

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 1 of 73

- 2- School Board Story
- 3- World of Experience
- 3- City Council Meeting Agenda
- 4- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 9- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 10- July 20th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 13- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 14- Weather Pages
- 17- Daily Devotional
- 18- 2020 Groton Events
- 19- News from the Associated Press



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

All classrooms at GHS to be air conditioned

It has been an on-going issue for generations of students going through Groton Area High School. Classrooms would reach into the 90s and 100s, making education very difficult during heat waves. No more!

The Groton Area Board of Education voted Monday night in a special meeting to install air conditioning units in 21 rooms so that all classrooms will be cooled. Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke had asked a question of Kevin Nehls of Allied Climate Professionals of what they could expect for room temperature. Nehls responded 70 to 72 degrees should be no problem. Sombke just shook her head in virtual disbelief and excitement. Superintendent Joe Schwan said asking for students or staff to wear masks in a 105 degree room is not realistic. Sombke said that air conditioned rooms will increase the opportunity for students and staff to wear masks and education will not have to battle with the heat any longer.

One thing that was pointed out is that the units will pull the humidity out of the rooms and the units are also heat pumps so they can assist with heating during the fringe seasons. Each room will be equipped with a unit that will be attached to the wall above the window. There will be a total of 22 indoor units and seven outdoor units. There will basically be no noise from the fan units in the rooms. The units will have a 10 year warranty with a one-year warranty on labor.

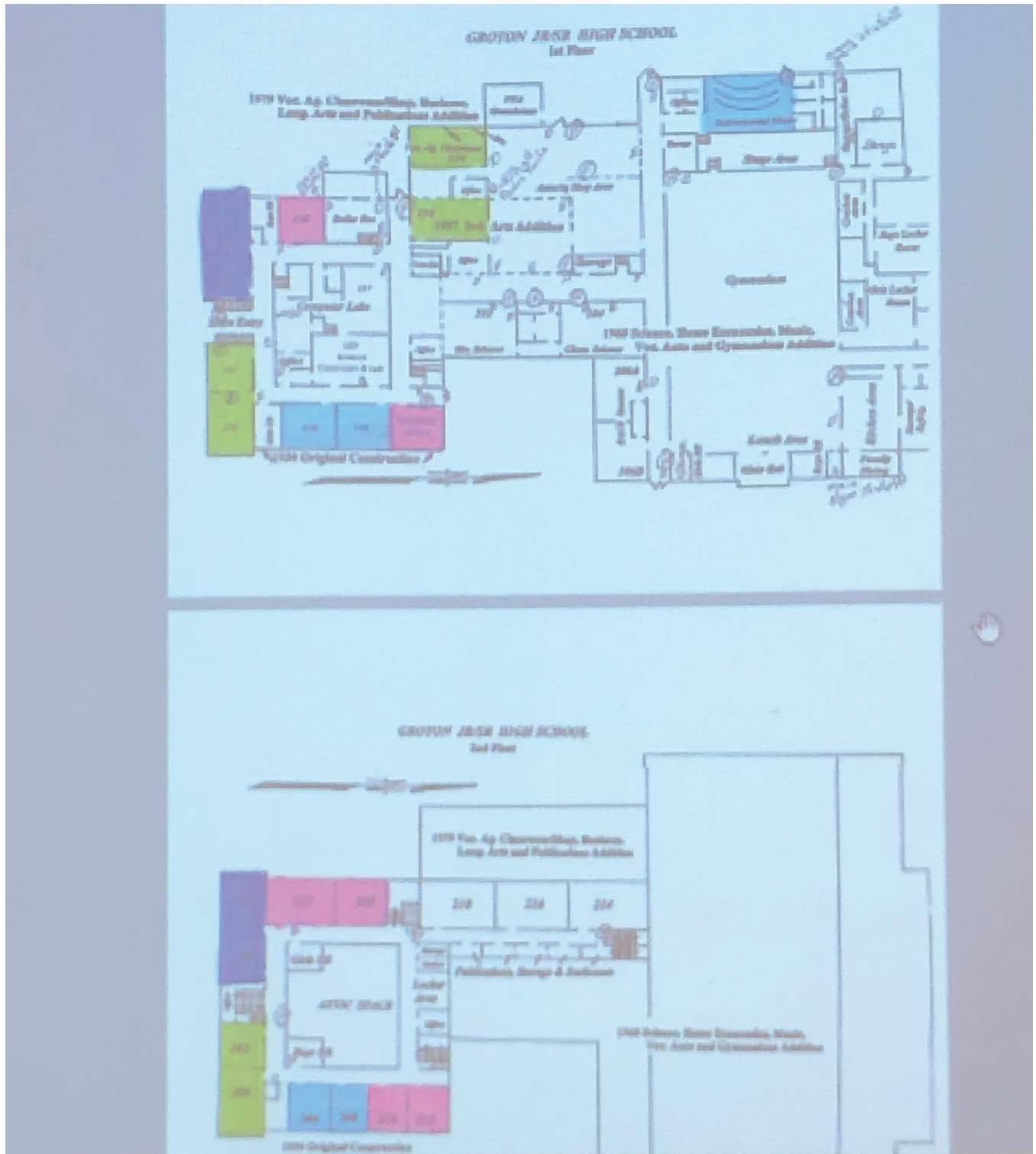
The Groton PAC has expressed an interest in donating to the project. Schwan also reported that there is \$29,417 of left over money from the various classes over the years that will have to be turned over to the general fund next year unless a use can be found for the funds. "I can't think of a better use of the money than for this project," Schwan said. "I would say that a bulk of the cost of this project could be paid for with non-taxpayers dollars."

A change in the state law allows statutory capital improvement projects to get done without a bidding process as long as it's under \$100,000. The board voted unanimously to proceed with the project, not to exceed \$90,000. "We have such a great board," Sombke said after the meeting. A DSG representative was also on hand he said they would have everything on-site within one and one-half weeks. The bulk of the work will be completed by the time school starts on August 19.

- Paul Kosel

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 3 of 73



The above shaded rooms will have air conditioning units installed. The top photo features the first floor and the bottom photo the second floor. Each corresponding shaded area directly above each other represents units with the same condenser. For example, the dark purple on the first floor will be off the same condenser as the dark purple on the second floor.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 4 of 73



Get used to wearing masks

Virtually everywhere you go now days, masks are required. Many of the big chain stores including Dollar General in Groton require staff and customers to wear masks. This is stemming from major outbreaks of the Coronavirus in southern states. Granted, we may seem more secure in South Dakota, but we are not immune from the virus. Every precaution is necessary.

When I seen WalMart and Dollar General implementing the mask policy, people on Facebook were posting that they would no longer patronize those stores. Really. Do you think those stores like to implement such a policy? Do you think the employees are going to like telling customers to put on a mask or be asked to leave?

Simply put, we don't live in a normal world any more. And who knows when normality will return. Be respectful. If a store requires you to wear mask, wear a mask. Don't make a big fuss over it.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

July 21, 2020 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. June Finance Report
5. Flag Pole Installed by the Lions Club at the City Park
6. Coca Cola Vending Machine on Main Street
7. Web Water rate increase to be implemented October 2020
8. 1st Reading of Ordinance #735 Water Rates
9. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
10. Adjournment

#148 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Another bad day today: Both new cases and deaths are increased from yesterday's numbers. We are now at 3,843,100 cases. Today, we reported 66,700 new cases, an increase of 1.8%. This is our 4th worst day, and that makes it a 21-day run of our worst days yet. We reported 510 new deaths, a 0.4% increase to 140,842. I have 43 states and territories with increasing 14-day average new cases and two states declining. In the US as a whole, the 14-day change in new cases shows a 35% increase. Rising fastest are Montana, Colorado, Nevada, North Dakota, Missouri, Michigan, Alabama, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, and Puerto Rico. Our 14-day change in deaths shows a 64% increase, much faster than new cases, which is a worry when the increase in new cases is so dramatic.

Seven states hit record numbers of hospitalized patients today: Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, and Florida. Some states do not report hospitalization numbers, so there may well be other states with high numbers in addition to these. Minnesota reported a record number of new cases and its first child death; the child was reported as five or younger. Today Florida had its sixth consecutive day with more than 10,000 new cases; their total deaths passed 5000 yesterday. California's total cases have risen by 45% in two weeks, and deaths by 20%.

A disturbing trend in Florida is that this new surge of cases is now making its way into the older community. While this surge has been largely seen in those under 34 years of age, experts have been warning that, once you have significant community spread, you're going to see older cases; and in a state where 20% of the population is over 65, that moment appears to have arrived. New case numbers in over-65 adults have gone from around 300 per day in the middle of last month to over 1800 per day now. The percentage of new cases in the 80-and-over group has doubled in the last week. Expect soaring death rates to follow in two to eight weeks.

There are places in the US where the strain on hospitals is becoming critical. Emergency rooms are filling up with patients lined up along hallways and workers putting in extra shifts. Patients are being started on ventilators in ERs because ICUs are filled, and workers are near a breaking point. This is the reporting I am seeing from some cities in Texas, Washington, Florida, Missouri, and Arizona. I am also hearing these stories from folks I personally know working in hospitals in surge areas. This is a real concern with the ability of staff to maintain high quality care when they are exhausted from long hours and dealing with such a high level of acuity. We've seen this earlier in the pandemic in places like New York City. A doctor from New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, Bernard P. Chang, described it like this: "You were on high alert the whole shift. It was a brutal, sustained battle." We're going to be seeing the effects of this kind of strain on these folks for years into the future. Just one more worry.

I've been getting a lot of questions about testing—people wondering whether to pay up for one of the tests being offered to the public in areas where it's difficult to have one provided and wondering exactly what your results mean—so I thought I'd provide a quick review of where we are in terms of what testing actually tells us.

There are basically two kinds of tests for Covid-19: diagnostic (antigen) tests to detect the virus or some part of it and antibody tests to see whether you've had an immune response to the virus. They serve different purposes and work in different ways.

The diagnostic test, a test to see if you are infected, will involve collecting a specimen from your respiratory tract, usually a swab inserted deep into your nasal cavity (which I've been given to understand is not a pleasant experience). There is a number of tests that can be run on this swab once it's collected, but they're all aimed at detecting the virus or fragments of the virus from that swab. Some of them must be sent off to a lab to be run, and some can be done at the point of care, right in the clinic. Some of these tests are better than others; but the gold standard is still the RT-PCR (reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction) test, one that must be sent off to a lab.

If your test comes back positive, it is highly likely to be accurate, meaning you are infected. How you do from here depends on a bunch of factors. So if your test comes back negative, what does that mean?

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 6 of 73

Are you home free? Nope. Here's the thing: If you're early in infection, your test could come back negative, even though you are, indeed, infected. It takes time after you're infected for the virus to replicate sufficiently inside your cells to reach a detectable level. There's a fair amount of variation from person to person in how long this takes, from two to 14 days with the average around five days after exposure.

Before symptoms develop, the rate of false negative tests (testing negative even though you're actually infected) can be very high, 67% or higher. On the day symptoms begin, the false-negative rate falls to 38% and then falls again to around 20% over the next couple of days. By three weeks after infection, the false-negative rate is back up to 66%. So there's a sweet spot in the middle around the time symptoms develop when the tests are most accurate; but even then, one in five tests will be false negatives. So a negative test is not a clear indication you are definitely not infected. And we're not sure at all what that looks like for asymptomatic individuals, those who never develop symptoms. This is just the state of the technology at the moment. It helps to remember that, seven or so months ago, we didn't even know this virus existed, so we're still new at pretty much everything to do with it.

The other thing to remember about diagnostic testing is that a test result, even if it's perfectly accurate, is a snapshot of a moment in time. You can always be exposed after the test is done and be infected the next day, even though you weren't at the time that specimen was collected. Testing is important on a population level in order to get our hands around this pandemic, but decisions on an individual level probably shouldn't rely on the results of a single test. Don't take your negative test result as a free pass to romp off and hug Grandma.

If you have symptoms consistent with Covid-19, it is recommended you stay home and self-isolate irrespective of your test result, following the guidelines for infected people. If you've been in contact with someone who has the infection and are without symptoms, consider self-quarantining for 14 days and discuss testing with your doctor: Asymptomatic people can be a source of infection to others, and we have to take steps to bring these surging case numbers under control. These measures also include, of course, wearing masks in public and physical distancing, as well as staying home as much as you can whether you've been tested or not and irrespective of your test results if you have.

Antibody tests are not intended to diagnose an active infection; they will not be positive until one to three weeks after you've been infected. These require collecting a blood sample because blood is primarily where antibodies are found in a person, and they're often referred to as serologic tests (because they're done on blood serum).

There are issues with the antibody tests available at present; here, the potential is mostly for false positive tests, that is, a test result indicating you have antibodies to this coronavirus when you really don't. We've talked a few times about sensitivity and specificity of tests; here, the issue is one of specificity—pinpointing only the kinds of antibodies we're interested in without interference from similar ones. And, indeed, one confounding factor with these tests is that many of them detect, but do not differentiate, antibodies against the common coronaviruses, the ones that cause colds. Since many of us have been infected by these viruses, there's a lot of potential for false-positive results to turn up.

Something else I should mention here is that, even if your antibody test is accurate and detects antibodies you formed when you were infected with SARS-CoV-2, not some cousin of the virus, we're not yet sure what that means in terms of whether you are protected against future infection. Most experts believe there is protective immunity for some time after recovery, but we don't yet know how long that protection lasts. This varies a lot from one pathogen to the next, and this one simply hasn't been around long enough for anyone to be sure. What we do know from other coronaviruses—remember there are four of these that cause colds, one that causes SARS, and another that causes MERS—is that duration of immunity is not life-long for any of them. It appears immunity to the common coronaviruses, the ones that cause colds, lasts a few months, maybe a year on the outside. Immunity to SARS and MERS is somewhat more durable, on the order of a couple of years or maybe somewhat longer. Seems likely this one's going to fall somewhere in the range we see with its relatives; but really, only time will tell.

We have what appears to be good news on the vaccine front. The Jenner Institute/Oxford University

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 7 of 73

(AstraZeneca) candidate appears to be safe in the limited number of volunteers tested and elicits an immune response in “almost everybody.” It is particularly hopeful that this vaccine triggers both a humoral (antibody) and a cell-mediated (T cell) response. We’ve talked in the past about these two “arms” of the immune system, each with its own immunological memory; here we’re seeing neutralizing antibodies that should theoretically block infection, plus the T-cell activation that should help to destroy virus-infected cells. There were side effects in the trial, but none of them were serious. Larger trials involving more people are still in progress, and a phase 3 trial with about 30,000 people is about to commence.

This is a nonreplicating viral vector vaccine, using a chimpanzee cold virus to carry the coronavirus genetic material into the host cells. There is talk of using a challenge trial for the vaccine at the end of the year. We’ve discussed this controversial means for vaccine testing where volunteers are vaccinated, then deliberately exposed to the virus rather than waiting for natural exposure just in the course of living. The controversy over this procedure has many aspects, not least of which is the ethical question of deliberately infecting someone with a virus that can be fatal for which we have no specific therapy; the primary reason for using such a trial is that it will speed trials up considerably. I’ll watch to see what decision is made on this as time goes on.

The company anticipates being ready to deliver vaccine sometime this fall if it passes its trials, as soon as the approval process is complete. They expect to be able to produce around two billion doses in the next year.

There is a similar vaccine candidate in development in China. This one belongs to CanSino Biologics and appears to be in about the same stage of testing as the Oxford candidate discussed above. I believe the immune response was not as vigorous with this vaccine, although it’s a bit difficult to parse the scantier information that is available about those trials; not much has been published from those trials. The Moderna candidate, an RNA vaccine, is ready to enter phase 3 trials this week. And a Pfizer/BioNTech candidate, also an RNA vaccine, in development in Germany has released promising early data.

We do want to recognize that all of these vaccines have a way to go before we know for sure whether they are actually protective out in the world, and any of them may fail along the way. But the early stages have to be survived before we can establish efficacy, so every step a candidate takes is a step closer to answering this question and putting something on the market. Two concerns on the horizon—concerns that will manifest the day we have an approved vaccine—are to do with access and cost. There are troubling signs that rich countries (the US included) are taking steps to grab all of the supply they can get, leaving much of the world to fend for itself in this pandemic; and there are questions about pharmaceutical companies profiteering in a time of crisis. Given the enormous government resources provided to many of these companies in many countries, there has been a fair amount of pressure on companies to make these vaccines available at a reasonable cost. We’ll see how these things shape up as we get closer to an approved vaccine.

So here’s something hopeful—very preliminary, but quite hopeful. I want to be clear I have not seen data or a paper (apparently not yet released), only a press release from the company, so we have to be cautious in interpreting this news; but it is pretty big if it pans out. The company is Synairgen, and the treatment in question is interferon beta-1b, one of the many cytokines that can be produced during an immune response. I haven’t been able to discover just how the drug is produced, but it’s been around for a while in an injectable form, used to treat multiple sclerosis for some time now. It’s action is apparently to reduce the number of inflammatory cells that are available to participate in a tissue-damaging response.

This is an inhaled formulation that delivers the drug directly to the site of the Covid-19 infection, the lungs. The study was a double-blind controlled study of 101 hospitalized patients. In this trial, the drug appeared to reduce the number of patients progressing from “requiring oxygen” to “requiring ventilation” by 79%, double the chance of recovery (defined as “no limitation of activities” or “no clinical or virological evidence of infection), and statistically significantly reduce breathlessness. No patients receiving the drug died while three treated with the placebo died.

Some important caveats: The data have not been released so experts can review them for themselves,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 8 of 73

and the study has not been peer reviewed, important points. Peer review is where external experts weigh in on the rigor of the study's design and execution which is critical to credible assessment of the data generated. There have been questions raised as to why a trial protocol that was set to recruit 400 patients only ended up with 101; sometimes trials are stopped early as soon as good results surface which is, according to one expert, Professor Steve Goodacre from the University of Sheffield, like "stopping a race and declaring your horse the winner as soon as it takes the lead." And there were many concerns about that small sample size; Professor Stephen Evans from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said, "The adage that says 'beware of small studies claiming large benefits' should be borne in mind here."

There is a plan afoot to do larger studies and to recruit high-risk patients in early stages for study to determine how early in the course of infection this drug might be effective. Apparently they're having trouble finding enough study participants due to low infection numbers in the UK. I could suggest a place where they might overcome that problem. We'll be watching this one.

Many of us have resorted to new technologies like Zoom to stay in touch with people while we're unable to go visiting and traveling as we might have done prior to the pandemic; but some folks dealing with the ways life has changed are looking in the other direction for solutions—to the past. The Academy for Classical Acting, a masters-degree program in Washington, DC, has had to move its classes online and to videoconferencing platforms, but that wasn't going to work when it came to staging actual productions. The director of the program, Alec Wild, couldn't find a way to put the students into their final acting projects in a summer repertory season until he harked back to times gone by. They produced three radio dramas in the old style, then moved right up to new technology to live-stream them and then release them as podcasts. They did "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," and then a new take on Shaw's "Man and Superman."

Wild said, "This is theater of the mind, you know? . . . [I]t all transfers to radio." Aaron Posner, who wrote the script for their version of "Man and Superman," said, "A big part of what's been fun about this for me, and I think really valuable for me and the actors, is just going, 'Okay, this is a whole new set of challenges.' How do we tell this story clearly and effectively, but with no visual elements?" The students had not only to draw on the skills they'd been learning in their program, but also to develop new ones—technical aspects of recording and refinement of their vocal performances since these had to carry all the freight in this new performance venue.

And their director gave them high marks for fortitude in the face of uncertainty. "This group, rather than retreating, and saying, 'Oh, I'm not getting the experience I deserve, I'm not getting the experience I want,' they really dug in. That lesson—having to do that and having the support around them to do that—I think is going to serve them beautifully."

I like the idea of examining this weird life we're all living right now and, instead of crying about not getting the experience we want, asking ourselves what we can take from the experience we have. What have we each learned—what can we make it a point to learn—from these challenging times? I'm hoping, when we all have a good look at ourselves and our lives, we will determine we can, and be determined we will, walk away from this experience with more patience, more self-sufficiency, more ability to occupy ourselves rather than expecting the world to serve up our entertainment pre-packaged and neatly tied up with a bow, more compassion, more ability to notice the distress and the needs of others, and more willingness to serve. We can practice most of this pretty much every day, and I think, like the Academy students, this is going to serve us beautifully too.

Take care. We'll talk again tomorrow.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 9 of 73

Area COVID-19 Cases

	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20	July 21
Minnesota	43,170	43,742	44,347	45,013	45,470	46,204	47,107
Nebraska	21,717	21,979	22,134	22,361	22,481	22,583	22,847
Montana	1,952	2,096	2,231	2,366	2,471	2,533	2,621
Colorado	37,686	38,155	38,726	39,344	39,788	40,142	40,566
Wyoming	1581	1,605	1,644	1,678	1,713	1,728	1,790
North Dakota	4493	4565	4668	4792	4907	5019	5126
South Dakota	7572	7652	7694	7789	7862	7906	7943
United States	3,431,574	3,499,398	3,576,430	3,649,087	3,712,445	3,773,260	3,831,405
US Deaths	136,466	137,419	138,360	139,278	140,120	140,534	140,909
Minnesota	+398	+572	+605	+666	+457	+734	+903
Nebraska	+318	+262	+155	+227	+120	+102	+264
Montana	+109	+144	+135	+135	+105	+62	+88
Colorado	+444	+469	+571	+618	+444	+354	+424
Wyoming	+36	+24	+39	+34	+35	+15	+62
North Dakota	+51	+72	+103	+124	+115	+112	+107
South Dakota	+48	+80	+42	+95	+73	+44	+37
United States	+68,518	+67,824	+77,032	+72,657	+63,358	+60,815	+58,145
US Deaths	+861	+953	+941	+918	+842	+414	+375
	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

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 10 of 73

July 20th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

It's relatively quiet in South Dakota today with only 37 positive cases and 44 recovered, resulting in a drop of active cases to 829. Brown County had no positive cases and two recovered. We lost Miner County in the fully recovered list. It would be nice if these numbers kept dropping every day!

Brown County:

Active Cases: -2 (17)
Recovered: +2 (347)
Total Positive: 0 (366)
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (19)
Deaths: 2
Negative Tests: +14 (3650)
Percent Recovered: 94.8% (+.5)

South Dakota:

Positive: +37 (7943 total)
Negative: +530 (90,711 total)
Hospitalized: 0 (774 total). 65 currently hospitalized (up 2 from yesterday)
Deaths: 0 (118 total)
Recovered: +44 (6996 total)
Active Cases: -7 (829)
Percent Recovered: 88.0 +.1

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding (47), Potter +3 (244), unassigned -10 (3324).

