles Michel about leaders not failing their union, French President Emmanuel Macron slamming his fist in anger into the table, and a new set of budgetary numbers to send this epic summit onward.

It was planned as a two-day summit scheduled to have ended Saturday, but there are deep ideological differences between the 27 leaders forced the talks into two extra days.

Rutte, defending the cause of a group of five wealthy northern nations — the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Denmark — sought to limit costs and impose strict reform guarantees. He came under criticism from Macron, Italy and Hungary, whose Prime Minister Viktor Orban asked why the Dutchman had such "hate" toward him.

Rutte took it in stride.

"We are not here because we are going to be visitors at each other's birthday party later. We are here because we do business for our own country. We are all pros," he said.

On Sunday night, after three days of fruitless talks and with hope dimming, Michel implored leaders to overcome their fundamental divisions and agree on the budget and recovery fund.

"Are the 27 EU leaders capable of building European unity and trust or, because of a deep rift, will we present ourselves as a weak Europe, undermined by distrust," he asked the leaders. The text of the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 35 of 81

behind-closed-doors speech was obtained by The Associated Press.

"I wish that we succeed in getting a deal and that the European media can headline tomorrow that the EU succeeded in a Mission Impossible," Michel said.

The pandemic has sent the EU into a tailspin, killing around 135,000 of its citizens and plunging its economy into an estimated contraction of 8.3% this year.

The bloc's executive has proposed a 750 billion-euro coronavirus fund, partly based on common borrowing, to be sent as loans and grants to the countries hit hardest by the pandemic. That comes on top of the seven-year 1 trillion-euro EU budget that leaders had been haggling over for months even before the pandemic hit.

Even with Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel negotiating as the closest of partners, the traditionally powerful Franco-German alliance could not get the quarreling nations in line.

At their dinner table Sunday night, the leaders mulled a proposal from the five wealthy northern nations that suggested a coronavirus recovery fund with 350 billion euros of grants and the same amount again in loans. The five EU nations — nicknamed "the frugals" — had long opposed any grants at all, while the EU executive had proposed 500 billion euros.

"We are ready to take the leap from loans to subsidies," Rutte said.

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

Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya said negotiations are at a "delicate moment" but that Spain still expects that an agreement that will set new foundations for the bloc will be achieved. Speaking to Cadena SER radio in an interview Monday, she said that Spain is open to a plan that comes with strings attached.

"We do not reject conditionality and we do not reject that there is good governance that offers trust," she said. "What we do want is for that to have a framework, a framework that offers trust, clarity and transparency, which is the basis of a family's relationship, same as the relationship within the European Union."

Rutte has long been known as a European bridge builder, but this weekend his tough negotiating stance was being blamed for holding up a deal. He and his allies have been 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 that are being paid for by the recovery fund.

"He can't ask us to do specific reforms," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said, complaining Rutte may look like a hero in his home nation, but nowhere else.

Rutte also wants a link to be made between the handout of EU funds and the rule of law — a connection aimed at Poland and Hungary, countries with right-wing populist governments that many in the EU think are sliding away from democratic rule.

That drew Orban's anger.

"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," Orban said.

Corder reported from The Hague, Netherlands. Samuel Petrequin and Aritz Parra contributed from Brussels, Madrid.

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

Home learning, reopening schools especially hard in Africa

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Lessons via radio or TV. Math problems in newspapers. Classes on Zoom or WhatsApp.

The options for African students to keep studying while schools remain closed because of the coronavirus pandemic seem varied, but the reality for many is that they will fall behind and possibly drop out of school forever — worsening inequality on an already unequal continent.

"I think education now is more of an emergency than the health issue," said Dr. Mary Goretti Nakabugo, a literacy expert who runs a Uganda-based education nonprofit called Uwezo, noting that there have been no reported virus deaths and just over 1,000 cases in this East African country, though, as elsewhere, limited testing means those figures are likely undercounts. Children "are completely helpless at the moment."

Although the pandemic has disrupted education across the globe, the schooling crisis is more acute in Africa, where up to 80% of students don't have access to the internet and even electricity can be unreliable, making distance learning difficult, if not impossible. Schools also often provide a refuge to vulnerable children, offering services that their families cannot afford.

Sub-Saharan Africa already has the highest rates of children out of school anywhere in the world, with nearly one-fifth of children between the ages of 6 and 11 and over one-third of youth between 12 and 14 not attending, according to the U.N. culture and education agency.

But getting students back to school also comes with special challenges in Africa, where children in some countries may cram into tiny classrooms by the dozens.

The charity Save the Children called the pandemic the "biggest global education emergency of our time" in a report published this week. It identified 12 countries in which children "are at extremely high risk of dropping out forever." Nine of them are in sub-Saharan Africa.

With the help of outside groups, some African governments have announced measures to support learning from home. But many have been hindered by a lack of reliable electricity and poor internet connectivity. Even newspapers into which learning materials are inserted are not affordable for many in the region. In Uganda, for instance, annual per capita income was less than \$800 in 2019, according to World Bank data.

Uganda's government has pledged to distribute 10 million radios and over 130,000 solar-powered TV sets, but authorities have failed to honor past promises, including giving a free mask to everyone.

In neighboring Kenya, primary and secondary schools will remain closed through 2020, although colleges and other institutions of higher learning can reopen in September. That means Kenyan pupils will repeat an academic year, a phenomenon commonly described as a "dead year."

But the effects will not be limited to academic disruption.

"The critical consequences may be related to health, water and nutrition" because schools are often oases of stability, according to a report by the Norway-based Chr. Michelsen Institute.

The development research institute noted that school closures may deny students access to meals and health programs, and sometimes clean water and sanitation.

Schools also provide havens for children from work and exploitation. Girls may especially suffer, according to the literacy expert Nakabugo, who cited anecdotal reports of a growing number of teenage pregnancies — as the Norway-based institute's report noted happened during West Africa's Ebola epidemic.

The prolonged shutdown could also mean many schools close for good and many teachers quit, exacerbating what is already the world's worst teacher shortage.

Media reports in Uganda cite school owners who are looking to sell their properties or have turned dorms into rental units to keep up with loan payments. The local association of Ugandan teachers is urging authorities to employ furloughed teachers as village tutors.

"The teachers are so discouraged at the moment. They feel left out," said Stella Maris Basemera, a mathematics teacher who heads a Uganda-based group of tutors called Creative Learning Africa. "So some of them are going to run away from the profession."

In the West African nation of Senegal, education officials tried to keep children learning by broadcast-

ing some classes on television after schools closed in March, a move aimed at reaching students without home internet access. But electricity is often lacking in villages.

"The potential of digital technology is enormous," said Djibril Tall, a teacher in Senegal's Louga region. But "in many places people are forced to travel long distances just to have enough to charge their phones."

Some students in Senegal returned to classrooms in June, but, for many in Africa, returning to school may be tricky.

In Zimbabwe, where in many schools up to 70 students may be crammed into a small room, the government is postponing a phased reopening that had been scheduled to begin this month. Teachers unions had warned that such a plan is dangerous in schools lacking face masks, hand sanitizer, and even running water.

Even in South Africa, the continent's most prosperous economy, the government has faced criticism from teachers unions for its decision to reopen schools despite a growing number of cases.

Since schools there reopened in June, at least 650 students and teachers have tested positive in the province of Gauteng, the country's economic hub, forcing 71 schools to close again.

Many private schools across Africa are offering online tutoring. But in poor and rural areas, children are more likely to spend their days playing games or housekeeping.

"It is the poorest schools that will continue to suffer and remain closed, while affluent schools reopen, only deepening inequality in both access to and quality of education," said Dipolelo Moime, spokesman for One SA Movement, a group of South African activists.

While some parents are paying hundreds of dollars a month for their children to attend online classes, others pay much less to teachers who conduct lessons in backyards. Many others cannot afford any support.

"I can't even afford to buy bread. Where will I get the money for these private lessons?" said Maud Chirwa, a mother in the Kuwadzana suburb of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. "They are better off at school where there are some controls."

Babacar Dione in Dakar, Senegal, Farai Mutsaka in Harare, Zimbabwe, and Mogomotsi Magome in Johannesburg, South Africa, contributed.

Families step in at Kabul COVID-19 ward to care for patients

By TAMEEM AKHGAR Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The intensive care unit at the Afghan capital's premier hospital for COVID-19 patients is a medical nightmare — and a stark warning how the country's war-ravaged health care system risks collapsing.

Family members, without protective equipment and only a few wearing face masks, help care for the patients lying in hospital beds. They say they have no choice because there are not enough nurses and other medical staff.

The next-of-kin often guard their loved one's oxygen tank, fearing it could be stolen because there is a shortage of just about everything, including oxygen cylinders.

The 100-bed Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital in western Kabul is one of only two facilities for coronavirus testing and treatment in the Afghan capital. Newly graduated Afghan doctors have joined the 370-member staff after many of the hospital's experienced physicians walked out a few months ago, fearing the virus.

The 92-square-meter (1,000-square-foot) ICU ward has only 13 beds, and COVID-19 patients admitted here are in critical condition; few are hooked up to ventilators, some of the others rely on oxygen tanks.

Assadullah, who like many Afghans goes by only one name, says he struggled to stay awake night after night at the ICU ward, guarding the tank that kept his father alive. In his father's final days, the relative of another patient came over, threatening to take the tank.

"Your father is dying but mine is alive, he told me ... in such a situation, how could I have left my father alone," said Assadullah, who lost his father to the virus on Tuesday.

Abdul Rahman, 42, feels the same way and rushes to rub his 70-year-old mother's back every time she

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 38 of 81

coughs.

A few beds away, 64-year-old Mohammad Amin's left foot has turned black from gangrene that set in after a blood clot due to the virus. His son and wife tend to him as best they can, but they say it's exhausting.

For the hospital's director, Hakimullah Saleh, every staffer is a hero, risking their own life to provide critical care. They face so many work challenges, he said, on top of which they sometimes have to deal with "threats" from distraught families who feel the hospital is not doing enough.

One of Saleh's heroes, Dr. Jawad Norzai, is relentless in his devotion to the patients, he said. Along with his job as chief surgeon, Norzai visits over 60 patients a day and finds the time to train new doctors, Saleh said.

The 32-year-old Norzai got his medical diploma in 2013 and worked first for private hospitals, joining the Afghan-Japan only after hearing how many of the staff had left. Norzai said he, like many medical professionals, contracted the virus but recovered. He said he infected several of his family members but luckily, they also recovered.

Another one of the Afghan-Japan doctors who recovered from the virus is Mozghan Nazehad, 35. "I spent three nights awake because of severe pain, back pain, and lower limb pain, that pain I will never forget," said Nazehad, who lives apart from her family to keep them safe.

The other hospital that treats COVID-19 patients is the Ali Jenah, funded by Pakistan, a 200-bed but less-equipped facility, also in western Kabul. There is also an isolation center in the dormitory of the Kabul University, but it does not provide treatment.

According to the Health Ministry, more than 1,700 medical workers — including 40 at the Afghan-Japan hospital — were infected while providing care to COVID-19 patients; 26 have died.

Afghanistan has so far recorded almost 35,000 cases of the virus, including 1,094 deaths, with the number of infections thought to far outnumber the official tally.

The International Rescue Committee warned last month that Afghanistan is on the brink of a humanitarian disaster because the government is unable to test some 80% of possible coronavirus cases.

The Health Ministry said it now has the capacity to test only 2,500 people per day. Last month, 10,000 to 20,000 people were coming daily, asking to be tested, but the government had to turn many down. Afghanistan has one doctor for every 3,500 people, less than a fifth of the global average, according to the World Health Organization.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Tuesday that in addition to the COVID-19 health crisis faced in Afghanistan, the socioeconomic impact of the virus could become catastrophic with 12.4 million people — one third of the country's population — already considered to be living at "emergency" levels of food shortages.

Seemingly indicative of the fractured health care system, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's special envoy for economic development, Yosuf Ghaznafar, went to Turkey when he became ill with COVID-19. He died of the disease there in early July, according to a statement from the presidency — the most senior Afghan official so far to die of the virus.

EU summit breaks up after all-night talks, to resume later

By RAF CASERT and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Weary and bleary European Union leaders temporarily broke up their summit at dawn on the fourth day of acrimonious haggling over an unprecedented 1.85 trillion-euro (\$2.1 trillion) EU budget and coronavirus recovery fund to tackle the crisis. They committed to pick up the fight again later Monday.

In a two-day summit scheduled to have ended Saturday, deep ideological differences between 27 leaders forced the talks into Sunday and then through the night until the sun came up again over the EU capital. Grumpy, some leaders lashed out at each other when a common middle ground was still out of reach.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, defending the cause of a group of five wealthy northern nations seeking to limit costs and strict reform guarantees, came under criticism from Italy and Hungary, whose Prime Minister Viktor Orban asked why the Dutchman had such "hate" toward him.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 39 of 81

Rutte took it in stride.

"We are not here because we are going to be visitors at each other's birthday party later. We are here because we do business for our own country. We are all pros," he said.

The leaders were teetering on the brink of collapse though, Rutte said, before things somewhat turned around before dawn Monday.

"It looks more hopeful than when I thought during the night: 'It's over,'" he said.

On Sunday night, after three days of fruitless talks, EU Council president Charles Michel implored leaders to overcome their fundamental divisions and agree on the budget and recovery fund.

"Are the 27 EU leaders capable of building European unity and trust or, because of a deep rift, will we present ourselves as a weak Europe, undermined by distrust," he asked the leaders at the end of another day of divisive negotiations. The text of the behind-closed-doors speech was obtained by The Associated Press.