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Miner): Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Deuel 5-5, Haakon 1-1, Hyde 3-3, Jones 1-1, 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): +3 recovered (43 active cases)
Bennett: 2 active cases

Bon Homme: Fully Recovered
Brookings: 13 active cases
Brown (2): +2 recovered (17 active cases)
Brule: 6 active cases
Buffalo (3): 24 active cases
Butte: 3 active cases
Campbell: Fully Recovered
Charles Mix: 39 active cases
Clark: 2 active cases
Clay: 9 active cases
Codington: +3 recovered (17 active cases)
Corson: 4 active cases

Custer: 1 active case
Davison: +2 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)
Day: 1 active case
Deuel: Fully Recovered
Dewey: 44 active cases
Douglas: +1 positive, +1 recovered (5 active cases)
Edmunds: 2 active cases
Fall River: 3 active cases
Faulk (1): 2 active cases
Grant: 1 active case
Gregory: 2 active case

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 11 of 73

Haakon: Fully Recovered
 Hamlin: 1 active case
 Hand: 1 active case
 Hanson: 2 active cases
 Harding: No infections reported
 Hughes (3): 12 active cases
 Hutchinson: +1 positive (6 active cases)
 Hyde: Fully Recovered
 Jackson (1): +1 recovered (2 active cases)
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases
 Jones: Fully Recovered
 Kingsbury: +1 recovered (1 active case)
 Lake (1): 10 active cases
 Lawrence: +1 positive, +1 recovered (3 active cases)
 Lincoln (1): +5 positive, +4 recovered (38 active cases)
 Lyman (1): 10 active cases
 Marshall: 1 active case
 McCook (1): 4 active cases
 McPherson: 1 active case
 Meade (1): 5 active cases
 Mellette: +1 recovered (5 active cases)
 Miner: +1 positive (1 active case)
 Minnehaha (62): +15 positive, +13 recovered (231 active cases)
 Moody: 6 active cases
 Oglala Lakota (1): +2 positive, +5 recovered (24 active cases)
 Pennington (23): +5 positive, +6 recovered (144 active cases)
 Perkins: 2 active cases
 Potter: No infections reported
 Roberts: 8 active cases
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered

Spink: +1 recovered (2 active cases)
 Stanley: Fully Recovered
 Sully: Fully Recovered
 Todd (3): 6 active cases
 Tripp: Fully Recovered
 Turner: 8 active cases
 Union (2): +3 positive, +1 recovered (22 active cases)
 Walworth: 4 active cases
 Yankton (2): +1 positive (9 active cases)
 Ziebach: 2 active cases

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, July 20:

- 5,702 tests reported
- 107 new positives
- 4,219 recovered
- 814 active cases (+18)

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	715	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	993	13%
Hispanic	1152	15%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1306	16%
Other	802	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	2975	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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 12 of 73

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	35	33	333
Beadle	571	519	1687
Bennett	5	3	462
Bon Homme	13	13	661
Brookings	104	91	2190
Brown	366	347	3650
Brule	37	31	627
Buffalo	104	77	573
Butte	5	2	646
Campbell	1	1	75
Charles Mix	98	59	1009
Clark	16	14	352
Clay	97	88	1119
Codington	103	86	2354
Corson	22	18	227
Custer	11	10	688
Davison	69	54	1967
Day	19	18	498
Deuel	5	5	336
Dewey	45	1	1538
Douglas	15	10	367
Edmunds	10	8	350
Fall River	14	11	852
Faulk	24	21	154
Grant	17	16	618
Gregory	6	4	319
Haakon	1	1	263
Hamlin	13	12	548
Hand	7	6	236
Hanson	14	12	155
Harding	0	0	47
Hughes	78	63	1451
Hutchinson	21	15	793

Hyde	3	3	111
Jackson	7	4	398
Jerauld	39	37	253
Jones	1	1	45
Kingsbury	8	7	476
Lake	48	37	783
Lawrence	23	20	1781
Lincoln	418	379	5351
Lyman	84	73	821
Marshall	5	4	358
McCook	21	16	554
McPherson	6	5	183
Meade	58	52	1667
Mellette	14	9	286
Miner	11	10	222
Minnehaha	3869	3576	22850
Moody	26	20	533
Oglala Lakota	129	104	2813
Pennington	725	558	9230
Perkins	4	2	115
Potter	0	0	244
Roberts	62	54	1407
Sanborn	12	12	192
Spink	16	14	994
Stanley	14	14	205
Sully	1	1	60
Todd	65	56	1710
Tripp	19	19	538
Turner	33	25	771
Union	164	140	1648
Walworth	18	14	479
Yankton	91	80	2704
Ziebach	3	1	233
Unassigned****	0	0	3552

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

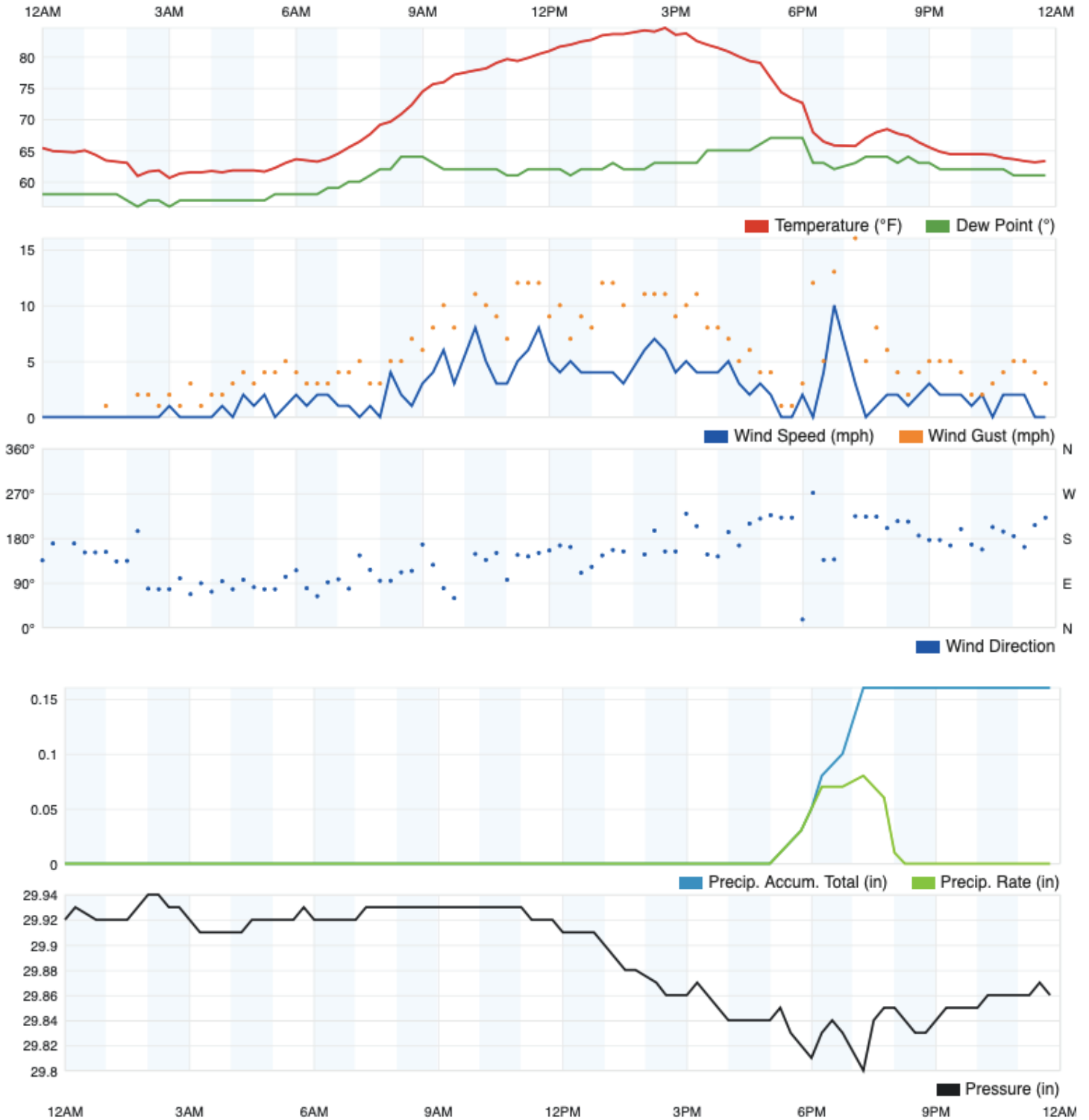
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	3852	61
Male	4091	57

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	915	0
20-29 years	1665	1
30-39 years	1637	6
40-49 years	1235	7
50-59 years	1219	14
60-69 years	726	23
70-79 years	288	17
80+ years	258	50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 13 of 73

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 14 of 73

Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



Patchy Fog
then Mostly
Sunny

High: 79 °F



Mostly Clear

Low: 57 °F



Sunny

High: 84 °F




Mostly Clear

Low: 66 °F



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms




High: 89 °F


Today
Tue, July 21st
75-82° 

Below average temperatures for mid-July. Enjoy while they last...

3-Day Outlook

...as each of the next 3 days will be warmer than the last. The next best chance for storms arrives Thu evening into Fri morning.

WED	THU	FRI
		
80-88°	84-92°	90-98°

Updated: 7/21/2020 5:01 AM Central
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
SCARLETT AND EDWARDSVILLE OBSERVATION

You may encounter patches of fog if traveling through this mid-morning, but skies should clear across the board by the late morning as high pressure builds in. Below average temperatures today too. Thereafter, temperatures climb slowly but surely until everyone reaches the 90s by Friday. Humidity will increase too, and storms are possible mainly Thursday evening through Friday morning (strong to severe?).

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 15 of 73

Today in Weather History

July 21, 1940: From near Miller, an estimated F2 tornado moved southeast, destroying a barn, garage, and two windmills.

July 21, 2000: 3.25-inch hail was reported near Okreek in northeastern Todd County.

1983: At Vostok Station in Antarctica, the temperature dropped to 128.6 degrees below zero. This reading is the coldest temperature ever recorded.

1911 - The temperature at Painter, WY, dipped to 10 degrees to equal the record low for July for the continental U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1934 - The temperature reached 109 degrees at Cincinnati, OH, to cap their hottest summer of record. The state record for Ohio was established that day with a reading of 113 degrees near the town of Galipolis. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Six inches of rain fell across Mercer County, NJ, in just ten hours causing the worst flooding in twenty years. Assumpink Creek crested eleven feet above flood stage at Hamilton and Trenton, the highest level of record. Traffic was brought to a standstill, and railway service between New York City and Washington D.C. was cut off for two days. Flooding left 1000 persons homeless, and caused an estimated 25 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1987: An F4 tornado ravages the Teton Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. The tornado's violent winds destroy millions of trees on a 24.3-mile track that traverses the Continental Divide at an elevation of 10,170 feet.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Utah to North Dakota, spawning a dozen tornadoes in North Dakota. Thunderstorms in North Dakota also produced baseball size hail at Clifford which caused four million dollars damage, and high winds which toppled a couple of eighty foot towers cutting off power to the town of Blanchard. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - While cool air invaded the central U.S., unseasonably hot weather continued over the western states. The temperature at Spring Valley, NV, soared from a morning low of 35 degrees to an afternoon high of 95 degrees. Fallon, NV, reported an all-time record high of 108 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, reported their sixth straight day of 120 degree heat. (The Weather Channel) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Jacksonville, damaging thirteen light planes at Herlong Field. Five cities in Texas reported record low temperatures for the date. Corpus Christi, TX, equalled their record low for the date with a reading of 71 degrees, and then tied their record high for the date that afternoon with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

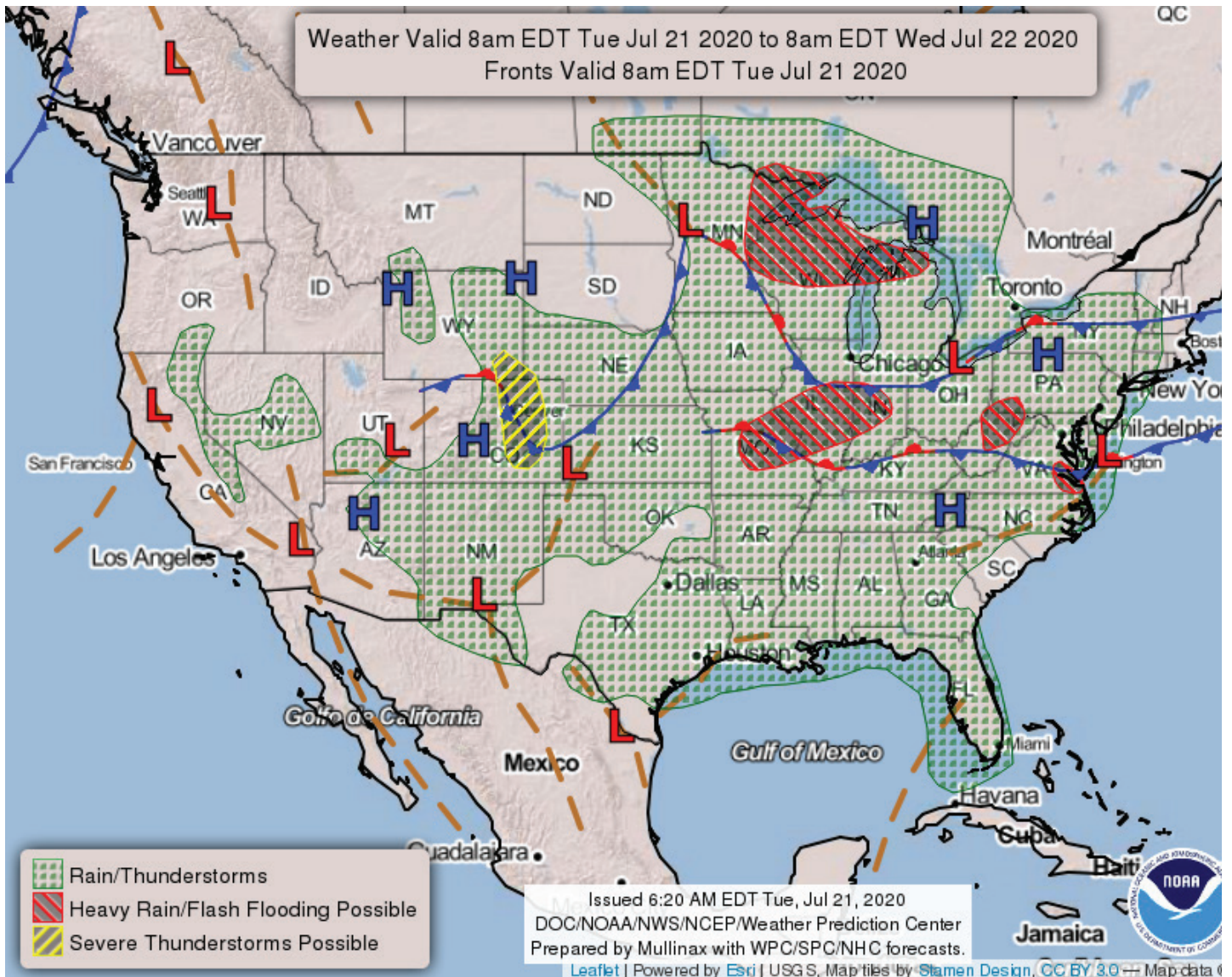
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 16 of 73

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 2:38 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 2:57 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 7:08 PM
Precip: .16

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1899
Record Low: 41° in 1902
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 2.06
Precip to date in July.: 0.69
Average Precip to date: 12.90
Precip Year to Date: 9.01
Sunset Tonight: 9:13 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:07 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 17 of 73



PEOPLE POTENTIAL

Many years ago, an obscure inventor built a racing car. He didn't give it a name, he gave it a number: 999. After many tests, he hired a cyclist named Barney Oldfield to drive it in a race. During the race, the car hit a top speed of sixty miles an hour - a mile a minute. That race brought the driver and the builder of the car much attention and launched their careers.

Years later, the builder and the driver of the race car met one another for the first time. The builder looked at Oldfield and said, "You made me, Barney, and I made you."

"True," said Oldfield, "but it took both us working together to be successful."

Every day we look into the eyes of people who are waiting to be recognized. They want someone to reach out to them and give them hope. A great example is Andrew and Peter.

John, in his gospel, tells us that "the first thing" Andrew did after he began to follow Jesus was to "find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah...'"

The simple invitation "to follow Jesus" that Andrew extended to Peter changed the world. Things would one day be different for everyone because of what he would accomplish. So, it was necessary for "Cephas" to have a new "identity." Believing he could do great things, Jesus gave him a new name: Peter, meaning "rock." And, despite his fears and failures, his doubts and betrayals, he became a "solid rock" in the early church and became one of the "inner three" in the life of Jesus. When the "rock" heard the voice of God at Pentecost, his enthusiasm erupted, and he inspired many to do great things for God. All because someone recognized him!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to see people the way Jesus did - not as they are, but who they can become. May we encourage others to follow You and discover a new life! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter"). John 1:40-43

Come SOW with us: we can only do what we do because of your support. If you are blessed by these daily devotionals please prayerfully consider a donation to support Guido Ministries. Learn more here.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 18 of 73

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

Virus surge in other states slows South Dakota test results

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's coronavirus test results are being slowed by the surge in COVID-19 in other states, South Dakota health officials said.

South Dakota Health Secretary Kim Malsam-Rysdon said officials have seen a change in the last week in the length of time it takes for a result if the sample is sent to an out-of-state commercial lab. She said it's taking up to a week — or longer — to get results from out-of-state labs.

It's different for in-state labs, Malsam-Rysdon said, and South Dakota's public health lab is still turning out lab results in 24 hours.

State epidemiologist Josh Clayton said the delay in test results just means some people are in isolation longer while waiting for test result, the Argus Leader reported.

Health officials reported the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in South Dakota increased by 37 on Monday, bringing the state's total to 7,943 since the pandemic began. No new deaths were reported, leaving the state's death toll at 118.

Rich Americans spew more carbon pollution at home than poor

BY SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Rich Americans produce nearly 25% more heat-trapping gases than poorer people at home, according to a comprehensive study of U.S. residential carbon footprints.

Scientists studied 93 million housing units in the nation to analyze how much greenhouse gases are being spewed in different locations and by income, according to a study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Residential carbon emissions comprise close to one-fifth of global warming gases emitted by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

Using federal definitions of income level, the study found that energy use by the average higher income person's home puts out 6,482 pounds of greenhouse gases a year. For a person in the lower income level, the amount is 5,225 pounds, the study calculated.

"The numbers don't lie. They show that (with) people who are wealthier generally, there's a tendency for their houses to be bigger and their greenhouse gas emissions tend to be higher," said study lead author Benjamin Goldstein, an environmental scientist at the University of Michigan. "There seems to be a small group of people that are inflicting most of the damage to be honest."

In Beverly Hills, the average person puts four times as much heat-trapping gases into the air as someone living in South Central Los Angeles, where incomes are only a small fraction as much. Similarly, in Massachusetts, the average person in wealthy Sudbury spews 9,700 pounds of greenhouse gases into the air each year, while the average person in the much poorer Dorchester neighborhood in Boston puts out 2,227 pounds a year.

"That is the key message about emissions patterns," said University of California San Diego climate policy professor David Victor, who wasn't part of the study. "I think it raises fundamental justice questions in a society that has huge income inequality."

Even though richer Americans produce more heat-trapping gases, "the poor are more exposed to the dangers of the climate crisis, like heat waves, more likely to have chronic medical problems that make them more at risk to be hospitalized or die once exposed to heat, and often lack the resources to protect themselves or access health care," said Dr. Renee Salas, a Boston emergency room physician and Harvard climate health researcher who wasn't part of the study.

Salas and Sacoby Wilson, a professor of environmental health and epidemiology at the University of Maryland, who also wasn't part of the study, pointed to studies in Baltimore and other cities showing that because of fewer trees, more asphalt and other issues, temperatures can be more than 10 degrees hotter in poorer neighborhoods.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 20 of 73

"Heat waves are hell for the poor," Wilson said.

Goldstein calculated the emission figures by crunching data on 78% of the housing units in America as of 2015, factoring the home's age, size, heating supply, weather, electricity source and more. He then compared income levels.

Nine of the 10 states that produce the most heat-trapping gas per person rely heavily on coal or have cold weather. West Virginia by far leads the nation with 10,046 pounds of greenhouse gas per person per year, followed by Oklahoma, Wyoming, North Dakota, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Alabama, South Dakota and Colorado.

California by far is the greenest state with 2,715 pounds of greenhouse gas per person. Oregon, New York, Utah, Washington, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Idaho, Connecticut and New Mexico round out the 10 cleanest states.

The study's 25 cleanest zip codes for residential greenhouse gas emissions are all in California and New York. The cleanest was Mission Bay in San Francisco, a white collar area with relatively new housing stock, where the average person produces only 1,320 pounds a year.

The zip codes that produced the most gas are scattered across Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Louisiana, Wyoming, Maryland, West Virginia, Minnesota, Missouri, Georgia, Arkansas, Indiana and Utah.

The zip code that produced the most greenhouse gas per person was in the mountains of western Boulder County, Colorado, where the 23,811 pounds per person is 18 times higher than in the San Francisco zip code.

Because some zip codes didn't have adequate data, Goldstein said there may be additional zip codes at the extremes of the emissions spectrum. Also, he said some zip codes with smaller, expensive, energy-efficient apartments buck the national trend of greater emissions in wealthy areas.

Wesleyan University climate economist Gary Yohe, who wasn't part of the study, said Goldstein's analysis helps the search for solutions to global warming by offering "two new targets for policy action or behavioral modification beyond the usual list: floor space and density."

But residential carbon emissions are harder to change than those from transportation, where you can trade a gas-guzzler for a cleaner electric vehicle, Goldstein said.

Noting that many residents are stuck with the fossil fuel-based energy delivered by their local utility, he said, "I don't think we can solve this based on personal choices. We need large scale structural transitions of our energy infrastructure."

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears .

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

2 seriously injured in Rapid City shooting

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are searching for a suspect accused of shooting and seriously injuring two people.

The shooting was reported shortly before 7 a.m. Monday. It left one person with life-threatening wounds and the other with serious injuries, according to police.

The shooting was not a random act as the victims and suspects are known to each other, according to Rapid City police spokesman Brendyn Medina.

Medina said the victims were found in a vehicle near an intersection and appeared to be on their way to the hospital, the Rapid City Journal reported.

First responders arrived and transported the victims to the hospital.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 21 of 73

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, July 16
By any other name

The Washington Redskins finally gave in this week.

Long criticized for a nickname deemed as a derogatory and racist reference to Native Americans, Dan Snyder — the owner of the NFL club (and a man who, according to Thursday's reports, may have MUCH bigger problems on his radar) — announced this week that the franchise will be "retiring" the name it has gone by for 87 years. This move is prompted not only by the many years of complaints but also by rapidly growing commercial objections (read: economic fallout).

What the team's new name will be is unknown — the reported favorites are Redwolves, Redhawks and Red Tails, the latter of which would pay homage to the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II — but knowing what it WON'T be is the winning point.

There was a time when I would probably have been ambivalent about this, but now I see it as a smart and overdue move. I learned years ago that such issues, which may seem like a PC nuisance to some people, really do matter sometimes in a broader perspective.

Several years ago, I wrote at least one editorial defending the use of controversial nicknames because schools/teams don't choose such monikers for themselves in order to insult or denigrate others. They are meant to be powerful images, not cheap shots at others. This was literally the same argument President Donald Trump used last week in defending the Redskins' name, saying, "They name teams out of STRENGTH, not weakness, but now the Washington Redskins (may change their nickname) in order to be politically correct."

But my attitude began evolving as I considered it from more than one perspective. While it may not have been the intent of a school or team with a controversial nickname to hurt anyone, it was also clear that some people sometimes ARE offended. You may not intend to be hurtful, but if you wind up hurting or insulting someone, saying you have only the best intentions does not nullify the wounds inflicted upon others.

So my mind eventually changed. Call it becoming politically correct, if you want — or consider it the broadening of a viewpoint.

In a way, Yankton High School knows about this.

For many decades, the nickname "Bucks" was portrayed as a reference to a male Native American, or so the old YHS logos indicated. This portrayal included depictions during Yankton's homecoming festivities. In the late 1990s, we had a reporter who was part Native American and she saw something offensive in those depictions. She asked to write an op-ed piece about it and I agreed. It generated some reaction. The impact of her column was officially unclear, but as I recall, the YHS homecoming ritual the following fall featured the royalty in formal attire, not in Native American buckskins, and the old logo was eventually replaced by a male Buck deer (which complemented the Gazelles logo for the girls' teams). The homecoming attire was eventually compromised a bit to honor the pioneer spirit of the Yankton area, but the Native American inferences were effectively gone.

For Yankton, this evolution was accomplished without changing nicknames, which certainly made the "transition" seamless enough that it was nearly (but not completely) unnoticeable.

But it was not inconsequential.

There will be resistance to the name change for the Redskins; you probably can't sing "Hail to the Redskins" for decades without suddenly feeling awkward about a shift in the lyric. And some people will probably never stop referring to the team by its old name, no matter what the new name will be. (Personally, I like "Red Tails" mostly because of the historical perspective, but "Red Wolves" admittedly has more football bite to it.) The transition to whatever is next won't be easy or universally embraced, at least at first.

But the evolution is important. It broadens perspectives and, hopefully, horizons. By any other name, this change will be good for everyone.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 22 of 73

Madison Daily Leader, July 13

Face it: We aren't winning against algae

We need to face the facts: The algae problem in local lakes is not getting any better. And this is after decades of study, concern, complaints and more concern.

Take a look at Lake Madison and Lake Herman, where algae of various colors are painting the shoreline rocks and sandy beaches. At 1 o'clock yesterday, a very sunny Sunday afternoon, there were no swimmers at the beaches at Lake Herman State Park.

We can't blame them. Algae is not only unsightly, it can be a health hazard in certain forms, to both humans and animals.

A long-term study by Dakota State University faculty shows a fair amount of volatility of algae concentration, both up and down. But the conclusion is that over the last ten years, the average concentration hasn't gone down, and probably gone up somewhat.

The source of the problem, of course, is excess phosphorus and nitrates. These are naturally occurring in our soils, but they are also added to farm fields, residential lawns, and are produced by animals through waste. Snow melting and rains bring these elements into creeks, streams and lakes, and algae uses them for food. Some of these elements keep flowing downstream, but we keep adding more.

A few efforts over the years haven't done much. A sanitary sewer system around Lake Madison to replace septic tanks didn't improve the lake. An experimental swirling project at Lake Madison a few years flopped. A state program that provided money to improve feedlot runoff had few takers. Occasional public service campaigns haven't changed behaviors.

One of the best remedies are buffer strips, which are grasses or other vegetation planted along lakes, rivers and streams. The purpose is to filter nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment from adjacent land before it gets into waterways. Our neighbors to the east in Minnesota have been more aggressive about reducing nitrogen and phosphorus from getting into their lakes, by requiring buffer strips next to creeks and streams to control runoff. South Dakota has a voluntary program to plant buffer strips, with the state providing a 40% tax break for farmers. But the program attracted only 27 farmers who placed 292 acres in 12 counties in the first year.

We don't expect any progress in the battle against excessive algae until someone in a leadership position — state, county or another local entity -- decides to make it a priority and get others to join in.

Guilty plea entered in 2018 fatal shooting on reservation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of a fatal shooting on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 2018 has pleaded guilty to reduced charges in federal court.

Palani Bull Bear, 21, was originally charged with second-degree murder in the death of 19-year-old Bryce Red Owl during a confrontation in Kyle.

Bull Bear pleaded guilty in federal court Friday to voluntary manslaughter and discharge of a firearm during the commission of a crime, KOTA-TV reported.

Court documents say that during the conflict, Bull Bear fired two shots, killing Red Owl and also fired two shots at Colin Gregg, striking the horse he was riding.

Bull Bear faces up to 15 years in prison on the manslaughter charge and a minimum of ten years on the firearms charge.

Bull Bear also pleaded guilty to bank robbery in a separate case for robbing a Bank of America in New Mexico in May of 2018.

Fear of China driving Hong Kong extradition concerns

By ZEN SOO and ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — With Britain the latest country to scrap its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, the focus in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory has returned to the concerns about China's legal system

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 23 of 73

that set off months of anti-government protests last year.

Those sometimes violent demonstrations — themselves sparked by an extradition bill — were used as justification by Beijing to impose a sweeping national security law on June 30 that has been cited by Britain, the United States, Australia and Canada in suspending their extradition agreements with Hong Kong.

The moves underscore a growing divide between authoritarian China and the U.S. and other like-minded democracies over human rights and other issues. Just three years ago, Australia's conservative government was making a high-profile push for an extradition treaty with China, an effort that ran afoul of parliamentary opposition. Now, not only has Australia suspended extradition with Hong Kong, it is warning its citizens of the risk of arbitrary detention in China.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was in London on Tuesday to discuss China-related issues with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, one day after Britain suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong. China's ambassador to Britain, Liu Xiaoming, called the step a gross interference in his country's internal affairs.

The key issue, paralleling one in the Hong Kong protests, is the possibility that suspects returned to the city could be handed over to Chinese law enforcement and disappear into the mainland's opaque and frequently abusive legal system. China says the new security law is needed to combat terrorism and separatism and prevent Hong Kong from becoming a base for subverting Chinese state power.

"Extradition, at the bottom of it, is a political act. It's a political act whether or not you surrender a person," said Philip Dykes, chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association. "Extradition treaties with Hong Kong were always on the basis that whatever happens, a person will not be removed to the mainland."

It was a separate piece of extradition legislation that led to last year's protests, one that would have permitted the extradition of criminal suspects from Hong Kong to China. While the Hong Kong legal system's fairness and transparency has helped establish the city as a center for business and finance, China's Communist Party-dominated courts are accused of handing down convictions based on political considerations and frequently using coerced confessions.

The biggest political crisis in the former British colony since its 1997 handover to Chinese sovereignty was triggered by a murder case. A young Hong Kong man, Chan Tong-kai, allegedly killed his girlfriend while on vacation in Taiwan and fled back home.

Hong Kong authorities could not send Chan to Taiwan for trial because of the lack of an extradition treaty. The government cited Chan's case as an example of the loophole the proposed extradition legislation would close, allowing Hong Kong to transfer fugitives to any jurisdiction with which it did not have an extradition treaty, including Taiwan and mainland China.

The proposal triggered a massive backlash from Hong Kong residents, who feared that suspects could be sent to the mainland for trial. Though the government withdrew the bill during the protests, the demonstrations took on a broader anti-government and anti-police agenda and grew increasingly violent.

The detention of several Hong Kong booksellers in late 2015 had already focused concern about Beijing's undermining of the legal autonomy the territory was promised when it was handed back to Chinese rule.

The booksellers vanished before resurfacing in police custody in mainland China. Among them, Swedish citizen Gui Minhai was abducted from his vacation home in Thailand and later appeared twice in videotaped confessions, the second time after being taken off a train by police in eastern China in January 2018 while in the company of two Swedish diplomats.

Another of the booksellers, Lam Wing-kee, later fled to Taiwan. The prospect of falling afoul of the new law and disappearing into the maw of the Chinese legal system has prompted others to leave as well.

Among them are a former employee of the British Consulate in Hong Kong, Simon Cheng, who has been granted political asylum in Britain, and Nathan Law, a leading member of Hong Kong's opposition movement who posted on Facebook that he had left Hong Kong for an undisclosed location.

China has pledged to retaliate for Britain's decision to cancel its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, as well as to ban the sale of military-grade equipment to the territory.

"China urges the British side to abandon the illusion of continuing colonial influence in Hong Kong ... so

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 24 of 73

as to avoid further damage to China-Britain relations," foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Tuesday.

China's dissatisfaction is based on issues of national pride as well as more practical concerns. Under President Xi Jinping, China has pushed hard for the return of corrupt officials and others who have fled abroad with their ill-gotten gains. While that effort has scored some successes, it has also been frustrated by the lack of extradition treaties with key countries.

Canceling extradition to Hong Kong represents a further vote of no-confidence in China's legal system, one already registered by the refusal of the U.S., Britain and other nations to sign extradition agreements with Beijing.

Australia abandoned plans to do so in 2017. Parliament's endorsement of the treaty was to be a highlight of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Australia in March of that year, a high point in a volatile diplomatic relationship. Since then, ties have deteriorated to a historical low.

McGuirk reported from Canberra, Australia. Associated Press writers Danica Kirka in London and Ken Moritsugu in Beijing contributed to this report.

Breached levees trap thousands as flooding in China worsens

BEIJING (AP) — Breached levees have trapped more than 10,000 people in an eastern Chinese town as flooding worsens across much of the country, local authorities said Tuesday.

High waters overcame flood defenses protecting Guzhen, a town in Anhui province, on Sunday, the provincial government said on its official microblog.

Flood waters rose as high as 3 meters (10 feet), the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wang Qingjun, Guzhen's Communist Party secretary, as saying.

About 1,500 firefighters were rushed to carry out rescues in the province, where weeks of heavy rains have disrupted the lives of more than 3 million people, Xinhua said.

China's Meteorological Administration said more heavy rainfall along the Yellow River and Huai River is expected over the next three days.

At least 141 people have died or gone missing in flooding since the beginning of June, with more than 150,000 houses damaged and direct economic losses estimated at about \$9 million.

On Sunday, a dam in Anhui was blasted to allow flood waters to flow downriver. The province's Wangjiaba dam on the Huai River opened its 13 sluice gates on Monday, flooding cropland and forests to prevent more extensive damage down river.

The move forced more than 2,000 people to seek safety in the middle of the night, some loading blankets and furniture onto three-wheel motorcycles..

Built in 1953, the Wangjiaba dam is a key defense against flooding along the Huai and has only opened its sluice gates on 15 occasions, the last time in 2007.

Other parts of Anhui have also been forced to take extreme measures, with the Liu'an city government reporting that Huai River waters had been directed into seven flood retention areas on Tuesday.

Both the Yangtze, China's mightiest river, and the Yellow River to the north have become engorged following torrential rains.

The western city of Lanzhou, on the Yellow River, has already seen a second flood crest as the river speeds past it toward eastern China and the Bohai Gulf.

In the central province of Hubei, authorities in Enshi prefecture that lies to the south of the Yangtze warned residents Tuesday to prepare to evacuate because a nearby newly formed barrier lake could burst anytime. Such lakes are usually formed when rivers become blocked by earth, stones and other debris.

While rainfall has been heavier than usual this year, the level of death and destruction is below the annual average for the last few years, according to Xinhua.

China experienced its worst flooding in recent years in 1998, when more than 2,000 people died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed, mostly along the Yangtze.

The Latest: In reversal, Israel to keep restaurants open

By The Associated Press undefined

JERUSALEM — An Israeli parliamentary committee has overturned a government decision and allowed restaurants to remain open despite new restrictive measures to try and quell the spread of the coronavirus.

The coronavirus oversight committee voted Tuesday to keep restaurants open as long as they maintain proper guidelines and appropriate social distancing between patrons. It marked the continuing of a dramatic back-and-forth battle after the government ordered restaurants closed just a few days earlier and then postponed implementation after public pressure.

The government announced its restrictions after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said “interim steps” were needed to avoid another general lockdown. Netanyahu has faced widespread criticism and protests in recent days over his government’s handling of the pandemic and the economic fallout from an earlier lockdown.

But many of the measures, such as the closing down of beaches and public pools, have been scaled back in recent days amid an outcry that they were excessive.

The frequent reversals, however, have only sown frustration, confusion and more public anger.

Health Minister Yuli Edelstein condemned the parliamentary decision, saying it would endanger public health and likely lead to another lockdown.

By late May, Israel had largely contained its outbreak following a two-month lockdown. But cases have soared in the weeks since restrictions were lifted, with Israel reporting close to 2,000 new cases a day last week. At least 422 people have died since the outbreak began, out of a total of more than 52,000 cases.

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

- Weary EU leaders finally clinch \$2.1 trillion budget and coronavirus recovery fund
- Trump to resume virus briefings Tuesday after 3-month hiatus as virus cases spike nationwide
- With the pandemic worsening and aid expiring, Washington’s divisions thwart new relief package
- A job that pays the bills becomes an alternative to unemployment for some Israelis

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

HERE’S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

BELGRADE, Serbia — Some 350 Serbian doctors are demanding the resignation of a government-appointed team fighting the coronavirus spread, describing the health situation in the Balkan state as “catastrophic.”

In an open letter entitled “United Against Covid,” first carried by the independent N1 television on Tuesday, the doctors said it is their moral and professional obligation to demand an independent investigation into the work of the state team.

The probe would include possible cover-up in the real number of coronavirus cases and deaths that have been declared by the team and possible political influence on its decisions ahead of an election.

The letter says that a complete lifting of anti-coronavirus measures weeks ahead of the June 21 parliamentary election, when mass gatherings without social distancing were allowed, led to the “loss of control over epidemic situation” in the country, leading to a large second wave of infections.

State team members have vehemently denied previous such claims.

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Nepal’s government has decided to resume both domestic and international flights next month.

Tourism Minister Yogesh Bhattarai said the government will allow flights beginning Aug. 17. It was still undecided on the types of visitors who would be allowed in the country and visitors from which countries.

Flights had been stopped in March when the country was in full lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Only chartered and repatriation flights were allowed to fly out stranded tourists from Nepal and bring in Nepalese workers and residents.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 26 of 73

The government eased the lockdown last month, allowing businesses to open and government offices to resume work. Schools remain closed and there are still some restrictions on public transportation. Special permission is required for the public to travel between different cities in Nepal.

The country has 17,844 cases of virus infection and 40 deaths from COVID-19.

NEW DELHI — A surge of 37,140 new cases in the past 24 hours has taken India's number of coronavirus infections to 1,155,191.

The Health Ministry on Tuesday also reported 587 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities to 28,084. The number of recoveries stand at 724,577.

India's top medical research body, the Indian Council for Medical Research, has asked states to add more labs and increase testing capacity of the approved labs. A country of 1.4 billion people, India has been conducting nearly 10,000 tests per million population.

With a surge in virus cases in the past few weeks, local state governments in India have been ordering focused lockdowns in high-risk areas to slow new infections.

Experts say India is likely to witness a series of peaks as the virus spreads in rural areas where the healthcare system is weak.

BEIJING — Numbers of new cases in China's latest coronavirus outbreak fell on Tuesday, with just eight reported in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

Another three cases were brought from outside the country, according to the National Health Commission, bringing China's total to 83,693 with 4,634 deaths.

Xinjiang cases have been concentrated in the regional capital and largest city of Urumqi, where around 50 people and possibly more have been infected.

China has largely contained local transmission of the virus and responded swiftly to the Xinjiang outbreak by reducing subway, bus and taxi service in Urumqi, closing some communities, imposing travel restrictions and ordering widespread testing.

Elsewhere in China, containment measures continue to be relaxed while masks and social distancing remain the norm. Economic activity has partially recovered and China reported an unexpectedly strong 3.2% expansion in its GDP during the latest quarter after lockdowns were lifted and factories and stores reopened.

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's new virus cases have bounced back to above 40, a day after it reported its smallest daily jump in local COVID-19 transmissions in two months.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday the 45 latest cases included 20 people infected locally and 25 associated with international arrivals. They brought the country's total to 13,816 with 296 deaths.

South Korean officials consider imported cases as a lesser threat than local transmissions because two-week quarantines are enforced on all people arriving from abroad.

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's hot spot Victoria state has reported 374 new cases of COVID-19, the second-highest daily tally ever recorded.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews also announced on Tuesday three more deaths in the state, bringing the national toll 126.

Andrews said a lockdown in Australia's second-largest city Melbourne that began two weeks ago was having an impact.

"You'd like to see numbers coming down. At the end of the day though, we're not seeing the doubling and doubling again" of cases, Andrews said. "So what that says to me ... is that the sorts of measures we've put in place are having a direct impact."

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 27 of 73

Tighter regulations will come into force on the Victoria-New South Wales border on Wednesday that will allow border communities to cross for essential work, health and education reasons.

MEXICO CITY — Mexico continues to register high levels of new coronavirus cases, as the Health Department reports 5,172 new infections, bring the total to almost 350,000.

Daily deaths fell to 301, for a total of almost 39,500.

The continued high rate of transmission has caused some Mexican tourist areas to walk back previous reopenings and crack down on mask rules. The southern area of the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo reimposed limits on hotel occupancy, and the Baja California resort of La Paz closed beaches again.

Over the weekend, the local government of the colonial city of San Miguel de Allende said police had arrested two tourists for refusing to wear face masks.

The city has decreed face masks obligatory in public spaces, and violators could receive a warning, up to 36 hours in jail and/or a fine of up to \$385.

The city government said two Mexican tourists were approached by police in the picturesque city square on Saturday night and reminded of the face mask rule. The man and a woman refused to put on masks. They were detained, held for 12 hours and fined the equivalent of about \$67.

Trump, Congress square off over virus aid as crisis worsens

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump acknowledged a “big flareup” of COVID-19 cases, but divisions between the White House and Senate Republicans and differences with Democrats posed fresh challenges for a new federal aid package with the U.S. crisis worsening and emergency relief about to expire.

Trump convened GOP leaders at the White House on Monday as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell prepared to roll out his \$1 trillion package in days. But the administration criticized the legislation’s money for more virus testing and insisted on a full payroll tax repeal that could complicate quick passage. The timeline appeared to quickly shift.

“We’ve made a lot of progress,” Trump said, but added, “Unfortunately, this is something that’s very tough.”

Lawmakers returned to a Capitol still off-limits to tourists, another sign of the nation’s difficulty containing the coronavirus. Rather than easing, the pandemic’s devastating cycle is churning again, leaving Congress little choice but to engineer another costly rescue. Businesses are shutting down again, many schools will not fully reopen and jobs are disappearing, all while federal aid will expire in days.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said any attempt by the White House to block money for testing “goes beyond ignorance.”

The political stakes are high for both parties before the November election, and even more so for the nation, which now has registered more coronavirus infections and a higher death count — 140,800 — than any other country.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and acting chief of staff Mark Meadows will meet privately Tuesday with Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

Mnuchin vowed passage by month’s end, as a \$600 boost in jobless aid is set to expire, and said he expected a fresh \$1 trillion jolt of business tax breaks and other aid would have a “big impact” on the struggling economy.

On Capitol Hill, McConnell faces not just pressure from the White House but also splits within his ranks, which have chiseled away at his majority power and left him relying on Democrats for votes.

The package from McConnell, being crafted behind closed doors, is expected to include \$75 billion to help schools reopen. It will likely replace an expiring \$600 weekly unemployment benefits boost with a smaller amount. The cut in unemployment assistance is designed to ensure that jobless people do not

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 28 of 73

receive a greater benefit than if they were working. Regular state benefits vary widely, and the measure would peg the federal bonus payment to a percentage of the state benefit.

McConnell's package may also send a fresh round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans below a certain income level, likely \$75,000, and create a sweeping five-year liability shield against coronavirus lawsuits.

But the administration was panning the proposal's \$25 billion in new funds for virus testing and tracing and insisting on the payroll tax cut, Republicans said.

At Monday's White House meeting, Trump said he wants a full payroll tax repeal, said one Republican who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting. Trump then put economist Art Laffer on speakerphone. Laffer is part of a conservative group favoring the tax break. The GOP leaders indicated only a partial repeal would be included in the coming bill.

Easing the payroll tax is dividing Trump's party because it is used to finance Social Security and Medicare. The tax is already being deferred for employers under the previous virus relief package. Supporters say cutting it now for employees would put money in people's pockets and stimulate the economy, but detractors warn it would do little for out-of-work Americans and add to the nation's rising debt load. McConnell is straining to keep the bill's total price tag at \$1 trillion.

GOP senators swiftly pushed back as the Republicans and the White House battled over priorities.

GOP Sen. John Cornyn of Texas was among several Republicans saying he's "not a fan" of a payroll tax holiday.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the chairman of the Health committee, said, "All roads to opening school, going back to work, opening child care lead through testing."

Trump has insisted 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 alarming U.S. caseload and death toll.

On a conference call with the nation's governors Monday, Vice President Mike Pence called the rising numbers in Sunbelt states "serious."

Schumer warned Monday his side will block any effort from McConnell that falls short, reviving a strategy from the last virus aid bill that forced Republicans to the negotiating table. This time, the House has approved Pelosi's sweeping \$3 trillion effort, giving Democrats momentum heading into negotiations.

Joe Biden, the Democrats' presumed presidential nominee, stated his own priorities. The new package should "deliver a lifeline to those who need it most: working families and small businesses," he said.

Trump raised alarms on Capitol Hill when he suggested last month at a rally in Oklahoma that he wanted to slow virus testing. Testing is seen as the best way to track the virus to contain its spread. Another Republican familiar with the process said about half of the \$25 billion previously approved remains unspent. Senate Democrats are investigating why the administration has left so much on the table.

The proposed virus aid package would be the fifth, following the \$2.2 trillion bill passed in March, the largest U.S. intervention of its kind. While many Republicans hoped the virus would ease and economy rebound, it's become clear more aid is needed.

The jobless rate remained at double digits, higher than in the last decade's Great Recession, and a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units approved in the last bill is about to expire.

Associated Press writers Aamer Madhani, Andrew Taylor, Zeke Miller and Alexandra Jaffe in Washington and Alan Suderman in Richmond, Va., contributed to this report.

Report: UK officials 'avoided' looking into Russian meddling

By SYLVIA HUI and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A long-awaited report published Tuesday on Russian influence in British politics criticized the British government for its slow response to Russian interference in the 2016 Brexit referendum, with its authors saying it was "astonishing" that no one sought to protect that democratic process.

The report's authors accused the British government of "actively avoiding" looking into evidence of the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 29 of 73

Russian threat in the EU referendum. "Serious questions needed to be asked," the authors said.

While the report from the parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee said it would be "difficult — if not impossible — to prove" allegations that Russia sought to influence the referendum, it was clear that the government "was slow to recognize the existence of the threat" even after evidence emerged of Russian interference in the U.S. elections and the Scottish independence referendum in 2014.

"As a result, the government did not take action to protect the U.K.'s process in 2016," the report said.

The report says Russia sees Britain as one of its top intelligence targets in the West. It said Russian influence in the U.K. is the "new normal," and successive governments have welcomed Russian oligarchs with open arms. Russians with "very close links" to President Vladimir Putin were "well integrated into the U.K. business, political and social scene — in 'Londongrad' in particular," it said.