"I wish that we succeed in getting a deal and that the European media can headline tomorrow that the EU succeeded in a Mission Impossible," Michel said.

But early on the fourth day of talks — the summit was meant to last only two — the leaders still had not reached a compromise. As dawn broke Monday, they were still haggling over the size and terms of the recovery fund. Debate centered on whether needy nations should get between 375 billion euros to 390 billion euros in grants, officials said.

Even with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron negotiating as the closest of partners, the traditionally powerful Franco-German alliance could not get the bloc's 27 quarreling nations in line.

At their dinner table Sunday night, the leaders could mull a proposal from the five wealthy northern nations — the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Denmark — that suggested a coronavirus recovery fund with 350 million euros of grants and the same amount again in loans. The five EU nations nicknamed "the frugals" — had long opposed any grants at all.

"We are ready to take the leap from loans to subsidies. If there are reforms, they need to be strictly defined. And, two, they need to be able to be enforced," Rutte said.

The pandemic has sent the EU into a tailspin, killing around 135,000 of its citizens and plunging its economy into an estimated contraction of 8.3% this year.

The bloc's executive has proposed a 750 billion-euro coronavirus fund, partly based on common borrowing, to be sent as loans and grants to the countries hit hardest by the pandemic. That comes on top of the seven-year 1 trillion-euro EU budget that leaders have been haggling over for months even before the pandemic hit.

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

Rutte has long been known as a European bridge builder, but this weekend his tough negotiating stance was being blamed for holding up a deal. He and his allies have been 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 that are being paid for by the recovery fund.

"He can't ask us to do specific reforms," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said, complaining it may look like a hero in his home nation, but nowhere else.

Rutte also wants a link to be made between the handout of EU funds and the rule of law — a connection aimed at Poland and Hungary, countries with right-wing populist governments that many in the EU think are sliding away from democratic rule.

That drew Orban into anger.

"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," Orban said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 40 of 81

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

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

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's alternate reality on COVID-19 threat

By HOPE YEN, STEPHEN BRAUN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump appears to be living in an alternate reality when it comes to the COVID-19 threat.

Over the weekend, he clung to the misguided notion that the virus will just "disappear" even as his top science experts and GOP allies bluntly say otherwise.

Trump also continued to wrongly insist that anyone who wants a coronavirus test is getting one, made the head-scratching suggestion that the virus is under control when infections are surging to fresh daily highs and lodged false accusations against the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci.

The statements came in a week of distorted truth. Trump referred repeatedly to his "ban" on travel from China that wasn't so and issued a scattered indictment of Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden.

A look at his rhetoric and how they compare with the facts:

TRUMP vs. FAUCI

TRUMP: "Dr. Fauci at the beginning said, 'This will pass. Don't worry about it. This will pass.' He was wrong." — interview aired on "Fox News Sunday."

THE FACTS: Trump is overstating it. While Fauci said in January and February that Americans need not panic about a virus threat at the time, he also said the situation was "evolving" and that public health officials were taking the threat seriously.

"Right now the risk is still low, but this could change, I've said that many times," Fauci told NBC on Feb. 29. He allowed that if there are growing cases of community spread, it could become a "major outbreak."

"When you start to see community spread, this could change and force you to become much more attentive to doing things that would protect you from spread," Fauci said.

Fauci never claimed the virus would just "pass" or disappear.

TRUMP: "Dr. Fauci told me not to ban China, it would be a big mistake. I did it over and above his recommendation." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: That's incorrect. While Fauci expressed some initial reservations about travel restrictions on China, he supported the decision by the time it was made.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, who was coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force at the time and announced the travel restrictions, said Trump made the decision in late January after accepting the "uniform recommendation of the career public health officials here at HHS."

While the World Health Organization did advise against the overuse of travel restrictions, Azar told reporters in February that his department's career health officials had made a "considered recommendation, which I and the president adopted" in a bid to slow spread of the virus.

TRUMP: "I will be right eventually. You know I said, 'It's going to disappear.' I'll say it again. It's going to disappear, and I'll be right." — Fox interview.

TRUMP: "We'll put out the flames. ... It's going to be under control." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: "The virus is not going to disappear," according to Fauci.

The number of confirmed cases in the U.S. per day has risen over the past month, hitting over 70,000 this past week, according to a count kept by Johns Hopkins University. That is higher even than what the country experienced from mid-April through early May, when deaths sharply rose.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 41 of 81

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

Arizona, California, Florida and Texas have recently been forced to shut down bars and businesses as virus cases surge. The U.S. currently has more than 3.7 million known cases and many more undetected.

In February, Trump asserted coronavirus cases were going “very substantially down, not up,” and told Fox Business it will be fine because “in April, supposedly, it dies with the hotter weather.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, visiting a hospital Wednesday in Kentucky, acknowledged that some of those early predictions were too rosy. “The straight talk here that everyone needs to understand: This is not going away,” he said.

Fauci says there “certainly” will be coronavirus infections in the fall and winter.

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

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

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

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

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.

MORE ON VIRUS THREAT

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 remarks Tuesday.

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 &

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 42 of 81

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.

TESTING

TRUMP: "We go out into parking lots and everything, everybody gets a test." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: He's repeating the false notion that anybody who wants a COVID-19 test can get one.

Americans are being confronted with long lines at testing sites. People often are disqualified if they are not showing symptoms and, if they are tested, they sometimes are forced to wait many days for results.

Julie Khani, president of the American Clinical Laboratory Association, which represents LabCorp, Quest Diagnostics and other labs, has made clear that "the anticipated demand for COVID-19 testing over the coming weeks will likely exceed members' testing capacities." This past week the group encouraged members to give priority to "those most in need, especially hospitalized and symptomatic patients."

Many governors and local officials say they cannot meet the demand.

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

Around Seattle, for instance, 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 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."

TRUMP: "Cases are up, because we have the best testing in the world and we have the most testing." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: It's not true that infections are high only because the U.S. diagnostic testing has increased. Trump's own top public health officials have shot down this line of thinking. Infections are rising because people are infecting each other more than they were when most everyone was hunkered down.

Increased testing does contribute to the higher numbers, but there's more to it. Testing in fact has uncovered a worrisome trend: The percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus is on the rise across nearly the entire country.

That's a clear demonstration that sickness is spreading and that the U.S. testing system is falling short.

"A high rate of positive tests indicates a government is only testing the sickest patients who seek out medical attention and is not casting a wide enough net," says the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, a primary source of updated information on the pandemic.

TRUMP: "No country has ever done what we've done in terms of testing. We are the envy of the world. They call and they say the most incredible job anybody's done is our job on testing, because we're going to very shortly be up to 50 million tests. You look at other countries; they don't even do tests. ... They don't go around have massive areas of testing, and we do." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: U.S. testing is not the envy of the world, nor is the U.S. the only country that does mass testing.

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

China has used batch testing, mixing samples and testing them together, as part of a recent campaign to test all 11 million residents of Wuhan. It's an approach that top U.S. health officials believe could be used

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 43 of 81

to boost U.S. screening, though it's not clear when pooled testing could become available for wide-scale screenings at U.S. schools and businesses.

"We are nowhere near being able to rein in this virus with the amount of testing we have available at the moment," said Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who previously served as Baltimore's health commissioner.

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, said test results in parts of the U.S. take as long as a week, which is "too long."

"You do the testing to find out who's carrying the virus and then quickly get them isolated so they don't spread it around," he said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "And it's very hard to make that work when there's a long delay built in."

DEATH RATES

TRUMP: "I think we have one of the lowest mortality rates in the world." — Fox interview.

CHRIS WALLACE, host of "Fox News Sunday": "That's not true, sir."

TRUMP: "Number one, low mortality rate." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: Trump's claim is wholly unsupported.

An accurate death rate is impossible to know. Every country tests and counts people differently, and some are unreliable in reporting cases. Without knowing the true number of people who become infected, it cannot be determined what portion of them die.

Using a count kept by Johns Hopkins University, you can compare the number of recorded deaths with the number of reported cases. That count shows the U.S. experiencing more deaths as a percentage of cases than most other countries now being hit hard with the pandemic. The statistics look better for the U.S. when the list is expanded to include European countries that were slammed early on by the virus but now appear to have it under control. Even then, the U.S. is not shown to be among the best in avoiding death.

Such calculations, though, do not provide a reliable measurement of actual death rates because of the variations in testing and reporting, and the Johns Hopkins tally is not meant to be such a measure.

The only way to tell how many cases have gone uncounted, and therefore what percentage of infected people have died from the disease, is to do another kind of test comprehensively, of people's blood, to find how many people bear immune system antibodies to the virus. Globally, that is only being done in select places.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP: "If you remember, I was the one that did the European Union very early." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: U.S. health officials actually believe Trump was late in restricting travel from parts of Europe.

While Trump imposed travel restrictions on China in late January, he didn't follow up with many European countries until mid-March. Those delayed travel alerts as well as limited testing contributed to the jump in U.S. cases starting in late February, according to Dr. Anne Schuchat, the No. 2 official at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We clearly didn't recognize the full importations that were happening," Schuchat told The Associated Press in May.

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

THE FACTS: 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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 44 of 81

Chinese and foreign nationals based in those territories entered the U.S. in the first three months after the travel restrictions were imposed.

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

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.

TRUMP, on Biden: "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.

POLICE

TRUMP: "Biden wants to defund the police." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: To be clear, Biden has not joined the call of protesters who demanded "defund the police" after George Floyd's killing in Minneapolis. He's proposed more money for police, conditioned to improvements in their practices.

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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "I built the greatest economy ever built anywhere in the world; not only of this country, anywhere in the world, until we got hit with the China virus." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: Not true. The economy was healthy back then but not the best in U.S. history, much less world history.

Economic gains largely followed along the lines of an expansion that started more than a decade ago under President Barack Obama. And while posting great job and stock market numbers, Trump never managed to achieve the rates of economic growth he promised in the 2016 campaign. The U.S. economy was not the world's best in history when this started.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 45 of 81

MILITARY

TRUMP: "I got soldiers the biggest pay raises in the history of our military." — Fox interview.

THE FACTS: Trump often boasts about the size of the military pay raises under his administration, but there's nothing extraordinary about them.

Several raises in the past decade have been larger than service members are getting under Trump — 3.1% this year, 2.6% last year, 2.4% in 2018 and 2.1% in 2017.

Raises in 2008, 2009 and 2010, for example, were all 3.4% or more.

Pay increases shrank after that because of congressionally mandated budget caps. Trump and Congress did break a trend that began in 2011 of pay raises that hovered between 1% and 2%.

AP Chief Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee and Associated Press writer Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

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

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Trump offers confusion, contradictions on immigration order

By JILL COLVIN and ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is promising new executive action on immigration as he returns to the defining issue of his administration. But Trump has offered contradictory and confusing statements about his plans in recent days. His comments come after the Supreme Court rejected his efforts to end the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, which protects young immigrants brought to the country as children. Trump said last month that he would quickly be filing paperwork to address the court's concerns, but has yet to make a move.

WHAT TRUMP HAS SAID:

The latest confusion about Trump's thinking started with a Telemundo interview earlier this month in which the president said he would soon be "signing an immigration bill" — "a very good bill and merit-based bill" — and that "one of the aspects of the bill is going to be DACA."

"We're going to have a road to citizenship," he added.

The problem: No such bill exists to sign and there is zero appetite in Congress to wade into the divisive issue with four months to go before the election and in the middle of a pandemic.

Elsewhere in the interview, Trump said he would instead be signing "a big executive order" that would include DACA. "But, we put it in, and we'll probably going to then be taking it out. We're working out the legal complexities right now, but I'm going to be signing a very major immigration bill as an executive order," he said.

White House spokesman Judd Deere quickly tried to walk back the meandering comments, saying that Trump was "working on an executive order to establish a merit-based immigration system to further protect U.S. workers." Trump, he added, "has long said he is willing to work with Congress on a negotiated legislative solution to DACA" — one he said "could include citizenship" but not "amnesty."

Trump apparently did not get the message.

"We're going to take care of DACA because I'm going to be doing, in the not-too-distant future, pretty soon I'm going to be signing a new immigration action — very, very big merit-based immigration action that, based on the DACA decision, I'll be able to do," he said Tuesday, adding to the confusion.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Thursday that Trump was "working on an executive order to establish a merit-based immigration system" and has "long said that he would look for a legislative solution on DACA, and he would work with Congress to pursue that legislative solution."

WHAT'S AT STAKE:

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 46 of 81

There are about 650,000 people currently enrolled in DACA who would lose their protections against deportations and the ability to legally work in the country if Trump dismantles the program again. The program hasn't accepted any new applications since 2017, and the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, estimates an additional 66,000 people would now meet the age requirement for the program if it were reinstated.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has not appeared to have been accepting new applications, even though some immigration lawyers argue that the Supreme Court ruling should require the program to return to its original form. A federal court on Friday restored the program to its original form, but it's unclear whether USCIS will start accepting new applications.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency that carries out deportations, has said it planned on removing DACA recipients who had existing immigration court cases if the program was rescinded. But it's not clear when or how they would do that considering the agency's limited resources.

WHAT ELSE MIGHT THE ORDER INCLUDE?

In addition to his complaints about illegal immigration, Trump has long railed against the country's legal immigration system, saying it should favor high-skilled immigrants admitted for their "merit" instead of those with family connections. While he has spent years trying to overhaul the immigration system, the coronavirus has allowed him to dramatically step up those efforts, including pausing the issuance of green cards to many people living outside the country, including the relatives of permanent residents, and suspending the diversity visa lottery for people from underrepresented countries.

Any new restrictions are likely to be challenged in court.