Speaking before the report was released, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that Russia "never interfered in electoral processes in any country in the world."

"Not in the United States, not in Britain, not in any other country. We don't do that ourselves and we don't tolerate when other countries try to interfere with our political affairs," Peskov said.

The report's authors said they were subjected to an unprecedented delay in making the document public, with officials holding off its release for more than six months. Critics claimed that was meant to shield Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Conservative Party from embarrassment.

The report was originally submitted to Johnson on Oct. 17. The government initially said it couldn't be published until it was reviewed for national security issues, which postponed its release until after the Dec. 12 general election. Further holdups were caused by delays in appointing new members to the Intelligence and Security Committee.

Finally, Johnson named five Conservative lawmakers to the nine-person panel in hopes his handpicked candidate would be chosen as chairman and block the report. The gambit failed when a renegade Conservative was chosen to head the committee with backing from opposition parties.

The opposition Labour Party has accused the government of failing to publish the report because it would lead to further questions about links between Russia and the pro-Brexit campaign in the 2016 referendum on European Union membership, which Johnson helped lead.

Another parliamentary panel — the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee — previously published the results of its own inquiry into disinformation and "fake news," which called on election regulators and law enforcement to investigate reports that a British businessman with links to Russia donated 8.4 million pounds (\$10.6 million) to the Brexit campaign. The National Crime Agency said in September that it found no evidence of criminal offenses related to the donation.

The intelligence committee report covers the full range of the Russian threat to the U.K., including election interference, espionage and targeted assassinations such as the attempt to kill former spy Sergei Skripal in the English city of Salisbury two years ago, said Dominic Grieve, who chaired the panel until he left the House of Commons after the election.

The government's explanations for delaying the report "are simply not credible," Grieve said in an interview with Britain's Channel 4 News.

The report's release comes only days after Britain, the United States and Canada accused hackers linked to Russian intelligence agencies of trying to steal information from researchers working on a potential coronavirus vaccine.

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. EU FINALLY REACHES SUMMIT DEAL To confront the biggest recession in its history, European Union leaders clinched an unprecedented \$2.1 trillion budget and coronavirus recovery fund.

2. WHAT MAY BE A 'RED FLAG' IN PORTLAND Constitutional law experts say federal officers' actions in the progressive city could become a test case of states' rights as the Trump administration expands

federal policing.

3. UK RELEASES RUSSIA MEDDLING REPORT A British government report finds that it would be hard to prove claims that Russia tried to influence the 2016 Brexit referendum, but Britain was "slow" to recognize the threat.

4. TRUMP BACK AT VIRUS TASK FORCE PODIUM The president's advisers have stressed adopting a more disciplined public agenda to turn around his lagging poll numbers against Democratic rival Joe Biden.

5. FOX NEWS STARS HIT WITH LAWSUIT Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson and Howard Kurtz were accused of sexual harassment by a frequent on-air guest in a lawsuit filed that the network called frivolous and untrue.

Biden, lawmakers warn of foreign interference in election

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said he is putting Russia and other foreign governments "on notice" that he would act aggressively as president to counter any interference in U.S. elections. The statement came hours after Democratic leaders issued a new warning that Congress appears to be the target of a foreign interference campaign.

Biden said in a statement Monday that he would treat foreign interference as an "an adversarial act that significantly affects the relationship between the United States and the interfering nation's government." He criticized President Donald Trump for not doing enough in response to U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

"If any foreign power recklessly chooses to interfere in our democracy, I will not hesitate to respond as president to impose substantial and lasting costs," Biden said.

The new alarms give a renewed urgency to concerns that foreign actors could be trying to influence the vote or sow disinformation. Biden said last week that he had begun receiving intelligence briefings and warned that Russia, China and other adversaries were attempting to undermine the presidential election. Biden gave no evidence, but he said that Russia was "still engaged" after 2016 and that China was also involved in efforts to sow doubts in the American electoral process.

During an online fundraiser Monday night, Biden added: "It's going to be tough, there's not much I can do about it now except talk about it, and expose it, but it is a serious concern. It is truly a violation of our sovereignty."

And in an interview on MSNBC, Biden said Russian President Vladimir Putin "knows I mean what I say."

The Democratic leaders said in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray on Monday that they are concerned that Congress appears to be the target of a "concerted foreign interference campaign" to influence the 2020 presidential election. They asked Wray for an all-members, classified briefing on the matter before the August recess.

The letter from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and the top Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees contains no details about the threats, though they describe them as serious and specific.

"We are gravely concerned, in particular, that Congress appears to be the target of a concerted foreign interference campaign, which seeks to launder and amplify disinformation in order to influence congressional activity, public debate, and the presidential election in November," wrote Pelosi, Schumer, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence panel.

A congressional official familiar with the letter said that there was a classified addendum "to ensure a clear and unambiguous record of the counterintelligence threats of concern." The person, who was granted anonymity to describe the confidential letter, said the addendum largely draws from the executive branch's own reporting and analysis.

The FBI said it had received the letter but declined further comment.

While the Democrats' exact concerns were unclear, there have been worries since Trump was elected

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 31 of 73

that Russia's efforts to sow American chaos are ongoing in the 2020 election. The 2016 effort included hacking of Democratic email accounts during the campaign by Russian military intelligence officials and the subsequent disclosure by WikiLeaks.

Intelligence authorities said that hack-and-leak operation was aimed at helping Trump's presidential campaign and harming that of his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. Russians also used a covert social media campaign to spread misinformation and posts aimed at dividing American public opinion. In the end, former special counsel Robert Mueller charged 25 Russian nationals for their roles in foreign interference and influence during the campaign.

Democrats, including members of the Senate intelligence panel, have voiced concerns that an ongoing Republican probe into Biden's son, Hunter Biden, and his work in Ukraine would amplify Russian disinformation. That probe is being led by Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

In a statement, Johnson spokesman Austin Altenburg said the committee's staff had already requested and received a briefing on Russian disinformation and Johnson had requested an additional briefing at the member level.

While Biden criticized Trump for not acting more aggressively against Russia, his pledge that his intelligence community would report "publicly and in a timely manner" on any foreign efforts to interfere in an American election also appeared to be a course correction of sorts to the approach of the Obama administration, which waited months after Russian hacks of Democratic email accounts in 2016 to officially attribute them to Moscow.

Officials did so only after a rigorous internal debate over what they should say. Even when the administration did issue its October 2016 statement blaming Russia for the hacks, it did not mention Putin by name nor an ongoing effort to determine whether the Kremlin's election interference efforts were being coordinated with the Trump campaign.

Hillary Clinton, who lost the 2016 presidential election to Trump, said Monday she was "glad" Biden was speaking up. "It's very clear that Russia succeeded," she told MSNBC. "They believed that they were able to influence the minds and even the votes of Americans, so why would they stop?"

Federal agents, local streets: A 'red flag' in Oregon

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Federal officers' actions at protests in Oregon's largest city, hailed by President Donald Trump but done without local consent, are raising the prospect of a constitutional crisis — one that could escalate as weeks of demonstrations find renewed focus in clashes with camouflaged, unidentified agents outside Portland's U.S. courthouse.

Demonstrators crowded in front of the U.S. federal courthouse and the city's Justice Center late Monday night, before authorities cleared them out as the loud sound and light of flash bang grenades filled the sky.

State and local authorities, who didn't ask for federal help, are awaiting a ruling in a lawsuit filed late last week. State Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said in court papers that masked federal officers have arrested people on the street, far from the courthouse, with no probable cause and whisked them away in unmarked cars.

Trump says he plans to send federal agents to other cities, too.

"We're going to have more federal law enforcement, that I can tell you," Trump said Monday. "In Portland, they've done a fantastic job. They've been there three days, and they really have done a fantastic job in a very short period of time."

Constitutional law experts said federal officers' actions in the progressive city are a "red flag" in what could become a test case of states' rights as the Trump administration expands federal policing.

"The idea that there's a threat to a federal courthouse and the federal authorities are going to swoop in and do whatever they want to do without any cooperation and coordination with state and local authorities is extraordinary outside the context of a civil war," said Michael Dorf, a professor of constitutional

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 32 of 73

law at Cornell University.

"It is a standard move of authoritarians to use the pretext of quelling violence to bring in force, thereby prompting a violent response and then bootstrapping the initial use of force in the first place," Dorf said.

The Chicago Tribune, citing anonymous sources, reported Monday that Trump planned to deploy 150 federal agents to Chicago. The ACLU of Oregon has sued in federal court over the agents' presence in Portland, and the organization's Chicago branch said it would similarly oppose a federal presence.

"This is a democracy, not a dictatorship," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, said on Twitter. "We cannot have secret police abducting people in unmarked vehicles. I can't believe I have to say that to the President of the United States."

The Department of Homeland Security tweeted that federal agents were barricaded in Portland's U.S. courthouse at one point and had lasers pointed at their eyes in an attempt to blind them.

"Portland is rife with violent anarchists assaulting federal officers and federal buildings," the tweet said. "This isn't a peaceful crowd. These are federal crimes."

Top leaders in the U.S. House said Sunday that they were "alarmed" by the Trump administration's tactics in Portland and other cities. They have called on federal inspectors general to investigate.

Trump, who's called the protesters "anarchists and agitators," said the DHS and Justice Department agents are on hand to restore order at the courthouse and help Portland.

Nightly protests, which began after George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police, have devolved into violence.

The Trump administration's actions run counter to the usual philosophies of American conservatives, who typically treat state and local rights with great sanctity and have long been deeply wary of the federal government — particularly its armed agents — interceding in most situations.

But Trump has shown that his actions don't always reflect traditional conservatism — particularly when politics, and in this case an impending election, are in play.

One prominent Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who is from the libertarian-leaning flank of the party, criticized federal policing.

"We cannot give up liberty for security. Local law enforcement can and should be handling these situations in our cities but there is no place for federal troops or unidentified federal agents rounding people up at will," Paul said in a tweet Monday.

The protests have roiled Portland for 52 nights. Many rallies have attracted thousands and been largely peaceful. But smaller groups of up to several hundred people have focused on federal property and local law enforcement buildings, at times setting fires to police precincts, smashing windows and clashing violently with local police.

Portland police used tear gas on multiple occasions until a federal court order banned its officers from doing so without declaring a riot. Now, concern is growing that the tear gas is being used against demonstrators by federal officers instead.

Anger at the federal presence escalated on July 11, when a protester was hospitalized with critical injuries after a U.S. Marshals Service officer struck him in the head with a less-lethal round. Video shows the man, identified as Donovan LaBella, standing across the street from the officers holding a speaker over his head when he was hit.

Court documents filed in cases against protesters show that federal officers have posted lookouts on the upper stories of the courthouse and have plainclothes officers circulating in the crowd. Court papers in a federal case against a man accused of shining a laser in the eyes of Federal Protective Service agents show that Portland police turned him over to U.S. authorities after federal officers identified him.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who's has been under fire for his handling of the protests, said on national TV talk shows Sunday that the demonstrations were dwindling before federal officers engaged.

"They are sharply escalating the situation. Their presence here is actually leading to more violence and more vandalism. And it's not helping the situation at all," Wheeler said on CNN's "State of the Union."

"They're not wanted here. We haven't asked them here," Wheeler said. "In fact, we want them to leave."

Indeed, crowds of demonstrators had begun to dwindle a week ago, and some in the liberal city — in-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 33 of 73

cluding Black community leaders — had begun to call for the nightly demonstrations to end.

But by the weekend, the presence of federal troops and Trump's repeated references to Portland as a hotbed of "anarchists" seemed to give a new life to the protests and attract a broader base.

On Sunday night, a crowd estimated at more than 500 people gathered outside the courthouse, including dozens of self-described "moms" who linked arms in front of a chain-link fence outside the courthouse. The demonstration continued into Monday morning.

"It seems clear that there were at least some federal crimes committed here," said Steve Vladeck, a constitutional law professor at the University of Texas. "But the notion that a handful of federal crimes justifies a substantial deployment of federal law enforcement officers ... to show force on the streets is, to my mind, unprecedented."

"Federal law enforcement," Vladeck said, "is not a political prop."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>.

US virus aid far off as EU digs deep to aid ailing economies

By ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press

MITO, Japan (AP) — U.S. lawmakers remained far apart Tuesday on a deal to provide more financial relief for Americans as European leaders thrashed out a plan for their pandemic-ravaged economies.

Meanwhile, testing of an experimental vaccine showed it may produce an immune response against the coronavirus. The urgency of such research is rising with the pandemic still gaining momentum in parts of the U.S., India and elsewhere in the developing world.

India added more than 37,000 new cases for a national total that now exceeds 1,155,000, the third most behind the U.S., with more than 3.8 million, and Brazil, with 2.1 million, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

India's new cases have hovered around 40,000 a day in recent days, with experts warning a series of peaks lie ahead as the virus spreads in rural areas where the healthcare system is weak. The Indian Council for Medical Research, the top medical research body, was urging state governments to add more labs and improve testing capacity for the country of 1.4 billion people.

Lebanon's health minister said the financially troubled country, which had previously managed to contain the coronavirus, was sliding toward a critical stage with a new surge in infections, more than a fifth of them untraceable, after lockdown restrictions were lifted and the airport reopened.

"The danger of community spread is still possible because the country has opened up," the minister of health, Hamad Hassan, said in an interview with The Associated Press late Monday.

As coronavirus outbreaks wax and wane, much hinges on the effectiveness of contact tracing of newly discovered cases. In Spain's Catalonia and other regions an early detection system meant to snuff out outbreaks and prevent cascades of cases appears to be inadequate, doctors and patients said.

Spain imposed a three-month lockdown earlier this year to rein in a devastating first wave of infections that left at least 28,000 dead. Now, Barcelona and an agricultural area in the same Catalonia region have become the two areas hit hardest by a resurgence of the virus.

"We are seeing a rise in cases and community contagion that worries us," Dr. Jacobo Mendioroz, the epidemiologist in charge of Catalonia's virus response, told Catalonia Radio on Sunday. "The system of contact tracers can still be improved. Now we have 300 tracers and we are going to add another 600 shortly."

Worldwide, almost 610,000 people have died from COVID-19, according to Johns Hopkins, with more than 14.7 million people infected. Both numbers are widely acknowledged to be lower than the true toll of the disease.

Weary after four days and nights of haggling, European Union leaders clinched an unprecedented 1.8 trillion euro (\$2.1 trillion) budget and coronavirus recovery fund to confront the biggest recession in the history of the region, which faces an estimated economic contraction of 8.3%.

A 750 billion euro (\$858 billion) coronavirus fund will finance loans and grants for countries hit hardest

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 34 of 73

by the virus. That comes on top of the seven-year, 1 trillion euro EU budget.

"We have laid the financial foundations for the EU for the next seven years and came up with a response to this arguably biggest crisis of the European Union," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The pandemic has killed around 135,000 people in EU countries. The U.S. has surpassed that, with nearly 141,000 dead, according to the Johns Hopkins data.

As the first round of U.S. federal relief expires, the political stakes of providing more support to the American economy are high and rising ahead of the November election. Unemployment claims have topped 1 million for 17 straight weeks, leaving many households in a cash crunch and at risk of losing employer-backed health insurance coverage.

Congressional Republicans remained at odds with Democrats over how much money is enough to ease the financial burden as businesses endure repeated closures to contain the spread of the virus.

Democrats have passed a \$3 trillion package in the House. The Republican plan totals about \$1 trillion.

State governments strapped for medical resources have been forced to borrow billions of dollars and slash costs by furloughing workers, delaying construction projects, cutting school aid and even closing highway rest areas.

Businesses also are being squeezed. Potions in Motions, a catering company in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, would ordinarily be in high gear for summer weddings, graduations and corporate events, but is down to "micro-events" of eight to 15 people and has had to cut most of its staff.

"We're trying to just stay alive," said company founder Jason Savino. "There's no support coming from any government or anywhere that are accommodating these businesses that are being ordered to dial their business back."

Financial markets pushed higher on Tuesday, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street after scientists at Oxford University said their experimental vaccine had prompted a protective immune response in hundreds of people in an early trial.

The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization hailed the results as "good news" but warned "there's a long way to go."

"We now need to move into larger scale real-world trials," Dr. Michael Ryan told reporters in Geneva.

In Asia, the latest virus flare-ups in Australia, South Korea and China's far west appeared to be coming under control.

Australian military personnel were helping health authorities in Victoria state, where the country's second largest city, Melbourne, has shut down to combat a rebound in infections.

"We're still very much in the hard part of this fight, as you can see from the daily case numbers, and I'm not expecting that to change a lot in the short term," Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. "And we just need to keep working the problem."

South Korea reported 45 new virus cases, 25 of them among quarantined people arriving from abroad. In many Asian countries, most newly reported infections are among those new arrivals, raising hopes that local outbreaks may be under control.

But Japan has been reporting hundreds of new cases daily, especially in Tokyo, and its death toll has risen above 1,000, with nearly 26,000 total infections.

AP journalists around the globe contributed to this report.

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

Is it safe to go to the gym during the coronavirus pandemic?

By The Associated Press

Is it safe to go to the gym during the coronavirus pandemic?

It depends on where you live and the precautions you and the gym take.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 35 of 73

If cases of COVID-19 are poorly controlled where you live, experts say it's best to stay away. But if you live in an area where the spread is being contained, there are ways to minimize risk when going for a workout.

To ensure everyone stays at least 6 feet apart, gyms should take steps such as moving machines, blocking off areas and limiting the number of people allowed inside, says Dr. Marybeth Sexton, an assistant professor of infectious diseases at Emory University.

Avoiding the locker room, bringing your own water bottle and using hand sanitizer also helps reduce risk, Sexton says.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also suggests checking in online, rather than in person, and seeking activities that are outdoors instead of indoors when possible.

Gym staff should be cleaning exercise machines between uses and regularly wiping down other frequently touched areas with products that kill viruses.

And experts say face coverings should be worn at the gym whenever possible.

Sexton also suggests bringing a backup mask. If the one you're wearing gets really damp with sweat, she says it might not be as effective.

Even for those being careful, gyms pose a risk. Many are indoors, where ventilation is limited and social distancing can be challenging. In an ongoing pandemic, if you can manage to break a sweat without returning to the gym just yet, that's the best option, according to Sexton.

"If you can exercise by yourself outside, that's safer than being at the gym," she said.

The AP is answering your questions about the coronavirus in this series. Submit them at: FactCheck@AP.org.

Read previous Viral Questions:

Can a pregnant woman spread the coronavirus to her fetus?

What is contact tracing, and how does it work with COVID-19?

Is it safe to visit the dentist during the pandemic?

Contact tracing falters in Barcelona amid virus spike

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — When Sonia Ramírez was told by her local clinic that she had tested positive for the coronavirus, she expected to be asked about anyone she had come in close contact with recently.

Instead, like an unknown number of Spaniards in the northeast region of Catalonia, she was left on her own to warn family, friends and co-workers that they could have been exposed amid a new surge of infections.

"They didn't ask me who I had been with," said Ramírez, a 21-year-old cleaner in the greater Barcelona area. "They didn't even ask if I had been to work recently, which of course I had."

With the virus rebounding in parts of Spain, it appears Catalonia and other regions are not adequately prepared to trace the new infections in what was supposed to be an early detection system to snuff out any outbreaks and prevent a new cascade of cases.

Spain imposed a three-month lockdown earlier this year and reined in a devastating first wave of infections that left at least 28,000 dead. As conditions improved in May and June, the government in Madrid gave in to pressure by the separatist-minded leaders in Catalonia and the right-wing political opposition to return full control of the health care system to the regions.

Now, Barcelona and an agricultural area in the same Catalonia region have become the two areas hit hardest by a resurgence of the virus.

Ramírez believes she got infected from her boyfriend, who had caught the virus a few days earlier. After her positive test, the clinic she visited told her to self-isolate for two weeks, and someone has called every two days to check how she feels.

In over a week since testing positive, no health care worker has asked Ramírez or her boyfriend about their contacts in the two weeks before their symptoms started, as mandated by public health guidelines.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 36 of 73

Catalonia leads Spain's 19 regions with 9,600 new reported cases since May 10 and its growth rate has more than doubled in the past three weeks, according to Spain's National Epidemiological Survey.

The survey found that Catalonia on average only traces up to two contacts and detects under one new infection per case, the lowest rates in the country. Experts say that on average, each infected person spreads the virus to three more people.

"We are seeing a rise in cases and community contagion that worries us," Dr. Jacobo Mendioroz, the epidemiologist in charge of Catalonia's virus response, told Catalonia Radio on Sunday. "The system of contact tracers can still be improved. Now we have 300 tracers and we are going to add another 600 shortly."

Catalonia's Health Department did not respond to repeated requests from The Associated Press for Mendioroz or another top official to comment on the contact tracing failures, which also have been reported in local media and have drawn complaints from mayors.

"This is the main problem: The virus is outpacing our control measures," said Dr. Joan Caylà, a retired epidemiologist who set up Barcelona's contact tracing unit in the 1980s.

According to Caylà, Catalonia should have boosted its full-time contact tracing force to 1,500 trained professionals over a month ago when the virus was still in remission.

"It would have cost a lot of money, but it would have paid off because the consequences are going to be much more costly," he said. "This is a race against the clock."

The contact tracers were supposed to be supported by 120 workers of a private call center that the Catalan government contracted for a reported 17 million euros. Faced with criticism from health professionals who said the call center workers were not properly trained, the government has scaled back their role to checking in on patients in self-isolation.

Because of the flare up in Catalonia, authorities have restored restrictions. Catalonia was the first region to make face masks mandatory regardless of the distance between people in public areas. It then closed off a rural area that is home to 210,000 people around the city of Lleida, and prohibited gatherings over 10 people in Barcelona, while also asking them to limit their outings.

Even so, Barcelona's beaches were packed Saturday, and young people appear to be fed up with social distancing guidelines.

Wary of privacy concerns over smartphone apps that warn users they could have been exposed to the virus, Spain has focused on manpower to track outbreaks.

England recruited about 25,000 contact tracers, but data shows the number of people reached and asked to self-isolate has been falling since the program began in May.

Italy has had no major complaints about its contact tracers, but it has pinned its hopes on a tracing app that few people have downloaded.

Spain's doctors and nurses, who fell sick in world-leading numbers during the spring outbreak, are once again being asked to step in and do their own contact tracing.

"We have always been ready to take our place in the front line," said Dr. Rocío Moreno, who coordinates several clinics in an area of greater Barcelona that has a large virus cluster.

"Our own doctors, nurses, and social workers are making the calls and searching for contacts," Moreno said, adding that her staff has had to drop almost all other work to concentrate on COVID-19 cases.

Nurse Raúl Martín is tracing contacts from his clinic because he and his colleagues say the contact tracers are overloaded.

"I would speak with a patient to see if they had been contacted by tracers to get their contacts, and they would say nobody had called them," Martín said.

His biggest fear is that another onslaught of infections is coming.

"If a second wave like the first one hits, I don't believe that the system could take it," Martín said. "Maybe we do have enough protection suits and better protocols now, but as human beings we could not take another period of 12-hour shifts treating COVID patients, one after the other, and seeing people die all alone."

Associated Press writers Aritz Parra in Madrid, Sylvia Hui in London, and Frances D'Emilio in Rome con-

tributed.

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

Chicago restaurateur joins mission to feed America's hungry

By MARTHA IRVINE Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Before coronavirus arrived, Manish Mallick's trips to this city's South Side had been limited to attending graduate classes at the University of Chicago.

Now Mallick is a South Side regular — and a popular one. He regularly arrives bearing food for the hungry from his Indian restaurant several miles to the north, in the city's downtown.

"Thank you, sugar, for the meals. They're so delicious!" one woman recently shouted to Mallick outside a South Side YWCA. He recorded her response on his phone to share it with his staff.

"God bless you!" she added, raising her arms for emphasis.

Mallick has personally delivered thousands of meals cooked and packed by his staff — among them, chickpea curry and tandoori chicken with roasted cottage cheese, sweet corn, peas and rice. Volunteers from neighborhood organizations then take them to children, retirees and the multitudes who've been laid off or sick during the pandemic.

"We all need to help each other," Mallick says. "That's the best way to get through a crisis."

His restaurant, ROOH, is one of more than 2,400 eateries, from New York City to Oakland, California, working with the non-profit World Central Kitchen to provide meals to the hungry. Traditionally, the organization has paid restaurants \$10 a meal to feed people affected by natural disasters, such as Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico in 2017.

Now the organization is focused on this current crisis, as are many other entities that help feed the hungry. They include food banks and other non-profits, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is buying produce, meat and dairy products from farmers for its growing food box program. Many U.S. children also have been receiving meals provided by a large network of public and private sources at school pickup sites.

World Central Kitchen is among those that provide meals to schoolchildren. But its leaders are worried about their ability to sustain the effort in an extended crisis.

So they're lobbying Congress to provide federal emergency funding to help bring the restaurant model to every state. The idea is to help not only the hungry, but also restaurants workers and farmers, who've been hard-hit by the impacts of coronavirus.

"It's a domino effect of impact," says Nate Mook, CEO of World Central Kitchen, which was founded by chef Jose Andres and his wife, Patricia. They've tagged this latest response #ChefsForAmerica.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to begin rolling out the Senate GOP bill soon. Whether it will contain language from a World Central Kitchen-inspired bill — originally called the FEED Act and sponsored by a bipartisan group of lawmakers — remains to be seen. Congress resumes this week and lawmakers are on two-week sprint hoping to approve the next round of virus aid by month's end.

Mook says the longevity of this crisis requires federal aid, and he and others anticipate food insecurity worsening in the months to come as unemployment benefits come to an end for some.

"We feel like this is the calm before the storm," says Sherrie Tussler, executive director of the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee.

Tussler also is frustrated with the sometimes chaotic nature of donations in this current climate and the difficulty — partly due to social distancing — of determining the nature of people's food emergencies. Rather than the government distributing food boxes, for instance, she supports increasing food stamp assistance, also known as SNAP, to ensure that those most in need are fed.

Either way, Verna Swan, a retired nurse who lives in Englewood and volunteers to deliver meals from ROOH and other restaurants, says the service is greatly appreciated. She and her 14-year-old nephew,

Israel Swan, took meals to seniors in their neighborhood in recent days.

"We're family. We look out for each other," says Verna Swan, a volunteer for I Grow, an organization that serves the neighborhood, where she first moved when she was 13 years old.

She says these meals also have connected the residents with new people and cultures. Several had never tasted Indian food before.

This is not how Mallick, a longtime tech executive, had envisioned things going last year, when he first opened ROOH, which specializes in what he calls progressive Indian cuisine. But he pivoted, first delivering meals to hospital staff when Chicago cases skyrocketed in the spring.

To survive, he has turned a parking lot next to his restaurant into an outdoor dining patio and beefed up delivery services. And he's looking to grow his mission with World Central Kitchen, which also has enabled him to hire more kitchen staff.

"It's a blessing," he says.

Lisa Mascaro, the AP's AP chief Congressional correspondent, contributed to this story. Martha Irvine, an AP national writer and visual journalist, can be reached at mirvine@ap.org or at <http://twitter.com/irvineap>.

Swapping the stage for a deli: Israel underemployment rises

By ISAAC SCHARF and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — A year ago, Cijay Brightman was doing sound and lighting for a Madonna performance in Israel. Now, after the coronavirus wiped out live events, he's making sandwiches, slicing cheese and serving customers at a Tel Aviv deli.

Brightman spent the last 15 years perfecting his craft and doing what he loves as a stage technician. But in the wake of the pandemic, he has been forced to abandon his passion and profession — like thousands of others in Israel — and find any job that will pay the bills.

"Sometimes, I'm losing it," said Brightman, 36, slicing sausage for a customer at the deli. "You worked with the biggest star in the world ... with Madonna, and you were working on her stage, and a day after you just realize that you are nothing."

Underemployment is plaguing workers around the world. Although there are no global statistics yet, the phenomenon is expected to grow as the economic crisis around the world deepens, said economist Roger Gomis of the International Labor Organization.

In Israel, experts say anywhere from a few thousand to tens of thousands are newly underemployed, one of the many economic blows set in motion by the virus.

Israel initially reacted swiftly to the pandemic. In the spring, the government shut down schools, events spaces, theaters and restaurants. The measures slowed the spread of the virus, but the country's unemployment rate skyrocketed to nearly 28%, including both people who are unemployed as well as those on furlough. Many of those affected were self-employed and therefore unable to seek unemployment benefits.

By May, as daily infections were brought down to a few dozen, Israel began reopening the economy, sparking hope that those furloughed could return to their jobs and the unemployed could find new ones.

But what emerged as a hasty and erratic reopening triggered a spike in new infections, prompting a pause on plans and a rollback on some previously eased restrictions. With cases continuing to rise, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently warned that Israel is "a step away from a new lockdown."

And while the unemployment rate has dropped somewhat, it now stands at 21%, according to the Israeli Public Employment Service. That's still far from the 3.9% rate before the pandemic. The country's tourism, culture and aviation sectors have been hit particularly hard and it's not clear how they will emerge after the pandemic.

The need for an income is even more pressing because critics say the government's financial rescue packages failed to address the needs of the country's hundreds of thousands of self-employed workers.

To address the surge in job seekers, the government has pledged more than 100 billion shekels — almost \$30 billion — in financial aid. But that assistance has been hobbled by bureaucratic setbacks, and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 39 of 73

potential recipients say they received little or no money. The economic despair has sparked protests in Tel Aviv demanding the government follow through on its promises. Hundreds of young Israelis stormed through downtown Jerusalem after another demonstration on Saturday, clashing with police.

Sensing the rising anger, Netanyahu promised a more streamlined plan that tends to the needs of the self-employed, granting them an immediate stipend of up to 7,500 shekels (\$2,200) and unemployment benefits well into next year.

Stories of those forced to cross over to new fields have become mainstays on newscasts. There is the stage actor who set up a delivery company named after Israel's national theater and hired dozens of out of work thespians. Or the copywriter who was let go by an advertising company and started cleaning homes. To keep up her writing skills, she blogs about the strange things she finds in people's bedrooms.

Many workers say they can't rely on state aid. Some see no choice but to take other positions, which usually pay less and for which they are overqualified.

The situation is similar in other countries as the pandemic disrupts job markets. In Lima, Peru, Gianmarco Vargas was a clown before the virus struck. In a macabre shift, he is now building coffins for a company that is doing brisk business amid the rising deaths.

"This is going to pass. It is going to pass and I am going to once again be at children's homes," Vargas said. "We are going to laugh. We are going to play. I am going to do magic tricks."

In Nairobi, Hillary Muthusi was a mixologist who owned an events business. He now sells bananas and plantains out of his minivan.

"The most important thing is to come home with something," he said.

Economists in Israel say there is fierce competition over menial jobs, making finding any employment even harder. And with smaller salaries, those workers are paying less in taxes and likely spending less money, which can further dent the economy.

Momi Dahan, a professor at the school of public policy and government at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said underemployment is fine for the short term.

But if the coronavirus restrictions last much longer, preventing the return to work of tens of thousands of people, their jobs may become obsolete, forcing them to abandon the years of experience and skills they racked up.

If that's the case, experts say the government should make sure it invests in training so that these and other unemployed workers can find work in new fields and don't get left behind in a changing economic landscape.

"Some people just won't have a choice because they need to make a living. The safety net won't be enough," said Gal Zohar, head of research and policy at the Israeli Public Employment Service. "But all throughout, the person's skills must be bolstered. Whoever doesn't beef up his skills will also miss out."

Associated Press writers Fernando Gonzalez in Lima, Peru, and Tom Odula in Nairobi, Kenya, contributed to this report.

ACLU and lawyers sue to free ex-Trump attorney Michael Cohen

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer sued Attorney General William Barr and the Bureau of Prisons director Monday, saying he's being unjustly held behind bars to stop him from finishing a book that criticizes Trump.

The lawsuit on behalf of Michael Cohen was filed late Monday in Manhattan federal court, alleging his First Amendment rights were violated when he was returned to the Federal Correctional Institution in Otisville, New York, on July 9.

A message for comment was left with the Justice Department.

Cohen, 53, had been furloughed in May as part of an attempt to slow the spread of the virus in federal prisons.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 40 of 73

He had served only a year of his three-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to campaign finance charges and lying to Congress, among other crimes.

Cohen's campaign finance charges related to his efforts to arrange payouts during the 2016 presidential race to keep the porn actress Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal from airing claims of extramarital affairs with Trump. Trump has denied the affairs.

Monday's lawsuit said Cohen made it clear recently that he planned to release a tell-all book just before the November election.

"In the run-up to the 2020 presidential election, he intends to tell the American people about Mr. Trump's personality and proclivities, his private and professional affairs, and his personal and business ethics," according to the lawsuit brought on Cohen's behalf by the American Civil Liberties Union and attorneys Danya Perry and Samidh Guha.

The lawsuit said Cohen's crimes related to "lying to Congress on behalf of Mr. Trump and committing campaign finance violations on behalf of Mr. Trump."

According to the lawsuit, federal authorities moved to re-incarcerate Cohen after he tweeted on June 26 "#WillSpeakSoon" and on July 2 that he was finishing his Trump book.

The lawsuit said U.S. Probation officers, working on behalf of the Bureau of Prisons and its director, Michael Carvajal, demanded of Cohen that he agree not to speak to or through any media, including by publishing a book.

It said the officers made the unconstitutional demand, and Cohen and his lawyers sought clarification on and limitation on the prohibition on speaking, only to see him locked up after the officers said they would run his requests "up the chain" to Bureau of Prisons executives.

Cohen has remained in solitary confinement since he was taken to Otisville, the lawsuit said.

It said his health has also suffered, with his blood pressure spiking to critical levels, "leading to severe headaches, shortness of breath and anxiety."

And, it added, he has made no progress on his book. The lawsuit sought a court order to return him to home confinement.

EU agrees on \$2.1 trillion deal after marathon summit

By RAF CASERT and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — After four days and nights of wrangling, exhausted European Union leaders finally clinched a deal on an unprecedented 1.8 trillion-euro (\$2.1 trillion) budget and coronavirus recovery fund early Tuesday, after one of their longest summits ever.

The 27 leaders grudgingly committed to a costly, massive aid package for those hit hardest by COVID-19, which has already killed 135,000 people within the bloc alone.

With masks and hygienic gel everywhere at the summit, the leaders were constantly reminded of the potent medical and economic threat the virus poses.

"Extraordinary events, and this is the pandemic that has reached us all, also require extraordinary new methods," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

To confront the biggest recession in its history, the EU will establish a 750 billion-euro coronavirus fund, partly based on common borrowing, to be sent as loans and grants to the hardest-hit countries. That is in addition to the agreement on the seven-year, 1 trillion-euro EU budget that leaders had been haggling over for months even before the pandemic.

"The consequences will be historic," French President Emmanuel Macron said. "We have created a possibility of taking up loans together, of setting up a recovery fund in the spirit of solidarity," a sense of sharing debt that would have been unthinkable not so long ago.

Merkel added: "We have laid the financial foundations for the EU for the next seven years and came up with a response to this arguably biggest crisis of the European Union."

Despite Macron and Merkel negotiating as the closest of partners, the traditionally powerful Franco-German alliance struggled for days to get the quarreling nations in line. But, even walking out of a nego-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 41 of 73

tiating session in protest together over the weekend, the two leaders bided their time and played their cards right in the end.

"When Germany and France stand together, they can't do everything. But if they don't stand together, nothing is possible," said Macron, challenging anyone in the world who criticized the days of infighting to think of a comparable joint endeavor.

"There are 27 of us around the table and we managed to come up with a joint budget. What other political area in the world is capable of that? None other," Macron said.

At first, Merkel and Macron wanted the grants to total 500 billion euros, but the so-called "frugals" — five wealthy northern nations led by the Netherlands — wanted a cut in such spending and strict economic reform conditions imposed. The figure was brought down to 390 billion euros, while the five nations also got guarantees on reforms.

"There is no such thing as perfection, but we have managed to make progress," Macron said.

The summit, at the urn-shaped Europa center, laid bare how nations' narrow self-interests trumped the obvious common good for all to stand together and face a common adversary.

Rarely had a summit been as ill-tempered as this one, and it was the longest since a five-day summit in Nice, France, in 2000, when safeguarding national interests in institutional reforms was a stumbling block.

"There were extremely tense moments," Macron said.

Still, considering every EU leader had the right of veto on the whole package, the joint commitment to invest and spend such funds was hailed as a success.

Adriaan Schout, an EU expert and Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael think tank in the Netherlands, said that the unusually acrimonious and drawn-out talks ultimately produced a typical Brussels deal.

"The EU hasn't changed. This is always what it's about — finding compromises — and the EU always finds compromises," he said. "And the compromise has been hard fought. There are checks and balances in it. We don't know how they will work."

The days and nights of brutal summiting will surely have left many wounds between member states, but as history has proven, the EU has an uncanny gift to quickly produce scar tissue and move on.

"We all can take a hit," said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. "After all, there are presidents among us."

Despite bruising confrontations with Merkel, Macron and his Italian counterpart, Giuseppe Conte, Rutte maintained that "we have very good, warm relations."

Conte also didn't have time to dwell on grudges. With 35,000 Italians dead from COVID-19 and facing EU estimates his economy will plunge 11.2% this year, he had to think ahead, of things big and small — from getting cash to businesses still trying to get a foothold after the lockdown to getting school desks.

In order to open in September, his country needs up to 3 million new desks, to replace old-fashioned double and triple desks so students can keep a proper distance.

"We will have a great responsibility. With 209 billion euros, we have the possibility to relaunch Italy with strength, to change the face of the country. Now we must hurry. We must use this money for investments, for structural reforms," Conte said.

Even if Tuesday's agreement was a giant leap forward, the European Parliament, which has called the moves of the member states too timid considering the challenge, still has to approve the deal.

Rutte and others also wanted 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.

In its conclusion, the European Council underlined the "importance of the respect of the rule of law" and said it will create a system of conditionality aimed at preventing member states from getting subsidies from the budget and recovery fund if they don't abide by its principles.

But Tuesday was a moment to revel in the achievement itself. What was planned as a two-day summit scheduled to end Saturday was forced into two extra days by deep ideological differences among the 27 leaders.

The compromise deal they finally hammered out was one that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 42 of 73

claimed as a victory.

"We not just managed to get a good package of money, but we defended the pride of our nations and made clear that it is not acceptable that anybody, especially those who inherited ... the rule of law criticize us, the freedom fighters that did a lot against the communist regime in favor of rule of law," he said.

Mike Corder in The Hague, Netherlands; Colleen Barry in Soave, Italy; and Pablo Gorondi in Budapest, Hungary, contributed.

Hong Kong protesters adapt signs, slogans to skirt new law

By ZEN SOO and PHOEBE LAI Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — It was one of the first protests in Hong Kong after a feared national security law came into effect.

Among a dozen or so lunchtime demonstrators at a luxury mall in the Central business district, a man raised a poster that — when viewed from afar — read in Chinese, "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times."

The government had just banned the slogan, saying it had separatist connotations and so ran afoul of the new security law's prohibition of secessionist acts.

Shortly after, riot police entered the mall, shooing away onlookers. They detained the man, telling him the slogan was banned. But when officers looked at the poster up close, no words could be made out. It merely had circular shapes against a contrasting background. They snapped a few photographs of the poster and let him go.

Since the imposition of the security law — which bans secessionist, subversive and terrorist activities, as well as collusion with foreign forces, with penalties of up to life imprisonment — anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, and those supporting the movement, have adapted their methods to try to make their voices heard without violating the legislation.

Before the law took effect June 30, protesters often held up colorful posters plastered with slogans that ranged from condemning the Chinese government to calling for Hong Kong's independence. Since then, they have become creative in obscuring their messages.

Many of the protesters at the luxury mall held up blank pieces of white paper to protest against China's "white terror" of political repression. Other posters are designed to circumvent bans on slogans. The government has not yet made clear if such forms of expression are illegal.

The law has had a chilling effect on "yellow shops" that support the protest movement. Many have removed protest artwork and sticky notes bearing words of encouragement from customers, out of fear that they could land them in trouble with the authorities.

Some shop owners, like Tan Wong, have instead put up blank sticky notes to show solidarity with the movement.

"We are doing this right now because (the shop) is private property. We are trying to tell Hong Kong people that this is the only thing that we 'yellow shops' can do," said Wong, who runs Kok Kok Chicken, a Korean fried chicken store.

"If we do not persist, we would no longer be able to deliver our message to others," he said.

Yu Yee Cafe, a Hong Kong-style diner that serves fast food, has covered its windows with blank sticky notes and even displays an origami figure of Winnie the Pooh, a playful taunt of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Chinese censors briefly banned social media searches for Winnie the Pooh in China after Xi's appearance was compared to the cartoon bear.

"I wonder if there's still rule of law if sticking a (blank) piece of paper on the wall is illegal," said Eddie Tsui, one of the diner's customers. "It's just using a different way to express our demands. If you don't allow us to protest that way, we'll find another way."

The use of blank paper or sticky notes to protest is a changing form of resistance, according to Ma Ngok, an associate professor of politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"They put up blank notes so that even if the government wants to prosecute them, there is nothing that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 43 of 73

can be used against them," he said.

Protesters in Hong Kong have also come up with alternative slogans to circumvent the ban on "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times."

Some users quote the initials of the romanization of the eight Chinese characters in the banned slogan — "GFHG, SDGM." Others have changed the words entirely to terms that sound similar but mean very different things. One alternative slogan now reads "Patronize Hong Kong, Times Square," a reference to a popular shopping mall in the city.

A popular protest anthem, "Glory to Hong Kong," has had some of its lyrics changed, with protesters replacing the words with numbers in Cantonese that sound approximately like the lyrics.

The circumventing of bans on slogans is reminiscent of how mainland Chinese internet users come up with creative ways and similar-sounding words to talk about sensitive issues without triggering censorship under the "Great Firewall of China," where censors delete posts containing sensitive terms and make such keywords unsearchable on online platforms.

"There is a long history of censorship where we know that people will find ways to circumvent the system, no matter how you regulate," said Fu King-wa, associate professor at the University of Hong Kong's journalism school.

"Sometimes, censorship can backfire, triggering more people to discuss an issue because they think that if it is censored, then it must be something important," he said.

Associated Press journalist Alice Fung contributed to this report.

EU nations clinch \$2.1T budget, virus aid deal after 4 days

By RAF CASERT and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Weary but relieved, European Union leaders finally clinched an unprecedented 1.82 trillion euro (\$2.1 trillion) budget and coronavirus recovery fund early Tuesday, somehow finding unity after four days and as many nights of fighting and wrangling over money and power in one of their longest summits ever.

To confront the biggest recession in its history, the EU reached a consensus on a 750 billion euro coronavirus fund to be sent as loans and grants to the countries hit hardest by the virus. That comes on top of the seven-year 1 trillion euro EU budget. At first the grants were to total 500 billion euros, but the figure was lowered to 390 billion euros.

"Never before did the EU invest in the future like this," Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes said.

"It is a historic day for Europe," said French President Emmanuel Macron.

Just shy of being the longest EU summit in history, the 27 leaders all huddled back in the main room of the Europa center and bumped elbows and made jokes before giving the package the final approval.

"We did it!" wrote summit host Charles Michel on Twitter. "Europe is united.""

"We showed our belief in our common future," Michel, the EU Council president, added with obvious relief.

"There were extremely tense moments," said Macron.

"An extraordinary situation demands extraordinary efforts," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said as the leaders pushed on with one of the bloc's longest summits ever. What was planned as a two-day summit scheduled to end Saturday was forced into two extra days by deep ideological differences among the 27 leaders.

Overall, spirits were high early Tuesday since the talks hit rock bottom Sunday night.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, defending the cause of a group of five wealthy northern nations — the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Denmark — was on the brink of securing limits to costs and imposing strict reform guarantees on any rescue plan for needy nations. It was the focal point of the marathon talks that started on Friday morning.

The coronavirus 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. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez insisted the adoption of an ambitious plan was required as the health crisis continues to threaten the continent.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 44 of 73

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 virus. 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.

With Macron and Merkel negotiating as the closest of partners, the traditionally powerful Franco-German alliance could not get the quarreling nations in line for long.

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 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.

The latest compromise proposal stands at 390 billion euros in grants.

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

Rutte and others also wanted 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.

The diplomat from the major EU nation said that had been settled too but no details were available.

Associated Press writers Aritz Parra in Madrid, Colleen Barry in Milan, Italy, and Mike Corder in The Hague contributed to this report.

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

Biden, lawmakers warn of foreign interference in election

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said Monday that he is putting Russia and other foreign governments "on notice" that he would act aggressively as president to counter any interference in U.S. elections. The statement came hours after Democratic leaders issued a new warning that Congress appears to be the target of a foreign interference campaign.

Biden said in a statement that he would treat foreign interference as an "an adversarial act that significantly affects the relationship between the United States and the interfering nation's government." He criticized President Donald Trump for not doing enough in response to U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

"If any foreign power recklessly chooses to interfere in our democracy, I will not hesitate to respond as president to impose substantial and lasting costs," Biden said.

The new alarms give a renewed urgency to concerns that foreign actors could be trying to influence the vote or sow disinformation. Biden said last week that he had begun receiving intelligence briefings and warned that Russia, China and other adversaries were attempting to undermine the presidential election. Biden gave no evidence, but he said that Russia was "still engaged" after 2016 and that China was also involved in efforts to sow doubts in the American electoral process.

During an online fundraiser Monday night, Biden added: "It's going to be tough, there's not much I can do about it now except talk about it, and expose it, but it is a serious concern. It is truly a violation of our sovereignty."

And in an interview on MSNBC, Biden said Russian President Vladimir Putin "knows I mean what I say."

The Democratic leaders said in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray on Monday that they are concerned that Congress appears to be the target of a "concerted foreign interference campaign" to influence the 2020 presidential election. They asked Wray for an all-members, classified briefing on the matter before the August recess.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 45 of 73

The letter from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and the top Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees contains no details about the threats, though they describe them as serious and specific.