WHAT ABOUT LEGISLATION?

Congress deadlocked with Trump in 2018 over renewing the DACA program after Democrats and some Republicans refused to budge over his demands to add restrictions on legal immigration. With immigration a hot-button issue for both parties, the chances of a groundbreaking deal in the months before the November elections seem remote at best.

Galvan reported from Phoenix.

Thousands to walk off job to protest racial inequality

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Organizers of a national workers strike say tens of thousands are set to walk off the job Monday in more than two dozen U.S. cities to protest systemic racism and economic inequality that has only worsened during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dubbed the "Strike for Black Lives," labor unions, along with social and racial justice organizations from New York City to Los Angeles, will participate in a range of planned actions. Where work stoppages are not possible for a full day, participants will either picket during a lunch break or observe moments of silence to honor Black lives lost to police violence, organizers said.

"We are ... building a country where Black lives matter in every aspect of society — including in the workplace," said Ash-Lee Henderson, an organizer with the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of over 150 organizations that make up the Black Lives Matter movement.

"The Strike for Black Lives is a moment of reckoning for corporations that have long ignored the concerns of their Black workforce and denied them better working conditions, living wages and healthcare," said Henderson, who is also co-executive director of the Tennessee-based Highlander Research and Education Center.

Among the strikers will be essential workers: nursing home employees, janitors and delivery men and women. Fast food, ride-share and airport workers are also expected to take part in planned events.

The strike continues an ongoing global reckoning on race and police brutality set off by the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died at the hands of Minneapolis police in late May. At noon in each U.S. time zone on Monday, workers are expected to take a knee for about eight minutes — the amount of time

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 47 of 81

prosecutors say a white police officer held his knee on Floyd's neck.

Strikers are demanding sweeping action by corporations and government to confront systemic racism and economic inequality that limits mobility and career advancement for many Black and Hispanic workers, who make up a disproportionate number of those earning less than a living wage.

Specifically, they are calling on corporate leaders and elected government officials to use executive and legislative power to guarantee people of all races can thrive. That demand includes raising wages and allowing workers to unionize to negotiate better health care, sick leave and child care support.

When the strike was announced on July 8, partnering unions included the Service Employees International Union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the American Federation of Teachers, United Farm Workers and the Fight for \$15 and a Union. Several more worker collectives have since joined, along with social and racial justice groups.

In Manhattan, essential workers will gather outside of the Trump International Hotel to demand the Senate and President Donald Trump pass and sign the HEROES Act. The House-passed legislation provides protective equipment, essential pay and extended unemployment benefits to workers who have not had the option of working from home during the coronavirus pandemic. Organizers said New York Sen. Chuck Schumer is expected to rally with workers.

Strikers in Minneapolis, where Floyd was killed on May 25, will include nursing home and airport workers demanding a \$15-per-hour minimum wage, organizers said. In Missouri, participants will rally at McDonald's locations in St. Louis and Ferguson, a key landmark in the protest movement sparked by the death of Michael Brown, a Black teenager who was killed by police in 2014. The Ferguson strikers will also march to a memorial site located on the spot where Brown was shot and killed.

Organizers said many strikers are taking particular aim at corporations such as Walmart and McDonald's, which they say should be held accountable for widespread mistreatment and exploitation of hourly workers of color. In the wake of Floyd protests, McDonald's expressed its support for Black victims of police violence and vigilante attacks.

On Friday, a group of McDonald's workers filed a federal lawsuit against the corporation in Florida, alleging that managers at a corporate-run store in Lakeland subjected them to a "racially hostile work environment" and also had mistreated Black customers. The workers alleged that after they reported their concerns to corporate leaders, their managers retaliated by slashing their hours and changing their work responsibilities.

"McDonald's, if you really believe Black lives matter, it's time to stop with the lip service and start with real action: treat your Black employees like our lives matter," said Faith Booker, a Black plaintiff in the lawsuit who also plans to join strikers on Monday.

In a statement emailed to the AP, McDonald's said it was taking the claims in the lawsuit "seriously."

"We stand with Black communities across the globe in our commitment to address unacceptable racial injustices and are disappointed that these allegations do not reflect the high standards we hold ourselves accountable to every day across all areas of our business," the statement reads.

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

Son of US District Judge Esther Salas killed, husband shot

NORTH BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) — A gunman shot and killed the 20-year-old son of a federal judge in New Jersey and shot and injured her husband Sunday at the family home, the state's chief district judge said.

The shootings occurred at the North Brunswick home of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas, and killed her son, Daniel, Chief District Judge Freda Wolfson told The Associated Press. Her husband, defense lawyer Mark Anderl, was injured, Wolfson said.

The gunman posed as a delivery driver, according to a judiciary official who wasn't authorized to comment and spoke anonymously to the AP. They said Salas was in the basement at the time and wasn't injured and her husband is recovering from surgery.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 48 of 81

The perpetrator, believed to be a lone gunman, was not in custody, the official said. The FBI tweeted Sunday night that it's looking for one suspect in the shootings.

Salas, seated in Newark, was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed in 2011. Prior to that she served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in New Jersey, after working as an assistant public defender for several years.

Her highest-profile case in recent years was the financial fraud case involving husband-and-wife "Real Housewives of New Jersey" reality TV stars Teresa and Joe Giudice, whom Salas sentenced to prison for crimes including bankruptcy fraud and tax evasion. Salas staggered their sentences so that one of them could be available to take care of their four children.

In 2017, she barred federal prosecutors from seeking the death penalty against an alleged gang leader charged in several Newark slayings, ruling the man's intellectual disability made him ineligible for capital punishment. Salas later sentenced the man to 45 years in prison.

More recently, Salas has presided over an ongoing lawsuit brought by Deutsche Bank investors who claim the company made false and misleading statements about its anti-money laundering policies and failed to monitor "high-risk" customers including convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Democratic New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, who backed Salas's nomination to the federal bench, said in a statement Sunday night, "My prayers are with Judge Salas and her family, and that those responsible for this horrendous act are swiftly apprehended and brought to justice."

In an emailed statement, Democratic New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy called the shooting "a senseless act" and said "this tragedy is our latest reminder that gun violence remains a crisis in our country and that our work to make every community safer isn't done."

The Latest: S. Korea has smallest rise in cases in 2 months

By The Associated Press undefined

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea has reported its smallest daily jump in local COVID-19 transmissions in two months as health authorities express cautious optimism that the outbreak is being brought under control.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday still reported 26 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus, including 22 that were tied to international arrivals.

Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip said during a virus briefing that the four local transmissions represented the first time that such infections came below 10 since May 19. He continued to plead for vigilance, encouraging people to avoid crowded places or even stay at home during the summer holiday period.

Officials consider imported cases as a lesser threat than local transmissions because the country is mandating COVID-19 tests and enforcing two-week quarantines on all people arriving from abroad.

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

- Facing uncertain fall, schools make flexible reopening plans
 - Governments are reassessing their coronavirus responses, with the mayor of Los Angeles saying the city reopened too quickly and Hong Kong issuing tough new rules on face masks.
 - How the coronavirus spread through an immigration facility
 - Major companies are keeping employees in the dark on how prevalent the coronavirus is in warehouses, stores and plants. That's led workers to sleuth out what's happening in their workplaces.
 - France's most worrisome virus hot spot is on the northern coast of South America: French Guiana, a territory of about 300,000 people where poverty is rampant and health care is scarce.
 - 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.
- Follow all of AP's pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 49 of 81

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's hard-hit Victoria state recorded a third daily COVID-19 tally below a record 428 cases reported last week, but the state government leader said on Monday it was too early to tell what impact a second lockdown was having.

Since 428 cases were reported on Friday, Victoria has recorded 217, 363 and 275 cases on consecutive days.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews expected to know on Wednesday what impact a lockdown on Australia's second-largest city Melbourne and the neighboring semi-rural Mitchell Shire were having. The six-week lockdown will be two weeks old on Wednesday.

"It is a wicked enemy, it is unstable and until we bring some stability to this, I don't think we'll be able to talk about a trend," Andrews said. "I'm certainly much happier to be able to report a lower number than a high one."

Victoria had conducted more than 1.3 million coronavirus tests among a population of 6.5 million, which represented one of the highest testing rates in the world, he said.

Most students in the lockdown regions returned to online schooling at home after an extended vacation.

A retired judge began an inquiry on Monday into breaches of hotel quarantine in Melbourne that have been blamed for most if not all the new virus spread. Australian citizens and permanent residents are required to self-isolate in hotels for 14 days when they return from overseas.

BEIJING — Numbers of confirmed coronavirus cases in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang continue to rise. Another 17 cases were reported on Monday, bringing the total in China's latest outbreak to at least 47.

One of the 17 new cases reported on Monday was in the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar, the regional government said on its official microblog. The remainder were in the regional capital of Urumqi, where all other cases have been reported since the outbreak emerged earlier this month.

Another five cases were brought from outside the country, according to the National Health Commission.

No new deaths were reported, leaving the total at 4,634 among 83,682 cases, and 249 people remain in treatment. Another 158 people were being monitored in isolation for showing signs of having the virus or for testing positive without displaying symptoms.

China had largely contained local transmission of the virus before the Urumqi outbreak and has taken swift action to bring it under control, cutting subway, bus and taxi service, closing some communities, imposing travel restrictions and ordering widespread testing.

Beijing meanwhile, has gone 14 days without a case of local transmission and city authorities on Sunday said they were downgrading the emergency response level from two to three. Hong Kong, meanwhile, has seen a spike in cases, with more than 100 reported on Sunday. That has prompted the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city to reimpose measures including closing indoor entertainment venues and public libraries, and imposing additional quarantine measures on travelers arriving from seven countries where the risk of infection is considered especially high, including South Africa.

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear reported 979 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, a daily record that he said should be a "wake-up call" for the state's citizens to abide by mask and social distancing restrictions to slow the spread of the virus.

The Democratic governor announced the new cases, including 30 involving children 5 years old or younger, in a news release on Sunday.

"I have faith and I have trust in the people of Kentucky," Beshear said. "But today and in the days ahead we've got to do a whole lot better. We're going to have to take some more action."

Beshear said there were at least 23,161 coronavirus cases in Kentucky as of 4 p.m., including the new cases reported on Sunday. The state's public health commissioner said efforts would be made to confirm the accuracy of the results with some of the laboratories that submitted them.

"We typically have limited reporting on Sunday which makes today's record-setting number of positives particularly alarming," said Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Department of Public Health.

Beshear also reported three new deaths, raising the total to 670 Kentuckians lost to the virus.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 50 of 81

LAS VEGAS -- Officials say Las Vegas-area hospitals are adding beds and staff to accommodate an increasing number of COVID-19 patients.

The Clark County fire chief says hospital occupancy isn't high enough activate a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to use the Las Vegas Convention Center for up to 900 patients. But the Las Vegas Review-Journal reports that hospitals in Clark County added 441 staffed beds as of Thursday, and the Nevada Hospital Association says another 49 have been added in other parts of the state.

The intensive care unit at the state's only public hospital was 95% occupied as of Wednesday, with about one in three of those patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

State health officials report that 35,765 people have tested positive for the virus statewide and at least 647 have died.

PHOENIX — Arizona health officials are reporting 31 more deaths from the coronavirus. State Department of Health Services data shows the statewide death toll due to COVID-19 is 2,761 as of Sunday. There have been more than 143,600 confirmed cases.

Gov. Doug Ducey lifted stay-home orders and other restrictions in May and the state became a national hot spot for reported cases. In June, Ducey authorized local governments to impose mask requirements to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, and many have done so.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Normally, Potions in Motions catering company would be in high gear for summer weddings, graduations and corporate events, averaging 25 to 35 a week at their peak and serving 2,000 to 3,000 people.

But this summer, with South Florida's three counties imposing various restrictions on group gatherings, they're down to "micro-events," averaging two to five a week with 8 to 15 people. They've had to cut most of their staff. At peak season, they have 65, but now are down to six.

"We're trying to just stay alive and keep as many people employed," the company's founder Jason Savino said. "They're making so many restrictions by county. You can't even have a gathering of more than 10 people in your house."

He understands the need to make changes to curb the spread of the virus, but worries about the economic impact.

"The dialing back scares me," he said. "There's no support coming from any government or anywhere that are accommodating these businesses that are being ordered to dial their business back."

LOS ANGELES -- Mayor Eric Garcetti conceded Sunday that Los Angeles eased COVID-19 restrictions too quickly and again warned that the city was "on the brink" of new shutdown orders as the coronavirus continues to surge in California.

Appearing on CNN, Garcetti was asked about an LA Times editorial that criticized the rapid reopening of California — which was followed by a spike in new COVID-19 cases.

Garcetti said the decisions were made at the state and county levels, but said that LA officials wouldn't hesitate to implement new stay-at-home orders if the numbers don't turn around.

California on Saturday reported its fourth-highest daily total of new confirmed cases.

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana officials said Sunday they have suspended an emergency rent assistance program to help those hurt by the COVID-19 economic slowdown because they were quickly overwhelmed with applicants.

They said more than 40,000 people had begun the application process in less than four days. The Louisiana Housing Corporation had estimated it had enough money to help about 10,000 tenants, with money paid directly to landlords.

The Corporation had set aside \$24 million of federal money for the program and says it will try to find

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 51 of 81

more money after the flood of applications.

When the program was announced Thursday, housing advocates said it was a good start, but was far too little money, especially with the \$600-per-week federal unemployment payments expiring at the end of the month.

"The response to our state's emergency rental assistance program proves how significant the economic burden of COVID-19 is for our citizens," Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a statement.

HILLSDALE, Mich — A small conservative college in southern Michigan has defied warnings from state public health officials during the coronavirus pandemic by hosting an in-person graduation ceremony.

Hillsdale College held graduation Saturday evening, capping days of celebrations, according to The Detroit News.

"COVID obviously was a concern," said David Betz, whose son, Christian, graduated. "For a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be able to come, it was well worth it."

The college of about 1,500 students had expected more than 2,000 people at the event, though school officials declined to discuss actual attendance numbers. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel had called the gathering illegal at a time when with public gatherings are capped at 100 people.

Health officials had said the event, drawing people to restaurants and hotels, put the Hillsdale city community of about 8,000 people at risk.

School officials said graduation is an important milestone and safety precautions were taken, including wearing masks. The liberal arts college has connections to top Republicans. Vice President Mike Pence gave 2018's commencement address.

Michigan has reported more than 73,000 confirmed COVID-19 with more than 6,100 deaths.

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina has set another record for newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases in a single day.

Sunday saw 2,335 people newly diagnosed with COVID-19, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control reported.

South Carolina has reported 2,000 new cases three times since the virus was first detected in the state in March. All have been in the past eight days. The state has spent much of the past month in the top four in the nation for new COVID-19 cases when adjusted by population.

Health officials also reported 19 new deaths Sunday, bringing the death toll to 1,138 people.

But one key statistic has been missing from the public over the weekend. Health officials said they are unable to release how many people are hospitalized with COVID-19 because the state is following a federal request to change how it reports hospitalizations.

South Carolina reported a daily record 1,593 people in the hospital with the virus Friday, the last day figures were available.

ROME — The Italian region that includes Rome is warning citizens that local lockdowns might have to be ordered if there are more clusters of coronavirus infections.

Lazio Region Health Commissioner Alessio D'Amato said 17 new COVID-19 cases were registered on Sunday, 10 of them "imported" from other countries when foreign residents returned to Italy. Many of the Rome area's recent cases have been among returning workers from Bangladesh.

"I appeal for the use of masks, otherwise, we'll have to close down again" with restrictive measures on citizens' activities and movements outside of homes, D'Amato said.

"We can't turn back and waste all the efforts done till now," D'Amato pleaded in a Facebook post.

Lazio's increases were included in Italy's 219 new cases, raising to 244,434, the number of confirmed infections since the outbreak began. Italy's known death toll on Sunday stood at 35,045, with the confirmation of three more deaths.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 52 of 81

SAN DIEGO -- Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego was the site of the first big outbreak at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's 221 detention centers. In interviews with The Associated Press, workers and detainees reveal shortcomings in how the private company that manages the center handled the disease: There was an early absence of facial coverings, and a lack of cleaning supplies. Symptomatic detainees were mixed with others.

Some workers at the center quit; the Mexican consul general, responding to complaints from detainees, raised concerns about how the facility handled the outbreak.

Other centers would follow with their own outbreaks, and a Homeland Security Department internal watchdog survey of 188 detention centers taken in mid-April echoed some of what The Associated Press found at Otay Mesa: 19% of facility directors said there weren't enough standard surgical masks, 32% said there weren't enough N95 respirator masks, and 37% felt there wasn't enough hand sanitizer for detainees.

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."

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey has suspended flights to Iran and Afghanistan because of the coronavirus outbreak, Turkey's Transport Ministry said Sunday.

In a brief statement, the ministry said the flights were halted "as part of the Covid-19 process".

Turkey previously shut down air travel with its neighbor Iran in February while Afghanistan suspended all flights in March.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 53 of 81

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.

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.

Kanye West criticizes Harriet Tubman at his political rally

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Rapper Kanye West, in his first event since declaring himself a presidential candidate, ranted against historical figure Harriet Tubman on Sunday, saying the Underground Railroad conductor "never actually freed the slaves, she just had them work for other white people," comments that drew shouts of opposition from some in the crowd.

West delivered a lengthy monologue, touching on topics from abortion and religion to international trade and licensing deals, before a crowd in North Charleston, South Carolina. Whether he is actually seeking the nation's highest office remains a question.

Tubman is one of the most respected figures of 19th century America. An African American who escaped slavery, she helped enslaved Black men and women travel north to freedom and fought for the Union during the Civil War. She later became a supporter of women's suffrage.

On abortion, West said that while he believes it should be legal, financial incentives to help struggling mothers could be a way to discourage the practice.

"Everybody that has a baby gets a million dollars," he said as an example.

Wearing a protective vest and with "2020" shaved into his head, the entertainer appeared on a livestream of the event. Several hundred people gathered in a venue, where gospel music played before West's appearance.

The event was reportedly for registered guests only, although a campaign website had no registration or RSVP information.

Speaking without a microphone, West became tearful at one point while talking about his mother, who died following plastic surgery complications in 2007.

West missed the deadline to qualify for the ballot in several states, and it was unclear if he was willing

or able to collect enough signatures required to qualify in others. Last week, he qualified to appear on Oklahoma's presidential ballot, the first state where he met the requirements before the filing deadline.

West needed to collect 10,000 signatures by noon Monday to appear on the South Carolina ballot, according to state law. The entertainer tweeted out a list of locations around the Charleston area where petitions could be signed. Email to an address purportedly associated with the campaign was not returned Sunday afternoon.

West, who is married to reality television star Kim Kardashian West, initially announced his candidacy on July 4.

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>

Jack Nicklaus says he tested positive for coronavirus

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Jack Nicklaus revealed Sunday during the CBS telecast of the Memorial that he and his wife tested positive for the coronavirus at the onset of the pandemic.

Nicklaus and his wife, Barbara, turned 80 a month apart at the start of the year.

He said his wife had no COVID-19 symptoms, while Nicklaus had a sore throat and a cough. Nicklaus said they were home in North Palm Beach, Florida, from March 13 "until we were done with it" on about April 20.

"It didn't last very long, and we were very, very fortunate, very lucky," Nicklaus said. "Barbara and I are both of the age, both of us 80 years old, that is an at-risk age. Our hearts go out to the people who did lose their lives and their families. We were just a couple of the lucky ones."

The Memorial has no spectators, and Nicklaus sightings have been rare this week because of protocols in the PGA Tour's return to golf amid the pandemic.

Nicklaus shared the news when the Memorial was coming out of a weather delay in the final round. The few times he has been seen, he was wearing a mask and keeping his distance.

Tiger Woods, a five-time winner of the Memorial, said he had known for some time Nicklaus had tested positive.

"The fact that they got through it and they're safe and here and healthy, it's all good news for all of us who are a part of golf and who looked up to Jack and (have) been around Barbara all these years," Woods said.

Nicklaus had a remote press conference on Tuesday and said he would shake the hand of whoever wins the Memorial, a tradition at the tournament he created.

"If they don't want to shake my hand, that's fine, I'll give them a fist bump or an elbow bump, but I'm not going to give them COVID-19, so that's ... I wouldn't put anybody in that position," he said Tuesday.

He said again on CBS that he'll shake hands if the winner wants to, but he would be fine if the winner doesn't.

After a brief moment of indecision with Jon Rahm, it was a fist bump.

"I've been dreaming of that handshake many times," Rahm said. "Well, it was a fist bump because of the situation, but still, how many people can say they got a congratulatory fist bump from Jack Nicklaus?"

Nicklaus said by having the antibodies, "theoretically we can't get it and can't give it. That's a nice position to be in."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a June 30 update, said it does not know if people who recover from COVID-19 can get infected again. It also said even with a positive test for antibodies, "you still should take preventive measures to protect yourself and others."

More AP golf: <https://apnews.com/apf-Golf> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

GOP leaders, Trump to discuss virus aid as crisis deepens

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Republicans in Congress were expecting to meet Monday with President Donald Trump on the next COVID-19 aid package as the administration panned more virus testing money and interjected other priorities that could complicate quick passage.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was prepared to roll out the \$1 trillion package in a matter of days. But divisions between the Senate GOP majority and the White House posed fresh challenges. Congress was returning to session this week as the coronavirus crisis many had hoped would have improved by now only worsened — and just as earlier federal emergency relief was expiring.

Trump insisted again Sunday that the virus would “disappear,” but the president’s view did not at all match projections from the leading health professionals straining to halt the U.S.’s alarming caseloads and death toll.

McConnell and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy were set to meet with Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin “to fine-tune” the legislation, acting chief of staff Mark Meadows said on Fox News.

The package from McConnell had been quietly crafted behind closed doors for weeks and was expected to include \$75 billion to help schools reopen, reduced unemployment benefits alongside a fresh round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans, and a sweeping five-year liability shield against coronavirus lawsuits.

But as the White House weighed in, the administration was panning some \$25 billion in proposed new funds for testing and tracing, said one Republican familiar with the discussions. The administration’s objections were first reported by The Washington Post.

Trump was also reviving his push for a payroll tax break, which was being seriously considered, said another Republican. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks.

The new push from the White House put the administration at odds with GOP allies in Congress, a disconnect that threatened to upend an already difficult legislative process. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi already passed Democrats’ vast \$3 trillion proposal and virus cases and deaths had only increased since.

Trump raised alarms on Capitol Hill when he suggested last month at a rally in Oklahoma that he wanted to slow virus testing. Some of Trump’s GOP allies wanted new money to help test and track the virus to contain its spread. Senate Democrats were investigating why the Trump administration had not yet spent some of \$25 billion previously allocated for testing in an earlier aid bill.

The payroll tax Trump wanted also divided his party. Senate Republicans in particular opposed the payroll tax break as an insufficient response to millions of out-of-work Americans, especially as they tried to keep the total price tag of the aid package at no more than \$1 trillion.

Trump said Sunday in the Fox News interview that he would consider not signing any bill unless it included the payroll tax break, which many GOP senators opposed.

“I want to see it,” he said.

Lawmakers were returning to a partially closed Capitol still off-limits to tourists to consider what will be a fifth COVID-19 aid package. After passing the \$2.2 trillion relief bill in March, Republicans hoped the virus would ease and economy rebound so more aid would not be needed.

But with COVID-19 cases hitting alarming new highs and the death roll rising, the pandemic’s devastating cycle was happening all over again, leaving Congress little choice but to engineer another costly rescue. Businesses were shutting down again, schools could not fully reopen and jobs were disappearing, all while federal emergency aid expired.

“It’s not going to magically disappear,” said a somber McConnell, R-Ky., last week during a visit to a hospital in his home state to thank front-line workers.

As McConnell prepared to roll out his \$1 trillion-plus proposal, he acknowledged it would not have full support.

The political stakes were high for all sides before the November election, but even more so for the nation, which now registered more coronavirus infections and a higher death count than any other country.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 56 of 81

Just as the pandemic's ferocious cycle was starting again, the first round of aid was running out. A federal \$600-a-week boost to regular unemployment benefits would expire at the end of the month. So, too, would the federal ban on evictions on millions of rental units.

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

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

Pelosi's bill, approved in May, included \$75 billion for testing and tracing to try to get a handle on the virus spread, funneled \$100 billion to schools to safely reopen and called for \$1 trillion to be sent to cash-strapped states 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.

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.

Governments around world eye tougher steps to fight virus

By GEIR MOULSON and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

Signs of governments reassessing their coronavirus response were scattered around the world Sunday, with the mayor of Los Angeles saying the city was reopened too quickly, Ohio's governor warning his state is "going the wrong way," Hong Kong issuing tougher new rules on wearing face masks and Spain closing overcrowded beaches.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Los Angeles was "on the brink" of new widespread stay-at-home orders as Los Angeles County continued to see the state's largest increase in confirmed coronavirus cases. California reported on Saturday its fourth-highest daily total of newly confirmed coronavirus cases, with more than 9,000.

Appearing on CNN Sunday, Garcetti was asked about a Los Angeles Times editorial that criticized the rapid reopening of California, which was followed by a spike in new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

"I do agree those things happened too quickly," Garcetti said, adding that the decisions were made at the state and county levels, not by city officials. But he also said people in general had become less vigilant about taking precautions to avoid transmission.

"It's not just what's open and closed," he said. "It's also about what we do individually."

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

In Florida, where health officials reported nearly 12,500 new infections and nearly 90 additional deaths on Sunday, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio called for consistent, nonpartisan messaging.

"We've seen a lot of these things turned into sort of a partisan fight or a political statement," he told South Florida television station, CBS4, on Sunday.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, like Rubio a Republican, said he would not rule out a statewide mandate on wearing masks, as infections in his state grew. He has already issued such orders in 19 counties accounting for nearly 60% of the state's population.

"We're going the wrong way. We're at a crucial time," DeWine said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Globally, the World Health Organization said that 259,848 new infections were reported Saturday, its highest one-day tally yet. India, which has now confirmed more than 1 million infections, on Sunday reported a 24-hour record of 38,902 new cases.

Pope Francis said "the pandemic is showing no sign of stopping" and urged compassion for those whose suffering during the outbreak has been worsened by conflicts.

In Europe, where infections are far below their peak 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 57 of 81

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 divisions about how the countries hit hardest by the pandemic, such as Italy and Spain, should be helped. She said the talks, which were initially scheduled to end on Saturday, could still end without a deal.

Confirmed global virus deaths have risen to more than 603,000, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The United States tops the list with over 140,000, followed by more than 78,000 in Brazil. Europe as a continent has seen about 200,000 deaths.

The number of confirmed infections worldwide has passed 14.3 million, with 3.7 million in the United States and more than 2 million in Brazil. Experts believe the pandemic’s true toll around the world is much higher because of testing shortages and data collection issues.