"We are gravely concerned, in particular, that Congress appears to be the target of a concerted foreign interference campaign, which seeks to launder and amplify disinformation in order to influence congressional activity, public debate, and the presidential election in November," wrote Pelosi, Schumer, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence panel.

A congressional official familiar with the letter said that there was a classified addendum "to ensure a clear and unambiguous record of the counterintelligence threats of concern." The person, who was granted anonymity to describe the confidential letter, said the addendum largely draws from the executive branch's own reporting and analysis.

The FBI said it had received the letter but declined further comment.

While the Democrats' exact concerns were unclear, there have been worries since Trump was elected that Russia's efforts to sow American chaos are ongoing in the 2020 election. The 2016 effort included hacking of Democratic email accounts during the campaign by Russian military intelligence officials and the subsequent disclosure by WikiLeaks.

Intelligence authorities said that hack-and-leak operation was aimed at helping Trump's presidential campaign and harming that of his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. Russians also used a covert social media campaign to spread misinformation and posts aimed at dividing American public opinion. In the end, former special counsel Robert Mueller charged 25 Russian nationals for their roles in foreign interference and influence during the campaign.

Democrats, including members of the Senate intelligence panel, have voiced concerns that an ongoing Republican probe into Biden's son, Hunter Biden, and his work in Ukraine would amplify Russian disinformation. That probe is being led by Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

In a statement, Johnson spokesman Austin Altenburg said the committee's staff had already requested and received a briefing on Russian disinformation and Johnson had requested an additional briefing at the member level.

While Biden criticized Trump for not acting more aggressively against Russia, his pledge that his intelligence community would report "publicly and in a timely manner" on any foreign efforts to interfere in an American election also appeared to be a course correction of sorts to the approach of the Obama administration, which waited months after Russian hacks of Democratic email accounts in 2016 to officially attribute them to Moscow.

Officials did so only after a rigorous internal debate over what they should say. Even when the administration did issue its October 2016 statement blaming Russia for the hacks, it did not mention Putin by name nor an ongoing effort to determine whether the Kremlin's election interference efforts were being coordinated with the Trump campaign.

Hillary Clinton, who lost the 2016 presidential election to Trump, said Monday she was "glad" Biden was speaking up. "It's very clear that Russia succeeded," she told MSNBC. "They believed that they were able to influence the minds and even the votes of Americans, so why would they stop?"

Trump, Congress square off over virus aid as crisis worsens

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump acknowledged Monday a "big flareup" of COVID-19 cases, but divisions between the White House and Senate Republicans and differences with Democrats posed fresh challenges for a new federal aid package with the U.S. crisis worsening and emergency relief about to expire.

Trump convened GOP leaders at the White House as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell prepared

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 46 of 73

to roll out his \$1 trillion package in days. But the administration criticized the legislation's money for more virus testing and insisted on a full payroll tax repeal that could complicate quick passage. The timeline appeared to quickly shift.

"We've made a lot of progress," Trump said as the meeting got underway.

But the president added, "Unfortunately, this is something that's very tough."

Lawmakers returned to a Capitol still off-limits to tourists, another sign of the nation's difficulty containing the coronavirus. Rather than easing, the pandemic's devastating cycle is churning again, leaving Congress little choice but to engineer another costly rescue. Businesses are shutting down again, many schools will not fully reopen and jobs are disappearing, all while federal aid will expire in days.

Without a successful federal strategy, lawmakers are trying to draft one.

"We have to end this virus," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Monday on MSNBC.

She said any attempt by the White House to block money for testing "goes beyond ignorance."

The political stakes are high for both parties before the November election, and even more so for the nation, which now has registered more coronavirus infections and a higher death count — 140,800 — than any other country.

McConnell and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy huddled with Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and acting chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Mnuchin vowed passage by month's end, as a \$600 boost in jobless aid is set to expire, and said he expected a fresh \$1 trillion jolt of business tax breaks and other aid would have a "big impact" on the struggling economy.

On Capitol Hill, McConnell faces not just pressure from the White House but also splits within his ranks, which have chiseled away at his majority power and left him relying on Democrats for votes.

Mnuchin and Meadows will meet privately Tuesday with Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

The package from McConnell, being crafted behind closed doors, is expected to include \$75 billion to help schools reopen. It will likely replace an expiring \$600 weekly unemployment benefits boost with a smaller amount. The cut in unemployment assistance is designed to ensure that jobless people do not receive a greater benefit than if they were working. Regular state benefits vary widely and the measure would peg the federal bonus payment to a percentage of the state benefit.

McConnell's package may also send a fresh round of direct \$1,200 cash payments to Americans below a certain income level, likely \$75,000, and create a sweeping five-year liability shield against coronavirus lawsuits.

But the administration was panning the proposal's \$25 billion in new funds for virus testing and tracing and insisting on the payroll tax cut, Republicans said.

At Monday's White House meeting, Trump said he wants a full payroll tax repeal, said one Republican who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting. Trump then put economist Art Laffer on speakerphone. Laffer is part of a conservative group favoring the tax break. The GOP leaders indicated only a partial repeal would be included in the coming bill.

Easing the payroll tax is dividing Trump's party because it is used to finance Social Security and Medicare. The tax is already being deferred for employers under the previous virus relief package. Supporters say cutting it now for employees would put money in people's pockets and stimulate the economy, but detractors warn it would do little for out-of-work Americans and add to the nation's rising debt load. McConnell is straining to keep the bill's total price tag at \$1 trillion.

GOP senators swiftly pushed back as the Republicans and the White House battled over priorities.

GOP Sen. John Cornyn of Texas was among several Republicans saying he's "not a fan" of a payroll tax holiday.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the chairman of the Health committee, said, "All roads to opening school, going back to work, opening child care lead through testing."

Economist Stephen Moore, who is part of the conservative group promoting the payroll tax cut, is also

backing a health care provision to prevent surprise medical billing. Moore was not part of the meeting but said both were discussed at the White House.

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 alarming U.S. caseload and death toll.

On a conference call with the nation’s governors Monday, Pence called the rising numbers in Sunbelt states “serious.”

Schumer warned Monday his side will block any effort from McConnell that falls short, reviving a strategy from the last virus aid bill that forced Republicans to the negotiating table. This time, the House has approved Pelosi’s sweeping \$3 trillion effort, giving Democrats momentum heading into negotiations.

Joe Biden, the Democrats’ presumed presidential nominee, stated his own priorities. The new package should “deliver a lifeline to those who need it most: working families and small businesses,” he said.

Trump raised alarms on Capitol Hill when he suggested last month at a rally in Oklahoma that he wanted to slow virus testing. Testing is seen as the best way to track the virus to contain its spread. Another Republican familiar with the process said about half of the \$25 billion previously approved remains unspent. Senate Democrats are investigating why the administration has left so much on the table.

The proposed virus aid package would be the fifth, following the \$2.2 trillion bill passed in March, the largest U.S. intervention of its kind. While many Republicans hoped the virus would ease and economy rebound, it’s become clear more aid is needed.

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, and a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units approved in the last bill is about to expire.

Associated Press writers Aamer Madhani, Andrew Taylor, Zeke Miller and Alexandra Jaffe in Washington and Alan Suderman in Richmond, Va., contributed to this report.

St. Louis couple charged for pulling, waving guns at protest

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis’ top prosecutor on Monday charged a husband and wife with felony unlawful use of a weapon for displaying guns during a racial injustice protest outside their mansion.

Mark and Patricia McCloskey, who are white, are both personal injury attorneys in their 60s. Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner told The Associated Press that their actions risked creating a violent situation during an otherwise nonviolent protest last month.

“It is illegal to wave weapons in a threatening manner — that is unlawful in the city of St. Louis,” Gardner said.

An attorney for the couple, Joel Schwartz, in a statement called the decision to charge “disheartening as I unequivocally believe no crime was committed.”

Supporters of the McCloskeys said they were legally defending their \$1.15 million home.

Gardner is recommending a diversion program such as community service rather than jail time if the McCloskeys are convicted. Typically, class E felonies could result in up to four years in prison.

Several Republican leaders have condemned Gardner’s investigation, including President Donald Trump, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson and Sen. Josh Hawley, who has urged Attorney General William Barr to undertake a civil rights investigation of Gardner. Parson said in a radio interview Friday that he would likely pardon the couple if they were charged and convicted.

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt said in a statement Monday that he filed a brief requesting that the charges be dismissed under the state’s Castle Doctrine.

“The right to keep and bear arms is given the highest level of protection in our constitution and our laws, including the Castle Doctrine,” Schmitt said in the statement. “This provides broad rights to Missourians who are protecting their property and lives from those who wish to do them harm.”

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 48 of 73

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-MO, said on Twitter that the charges were an “unacceptable abuse of power and threat to the Second Amendment.” He called for a federal civil rights investigation into the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office to “determine whether this investigation and impending prosecution violates this family’s constitutional rights.”

Gardner said Trump, Parson and others are attacking her to distract from “their failed approach to the COVID-19 pandemic” and other issues.

St. Louis, like many cities across the country, has seen demonstrations in the weeks since George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis, and the McCloskeys’ home was initially incidental to the demonstration on June 28. Several hundred people were marching to the home of Democratic Mayor Lyda Krewson, a few blocks from the McCloskeys’ home. Krewson had angered activists by reading on Facebook Live the names and addresses of some who had called for defunding police.

The McCloskeys live on a private street called Portland Place. A police report said the couple heard a loud commotion and saw a large group of people break an iron gate marked with “No Trespassing” and “Private Street” signs. A protest leader, the Rev. Darryl Gray, said the gate was open and that protesters didn’t damage it.

Mark McCloskey confronted protesters with a semi-automatic rifle, screamed at them and pointed the weapon at them, according to a probable statement from police officer Curtis Burgdorf. The statement said Patricia McCloskey then emerged with a semi-automatic handgun, yelling at protesters to “go” and pointing the gun at them. Protesters feared “being injured due to Patricia McCloskey’s finger being on the trigger, coupled with her excited demeanor,” the statement said.

No shots were fired.

Photos emerged as memes on both sides of the gun debate.

Trump spoke by phone with Parson last week to criticize Gardner’s investigation. Parson, when he was in the Legislature, co-authored Missouri’s “castle doctrine” law that justifies deadly force for those who are defending their homes from intruders. He has said that the McCloskeys “had every right to protect their property.”

Gardner declined to discuss why she decided the castle doctrine didn’t apply.

Schwartz said the McCloskeys “support the First Amendment right of every citizen to have their voice and opinion heard. This right, however, must be balanced with the Second Amendment and Missouri law, which entitle each of us to protect our home and family from potential threats.”

Gardner, St. Louis’ first Black circuit attorney, has been at odds with some in the St. Louis establishment since her election in 2016. Most notably, her office charged then-Gov. Eric Greitens with felony invasion of privacy in 2018 for allegedly taking a compromising photo of a woman during an extramarital affair. The charge was eventually dropped, but Greitens resigned in June 2018.

A private investigator Gardner hired to investigate the claims against Greitens was later indicted for perjury for allegedly lying during a deposition. His case is pending.

Gardner also has butted heads with police leaders, especially after she developed an “exclusion list” of more than two dozen officers who were barred from serving as primary witnesses in criminal cases over what Gardner called credibility concerns. The move angered Police Chief John Hayden, who also is Black.

In January, Gardner filed a federal lawsuit accusing the city, the police union and others of a coordinated and racist conspiracy aimed at forcing her out of office. The lawsuit also accused “entrenched interests” of intentionally impeding her efforts to change racist practices.

Several Black leaders in St. Louis have expressed support for Gardner, including Democratic U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay, who has said protesters “should never be subject to the threat of deadly force, whether by individuals or by the police.”

This story has been updated to remove an incorrect reference to a second charge, a misdemeanor. No misdemeanor charge was filed.

Workers protest racial inequality on day of national strike

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Workers from the service industry, fast-food chains and the gig economy rallied with organized labor Monday to protest systemic racism and economic inequality, staging demonstrations across the U.S. and around the world seeking better treatment of Black Americans in the workplace.

Organizers said at least 20,000 workers in 160 cities walked off the job, inspired by the racial reckoning that followed the deaths of several Black men and women at the hands of police. Visible support came largely in protests that drew people whose jobs in health care, transportation and construction do not allow them to work from home during the coronavirus pandemic.

“What the protesters are saying, that if we want to be concerned — and we should be — about police violence and people getting killed by the police ... we have to also be concerned about the people who are dying and being put into lethal situations through economic exploitation all over the country,” said the Rev. William Barber II, co-chairman of the Poor People’s Campaign, one of the organizations that partnered to support the strike.

Barber told The Associated Press that Monday’s turnout showed the importance of the issue to the people willing to come out during a pandemic to make their voices heard.

“Sadly, if they’re not in the streets, the political systems don’t move, because when you just send an email or a tweet, they ignore it,” he said.

The Strike for Black Lives was organized or supported by more than 60 labor unions and social and racial justice organizations, which held a range of events in more than two dozen cities. Support swelled well beyond expectations, organizers said, although a precise participation tally was not available.

Where work stoppages were not possible for a full day, participants picketed during a lunch break or dropped to a knee in memory of police brutality victims, including George Floyd, a Black man killed in Minneapolis police custody in late May.

Dozens of janitors, security guards and health care workers observed a moment of silence in Denver to honor Floyd.

In San Francisco, 1,500 janitors walked out and marched to City Hall. Fast-food cooks and cashiers in Los Angeles and nursing home workers in St. Paul, Minnesota, also went on strike, organizers said.

At one McDonald’s in Los Angeles, workers blocked the drive-thru for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, about how long prosecutors say a white police officer held his knee on Floyd’s neck as he pleaded for air.

Jerome Gage, 28, was among a few dozen Lyft and Uber drivers who joined a car caravan in Los Angeles calling on companies to provide benefits like health insurance and paid sick leave to gig workers.

“It’s basic stuff, and it creates a more profitable economic environment for everyone, not just the companies,” Gage said.

Glen Brown, a 48-year-old wheelchair agent at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, said his job does not give him the option of social distancing. Brown and fellow workers called for a \$15 minimum wage during an event in St. Paul, and he said workers were “seizing our moment” to seek change.

“We are front-line workers, (and) we are risking our lives, but we’re doing it at a wage that doesn’t even match the risk,” Brown said.

In Manhattan, more than 150 union workers rallied outside Trump International Hotel to demand that the Senate and President Donald Trump adopt the HEROES Act, which provides protective equipment, essential pay and extended unemployment benefits to workers who cannot work from home. The House has already passed it.

Elsewhere in New York City and in New Jersey and Connecticut, organizers said 6,000 workers at 85 nursing homes picketed, walked off the job or took other actions to highlight how predominantly Black and Hispanic workers and the residents they serve are at risk without proper protective gear during the pandemic.

In Massachusetts, about 200 people, including health care workers, janitors and other essential employees, joined Democratic U.S. Senate candidates in front of the Statehouse in Boston.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 50 of 73

"We're just being overworked and underpaid, and it makes you sometimes lose your compassion," said Toyai Anderson, 44, a nursing aide at Hartford Nursing and Rehab Center in Detroit. "It makes me second-guess if I am sure this is my calling."

Anderson makes \$15.75 an hour after 13 years on the job. Nationally, the typical nursing aide makes \$13.38, according to health care worker advocacy group PCI. One in 4 nursing home workers is Black.

Hundreds of other workers at six Detroit nursing homes walked off the job, according to the Service Employees International Union. The workers are demanding higher wages and more safety equipment to keep them from catching and spreading the virus, as well as better health care benefits and paid sick leave.

Participants nationwide broadly demanded action by corporations and the government to confront racism and inequality that limit mobility and career advancement for many Black and Hispanic workers, who make up a disproportionate number of those earning less than a living wage.

The demands include allowing workers to unionize to negotiate better health care, sick leave and child care support.

In South Korea, members of a transport workers union passed a resolution in support of the strike, raised their fists and chanted "Black lives matter" in Korean and "No justice, no peace" in English.

In Brazil, McDonald's workers rallied outside the flagship restaurant in Sao Paulo. The two largest Brazilian labor federations, together representing more than 24 million workers, filed a complaint with a national prosecutor describing examples of structural racism at the company.

McDonald's said it stands with Black communities worldwide.

"We believe Black lives matter, and it is our responsibility to continue to listen and learn and push for a more equitable and inclusive society," the Chicago-based company said in a statement.

Justice Favor, 38, an organizer with the Laborers' International Union Local 79, which represents 10,000 predominately Black and Hispanic construction workers in New York City, said he hopes that the strike motivates more white workers to acknowledge the existence of racism and discrimination in the workplace.

"There was a time when the Irish and Italians were a subjugated people, too," said Favor, who is Black. "How would you feel if you weren't able to fully assimilate into society? Once you have an open mind, you have to call out your coworkers who are doing wrong to others."

Associated Press reporters around the U.S. contributed to this report.

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

A note on AP style on Black and white: <https://apnews.com/afs:Content:9105661462>

Wrangling over virus relief persists despite high stakes

By LISA MARIE PANE, KELLI KENNEDY and ED WHITE Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The race to corral the coronavirus pandemic took on even greater urgency Monday as a burgeoning economic crisis collided with political turmoil. While the latest experimental vaccine appeared to show promise, politicians in Washington were far apart in finding a way to bring financial relief to Americans.

With the first federal relief package poised to end, Congress was trying to agree on another deal to ease the financial burden on Americans as businesses have endured repeated closures meant to contain the spread of the virus.

The political turmoil played out amid apparent good news on the medical front, with scientists involved in the development of at least one vaccine reporting promising results in an early trial.

Congressional Republicans at odds with Democrats over how much money is enough for a new rescue package also face pushback from the White House. GOP leaders met with President Donald Trump as the White House panned some \$25 billion in the party's plan that would be devoted to testing and tracing, said one Republican familiar with the discussions.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 51 of 73

Democrats have passed a \$3 trillion package in the House, while the Republican plan totals about \$1 trillion.

"We have to end this virus," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on MSNBC. Any attempt by the White House to block testing money "goes beyond ignorance."

The political stakes are high before the November election, especially with the nation registering the most coronavirus infections and deaths in the world. With 17 straight weeks of unemployment claims topping 1 million, many households were facing a cash crunch and losing employer-backed health insurance coverage.

The number of cases was spiking in spots throughout the U.S., stressing the medical system, Americans' psyche and the economy.

Malls in San Francisco were ordered closed about a month after reopening. Four months after the San Francisco Bay Area became the first place in the nation to issue broad stay-at-home orders to prevent the virus from spreading, only one Bay Area county is not on the governor's watch list for areas with rising infection and hospitalization rates.

In Chicago, the mayor imposed new restrictions on bars, gyms and personal services such as facials as health officials reported that the city again topped 200 daily cases on average. Officials attributed the rise primarily to young people going to bars and restaurants and Lake Michigan beaches.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, flew to Georgia to help deliver masks, test kits, gowns, face shields and hand sanitizer in Savannah. His visit offered tacit support to a mayor who has been a pacesetter in a revolt against Republican Gov. Brian Kemp's refusal to allow local governments to order people to wear masks.

Georgia's cases continue to rise, and Kemp has been embroiled in a public tussle with some local officials, including Savannah Mayor Van Johnson, over mandates on face coverings.

Cuomo said that "somehow in this crazy partisan world, we've even politicized a virus."

He pledged to help Savannah set up two new public testing sites aimed at lower-income people and said he would share contact tracing expertise.

In Florida, where nearly 9,500 people were hospitalized as of Monday, just 18% of its ICU units were available. But two other hard-hit states reported hopeful signs.

Arizona said hospitalizations were at the lowest level in more than two weeks, while the number of people on ventilators and in intensive care also decreased.

In Texas, health officials in Houston were cautiously optimistic as the number of people requiring hospitalization "seems to have tapered off a bit." But deaths in the second-largest state soared above 4,000, and officials in the border state of Starr County, where a team of Navy doctors was sent to help the only hospital, said they were considering creating an ethics committee to discuss rationing hospital resources.

"It sounds cold, and I hate to think that we would even have to do it, but we need to at least consider what chances a patient has of surviving," County Judge Eloy Vera said.

State governments not only face a strain on medical resources but have been forced to borrow billions of dollars and slash costs by furloughing workers, delaying construction projects, cutting school aid and even closing highway rest areas.

Businesses also are being squeezed. Potions in Motions, a catering company in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, would ordinarily be in high gear for summer weddings, graduations and corporate events, but with restrictions on group gatherings, they're down to "micro-events" with eight to 15 people. They've had to cut most of their staff.

"We're trying to just stay alive and keep as many people employed," company founder Jason Savino 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."

In Ludington, Michigan, Timbers Seafood and Steakhouse closed for two days as a precaution after a busboy said he had COVID-19. The restaurant lost thousands of dollars.

"It was heartbreaking," manager David Hritco said. "I worried about my staff. I worried about, 'Well, now do I have COVID?'"

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 52 of 73

Timbers was trying to recover during the peak summer season after months of being closed, and the busboy later acknowledged he lied to get a day off, Hritco said.

"This is a young kid that made a mistake," Hritco said. "But this is now a police matter."

In New Orleans, meanwhile, families picked up fresh peppers, milk, meat and diapers at a food giveaway outside a community center.

Melanie Richardson, executive director of the nonprofit Training Grounds, said she wanted to help families with food and other supplies as they prepare to lose federal unemployment boost payments.

"We know that that is going to be a huge hit for families," she said.

The global number of virus deaths has risen to more than 608,000, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The United States tops the list with nearly 150,000, followed by more than 80,000 in Brazil.

The number of confirmed infections worldwide has passed 14.6 million. Experts believe the pandemic's true toll is much higher because of testing shortages and data collection issues.

The virus also has led to political rancor globally. European Union leaders have been fighting over an unprecedented 1.85 trillion euro (\$2.1 trillion) budget and coronavirus recovery fund. The prolonged debates have been marked by walkouts, fist slamming and insults.

In the EU, the pandemic has killed around 135,000 citizens and plunged its economy into an estimated contraction of 8.3%.

There was a glimmer of hope as scientists at Oxford University say their experimental coronavirus vaccine has shown in an early trial to prompt a protective immune response in hundreds of people.

British researchers began testing the vaccine in April in about 1,000 people, half of whom got the experimental vaccine. In research published Monday in the journal *Lancet*, scientists said they found their vaccine produced a dual immune response in people ages 18 to 55 that lasted at least two months after they were immunized.

The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization hailed the results as "good news" but warned "there's a long way to go."

"We now need to move into larger scale real-world trials," Dr. Michael Ryan told reporters in Geneva.

White reported from Detroit, Pane reported from Boise, Idaho. AP journalists from around the globe contributed to this report.

'Men's rights' lawyer eyed in shooting of NJ judge's family

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

A self-described "anti-feminist" lawyer found dead in the Catskills of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound is the prime suspect in the shooting of a federal judge's family in New Jersey, the FBI said Monday.

Roy Den Hollander, who received media attention including appearances on Fox News and Comedy Central for lawsuits challenging perceived infringements of "men's rights," was found dead Monday in Sullivan County, New York, two officials with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press.