Even where the situation has been largely brought under control, new outbreaks are prompting the return of 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 have limited access to some of the city’s beloved beaches because sunbathers were ignoring social distancing regulations amid a resurgence of coronavirus infections.

Slaughterhouses also have featured in outbreaks in the U.S., Germany and elsewhere. Authorities in northwestern Germany’s Vechta county said 66 workers at a chicken slaughterhouse tested positive, though most appeared to have been infected in their free time. An earlier outbreak at a slaughterhouse in western Germany infected over 1,400 and prompted a partial lockdown.

Cases in the Australian state of Victoria rose again 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.

Moulson contributed from Berlin and Calvin from Tallahassee, Fla. Associated Press writers around the world contributed to this report.

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

House leaders ‘alarmed’ federal officers policing protests

Associated Press undefined

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Top leaders in the U.S. House said Sunday they were “alarmed” by the Trump administration’s tactics against protesters in Portland, Oregon, and other cities, including Washington, D.C., and called on federal inspectors general investigate.

“This is a matter of utmost urgency,” wrote House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-New York, Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, D-Mississippi, and Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, D-New York, in a letter to the inspectors general of Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security.

The Democratic lawmakers are seeking an investigation “into the use of federal law enforcement agencies by the Attorney General and the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security to suppress First Amendment protected activities in Washington, D.C., Portland, and other communities across the United States.”

The mayor of Oregon’s largest city said Sunday the presence of federal agents is exacerbating tensions in Portland, which has seen nearly two months of nightly protests since the killing of George Floyd in Min-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 58 of 81

neapolis.

Speaking on CNN's 'State of the Union,' Democratic Mayor Ted Wheeler said federal officers "are not wanted here. We haven't asked them here. In fact, we want them to leave."

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.

"We are trying to help Portland, not hurt it," Trump tweeted Sunday. "Their leadership has, for months, lost control of the anarchists and agitators. They are missing in action. We must protect Federal property, AND OUR PEOPLE. These were not merely protesters, these are the real deal!"

Late Saturday, protesters broke into a building, set it on fire and started dumpster fires, police said.

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 area in North Portland.

"As the crowd was dispersed, several people in the crowd were arrested and officers were able to extinguish the fire. Portland Police did not use any CS gas," the bureau said in a statement early Sunday.

Police said protesters had first gathered at the Portland Police Bureau's North Precinct, vandalizing patrol vehicles and taunting officers as they reported for work. Police dispersed the group, which then went to the Portland Police Association building.

Tear gas was deployed against another group of demonstrators near the federal courthouse in downtown Portland on Saturday night, the Oregonian/Oregon Live reported. Fencing that had been placed around the courthouse had also been removed by protesters and made into barricades, police tweeted.

Before the aggressive language and action from federal officials, the unrest had frustrated 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.

"What we're seeing is a blatant abuse of police tactics by the federal government, Wheeler said Sunday.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum sued Homeland Security and the Marshals Service in federal court late Friday. 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."

However, federal officers and Portland police advanced simultaneously on demonstrators to clear the streets early Saturday, making arrests as protesters threw bottles and pieces of metal fencing.

The action by Portland's police was condemned by 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 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.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Facing uncertain fall, schools make flexible reopening plans

By JIM SALTER and HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

MANCHESTER, Mo. (AP) — Administrators in the Parkway school district in suburban St. Louis spent the summer break crafting a flexible reopening plan, with options that include full-time classroom learning, full-time online instruction and a hybrid system.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 59 of 81

It's a good thing because the dangers of the coronavirus are so uncertain that district officials are reluctant to make predictions about the fall semester, which begins in only five weeks. Confirmed coronavirus infections in Missouri's hardest-hit city waned in June, but they are now spiking, along with hospitalizations. Schools plan to resume classes Aug. 24.

"If you had asked me even two weeks ago, 'Do you think we would be able to come back?' I would have said, 'Yeah,'" Assistant Superintendent Kevin Beckner said. "Today my answer is 'I'm not sure,' just because of how the situation has changed so quickly."

Schools around the U.S. face the same dilemma. With the number of reported COVID-19 cases and deaths still rising, districts must grapple with whether to bring students back to classrooms, and how to keep pupils and teachers safe if they do.

Pressure is mounting in many areas to reopen classrooms. President Donald Trump has urged schools to bring children back to class in the fall and has threatened to cut off federal funding if they do not.

"Young people have to go to school, and there's problems when you don't go to school, too," Trump said in an interview aired Sunday on Fox News. "And there's going to be a funding problem because we're not going to fund when they don't open their schools."

The Republican president blamed Democrats for the push to keep some states and schools closed.

"We got hit with the virus — shouldn't have happened — and we had to close up. We saved millions of lives," Trump said. "Now we've opened it up, got to go back to school."

The Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest public school system behind New York City, announced last week that all classes will be conducted virtually when they resume next month.

Speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, noted that many school districts in his state "are going back as planned, as normal, taking the kinds of precautions that health experts and scientists recommend."

In Missouri's St. Louis County, the Parkway district on Monday is scheduled to announce its plans for the fall, but it will stay ready to pivot quickly if the spread worsens or the outlook improves, Beckner said.

"Even if we are able to bring back all of our students, it won't look the same as it was in February," Beckner said. "There will be more hand-washing. There will be more restrictions on how we're able to do things like lunch, like recess."

Signs will encourage social distancing, and desks will be spaced farther apart. Face coverings will be required for all students, instructors and staff. Some teachers will wear masks with clear coverings so students who are deaf or hard of hearing can follow what they are saying.

Times will be scheduled for hand washing and using hand sanitizer. Plexiglass will separate librarians, office staff and teachers interacting one-on-one with students. A nurse will perform contact tracing on confirmed cases.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, third-grade teacher Leigh Grady is preparing to enter both a new school and a new world after a tornado demolished most of East Brainard Elementary in April.

"It's going to be a hot mess express," she said. "I can't even wrap my mind fully around what it's going to look like."

Face masks will be mandatory for staff and all but the youngest students. Seating will be assigned on buses, and lunches served in classrooms. Water fountains will be off limits, and restrooms will be disinfected "after each class goes as a group."

If a teacher or student tests positive for the virus, schools will close for 48 to 72 hours, and the county is working with a staffing agency to line up substitutes.

If a rise in confirmed cases warrant it, schools will operate under more restrictive measures, with students taking turns spending part of the week at school and part at home.

"All it's going to take is one kid with a positive test, and that will shut everything down," she said.

As of Sunday, there have been 3.7 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 140,000 deaths in the United States, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins.

Grady said her own children will be attending 10th and 12th grade in person, and she's comfortable with

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 60 of 81

that if schools stick to the safety plan.

"I need them to be at school," she said. "I need them to be around other people."

Ramer reported from Concord, New Hampshire. Associated Press Writer Anita Snow in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Twitter: Hack hit 130 accounts, company 'embarrassed'

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Twitter says the hack that compromised the accounts of some of its most high-profile users targeted 130 people. The hackers were able to reset the passwords of 45 of those accounts.

The San Francisco-based company said in a blog post Saturday that for up to eight of these accounts the attackers also downloaded the account's information through the "Your Twitter Data" tool. None of the eight were verified accounts, Twitter said, adding that it is contacting the owners of the affected accounts.

"We're embarrassed, we're disappointed, and more than anything, we're sorry. We know that we must work to regain your trust, and we will support all efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice," Twitter said in the blog post.

The July 17 attack broke into the Twitter accounts of world leaders, celebrities and tech moguls in one of the most high-profile security breaches in recent years. The attackers sent out tweets from the accounts of the public figures, offering to send \$2,000 for every \$1,000 sent to an anonymous Bitcoin address.

It highlighted a major flaw with the service millions of people have come to rely on as an essential communications tool.

Allison Nixon, chief research officer at cybersecurity firm 221B said in an email Sunday that the people behind the attack appear to have come from the "OG" community, a group interested in original, short Twitter handles such as @a, @b or @c, for instance.

"Based upon what we have seen, the motivation for the most recent Twitter attack is similar to previous incidents we have observed in the OG community — a combination of financial incentive, technical bragging rights, challenge, and disruption," Nixon wrote. "The OG community is not known to be tied to any nation state. Rather they are a disorganized crime community with a basic skillset and are a loosely organized group of serial fraudsters."

While this attack did not appear go further than the Bitcoin ruse — at least for now — it raises questions about Twitter's ability to secure its service against election interference and misinformation ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

"Entire markets and potentially elections may be manipulated or altered in this way," Nixon said. "Victims of account takeovers generally do not know that the fraud has occurred, and generally cannot take security precautions to prevent it."

Roger Stone calls Black radio host 'Negro' in interview

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

Roger Stone, a political operative whose 40-month prison sentence was commuted this month by President Donald Trump, his longtime friend, called a Los Angeles-based Black radio host a "Negro" on the air during a contentious interview.

The exchange occurred on Saturday's Mo'Kelly Show, whose host — Morris O'Kelly — grilled Stone on his conviction for lying to Congress, tampering with witnesses and obstructing the House investigation into whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election.

O'Kelly on his program's website said "Stone could have reached for any pejorative, but unfortunately went there," adding that "Stone offered an unfiltered, unvarnished one-sentence expression of how he saw the journalist interviewing him."

O'Kelly characterized "Negro" as the "low-calorie version of the N-Word."

Stone's attorney on Sunday said he was unaware of the broadcast and had no immediate comment.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 61 of 81

Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison, but Trump commuted that sentence on July 10 — just days before Stone was to report for detention.

As O'Kelly asserted that Stone's commutation was because of his friendship with Trump, Stone's voice goes faint but can be heard uttering that he was "arguing with this Negro."

O'Kelly then asks Stone to repeat the comment, but Stone goes momentarily silent.

At one time, "Negro" was common in the American vernacular to describe African Americans. By the late 1960s, however, the word was scorned by activists in favor of such descriptors as "Black."

These days, the antiquated word is widely viewed as derogatory in most uses.

The first part of Stone's statement was not entirely audible, but the radio program transcribed the complete sentence as, "I can't believe I'm arguing with this Negro."

O'Kelly persisted on having Stone respond.

"I'm sorry you're arguing with whom? I thought we were just having a spirited conversation. What happened?" O'Kelly said. "You said something about 'Negro.'"

Stone said he had not. "You're out of your mind," he said.

The interview then continued.

In a statement, Stone defended himself by saying that anyone familiar with him "knows I despise racism!"

"Mr. O'Kelly needs a good peroxide cleaning of the wax in his ears because at no time did I call him a negro," Stone said, using lowercase for the word. "That said, Mr. O'Kelly needs to spend a little more time studying black history and institutions. The word negro is far from a slur."

He cited the United Negro College Fund and the historical use of the word.

In his statement, Stone noted that some of the program's audio was garbled and alleged that there was cross-talk from another radio show and that his sound was cut off.

During the program, Stone said the president acted out of compassion and that the jury that weighed his case was tainted.

"I did not get a fair trial," Stone said.

"My life was in imminent danger," Stone said, saying he was at risk of being infected by the coronavirus in prison. "I think the president did this as an act of compassion. He did it as an act of mercy."

AP FACT CHECK: Trump bending facts on virus, Biden, economy

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump clung to the false notion that the coronavirus will just "disappear," made incorrect claims about a top government expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and again insisted that Americans are getting all the COVID-19 tests they need — all in a television interview Sunday where his answers fell short on the facts.

A look at the president's alternate reality on the virus threat, as well as his falsehoods on Democratic rival Joe Biden, the economy and the military in a "Fox News Sunday" interview:

TRUMP vs, FAUCI

TRUMP: "Dr. Fauci at the beginning said, 'This will pass. Don't worry about it. This will pass.' He was wrong."

THE FACTS: Trump is overstating it. While Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease official, said in January and February that Americans need not panic about a virus threat at the time, he also said the situation was "evolving" and that public health officials were taking the threat seriously.

"Right now the risk is still low, but this could change, I've said that many times," Fauci told NBC on Feb. 29. He allowed that if there are growing cases of community spread, it could become a "major outbreak."

"When you start to see community spread, this could change and force you to become much more attentive to doing things that would protect you from spread," Fauci said.

He never claimed the virus would just "pass" or disappear.

TRUMP: "Dr. Fauci told me not to ban China, it would be a big mistake. I did it over and above his recommendation."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 62 of 81

THE FACTS: That's incorrect. While Fauci expressed some initial reservations about travel restrictions on China, he supported the decision by the time it was made.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, who was coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force at the time and announced the travel restrictions, said Trump made the decision in late January after accepting the "uniform recommendation of the career public health officials here at HHS."

While the World Health Organization did advise against the overuse of travel restrictions, Azar told reporters in February that his department's career health officials had made a "considered recommendation, which I and the president adopted" in a bid to slow spread of the virus.

TRUMP: "I will be right eventually. You know I said, 'It's going to disappear.' I'll say it again. It's going to disappear, and I'll be right."

TRUMP: "We'll put out the flames. ... It's going to be under control."

THE FACTS: "The virus is not going to disappear," according to Fauci. Nor can it be considered "under control" and its flame "put out" while cases have surged to new daily highs.

The number of confirmed cases in the U.S. per day has risen over the past month, hitting over 70,000 this past week, according to a count kept by Johns Hopkins University. That is higher even than what the country experienced from mid-April through early May, when deaths sharply rose.

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

Arizona, California, Florida and Texas have recently been forced to shut down bars and businesses as virus cases surge. The U.S. currently has more than 3.7 million known cases and many more undetected.

In February, Trump asserted coronavirus cases were going "very substantially down, not up," and told Fox Business it will be fine because "in April, supposedly, it dies with the hotter weather."

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

TESTING

TRUMP: "We go out into parking lots and everything, everybody gets a test."

THE FACTS: He's repeating the false notion that anybody who wants a COVID-19 test can get one.

Americans are being confronted with long lines at testing sites. People often are disqualified if they are not showing symptoms and, if they are tested, they sometimes are forced to wait many days for results.

Julie Khani, president of the American Clinical Laboratory Association, which represents LabCorp, Quest Diagnostics and other labs, has made clear that "the anticipated demand for COVID-19 testing over the coming weeks will likely exceed members' testing capacities." This past week the group encouraged members to give priority to "those most in need, especially hospitalized and symptomatic patients."

Many governors and local officials say they cannot meet the demand.

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

Around Seattle, for instance, 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 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."

TRUMP: "Cases are up, because we have the best testing in the world and we have the most testing."

THE FACTS: It's not true that infections are high only because the U.S. diagnostic testing has increased. Trump's own top public health officials have shot down this line of thinking. Infections are rising because people are infecting each other more than they were when most everyone was hunkered down.

Increased testing does play a role in the higher numbers, but there's more to it. Testing in fact has

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 63 of 81

uncovered a worrisome trend: The percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus is on the rise across nearly the entire country.

That's a clear demonstration that sickness is spreading and that the U.S. testing system is falling short. "A high rate of positive tests indicates a government is only testing the sickest patients who seek out medical attention and is not casting a wide enough net," says the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, a primary source of updated information on the pandemic.

TRUMP: "No country has ever done what we've done in terms of testing. We are the envy of the world. They call and they say the most incredible job anybody's done is our job on testing, because we're going to very shortly be up to 50 million tests. You look at other countries; they don't even do tests. ... They don't go around have massive areas of testing, and we do."

THE FACTS: U.S. testing is not the envy of the world, nor is the U.S. the only country that does mass testing.

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

China has used batch testing, mixing samples and testing them together, as part of a recent campaign to test all 11 million residents of Wuhan. It's an approach that top U.S. health officials believe could be used to boost U.S. screening, though it's not clear when pooled testing could become available for wide-scale screenings at U.S. schools and businesses.

"We are nowhere near being able to rein in this virus with the amount of testing we have available at the moment," said Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University who previously served as Baltimore's health commissioner.

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, said test results in parts of the U.S. take as long as a week, which is "too long."

"You do the testing to find out who's carrying the virus and then quickly get them isolated so they don't spread it around," he said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "And it's very hard to make that work when there's a long delay built in."

DEATH RATES

TRUMP: "I think we have one of the lowest mortality rates in the world."

CHRIS WALLACE, host of "Fox News Sunday": "That's not true, sir."

TRUMP: "Number one, low mortality rate."

THE FACTS: Trump's claim is wholly unsupported.

An accurate death rate is impossible to know. Every country tests and counts people differently, and some are unreliable in reporting cases. Without knowing the true number of people who become infected, it cannot be determined what portion of them die.

Using a count kept by Johns Hopkins University, you can compare the number of recorded deaths with the number of reported cases. That count shows the U.S. experiencing more deaths as a percentage of cases than most other countries now being hit hard with the pandemic. The statistics look better for the U.S. when the list is expanded to include European countries that were slammed early on by the virus but now appear to have it under control. Even then, the U.S. is not shown to be among the best in avoiding death.

Such calculations, though, do not provide a reliable measurement of actual death rates because of the variations in testing and reporting, and the Johns Hopkins tally is not meant to be such a measure.

The only way to tell how many cases have gone uncounted, and therefore what percentage of infected people have died from the disease, is to do another kind of test comprehensively, of people's blood, to find how many people bear immune system antibodies to the virus. Globally, that is only being done in select places.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 64 of 81

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP: "If you remember, I was the one that did the European Union very early."

THE FACTS: U.S. health officials actually believe Trump was late in restricting travel from parts of Europe. While Trump imposed travel restrictions on China in late January, he didn't follow up with many European countries until mid-March. Those delayed travel alerts as well as limited testing contributed to the jump in U.S. cases starting in late February, according to Dr. Anne Schuchat, the No. 2 official at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We clearly didn't recognize the full importations that were happening," Schuchat told The Associated Press in May.

POLICE

TRUMP: "Biden wants to defund the police."

THE FACTS: To be clear, Biden has not joined the call of protesters who demanded "defund the police" after George Floyd's killing in Minneapolis. He's proposed more money for police, conditioned to improvements in their practices.

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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "I built the greatest economy ever built anywhere in the world; not only of this country, anywhere in the world, until we got hit with the China virus."

THE FACTS: Not true. The economy was healthy back then but not the best in U.S. history, much less world history.

Economic gains largely followed along the lines of an expansion that started more than a decade ago under President Barack Obama. And while posting great job and stock market numbers, Trump never managed to achieve the rates of economic growth he promised in the 2016 campaign. The U.S. economy was not the world's best in history when this started.

MILITARY

TRUMP: "I got soldiers the biggest pay raises in the history of our military."

THE FACTS: Trump often boasts about the size of the military pay raises under his administration, but there's nothing extraordinary about them.

Several raises in the past decade have been larger than service members are getting under Trump — 3.1% this year, 2.6% last year, 2.4% in 2018 and 2.1% in 2017.

Raises in 2008, 2009 and 2010, for example, were all 3.4% or more.

Pay increases shrank after that because of congressionally mandated budget caps. Trump and Congress did break a trend that began in 2011 of pay raises that hovered between 1% and 2%.

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

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Arizona's rugged individualism poses barrier to mask rules

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — With the coronavirus spreading out of control and Arizona cities beginning just last month to require residents wear masks in public, a few hundred people gathered in Scottsdale to make clear they didn't approve of the heavy hand of government telling them to cover their faces.

A city councilman, Guy Phillips, came to the podium and ripped off his black face mask, declaring, "I can't breathe!"

He later insisted his comment was meant to highlight the oppressive nature of masks, not to mock the dying words of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, though Phillips' words were widely interpreted as racist.

The episode highlights the visceral opposition to government mandates, a fierce individualism that has endured among some in Arizona since the days of the Wild West. The buzz-off attitude is taking on new importance as the state has become one of the world's top hot spots for the spread of the coronavirus.

The message that "my mask protects you, your mask protects me," isn't always well-suited to the mind-your-own-business mentality of a state that produced Barry Goldwater's small-government conservatism and John McCain's self-styled "maverick" persona.

"Historically, Arizona has been something of a loner state, and many Arizonans seem to still like that image," wrote David Berman, a retired Arizona State University professor who has written extensively on the state's history and political culture.

"It's a very strong streak in Arizona. It has been for a long time — 'We're out here, we're individuals, we don't need the government, keep it small, let us do our thing,'" he elaborated in an interview. "Arizona has problems trying to quell these instances of individualism and fun-loving, 'I'll do it myself. Get out of my way.'"

Most people in Arizona are wearing masks, many without hesitation, especially in urban areas. But for those who refuse, or who only grudgingly do as they're told, there's a deep skepticism of government mandates. Many distrust the scientific consensus that the coronavirus is dangerous and that its spread can be mitigated with masks.

"One of our very first things we fought for in the Revolutionary War was the idea you can't have a king over you making laws, we have a democratic process," said Sherry Wootan, 54, a Republican who declined to say where in Arizona she lives. "And that's for a reason."

Wootan said she wears a mask only when required, and she doesn't cover her nose.

Arizona's government response was haphazard and slow, even as cases rose in June, which likely played an outsized role in the state becoming a hotbed for the disease. But some see Arizona's independent streak as a confounding factor, leaving a sizable chunk of the populace hostile to the sacrifices recommended by public health experts. Without rigorous polling on the issue, it's hard to know how big the mask-skeptical group is.

Since its territorial days, Arizona has shown a tendency to prioritize the economy and the accumulation of wealth over other values, in large part to attract East Coast investors to the hot and distant desert, Berman said. Even before statehood, mining companies were given latitude to operate with minimal government oversight, sometimes with serious consequences.

In many ways, the state still proudly eschews pressure to conform to practices normalized in the rest of the country. It still doesn't observe daylight saving time, and was the last state to adopt Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a state holiday, which lawmakers resisted until voters approved in 1992, only after losing the chance to host the Super Bowl over it. Its social welfare programs are bare-bones.

Since the outbreak began, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey has pledged to handle his response "the Arizona way" with a "lighter touch." Through most of June, with virus cases rising exponentially, he resisted pres-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 66 of 81

sure to slow the economic reopening or order people to wear masks in public. He eventually empowered mayors and county leaders to order masks. He routinely urges people to wear them, but he has declined to issue a statewide edict.

Ducey has allowed nearly all businesses, including restaurants, to keep operating. The restrictions in place now are less strict than those in place in the spring.

This month Arizona has reported among the highest case rates per capita of all U.S. states. Ninety percent of intensive-care hospital beds are in use, and the state has routinely set records for the number of hospital beds and ventilators being used by patients with COVID-19.

"We get email — a lot of emails — 'You need to mandate masks, you need to close everything up.' At the same time, you have to balance your economy," said Billie Orr, vice mayor of Prescott, a conservative town north of Phoenix that has not adopted a mask mandate. Orr and other city leaders are recommending masks, but say it makes no sense to impose a mandate that the small police force would have trouble uniformly enforcing.

Frank Hogan, a 44-year-old insurance and risk consultant in Phoenix, said he respects the right for business owners to mandate masks on their property, but he would not wear one if told to do so when visiting a government building. Hogan, a registered Republican, said he describes himself as a libertarian.

"For anything to be a law it has to be approved by the legislature," Hogan said. "It's not an executive's job — whether it's a mayor or a county supervisor or a governor or a president — to make law. It is their job to enforce law."

Mask skeptics are vocal online, especially in Republican circles and anti-government groups. Many interviewed for this story declined to give their full names, but were angry about the idea of being forced to wear a mask or stay away from certain businesses. They used words such as "kings," "dictators" or "tyrants" to describe government leaders imposing the mask mandates.

Kelly Townsend, a conservative state lawmaker who is pushing for the Legislature to limit Ducey's unilateral emergency powers, described Arizona's culture: "I'm going to do my thing and I'll leave you alone. You're going to do your thing and leave me alone. And everyone's happy."

When she arrived in Arizona, she said, it was a contrast to the follow-the-rules culture in her native Oregon.

"Regardless of what political spectrum we're on, we want self-determination," Townsend said. "We don't want to be maltreated. That's not isolated to one party. All of us feel that way."

Others blame another culprit: Ducey.

"Yes, Arizonans are independent and tend to take their own path," said Terry Goddard, a former mayor of Phoenix and attorney general who ran unsuccessfully for governor as a Democrat twice. "But the issue here is more about leadership and confusion at the top than resistance to government overreach."

Trump not ready to commit to election results if he loses

By AAMER MADHANI, COLLEEN LONG and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote, as he scoffs at polls showing him lagging behind Democrat Joe Biden. Trump says it's too early to make such an ironclad guarantee.

"I have to see. Look ... I have to see," Trump told moderator Chris Wallace during a wide-ranging interview on "Fox News Sunday." "No, I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no, and I didn't last time either." The Biden campaign responded: "The American people will decide this election. And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Trump also hammered the Pentagon brass for favoring renaming bases that honor Confederate military leaders — a drive for change spurred by the national debate about race after George Floyd's death. "I don't care what the military says," the commander in chief said.

The president described the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as a "a little bit of an alarmist" about the coronavirus pandemic, and Trump stuck to what he had said back in February

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 67 of 81

— that the virus is “going to disappear.” On Fox, he said, “I’ll be right eventually.” The United States tops the global death toll list with over 140,000 and confirmed infections, with 3.7 million.

It is remarkable that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in the American democracy’s electoral process. But for Trump, it comes from his insurgent playbook of four years ago, when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton, he said he would not commit to honoring the election results if the Democrat won.

Pressed during an October 2016 debate about whether he would abide by the voters’ will, Trump responded that he would “keep you in suspense.” The president’s remarks to Fox are certain to fuel conversation on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers had already been airing concerns in private about a scenario in which Trump disputes the election results.

Trump has seen his presidential popularity erode over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and in the aftermath of nationwide protests centered on racial injustice that erupted after Floyd’s death in Minneapolis nearly two months.

Trump contends that a series of polls that show his popularity eroding and Biden holding an advantage are faulty. He believes Republican voters are underrepresented in such surveys.

“First of all, I’m not losing, because those are fake polls,” Trump said in the taped interview, which aired Sunday. “They were fake in 2016 and now they’re even more fake. The polls were much worse in 2016.”

Trump was frequently combative with Wallace in defending his administration’s response to the pandemic, weighing in on the Black Lives Matter movement and trying to portray Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, as lacking the mental prowess to serve as president.

Among the issues discussed was the push for wholesale changes in policing that has swept across the nation. Trump said he could understand why Black Americans are upset about how police use force disproportionately against them.

“Of course I do. Of course I do,” the president said, adding his usual refrain that “whites are also killed, too.”

He said he was “not offended either by Black Lives Matter,” but at the same time defended the Confederate flag, a symbol of the racism of the past, and said those who “proudly have their Confederate flags, they’re not talking about racism.”

“They love their flag, it represents the South, they like the South. That’s freedom of speech. And you know, the whole thing with ‘cancel culture,’ we can’t cancel our whole history. We can’t forget that the North and the South fought. We have to remember that, otherwise we’ll end up fighting again. You can’t just cancel all,” Trump said.

Wallace challenged Trump on some of his claims and called out the president at time, such as when Trump falsely asserted that “Biden wants to defund the police.” The former vice president has not joined with activists rallying behind that banner. He has proposed more money for police, conditioned to improvements in their practices.