The FBI said Den Hollander was the "primary subject in the attack" and confirmed he had been pronounced dead but provided no other details. Found among his personal effects was information about another judge, New York Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, a state court spokesperson said.

A day earlier, a gunman posing as a FedEx delivery person went to the North Brunswick, New Jersey, home of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas, and started shooting, wounding her husband, the defense lawyer Mark Anderl, and killing her son, Daniel Anderl.

Salas was at home but in another part of the house and was unharmed, said the officials, who could not discuss an ongoing investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Den Hollander was involved in a lawsuit, filed in 2015, that was being heard by Salas involving a woman who wanted to register for the men-only military draft. In writings posted online, Den Hollander derided the judge as having traded on her Hispanic heritage to get ahead.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 53 of 73

A package addressed to Salas was found along with Den Hollander's body, the officials said.

In a screed Den Hollander posted online, he also wrote of posing as a FedEx delivery person to speak with a young girl, the same tactic the gunman apparently used at the door to the judge's home.

Den Hollander was best known previously for unsuccessful lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of "ladies night" promotions at bars and nightclubs. His litigation, and willingness to appear on television, earned him spots on The Colbert Report and MSNBC.

Another lawsuit argued night clubs were violating human rights by charging men hundreds of dollars for bottle service. In 2008, he unsuccessfully sued Columbia University for providing women's studies classes, saying they were "a bastion of bigotry against men."

Daniel Anderl, Salas' son, was set to be heading back shortly to The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he was named to the Dean's List this spring.

"I was shocked last night to hear news of Daniel Anderl's tragic death Sunday evening in New Jersey. Daniel was a rising junior, enrolled for classes beginning in the next few weeks," university President John Garvey wrote on Twitter. "He turned 20 last week."

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 after working as an assistant public defender for several years.

In more than 2,000 pages of often misogynistic, racist writings, Den Hollander criticized Salas' life story of being abandoned by her father and raised by her poor mother as "the usual effort to blame a man and turn someone into super girl."

In another section — part of a collection posted online that resembled an early draft of a memoir — he wrote about being treated recently for cancer, and wanting to use the rest of his time to "wrap up his affairs."

"No more chances now, if there ever really were any, for glory and fortune, but maybe a little old time justice as in all those 1950s television westerns I watched as a kid when the lone cowboy refused to give up without a fight," he wrote. "The only problem with a life lived too long under Feminazi rule is that a man ends up with so many enemies he can't even the score with all of them. But law school and the media taught me how to prioritize."

Den Hollander's writings also point to a possible connection to the area where he was found dead. He described going to a family cabin in the Catskills community of Beaverkill, about 40 minutes by car from Liberty.

Den Hollander filed for bankruptcy in 2011, citing more than \$120,000 in credit card debt, as well as rent and other expenses. In the filing, Den Hollander estimated he made about \$300 a month from his work, with the bulk of his income coming from a \$724 monthly Social Security payment.

Salas, born in California to a Cuban immigrant mother and Mexican father, spent most of her childhood in Union City, New Jersey. After helping her family escape a devastating house fire, she acted as her mother's translator and advocate, foreshadowing her career in law as she argued her family's case to welfare officials, according to a 2018 magazine profile.

In the profile, Salas spoke of her son possibly following his parents into the legal profession.

"He's been arguing with us since he could talk — practicing his advocacy skills," Salas told New Jersey Monthly. "I don't want to dissuade him, but I was pulling for a doctor."

Several college friends had spent the weekend visiting Daniel for his birthday, leaving just hours before the shooting, neighbor Marion Costanza said.

"These are people that will never see their friend again. Then to think of Esther losing her only child. It's just devastating," said Costanza, a lawyer who watched Daniel grow up, and had dinner plans this coming week with his parents.

"I want the world to know what a beautiful kid this was," she said. "It's just devastating."

Salas' 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 54 of 73

Attorney General William Barr said in a statement Monday that the FBI and the U.S. Marshals will continue investigating the shooting, adding: "This kind of lawless, evil action carried out against a member of the federal judiciary will not be tolerated."

Sisak reported from New York and Balsamo from Washington, D.C.

Fauci to throw 1st pitch at Yankees-Nationals opener in DC

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country's top infectious disease expert, will throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the first game of Major League Baseball's pandemic-delayed regular season.

The Washington Nationals announced Monday that Fauci -- a self-described fan of the reigning World Series champions -- accepted the team's invitation to have the pregame honor Thursday night.

The Nationals host the New York Yankees to open the season nearly four months after it originally was scheduled to begin. Spring training was halted in March because of the COVID-19 outbreak and teams resumed preparing to play this month.

In their new release about Fauci's role at the opener, the Nationals refer to him as "a true champion for our country" during the pandemic "and throughout his distinguished career."

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

Navy vet beaten by federal agents: 'They came out to fight'

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The Navy veteran stands passively in Portland, Oregon, amid swirling tear gas. One of the militarized federal agents deployed by President Donald Trump swings a baton at him with full force. With both hands. Five times.

Under the assault, 53-year-old Christopher David seems like a redwood tree — impervious to the blows. But in a video shot by a reporter, another officer — wearing green military camouflage, a helmet and gas mask — sprays David full in the face with what appears to be pepper gas.

Video of the Saturday night incident has gone viral. Accounts of it have been reported by news outlets in the United States and around the world.

Today, David, who suffered two broken bones in his hand, finds himself a reluctant symbol of the protests taking place in Oregon's largest city and the federal response to it. Militarized officers from a handful of agencies have been using tear gas, flash-bangs, pepper spray, "less-lethal" impact weapons and other munitions to disperse crowds.

"It isn't about me getting beat up. It's about focusing back on the original intention of all of these protests, which is Black Lives Matter," David said in a phone interview Monday with The Associated Press.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which has deployed officers to Portland, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the incident that David recounted. DHS said in a statement about Saturday night's events that some of the protesters were "violent anarchists" who had launched objects at federal officers, including fireworks and bags of paint, and tried to barricade officers inside the federal building.

Some vandalism, including graffiti, has occurred in the Portland protests, now in their 53rd day, and federal officials say they've responded to protect property and help restore order. One protester was arrested after allegedly assaulting a federal officer with a hammer.

But people peacefully protesting police brutality and racism, including a county commissioner and religious clerics, have been subjected to riot-control munitions. One demonstrator was hit in the head by an impact munition, shattering bones in his face and head. Some were snatched off the streets by the federal officers and stuffed into unmarked vehicles.

David, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a Navy veteran, was so disturbed by what he'd heard that he came to a protest site outside the federal building in downtown Portland on Saturday night.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 55 of 73

He put on a sweatshirt with "Navy" emblazoned across the chest and a Navy ballcap, figuring the federal officers would be, like him, a military veteran. He figured they'd listen as he reminded them "that you take the oath to the Constitution; you don't take the oath to a particular person."

"What they were doing was unconstitutional," David said. "Sometimes I worry that people take the oath of office or the oath to the Constitution, and it's just a set of words that mean nothing. They really don't feel in their heart the weight of those words."

There was no talking. The federal officers, in full tactical gear, came charging out of the federal building.

"They came out in this phalanx, running, and then they plowed into a bunch of protesters in the intersection of the street and knocked them over. They came out to fight," David said. One officer pointed a semi-automatic weapon at David's chest, he said, and video shows another shoving him backwards as he tried to talk with the officers.

"I took a couple steps back, straightened up, and then just stood my ground right there, arms down by my side," David recalled.

One officer began whacking at David with the baton. When he doesn't fall or even flinch, another officer sprays him full in the face. David then retreats a few steps while making an obscene gesture.

"They are thugs and goons," David said. "I couldn't recognize anything tactically that they were attempting to do that was even remotely related to crowd control. It looked to me like a gang of guys with sticks."

David will need reconstructive surgery with pins and plates on his ring finger that was shattered. A bone in his hand was also broken.

He's not going back out to protest.

"My ex-wife and my daughter would kill me if I did that. They're so angry at me for doing it in the first place because I got beat up," he said. "I'm not a redwood tree. I'm an overweight, 53-year-old man."

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

Biden outlines priorities for next pandemic relief package

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden is calling President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic "inept" in a new statement that lays out his priorities for the next relief package in Congress.

In the statement, shared first Monday with The Associated Press, Biden charged that Trump has "turned his back on the problem" and declared that "we are plainly a nation in crisis."

"People are looking to Congress for the support they need to keep their heads above water," he said.

Biden said the next relief package should "deliver a lifeline to those who need it most: working families and small businesses."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has been crafting the latest package behind closed doors for weeks. It's 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 the Trump administration opposes the inclusion of \$25 billion in proposed new funds for virus testing and tracing, according to one Republican familiar with the discussions. The administration's objections were first reported by The Washington Post.

Trump also said over the weekend that he may oppose the final bill if it doesn't include a payroll tax break, which many GOP senators oppose because they say it doesn't do enough to help out-of-work Americans.

Biden's statement outlines four main priorities for the congressional package, most of which put him directly at odds with the president. The Democrat charges that the Trump administration's move to block funding for expanded contact tracing "defies both logic and humanity."

"It is a morally, economically, and scientifically indefensible stance, which Congress should flatly reject," he said.

Biden calls on Congress to authorize all necessary funding for public health tools to fight the pandemic, including testing and tracing the virus' spread, and personal protective equipment.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 56 of 73

Biden also urges Congress to reject any proposal to cut taxes for wealthy Americans, and to ensure aid dollars go to middle- and lower-class Americans and small businesses. And he says that Congress should mandate that any loans provided in the next package include a commitment that businesses use the funds to hire or protect American workers.

Lastly, Biden sides with congressional Democrats in calling for the next package to provide resources for governors and mayors to address the crisis at the local level, including "full funding to prevent teacher layoffs and help schools reopen safely this fall." Biden released his own plan last week for reopening schools and called on Trump and Congress to pass a \$30 billion emergency package to help schools put in place the changes needed to deal with the pandemic.

Alex Trebek expects to mark 2-year cancer survival in 2021

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alex Trebek says he's responding exceptionally well to treatment for pancreatic cancer and expects to mark his two-year survival next February.

His doctor has said he's counting on that milestone, the "Jeopardy!" host said, "so I expect to be around 'cause he said I will be around. And I expect to be hosting the show if I am around."

Tests evaluating his progress show "I'm on the right track," Trebek told ABC News' "Good Morning America" in an interview that was conducted last week at his home and aired Monday. Trebek turns 80 on Wednesday.

After interviewer T.J. Holmes told Trebek he looked and sounded great, the TV host drolly replied: "Here I am, folks. Eat me up."

The experimental immunotherapy treatment Trebek is receiving is the same used by former Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada in his fight against pancreatic cancer, "Good Morning America" said. In June, the 80-year-old Reid said his disease is in remission.

On Friday, Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis lost his six-month battle with the disease at age 80.

Trebek said he's had difficult days, calling his wife, Jean, a "saint" for her unwavering support as he's faced moments of sadness and depression.

His memoir, "The Answer Is ... Reflections On My Life," will be published Tuesday. Its proceeds will go to charity, Trebek said.

He has been host of "Jeopardy!" since 1984. The quiz show, which went into reruns early because of the coronavirus, plans to resume taping for its September return in a few weeks if state and local government restrictions aimed at controlling the virus' spread allow.

Federal agents, local streets: A 'red flag' in Oregon

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Federal law enforcement officers' actions at protests in Oregon's largest city, done without local authorities' consent, are raising the prospect of a constitutional crisis — one that could escalate as weeks of demonstrations find renewed focus in clashes with camouflaged, unidentified agents outside Portland's U.S. courthouse.

State and local authorities, who did not ask for federal help, are awaiting a ruling in a federal lawsuit filed late last week by state Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum. She said in court papers that masked federal officers have arrested people off the street, far from the courthouse, with no probable cause — and whisked them away in unmarked cars.

Constitutional law experts said Monday the federal officers' actions are a "red flag" in what could become a test case of states' rights as the Trump administration expands its federal policing into other cities.

"The idea that there's a threat to a federal courthouse and the federal authorities are going to swoop in and do whatever they want to do without any cooperation and coordination with state and local authorities is extraordinary outside the context of a civil war," said Michael Dorf, a professor of constitutional law

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 57 of 73

at Cornell University.

"It is a standard move of authoritarians to use the pretext of quelling violence to bring in force, thereby prompting a violent response and then bootstrapping the initial use of force in the first place," Dorf said.

President Donald Trump says he plans to send federal agents to other cities as well. The Chicago Tribune, citing anonymous sources, reported Monday that Trump planned to deploy 150 federal agents to Chicago. The ACLU of Oregon has sued in federal court over the agents' presence in Portland, and the organization's Chicago branch said it would similarly oppose a federal presence.

"We're going to have more federal law enforcement, that I can tell you," Trump said Monday. "In Portland, they've done a fantastic job. They've been there three days and they really have done a fantastic job in a very short period of time."

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

Trump, who called the protesters "anarchists and agitators" in a Sunday tweet, said the agents, with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department, are on hand to help Portland and restore order at the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse.

The actions run counter to the usual philosophies of American conservatives, who typically treat state and local rights with great sanctity and have long been deeply wary of the federal government — particularly its armed agents — interceding in most situations.

But Trump, a Republican, has shown during his time in office that his actions do not always reflect traditional conservatism — particularly when politics, and in this case an impending election, are in play.

One prominent Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who is from the libertarian-leaning flank of the party, came out publicly against the federal agents. "We cannot give up liberty for security. Local law enforcement can and should be handling these situations in our cities but there is no place for federal troops or unidentified federal agents rounding people up at will," Paul said in a tweet Monday.

The protests now gaining nationwide attention have roiled Portland for 52 nights, ever since George Floyd died after being pinned by the neck for nearly eight minutes by a white Minneapolis police officer.

Many rallies have attracted thousands and been largely peaceful. But smaller groups of up to several hundred people have focused on federal property and local law enforcement buildings, at times setting fires to police precincts, smashing windows and clashing violently with local police.

The Portland Police Bureau used tear gas on multiple occasions until a federal court order banned its officers from doing so without declaring a riot. Now, concern is growing that the tear gas is being used against demonstrators by federal officers instead.

Anger at the federal presence escalated on July 11, when a protester who was hospitalized with critical injuries after a U.S. Marshals Service officer struck him in the head with a non-lethal round. Video of the incident shows the man, identified as Donovan LaBella, standing across the street from the officers holding a speaker over his head with both hands when he was struck.

Affidavits filed in federal court in cases against recently arrested protesters also show that federal officers have posted lookouts on the upper stories of the courthouse and have plainclothes officers circulating in the crowd. Court papers in one case — against a man arrested on federal charges for shining a green laser in the eyes of Federal Protective Service agents — show that Portland police turned him over to federal authorities after federal officers identified him, in part with the testimony of their undercover officers.

Mayor Ted Wheeler, who himself has been under fire locally for his handling of the protests, said Sunday on national TV talk shows that the demonstrations that dominated Portland headlines for more than seven weeks were dwindling before federal officers engaged.

"They are sharply escalating the situation. Their presence here is actually leading to more violence and more vandalism. And it's not helping the situation at all," Wheeler said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

"They're not wanted here. We haven't asked them here," Wheeler said. "In fact, we want them to leave."

Indeed, crowds of demonstrators had begun to dwindle a week ago, and some people in notoriously liberal Portland — including Black community leaders — had begun to call for the nightly demonstrations

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 58 of 73

to end.

But by the weekend, the presence of federal troops and Trump's repeated references to Portland as a hotbed of "anarchists" seemed to give a new life and renewed focus to the nightly demonstrations — and to attract a broader base.

On Sunday night, a crowd estimated at more than 500 people gathered outside the courthouse and included dozens of self-described "moms" who linked arms in a line in front of a chain link fence in front of the courthouse. The demonstration continued into Monday morning.

"It seems clear that there were at least some federal crimes committed here," said Steve Vladeck, a constitutional law professor at the University of Texas. "But the notion that a handful of federal crimes justifies a substantial deployment of federal law enforcement officers ... to show force on the streets is, to my mind, unprecedented."

"Federal law enforcement," Vladeck said, "is not a political prop."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

West wants \$1M for new moms, slams Tubman at campaign rally

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Self-declared presidential candidate Kanye West delivered a winding and unconventional campaign introduction speech in which he proposed a \$1 million payout to each new mother and decried Harriet Tubman for her work on the Underground Railroad.

But whether the rapper and fashion designer is actually seeking the nation's highest office remains a question.

West said Sunday before a crowd of several hundred in North Charleston, South Carolina, that Tubman "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.

Tubman, among the most respected figures in American history, escaped slavery, helped enslaved Black men and women travel north to freedom on the Underground Railroad and fought for the Union during the Civil War. She later became a supporter of women's suffrage.

Despite Sunday's event, West failed to qualify as a candidate for the South Carolina ballot. According to State Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire, neither West nor a campaign representative handed in 10,000 signatures by noon Monday, as required by state law to appear as a petition candidate.

"There was no petition at all," Whitmire said, of any correspondence from the campaign.

Emails to an address purportedly for West's campaign were not returned as of Monday afternoon.

West missed the deadline to qualify for the ballot in several other states, as well, 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.

The entertainer, who is married to reality television star Kim Kardashian West, initially announced his candidacy on July 4. He said he is no longer a supporter of President Donald Trump's.

Wearing a protective vest and with "2020" shaved into his head, West on Sunday said that while he believes abortion should be legal, financial incentives to help struggling mothers could help discourage the practice, saying that his own father had wanted to abort him.

"Everybody that has a baby gets a million dollars," he said as an example, adding, "I don't have the funding for it. But I have the platform to share the idea."

Speaking without a microphone, West became tearful at one point while talking about his mother, who died following plastic surgery complications in 2007. He also decried the lack of minority representation on corporate boards and in sports team ownership, threatening to end his deal with Adidas and Gap if not named to their corporate boards.

"Risk or no risk of losing whatever deal possible, I am not on the board at Adidas," West said. "I am not

on the board at Gap. And that has to change today, or I walk away.”

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

Amber Heard tells court she feared Depp would kill her

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Amber Heard has accused ex-husband Johnny Depp of abusing her both physically and verbally while he was allegedly bingeing on alcohol and drugs, claiming that at various times during their tempestuous relationship she feared for her life.

On the first day of her testimony Monday at Britain’s High Court in London, Heard also denied accusations she was a heavy drug user and drinker as well as a controlling and abusive person. The court is examining Depp’s libel suit against The Sun newspaper over an April 2018 article that labelled him a “wife beater” for allegedly abusing Heard.

Chronicling a series of incidents over their deteriorating relationship, that purportedly included Depp throwing a magnum of champagne and a phone at her and even a “hostage situation” in Australia in March 2015, the 34-year-old actress insisted any action she took in response was purely in self-defense.

She also denied having a problem with her temper following questioning by Depp’s lawyer, Eleanor Laws. “Johnny often put me in a situation where I was confronted with unimaginable frustrations and difficulties, often that were life-threatening to me,” she told the court.

“When I felt my life was threatened, I tried to defend myself and that started to happen years into the relationship, years into the violence,” she added.

The court heard a recording of an argument between the pair, who were married from 2015 to 2017, in which Depp accuses Heard of throwing pots and other items at him the night before. Heard said she had hit — but not punched — Depp and that she only threw things “to escape him.”

Heard said the argument, like so many others, had stemmed from Depp passing out once again in the bathroom after another binge.

“I was worried about Johnny’s life and this is the context of this argument, one of many that ended in a physical altercation of sorts,” she said.

Depp, 57, is suing The Sun’s publisher, News Group Newspapers, and the paper’s executive editor, Dan Wootton, over the article. The Hollywood star, who strongly denies abusing Heard, was at the court to hear his ex-wife’s evidence.

In written testimony released as she took to the witness box, Heard said that at various times during their relationship she endured “punching, slapping, kicking, head-butting and choking.” She said “some incidents were so severe that I was afraid he was going to kill me, either intentionally or just by losing control and going too far.”

According to Heard, Depp “explicitly threatened to kill me many times, especially later in our relationship.” She said he blamed his actions on “a self-created third party” that he referred to as “the monster.”

Heard told the court that she loved Depp when he was himself but that she was “terrified of the monster.”

The actor also dismissed evidence from witnesses such as Depp’s security guard, Sean Bett, that she was the one who would start an argument.

“These things happened behind closed doors,” she said.

Heard also disagreed “wholeheartedly” over a line of questioning from Laws at the end of the session that she had used make-up to fake injuries, notably at the couple’s penthouse in Los Angeles on May 21, 2016 when police were called to an incident.

Heard said Depp has “a unique ability to use his charisma to convey a certain impression of reality” and that he is “very good at manipulating people.”

Heard has been present throughout the trial, watching the proceedings as her ex-husband gave evidence over five days.

Heard is facing questioning over 14 allegations she made of suffering domestic violence by Depp in vari-

ous locations between 2013 and 2016 — which The Sun's publisher News Group Newspapers is relying on in its defense of the April 2018 article.

Depp and Heard met in 2009 on the set of the film "The Rum Diary," which was released two years later. They married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard filed for divorce the following year, and the divorce was finalized in 2017.

Depp claims Heard was the aggressor during their volatile relationship, which he has likened to "a crime scene waiting to happen."

In nine days of testimony at the High Court, judge Andrew Nicol has heard from Depp and from several current or former employees who have backed his version of events.

Heard claimed in her written testimony that Depp "often didn't remember what he had done" because of the amount of alcohol and drugs he had consumed, and that "it was as if it hadn't happened for him."

Heard is due to back in court Tuesday and her testimony is now expected to last for four days instead of three.

Rich Americans spew more carbon pollution at home than poor

BY SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Rich Americans produce nearly 25% more heat-trapping gases than poorer people at home, according to a comprehensive study of U.S. residential carbon footprints.

Scientists studied 93 million housing units in the nation to analyze how much greenhouse gases are being spewed in different locations and by income, according to a study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Residential carbon emissions comprise close to one-fifth of global warming gases emitted by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

Using federal definitions of income level, the study found that energy use by the average higher income person's home puts out 6,482 pounds of greenhouse gases a year. For a person in the lower income level, the amount is 5,225 pounds, the study calculated.

"The numbers don't lie. They show that (with) people who are wealthier generally, there's a tendency for their houses to be bigger and their greenhouse gas emissions tend to be higher," said study lead author Benjamin Goldstein, an environmental scientist at the University of Michigan. "There seems to be a small group of people that are inflicting most of the damage to be honest."

In Beverly Hills, the average person puts four times as much heat-trapping gases into the air as someone living in South Central Los Angeles, where incomes are only a small fraction as much. Similarly, in Massachusetts, the average person in wealthy Sudbury spews 9,700 pounds of greenhouse gases into the air each year, while the average person in the much poorer Dorchester neighborhood in Boston puts out 2,227 pounds a year.

"That is the key message about emissions patterns," said University of California San Diego climate policy professor David Victor, who wasn't part of the study. "I think it raises fundamental justice questions in a society that has huge income inequality."