Trump continues to insist that Biden “signed a charter” with one of his primary rivals on the left, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. At one point in the interview, Trump calls on aides to bring him documentation to support his assertion. Trump, however, is unable to point to language from a Biden-Sanders task force policy document released this month by the Biden campaign.

Trump stood behind his pledge to veto a \$740 billion defense bill over a requirement that the Defense Department change the names of bases named for Confederate military leaders. That list includes Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Hood in Texas and Fort Benning in Georgia.

The president argued there were no viable alternatives if the government ever tried. “We’re going to name it after the Reverend Al Sharpton?” Trump asked, referring to a prominent civil rights leader. “What are you going to name it?”

Trump, 74, stuck to a campaign charge that Biden, 77, is unable to handle the rigors of the White House because of his age. As for polls showing the incumbent is trailing, Trump noted he was thought to be behind for much of the 2016 contest. “I won’t lose,” he predicted.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 68 of 81

The president and top advisors have long accused Biden of using the pandemic as an excuse to stay in "his basement" in his Delaware home. Biden has indeed shifted much of his campaign online, but frequently travels in Delaware and Pennsylvania, organizing speeches and small gatherings with voters and community leaders that are within driving distance of his home. Biden's campaign says it will begin resuming normal travel and campaign activities, but only when health officials and state and local authorities say it is safe.

Questioned about the coronavirus, Trump chided Fauci, the National Institutes of Health expert, and repeated false claims that anybody could get a test and that increased testing was the only reason that the U.S. was seeing more cases. When Wallace cited criticism about the lack of a national plan to confront the virus, Trump said, "I take responsibility always for everything because it's ultimately my job, too," and claimed, "I supplied everybody."

Cases are rising because people are infecting each other more than they were when most everyone was hunkered down. The percentage of tests coming back positive for the virus has been on the rise across nearly the entire country.

Associated Press writers Hope Yen and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Italian coast guard works to free sperm whale from fish net

ROME (AP) — Italian coast guard divers and biologists were working Sunday to free a sperm whale that was entangled in a fishing net near a tiny Mediterranean island.

In a coast guard video, a diver can be seen slicing away some of the net in the waters surrounding the Aeolian Island archipelago. Boaters on Saturday had spotted the struggling sperm whale in that stretch of the Tyrrhenian Sea off Italy's west coast and contacted the coast guard.

The operation to free the sperm whale was particularly difficult "due to its state of agitation" that didn't allow for continual intervention near the whale, the coast guard said Sunday.

Three weeks ago, the Italian coast guard freed another sperm whale ensnared in a fishing net, also in the sea off the Aeolian Islands.

Since the start of the year, the coast guard has sequestered illegal fishing nets totaling more than a 100 kilometers (62 miles) in length. The coast guard says it has stepped up its efforts this year to combat illegal fishing.

How the coronavirus spread through one immigration facility

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Gregory Arnold walked into the warden's office April 1 as the novel coronavirus ripped through one of the largest immigration detention centers in the United States. Waiting with about 40 guards to begin his shift, he heard a captain say face masks were prohibited.

Incredulous, he and a guard who recently gave birth wanted to hear it from the boss. Arnold told Warden Christopher LaRose that he was 60 years old and lived with an asthmatic son.

"Well, you can't wear the mask because we don't want to scare the employees and we don't want to scare the inmates and detainees," Arnold recalls the warden saying.

"With all due respect, sir, that's ridiculous." Arnold retorted.

He said he wanted to wear a mask and gloves, and "everyone else should be doing the same." But the warden was unmoved. And in the weeks that followed, Otay Mesa Detention Center would see the first big outbreak at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's 221 detention centers.

The origins of the outbreak are uncertain, but accounts of workers and detainees reveal shortcomings in how the private company that manages the center handled the disease: There was an early absence of facial coverings, and a lack of cleaning supplies. Symptomatic detainees were mixed with others.

Other centers would follow with their own outbreaks, and a Homeland Security Department internal watchdog survey of 188 detention centers taken in mid-April echoed some of what The Associated Press found at Otay Mesa: 19% of facility directors said there weren't enough standard surgical masks, 32% said

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 69 of 81

there weren't enough N95 respirator masks, and 37% felt there wasn't enough hand sanitizer for detainees.

Like prisons, living conditions are cramped -- except people held in immigration detention centers aren't accused of any crimes. They wait to appear before an immigration judge to argue they should be allowed to remain in the country.

Otay Mesa sits on a tucked-away periphery of San Diego amid vehicle storage lots, a gas-fired power plant, a state prison, county jail and juvenile detention camp. ICE's average daily population of 956 detainees last year made it the agency's 11th-busiest detention center.

The squat, two-story facility -- managed under contract by CoreCivic Inc. and shared with U.S. Marshals Service inmates -- is surrounded by two layers of chain-link fence topped by razor wire. Rooms of two to four bunk beds open into common areas with televisions, sofas and board games.

Margarita Smith, a guard who was named CoreCivic's Otay Mesa employee of the year in 2019, said managers frequently discouraged workers from wearing masks. The topic came up during briefings in March.

"They didn't want anyone wearing masks," said Smith, who was tapped by CoreCivic to lead an employee morale committee in January. "They said it would frighten the detainees and make them think that we're sick or something."

In a court filing, LaRose, the warden, said policies on masks evolved with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Staff was required to wear them around quarantined detainees and they were optional for other employees starting the third week of March, he said, a statement that Arnold and Smith dispute.

Arnold said he wore a mask after learning about the detention center's first case on March 31, an employee who handed out equipment to guards starting their shifts. Unaware of any ban on facial coverings, detainees thanked him.

"I was disgusted," Arnold said. "It's obvious this thing was ramping up. I knew it was going to happen. I could just tell."

The contractor gave masks to detainees on April 10 but on condition they sign an English-language liability waiver, according to several detainees. It quickly retreated after a tense showdown with detainees.

"Everyone was screaming," said Issis Zavala of Honduras, who refused to sign but was released with an ankle bracelet because a 2007 bout of tuberculosis made her vulnerable. "They said, 'You just sign it. OK, if you don't want to sign, we'll just go.'"

On March 17, the day that San Diego limited public gatherings to 50 people and closed restaurants, colleagues gathered to grill the warden. Smith recalls wondering why so many people -- including about half the lieutenants -- were allowed to gather so closely together in one room.

When an employee pressed for clean rags, the warden answered twice that there was no need because the chemicals used for cleaning were very powerful. Others asked when they would get more wipes and gels.

Gloves were hard to find, Smith said. Arnold said the ones he saw were too small for his hands. Hand sanitizer dispensers were often empty.

Feeling the warden wasn't taking the virus seriously, Smith felt she had no choice. At 48, she missed a week of work in early March with pneumonia, has asthma and had been sick off and on since November.

She quit. "I thought to myself I'm not going to get sick again," she said. "I just had a feeling that things weren't going to go good."

The detainees, of course, had no choice but to stay. Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez, Mexico's consul general in San Diego, wrote ICE April 16 about a "generalized fear" among detainees, raising concerns about mixing ill and asymptomatic detainees and requiring liability waivers for masks. A consulate hotline got more than 100 calls.

Common grievances included a lack of personal hygiene products, social distancing and masks, Gonzalez Gutierrez said. They complained that they were instructed to drink saltwater to deal with pain, and that employees were not wearing personal protective equipment.

CoreCivic spokeswoman Amanda Gilchrist said the contractor rigorously followed guidance of health

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 70 of 81

officials and ICE. She noted the CDC didn't fully embrace masks until the first week of April and said employees and detainees get face coverings without having to sign a waiver.

"We have responded to this unprecedented situation appropriately, thoroughly and with care for the safety and well-being of those entrusted to us and our communities," she said.

Zelaya, 35, said instructions came to wipe surfaces every hour on March 30 but rags were dirty. She used the same towel to clean toilets, door handles, phone receivers -- and her hands.

"I clean houses," Zelaya remembers telling guards. "You can't use the same towel."

"Oh, we have a special chemical. It kills the bacteria," Zelaya said she was told.

Victor Rodriguez, 44, was among 35 detainees who went on a five-day hunger strike April 4. The Guatemalan man was upset about a detainee who worked in the dining hall handling food and appeared to have a fever, for which he was given ibuprofen. (CoreCivic said it prohibited detainees with symptoms from working in the kitchen and that it followed CDC guidelines on cleaning and disinfectants.)

Authorities insist detainees had plenty of free soap -- 23,300 bars from March 24 to April 23 -- but Rodriguez said the bar he got daily was barely enough to wash his hands or shower. Hand-sanitizer requests were denied because authorities worried they could be used for homemade alcohol.

Elizabeth Cruz, 22, said a detainee who was coughing badly in their cell the first week of April was removed for about a week, returned and removed again before testing positive. Cruz said she reported chest pain and breathing difficulty for two weeks but couldn't get more than allergy medication.

"I know my body and I am not well," she remembers telling a nurse, who told her there was nothing more she could do.

Cruz, of El Salvador, eventually tested positive and was placed in isolation with eight other infected detainees.

The virus has brought renewed scrutiny to ICE. The agency housed an all-time high of more than 56,000 people last year, with more than 500,000 bookings over a 12-month period, but policies to severely limit asylum and recent releases aimed at controlling the virus reduced the population to 22,340.

Overall, ICE has had 3,596 detainees test positive -- 27% of those tested. Of those, 967 are currently in custody -- the rest were released, deported or have recovered. At ICE, 45 detention center workers have tested positive, along with an undisclosed number of contractors.

Chad Wolf, acting Homeland Security secretary, told reporters in May in San Diego that ICE stopped taking detainees at Otay Mesa and "one or two others" and will continue to release the elderly and medically fragile. ICE cut the population at Otay Mesa by more than half in three months to 376 from 761 on April 1.

For weeks, Otay Mesa had the dubious distinction of the most cases in the ICE system but the spread effectively stopped; 168 detainees have tested positive since the start of the outbreak, as have 11 ICE employees and more than 30 CoreCivic workers. ICE said in a statement that increased testing and isolating detainees who tested positive contributed to improved conditions.

Cases are surging at facilities in Farmville, Virginia, with 315 detainees having tested positive, Anson, Texas, with 290, Eloy, Arizona, with 250 and Houston with 206. At Eloy, 128 of about 315 employees had tested positive as of earlier this month, according to CoreCivic, which manages the facility.

Arnold resigned after his April 1 confrontation with the warden, just as the virus was tearing through Otay Mesa. Smith took a two-week leave before resigning, torn over her loyalty to the job and what she considers is CoreCivic's tendency to "cut corners." Both have sued the company in federal court.

CoreCivic will address the guards' accounts in court, Gilchrist said, but "we can say generally that we deny their specious and sensationalized allegations that are designed to obtain a favorable outcome in court." Daniel Struck, an attorney for the warden, didn't respond to a request for comment.

Smith and Arnold believe the spread started with someone from outside -- perhaps a guard or lawyer. Smith called detainees "sitting ducks."

"After the first officer got it, it was like a fire there," Smith said. "It just took off after that."

UK ratchets up criticism of China over Uighurs, Hong Kong

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain and China issued new salvos of criticism against each other Sunday, with the U.K. foreign secretary hinting that he may suspend the U.K.'s extradition arrangements with Hong Kong over China's moves against the city-state.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab also accused Beijing of "gross and egregious" human rights abuses against its Uighur population in China's western province of Xinjiang.

In response, the Chinese ambassador to Britain warned that China will deliver a "resolute response" to any move by Britain to sanction officials over the alleged rights abuses.

The comments were the latest signs of sharply increased tensions between the U.K. and China. Issues include China's treatment of its Uighur minority and a new, sweeping national security law that China imposed on Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous territory that Britain handed over to China in 1997.

Britain's recent decision to prohibit Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei from being involved in the U.K.'s superfast 5G mobile network has further frayed bilateral relations.

Raab said Sunday that Britain's government has reviewed its extradition arrangements with Hong Kong and that he plans to make a statement Monday in parliament on the topic.

Earlier this month, Australia suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong in response to China's imposition of security legislation on the semi-autonomous territory. Critics see the new law as a further erosion of the rule of law and freedoms that Hong Kong was promised when it reverted to Chinese rule.

Raab added that while Britain wants good relations with China, it could not stand by amid reports of forced sterilization and mass education camps targeting the Uighur population in Xinjiang.

"It is clear that there are gross, egregious human rights abuses going on. We are working with our international partners on this. It is deeply, deeply troubling," he told the BBC.

Liu Xiaoming, the Chinese ambassador, denied there were concentration camps in Xinjiang during an interview with the BBC and insisted there are "no so-called restriction of the population." When confronted with drone footage that appeared to show Uighurs being blindfolded and led onto trains, Liu claimed there are many "fake accusations" against China.

Beijing was ready to respond in kind should Britain impose sanctions on Chinese officials, Liu added.

"If the U.K. goes that far to impose sanctions on any individuals in China, China will certainly make a resolute response to it," he said. "You have seen what happened between China (and) the United States ... I do not want to see this tit-for-tat between China-U.S. happen in China-U.K. relations."

Liu also said Britain "should have its own independent foreign policy, rather than dance to the tune of the Americans like what happened to Huawei."

The criticism echoed comments this week by a Chinese government spokeswoman who accused Britain of colluding with Washington to hurt Huawei and "discriminate, suppress and exclude Chinese companies."

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.

Experts say finding enough poll workers is always difficult, even when there isn't a pandemic killing thou-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 72 of 81

sands 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 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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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 73 of 81

In French Guiana, virus exposes inequality, colonial legacy

By ARNO PEDRAM Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — When white doctors walked into Camopi, a majority Indigenous town in French Guiana near the border with Brazil, townspeople felt worry instead of relief.

With French Guiana facing a wave of coronavirus infections, the doctors from the French mainland were there to administer tests and treat the sick. But for residents of the former colony, few of whom have internet or television or knew about COVID-19, the appearance of the health workers carried echoes of the arrival of Europeans in South America and the disease and exploitation they brought.

"There is still in the minds the time of colonization and the havoc wreaked by viruses brought by colonizers," Jean-Philippe Chambrier, a member of the Arawak tribe and representative of Indigenous communities in French Guiana, told The Associated Press. "So when they saw white people from the mainland, they made the link."

France's most worrisome virus hot spot is on the northern coast of South America: French Guiana, a territory of about 300,000 people where poverty is rampant and health care is scarce. Its outbreak has exposed deep economic and racial inequality that residents say leaders in Paris have long chosen to ignore.

Months after the virus stabilized in mainland France, it grew in French Guiana. For weeks in June and early July, about a quarter of new daily infections reported in all of France were in French Guiana, which has just 0.5% of the French population. More than 6,500 cases have been recorded in the territory, although officials fear the number of infections is estimated to be much higher.

Its hospitals reached capacity in June, and the French military intervened to ferry patients to the French Caribbean island of Martinique. The national government sent 130 reserve health care workers to French Guiana, with more on the way.

Local officials say a porous border with Brazil and the rapid virus spread there was just part of the problem. They decry a lack of concern from the French mainland for a region where more than half the population lives under the national poverty line — some 10% don't even have running water — and where it took more than a month to translate the government's original COVID-19 guidance into all the local languages.

French Guiana was colonized in the 1600s, and became a French "department" in 1946, making it an integral part of France that uses the euro currency and answers to political leaders in Paris, 7,000 kilometers (4,300 miles) away. It's a multi-ethnic society with multiple Indigenous communities, descendants of Black slaves, descendants of settlers, and immigrants. And although it represents one-seventh of French territory, it is rarely mentioned in French politics and news.

The virus has changed that, at least temporarily. For weeks, it's been the top priority for France's national health agency. New Prime Minister Jean Castex made a rare trip to French Guiana's capital of Cayenne this week to offer moral support — but little else.

In the slums ringing Cayenne, aid groups stepped up food distribution efforts during a lockdown that has devastated the livelihoods of those working in the informal economy. Many of them didn't have access to temporary unemployment benefits.

Things are similarly bad in villages like Camopi, which has just one doctor for 2,000 people. Camopi detected 61 cases in May and June, and although no one died, the challenges illustrate some of France's most pressing inequalities.

Its residents speak Wayampi, Teko, Portuguese, Creole and French. When doctors come from France, they need mediators and translators.

Silvain Louis has been a volunteer mediator in Camopi for four years. He says residents long remained ignorant about the virus and how to protect themselves. "They knew they were under lockdown, that there was a disease," said Louis, who is of mixed Creole, Chinese and Indigenous heritage. "but there was no prevention to explain things."

The first case Louis found was a grandmother living in his neighborhood. "She'd been lying in her hammock for two days" with a headache, sore throat and fever, he said. Like the other first cases in Camopi, she didn't immediately think it was COVID-19.

"She thought it was fatigue or maybe the flu," Louis said. She tested positive and was taken to Cayenne

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 74 of 81

by helicopter to be hospitalized in case her condition worsened.

Because internet access, electricity and TV reception is limited to the center of Camopi, few know about the virus, Louis said, and health care workers must go "door-to-door."

When the first additional doctors arrived, people didn't feel safer. "From one day to the other, you see teams of doctors everywhere. It's scary," Louis said.

In 2016, there were 55 general practitioners for every 100,000 people in French Guiana, with most concentrated in Cayenne. That compares with 104 per 100,000 in the French mainland.

The last time French Guiana drew national attention in France was in 2017, when tens of thousands organized strikes and protests to demand better health care facilities and resources to fight crime. The state promised a new hospital, 40 million euros to help the existing Cayenne hospital and 120 new health professionals.

"We were fooled," Gabriel Serville, one of French Guiana's two lawmakers in the French National Assembly, told the AP. He said the money was sent only after he filed a lawsuit, while the hospital has yet to be built and the 120 health care professionals haven't all arrived.

In January, before the virus was a major concern, Serville raised alarms about the low number of doctors, and he asked for help from Cuba.

"A lot of families live in makeshift homes where people don't have access to water," Serville said. "When people don't have running water and no money because they have to feed and clothe their children and pay their rent, buying hydroalcoholic gel (hand sanitizer) is not a priority."

Since February, Serville has been asking that pandemic measures used in the mainland be applied differently in French Guiana. Annick Girardin, the French minister of overseas territories, visited French Guiana in late June with cases there exploding, and she finally proposed measures similar to what Serville had requested.

Serville said the government uses a management style in which decisions are dictated from above, as "in the times of the colonies." He wants that to change, so that actions are taken based on local needs instead of directives from Paris.

"The participative mode we've been pleading for over and over is very far from being implemented in Guiana," Serville said.

Pierre-Olivier Zay in Cayenne, French Guiana, and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

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

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.

For the Black Lives Matter generation, the connection to Lewis is deeper than many may realize. As a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 75 of 81

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:

“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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 76 of 81

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>.

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

Netanyahu's lawyer also 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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 77 of 81

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.

Police contracts can stand in the way of accountability

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A stipulation in a Kentucky police contract prohibited officials from initially firing the officers involved in Breonna Taylor's death in Louisville.

The disciplinary history of a Chicago police officer who fatally shot Laquan McDonald had been deleted under the department's contract, so officials didn't know about the officer's previous bad behavior.

A Seattle officer fired for arresting an elderly Black man who used a golf club as a cane got \$100,000 in back pay, thanks to the union contract that said the investigation missed a deadline.

Collective bargaining agreements for officers provide protections that stand in the way of accountability, even when the federal government is overseeing an agency through a consent decree, experts said. The killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis officer ignited protests and calls for change, but experts say police contracts threaten to undermine those efforts.

Contracts designed to ensure officers receive fair wages and benefits have spilled over into public policy.

"We're ignoring the purpose of the bargaining rights and we're allowing them to step outside of what they were originally supposed to cover," said Ayesha Bell Hardaway of the Case Western University School of Law.

"When talk about discipline, accountability and use of force protocols, we should not be talking about collective bargaining rights because those terms have no business inside of the contracts in the first place."

When contracts are written in private negotiations, that means little input from communities.

"Without transparency there can't be any accountability," she said.

James Pasco, executive director of the 351,000-member National Fraternal Order of Police, recently said the issue should be better screening and more training for recruits, not limiting contracts.

"We don't get to decide who our members are," he said.

Stephen Rushin, a Loyola University Chicago law school professor, has studied police contracts nationally and detailed their problems in an article published in the Duke Law Journal.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 78 of 81

"A substantial number of these agreements limit officer interrogations after alleged misconduct, mandate the destruction of disciplinary records, ban civilian oversight, prevent anonymous civilian complaints, indemnify officers in the event of civil suits, and limit the length of internal investigations," he said.

Some contracts let an officer see videos of offenses before an officer is interviewed, give an officer a 48-hour delay before they speak to internal affairs and allows an officer to appeal a punishment to arbitrators who can overturn rulings, an Associated Press investigation found.

"These examples bolster the hypothesis that some union contract provisions may impede effective investigations of police misconduct and shield problematic officers from discipline," Rushin said.

The problem is more than union overreach, he said. "It's an indictment of the city for granting those concessions. Police unions only have the power that politicians give them," he said.

Seattle is an example of how elected officials allowed police unions to insert controversial measures during closed negotiations, over the objections of community groups.

"The Seattle story is a microcosm of what's happening elsewhere in the country," Rushin told The Associated Press. "It highlights perfectly this conflict between major reform efforts and the extent to which labor protections can make it hard to engage in real change."

In 2011, a federal judge found that the Seattle Police Department had engaged in a pattern of excessive force. The city entered into a settlement agreement, or consent decree, the following year and passed an accountability measure for additional oversight.

About 70 law enforcement agencies nationwide have faced consent decrees, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

The police overhaul bill in Congress includes a section that would cut federal funds for a law enforcement agency that "enters into or renews any contractual arrangement, including a collective bargaining agreement with a labor organization, that conflicts with any terms or conditions contained in a consent decree."

By 2018, the judge in Seattle said the department was in compliance, but warned that "if collective bargaining results in changes to the accountability ordinance that the court deems to be inconsistent with the consent decree, than the city's progress ... will be imperiled."

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said the city was a national model for overhauling the police department. But community members felt duped after she negotiated in private with the union for a contract that violated the accountability measure and the consent decree.

One Seattle officer who benefited from the union contract in recent years was Cynthia Whitlatch. She had arrested an elderly Black man, claiming he swung his golf club cane at her. Her dashcam video showed he had not.

After the charges were dismissed, the man filed a federal lawsuit and was awarded \$325,000. A jury found Whitlatch had engaged in racial discrimination.

Whitlatch was fired but the union filed a grievance claiming the investigation was not completed in 180 days, as required by the contract. The city awarded her \$100,000 in back pay.

Minor stipulations in police contracts like the 180-day rule are common. A stipulation in a Kentucky police contract kept the officers involved in Taylor's death from immediately getting fired.

Under the Kentucky police bill of rights and the Louisville police contract, an officer cannot be disciplined "without just cause," said Annale Taylor, the city's deputy general counsel, who is not related to Breonna Taylor.

In order to establish "just cause," a thorough investigation must be done, she said. If officers are fired before that work is complete, they could appeal, go back to work and sue, she said.

Stipulations in contracts also force agencies to destroy discipline records. A Chicago officer went unnoticed for years thanks to the department's collective bargaining agreement.

Officer Jason Van Dyke had claimed McDonald threatened him with a knife, and Van Dyke said he fired in self-defense. That story changed when a video showed McDonald hadn't charged the officers and was walking away when Van Dyke shot him 16 times.

Van Dyke was charged with second-degree murder. Rushin's research found that Van Dyke had more

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 79 of 81

than 20 complaints against him since 2001.

Before McDonald's killing, authorities had never pursued disciplinary action against Van Dyke or flagged him as problematic in part because the union contract says officials must erase records of old complaints, so review boards aren't able to see patterns of bad behavior, Rushin said.

"Perhaps it is no coincidence that less than 2% of all civilian complaints against Chicago police officers result in any sort of disciplinary action," his report found.

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 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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 80 of 81

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>

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 20, the 202nd day of 2020. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

On this date:

In 1923, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa was assassinated by gunmen in Parral.

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

In 1951, Jordan's King Abdullah I was assassinated in Jerusalem by a Palestinian gunman who was shot dead on the spot by security.

In 1960, a pair of Polaris missiles were fired from the submerged USS George Washington off Cape Canaveral, Fla., at a target more than 1,100 miles away.

In 1965, the Bob Dylan single "Like a Rolling Stone" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games, organized by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, were held at Soldier Field in Chicago.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, killing more than 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage. The U.N. Security Council voted to admit Vietnam to the world body.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

In 1993, White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster Jr., 48, was found shot to death in a park near Washington, D.C.; his death was ruled a suicide.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed an executive order prohibiting cruel and inhuman treatment, including humiliation or denigration of religious beliefs, in the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects.

In 2012, gunman James Holmes opened fire inside a crowded movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," killing 12 people and wounding 70 others. (Holmes was later convicted of murder and attempted murder, and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: The Senate Judiciary Committee voted almost totally along party lines, 13-6, to approve Elena Kagan to be the Supreme Court's fourth female justice. Actress Lindsay Lohan began a 14-day jail sentence — reduced from 90 due to overcrowding — for violating probation in 2007 drug case.

Five years ago: The United States and Cuba restored full diplomatic relations after more than five decades of frosty relations rooted in the Cold War. The U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed a landmark deal to rein in Iran's nuclear program. Banks in Greece finally reopened after being closed for three weeks. Zach Johnson won the British Open. Songwriter Wayne Carson, 72, died in Nashville, Tennessee. "Archie" cartoonist Tom Moore, 86, died in El Paso, Texas.

One year ago: Americans marked the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing; Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the moon, showed Vice President Mike Pence the launch pad at Kennedy Space

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 017 ~ 81 of 81

Center where the historic flight began. A heat wave that spread from Texas to Maine canceled festivals, horse races and other events.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 90. Author Cormac McCarthy is 87. Former Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 84. Actress Diana Rigg is 82. Artist Judy Chicago is 81. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 77. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 76. Singer Kim Carnes is 75. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 73. Rock musician Jay Jay French (Twisted Sister) is 68. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols, Man Raze) is 64. Actress Donna Dixon is 63. Rock musician Mick McNeil (Simple Minds) is 62. Country singer Radney Foster is 61. Actor Frank Whaley is 57. Actor Dean Cain is 56. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 54. Actor Reed Diamond is 53. Actor Josh Holloway is 51. Singer Vitamin C is 51. Actress Sandra Oh is 49. Actor Omar Epps is 47. Actor Simon Rex is 46. Actress Judy Greer is 45. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 42. Singer Elliott Yamin (yah-MEEN') (American Idol) is 42. Supermodel Gisele Bündchen is 40. Rock musician Mike Kennerty (The All-American Rejects) is 40. Actor Percy Daggs III is 38. Actor John Francis Daley is 35. Country singer Hannah Blaylock (Edens Edge) is 34. Dancer-singer-actress Julianne Hough is 32. Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg is 32. Actress Billi Bruno is 24.