Even though richer Americans produce more heat-trapping gases, "the poor are more exposed to the dangers of the climate crisis, like heat waves, more likely to have chronic medical problems that make them more at risk to be hospitalized or die once exposed to heat, and often lack the resources to protect themselves or access health care," said Dr. Renee Salas, a Boston emergency room physician and Harvard climate health researcher who wasn't part of the study.

Salas and Sacoby Wilson, a professor of environmental health and epidemiology at the University of Maryland, who also wasn't part of the study, pointed to studies in Baltimore and other cities showing that because of fewer trees, more asphalt and other issues, temperatures can be more than 10 degrees hotter in poorer neighborhoods.

"Heat waves are hell for the poor," Wilson said.

Goldstein calculated the emission figures by crunching data on 78% of the housing units in America as of 2015, factoring the home's age, size, heating supply, weather, electricity source and more. He then

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 61 of 73

compared income levels.

Nine of the 10 states that produce the most heat-trapping gas per person rely heavily on coal or have cold weather. West Virginia by far leads the nation with 10,046 pounds of greenhouse gas per person per year, followed by Oklahoma, Wyoming, North Dakota, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Alabama, South Dakota and Colorado.

California by far is the greenest state with 2,715 pounds of greenhouse gas per person. Oregon, New York, Utah, Washington, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Idaho, Connecticut and New Mexico round out the 10 cleanest states.

The study's 25 cleanest zip codes for residential greenhouse gas emissions are all in California and New York. The cleanest was Mission Bay in San Francisco, a white collar area with relatively new housing stock, where the average person produces only 1,320 pounds a year.

The zip codes that produced the most gas are scattered across Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Louisiana, Wyoming, Maryland, West Virginia, Minnesota, Missouri, Georgia, Arkansas, Indiana and Utah.

The zip code that produced the most greenhouse gas per person was in the mountains of western Boulder County, Colorado, where the 23,811 pounds per person is 18 times higher than in the San Francisco zip code.

Because some zip codes didn't have adequate data, Goldstein said there may be additional zip codes at the extremes of the emissions spectrum. Also, he said some zip codes with smaller, expensive, energy-efficient apartments buck the national trend of greater emissions in wealthy areas.

Wesleyan University climate economist Gary Yohe, who wasn't part of the study, said Goldstein's analysis helps the search for solutions to global warming by offering "two new targets for policy action or behavioral modification beyond the usual list: floor space and density."

But residential carbon emissions are harder to change than those from transportation, where you can trade a gas-guzzler for a cleaner electric vehicle, Goldstein said.

Noting that many residents are stuck with the fossil fuel-based energy delivered by their local utility, he said, "I don't think we can solve this based on personal choices. We need large scale structural transitions of our energy infrastructure."

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears .

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Head of the line: Big companies got coronavirus loans first

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ever since the U.S. government launched its emergency lending program for small businesses on April 3, there have been complaints that bigger companies had their loans approved and disbursed more quickly.

There is now evidence to back up those complaints.

An Associated Press analysis of Small Business Administration's \$659 billion Paycheck Protection Program shows that nearly a third of the loans approved in the program's first week ranged from \$150,000 to \$10 million, the maximum allowed. In a second round of funding that began April 27, such loans made up just 7.4% of the total.

The average loan size fell from \$257,240 on April 10 to nearly \$105,000 as of July 17, according to the SBA.

The PPP made very low-interest loans available to any business -- or any franchisee of a business -- with under 500 employees. The loans would be forgiven if most of the money was used to keep employees

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 62 of 73

on payroll.

Larger companies with connections to major national or regional banks got priority treatment in the program's initial phase, the data show, while many smaller businesses said they were turned away because the banks required them to have a checking account, a credit card and a previous loan to be considered.

Some small businesses submitted an application but then heard nothing. Small restaurants, retailers and other companies most in need were left waiting and unable to pay their employees, landlords or vendors. Many learned not from their bank but via news reports that the initial \$349 billion in funding had run out in less than two weeks.

"The program was structured to take advantage of existing banking relationships that favored established businesses," said John Arensmeyer, the CEO of the advocacy group Small Business Majority. "It was not designed for very small businesses."

It's not clear how many small companies have failed because of the pandemic. A survey conducted for the National Bureau of Economic Research by researchers at Harvard University, the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois found 2% of small businesses surveyed had shut down permanently in March, just after the pandemic hit the U.S. In theory, that means 100,000 of U.S. small businesses closed their doors before the PPP was even launched.

Andrew Cao applied for a \$72,500 loan for his digital marketing company with 10 full-time and part-time employees the day after the first round opened.

Cao submitted his application to Bank of America, where his company had been a customer for 10 years. Cao got two phone calls telling him he should submit his documentation, which he already had done, but could get no information on his loan.

"When we heard the funds were exhausted, I said, 'Are you serious?,' we tried to do everything we could — we submitted papers, contacted the bank, and then nothing," says Cao, co-owner of Motoza, based in Austin, Texas.

Cao submitted an application through a small local bank two days before the first round ended. Motoza got its loan a few days after the program's April 27 reopening.

The PPP, which still has more than \$130 billion available, is a key part of the government's coronavirus relief plan. It's credited with supporting the job market when millions of workers have been laid off. The data released by the SBA July 6 does show that by June 30, 85% of the PPP loans had been for less than \$150,000.

Still, the AP analysis shows that early on some of the nation's biggest banks were quickly approving loans for larger customers before ramping up their volume of smaller loans. In the first week, 27% of the 4,231 loans JPMorgan Chase made were over \$1 million. Chase, the nation's largest bank and the biggest PPP lender through June 30, processed 243,427 loans in the second round of funding; only half a percent were \$1 million or more.

Among other big banks, nearly 18% of the 1,185 loans TD Bank made the first week were over \$1 million, as were 13% of Truist's 7,143 loans. PNC made just 675 loans in the first week, but 40% were above \$1 million.

At Chase, each of four divisions handled their clients' loans separately, spokeswoman Patricia Wexler said. That included its commercial banking division; among its customers are larger small and mid-size businesses.

"There was no prioritization of one business line over another. Each business processed applications generally sequentially in the order in which the clients applied," Wexler said.

Truist spokesman Kyle Tarrance said, "applications were handled through a single application portal made available to clients on a first-come, first-served basis, without any preference given to any client, including larger or more affluent clients."

PNC said in a statement, "several factors may have affected the processing speed of individual applications. For example, loans that were incomplete necessarily took longer to process." The bank also noted that the SBA did not begin accepting applications from self-employed individuals and independent contractors, whose loan amounts were among the smallest, until a week into the program.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 63 of 73

TD Bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bigger loans are typically prepared by a team of finance officers and accountants using sophisticated software, while small companies might not have such polished applications that take more time to review. Familiarity with well-established customers can expedite the application process. And from the banks' perspective, it's good business to take care of their biggest customers.

Although the evidence points to big loans going to the head of the line at banks, it's not clear what happened once applications entered the SBA system. The SBA did not respond to a request for comment.

At the start, only established SBA lenders could take applications, limiting businesses' ability to apply. The government did eventually bring online lenders, credit unions and more community banks into the fold. But "it may have been too late for who knows how many small businesses," said Karen Kerrigan, president of the advocacy group Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council.

Jane Gideon applied for a loan for her publicity firm the day the PPP began but was left waiting when the initial funds ran out.

"When it didn't come through the first time, I knew what was happening. The wealthy and connected had priority because they have the relationships that put them at the front of the queue," says Gideon, owner of San Francisco-based Incendio International. She didn't hear until April 29 that her loan was approved.

AP Data Editor Meghan Hoyer and AP Data Journalists Angeliki Kastanis and Justin Myers contributed to this report.

Christopher Nolan's 'Tenet' delayed indefinitely by virus

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Christopher Nolan's "Tenet," which had hoped to herald Hollywood's return to big theatrical releases, has yet again postponed its release due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Warner Bros. said Monday that "Tenet" will not make its August 12 release date. Unlike previous delays, the studio this time didn't announce a new target for the release of Nolan's much-anticipated \$200 million thriller.

"Tenet" had already shifted from July 17, then July 31 and then Aug. 12. Nolan, a staunch advocate for the big-screen experience, has strenuously hoped that "Tenet" could lead the resumption of nationwide and global moviegoing.

But the surge of the virus across much of the U.S. has upended the industry's aims for even a late-August return. Last week, California ordered its cinemas closed.

Warner Bros. Pictures Group chairman Toby Emmerich said the studio will soon share a new "2020 release date" for "Tenet." It may be a much different rollout, with the film opening in staggered international release.

"We are not treating 'Tenet' like a traditional global day-and-date release, and our upcoming marketing and distribution plans will reflect that," said Emmerich.

Emmerich said the pandemic's spread has forced the studio to reevaluate its plans. Warner Bros. also shifted the horror sequel "The Conjuring 3" from Sept. 11 to June 4, 2021.

"Our goals throughout this process have been to ensure the highest odds of success for our films while also being ready to support our theater partners with new content as soon as they could safely reopen," said Emmerich. "We're grateful for the support we've received from exhibitors and remain steadfast in our commitment to the theatrical experience around the world."

Other films have planned their releases partially around the launch of "Tenet." Walt Disney Co.'s "Mulan" remains scheduled for theatrical release on Aug. 21.

Movie theaters remain in a precarious limbo. Without new releases, U.S. indoor theaters and drive-ins that are open have played mostly older films and a smattering of smaller new releases.

Before the recent spike in the coronavirus crisis, theater chains have sought to assure moviegoers with protocols like limiting theaters to 25-50% capacity and cleaning seats in between showings.

But months of closed theaters and no new product has put enormous pressure on an already stressed

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 64 of 73

business. AMC Theaters, the world's largest chain, recently reached a debt deal to help itself remain solvent. AMC has been aiming to reopen most locations July 30. Cineworld, which owns Regal Cinemas, had set July 31 for its reopening.

Christopher Nolan's 'Tenet' delayed indefinitely by virus

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Christopher Nolan's "Tenet," which had hoped to herald Hollywood's return to big theatrical releases, has yet again postponed its release due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Warner Bros. said Monday that "Tenet" will not make its August 12 release date. Unlike previous delays, the studio this time didn't announce a new target for the release of Nolan's much-anticipated \$200 million thriller.

"Tenet" had already shifted from July 17, then July 31 and then Aug. 12. Nolan, a staunch advocate for the big-screen experience, has strenuously hoped that "Tenet" could lead the resumption of nationwide and global moviegoing.

But the surge of the virus across much of the U.S. has upended the industry's aims for even a late-August return. Last week, California ordered its cinemas closed.

Warner Bros. Pictures Group chairman Toby Emmerich said the studio will soon share a new "2020 release date" for "Tenet." It may be a much different rollout, with the film opening in staggered international release.

"We are not treating 'Tenet' like a traditional global day-and-date release, and our upcoming marketing and distribution plans will reflect that," said Emmerich.

Emmerich said the pandemic's spread has forced the studio to reevaluate its plans. Warner Bros. also shifted the horror sequel "The Conjuring 3" from Sept. 11 to June 4, 2021.

"Our goals throughout this process have been to ensure the highest odds of success for our films while also being ready to support our theater partners with new content as soon as they could safely reopen," said Emmerich. "We're grateful for the support we've received from exhibitors and remain steadfast in our commitment to the theatrical experience around the world."

Other films have planned their releases partially around the launch of "Tenet." Walt Disney Co.'s "Mulan" remains scheduled for theatrical release on Aug. 21.

Movie theaters remain in a precarious limbo. Without new releases, U.S. indoor theaters and drive-ins that are open have played mostly older films and a smattering of smaller new releases.

Before the recent spike in the coronavirus crisis, theater chains have sought to assure moviegoers with protocols like limiting theaters to 25-50% capacity and cleaning seats in between showings.

But months of closed theaters and no new product has put enormous pressure on an already stressed business. AMC Theaters, the world's largest chain, recently reached a debt deal to help itself remain solvent.

AMC has been aiming to reopen most locations July 30. Cineworld, which owns Regal Cinemas, had set July 31 for its reopening.

With tears, Congress honors Lewis, 'conscience of the House'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Monday stood for an emotional moment of silence for Georgia Rep. John Lewis, the civil rights icon who died last week from pancreatic cancer.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi gavelled the House to order, calling on "all who loved John Lewis, wherever you are, rise in a moment of silence in remembrance of the conscience of the Congress."

Several people on the dais wept as the House stood in silence, heads bowed. When Pelosi tried to move on, those gathered interrupted with sustained applause.

"Our hero, our colleague, our brother, our friend received and answered his final summons from God almighty," said Rep. Sanford Bishop, the dean of the Georgia delegation.

Lewis, 80, died Friday, several months after he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. The son of sharecroppers, Lewis survived a brutal police beating during a 1965 civil rights march in Selma,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 65 of 73

Alabama. He represented Georgia in the House since 1987, and was known for his kindness and humility. "Our nation has indeed lost a giant," said Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ga.

Earlier, Pelosi choked up recalling their last conversation the day before he died.

"It was a sad one," Pelosi said of their conversation Thursday. "We never talked about his dying until that day."

She recalled on "CBS This Morning" how the civil rights icon also threw his clout to women's rights, LGBTQ rights and many other causes.

"He always worked on the side of the angels, and now he is with them," Pelosi said.

It was not yet clear whether Lewis's casket would lie in the Capitol Rotunda to allow people to pay their respects. The Capitol is closed to the public during the coronavirus pandemic.

UK coronavirus vaccine prompts immune response in early test

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Scientists at Oxford University say their experimental coronavirus vaccine has been shown in an early trial to prompt a protective immune response in hundreds of people who got the shot.

British researchers first began testing the vaccine in April in about 1,000 people, half of whom got the experimental vaccine. Such early trials are designed to evaluate safety and see what kind of immune response was provoked, but can't tell if the vaccine truly protects.

In research published Monday in the journal *Lancet*, scientists said that they found their experimental COVID-19 vaccine produced a dual immune response in people aged 18 to 55 that lasted at least two months after they were immunized.

"We are seeing good immune response in almost everybody," said Dr. Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute at Oxford University. "What this vaccine does particularly well is trigger both arms of the immune system," he said.

Hill said that neutralizing antibodies are produced — molecules which are key to blocking infection. In addition, the vaccine also causes a reaction in the body's T-cells, which help by destroying cells that have been taken over by the virus.

The experimental COVID-19 vaccine caused minor side effects like fever, chills and muscle pain more often than in those who got a control meningitis vaccine.

Hill said that larger trials evaluating the vaccine's effectiveness, involving about 10,000 people in the U.K. as well as participants in South Africa and Brazil are still underway. Another trial is slated to start in the U.S. soon, aiming to enroll about 30,000 people.

How quickly scientists are able to determine the vaccine's effectiveness will depend largely on how much more transmission there is, but Hill estimated that if there were enough data to prove the vaccine's efficacy, immunization of some high-risk groups in Britain could begin in December.

He said the vaccine seemed to produce a comparable level of antibodies to those produced by people who recovered from a COVID-19 infection and hoped that the T-cell response would provide even more protection.

"There's increasing evidence that having a T-cell response as well as antibodies could be very important in controlling COVID-19," Hill said. He suggested the immune response might be boosted after a second dose; in a small number of people, their trial tested two doses administered about four weeks apart.

Hill said Oxford's vaccine is designed to reduce disease and transmission. It uses a harmless virus — a chimpanzee cold virus, engineered so it can't spread — to carry the coronavirus' spike protein into the body, which should trigger an immune response.

Hill said Oxford has partnered with drugmaker AstraZeneca to produce their vaccine globally, and that the company has already committed to making 2 billion doses.

"Even 2 billion doses may not be enough," he said, pointing to the ongoing surge of infections worldwide. "I think its going to be very difficult to control this pandemic without a vaccine."

Hill said researchers were also considering conducting a "challenge" trial by the end of 2020, an ethically controversial test where participants would be deliberately infected with COVID-19 after being immunized

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 66 of 73

to see if the vaccine is effective.

"This has been done before in 19 different infectious diseases to develop vaccines and drugs and is likely to happen for COVID-19 as well," he said.

Numerous countries including Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, U.S. and the U.K. have all signed deals to receive hundreds of millions of doses of the Oxford vaccine — which has not yet been licensed — with the first deliveries scheduled for the fall.

Chinese researchers also published a study on their experimental COVID-19 vaccine in the Lancet on Monday, using a similar technique as the Oxford scientists. They reported that in their study of about 500 people, an immune response was detected in those who were immunized, although they couldn't tell if people were protected from the disease because they weren't exposed to COVID-19 afterwards.

CanSino Biologics' vaccine is made similarly to Oxford's except the Chinese shot is made with a human cold virus, and the study showed people whose bodies recognized it didn't get as much of the presumed COVID-19 benefit. Still, China's government already gave special approval for the military to use CanSino's vaccine while it explores final-stage studies.

In an accompanying editorial, Naor Bar-Zeev and William Moss of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health called both the Oxford and Chinese results "encouraging" but said further judgment should wait until the vaccine is tested on much bigger populations.

The World Health Organization's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, called for any eventual COVID-19 shots to be fairly distributed globally, saying it was up to political leaders to ensure the most vulnerable populations also get immunized.

"But one of the worrying patterns we see is some countries moving in the other direction," he warned.

Britain announced Monday it had secured access to another 90 million experimental COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and others, a move some campaigners warned could worsen a global scramble by rich countries to hoard the world's limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

Last week, American researchers announced that the first COVID-19 vaccine tested there boosted people's immune systems just as scientists had hoped and the shots will now enter the final phase of testing. That vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna, produced the molecules key to blocking infection in volunteers who got it, at levels comparable to people who survived a COVID-19 infection.

The vaccine being developed by Pfizer also works to trigger a similar dual immune response as the Oxford shot. Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech also released an encouraging early report Monday.

Nearly two dozen potential vaccines are in various stages of human testing worldwide, with a handful entering necessary late-stage testing to prove effectiveness.

AP Medical Writer Lauran Neergaard in Alexandria, Virginia, and Jamey Keaten in Geneva, contributed to this report.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

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

Nicki Minaj announces she's pregnant with 1st child

NEW YORK (AP) — Nicki Minaj has a new release coming soon: her first child.

The rapper took to Instagram on Monday to announce she is pregnant, posting photos of herself with a baby bump. One caption simply read: "#Preggers."

She also wrote on another post, "Love. Marriage. Baby carriage. Overflowing with excitement & gratitude. Thank you all for the well wishes."

Minaj married Kenneth Petty last year. They first dated as teenagers and reunited in 2018.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 67 of 73

Musically, Minaj has also had a winning year, topping the Billboard Hot 100 chart twice. Her remix of Doja Cat's "Say So" helped Minaj achieve her first-ever No. 1 on the Hot 100, despite releasing multiple hits throughout her career. She also reached the top spot with "Trollz," her collaboration with 6ix9ine.

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.

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.

— India has started human trials of an indigenously developed coronavirus vaccine at the country's top hospital. The human trials of COVAXIN started Monday at All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, hospital director Dr. Randeep Guleria said. He said it would take at least three months for researchers to gather the first set of data. The hospital is among 12 sites selected by the Indian Council for Medical Research to conduct phase 1 and phase 2 human trials of the vaccine. COVAXIN has been developed by Bharat Biotech, a pharmaceutical company based in the southern city of Hyderabad. At least half a dozen Indian companies are developing vaccines for the virus.

— 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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 68 of 73

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.

AP says it will capitalize Black but not white

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After changing its usage rules last month to capitalize the word "Black" when used in the context of race and culture, The Associated Press on Monday said it would not do the same for "white."

The AP said white people in general have much less shared history and culture, and don't have the experience of being discriminated against because of skin color.

Protests following the death of George Floyd, which led to discussions of policing and Confederate symbols, also prompted many news organizations to examine their own practices and staffing. The Associated Press, whose Stylebook is widely influential in the industry, announced June 19 it would make Black uppercase.

In some ways, the decision over "white" has been more ticklish. The National Association of Black Journalists and some Black scholars have said white should be capitalized, too.

"We agree that white people's skin color plays into systemic inequalities and injustices, and we want our journalism to robustly explore these problems," John Daniszewski, the AP's vice president for standards, said in a memo to staff Monday. "But capitalizing the term white, as is done by white supremacists, risks subtly conveying legitimacy to such beliefs."

Columbia Journalism Review, the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, NBC News and Chicago Tribune are among the organizations that have recently said they would capitalize Black but have not done so for white.

"White doesn't represent a shared culture and history in the way Black does," The New York Times said on July 5 in explaining its decision.

CNN, Fox News and The San Diego Union-Tribune said they will give white the uppercase, noting it was consistent with Black, Asian, Latino and other ethnic groups. Fox cited NABJ's advice.

CBS News said it would capitalize white, although not when referring to white supremacists, white nationalists or white privilege.

Some proponents believe that keeping white lowercase is actually anti-Black, saying it perpetuates the idea that whites are the default race.

"Whiteness remains invisible, and as is the case with all power structures, its invisibility does crucial work to maintain its power," wrote Eve Ewing, a sociologist of race and education at the University of Chicago who said she's changed her mind on the issue over the past two years.

"In maintaining the pretense of its invisibility, whiteness maintains the pretense of its inevitability, and its innocence," she wrote on the website Nora.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, a philosophy professor at New York University, wrote in the Atlantic that capitalizing white would take power away from racists, since their similar use "would no longer be a provocative defiance of the norm."

The AP checked with a variety of experts and sources in making its decision.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 69 of 73

"We will closely watch how usage and thought evolves, and will periodically review our decision," Daniszewski said.

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 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 sub-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 70 of 73

urbs, 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 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.

First COVID-19, now mosquitoes: Bracing for bug-borne ills

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

Sophia Garabedian had been dealing with a persistent fever and painful headache when her parents found her unresponsive in her bed one morning last fall.

Doctors ultimately diagnosed the then-5-year-old Sudbury, Massachusetts, resident with eastern equine encephalitis, a rare but severe mosquito-borne virus that causes brain swelling.

Garabedian survived the potentially fatal virus after about a month in Boston hospitals, but her parents say her ordeal and ongoing recovery should be a warning as people take advantage of the outdoors this summer.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 71 of 73

"It's been a rough year," said David Garabedian, her father. "With any brain injury, it's hard to tell. The damage is there. How she works through it is anyone's guess."

As the coronavirus pandemic subsides for now in the hard-hit Northeast, public health officials in the region are warning about another potentially bad summer for EEE and other insect-borne illnesses.

EEE saw an unexpected resurgence last summer across 10 states: Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

There were 38 human cases and 15 deaths from the virus, with many of the cases in Massachusetts and Michigan, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most years, the country sees just half a dozen cases of the virus in humans, the agency said.

In Massachusetts and New Jersey, officials have already detected EEE in mosquitoes this year, the earliest on record in those states. There have been no human or animal cases yet.

"It's unnerving," said Scott Crans, who heads up mosquito control efforts for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. "It could signal a busy year."

Crans and other state health officials say EEE, which has no cure in humans, tends to come in two- to three-year cycles, but they also stress that mosquito borne-diseases are notoriously tricky to predict.

A relatively mild winter may have benefited mosquito populations, but below-average rainfall could have also provided a welcome counterweight, he said.

Local health officials are also warning about the risk of contracting other insect-borne illnesses as more people are spending a longer time outdoors amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In Michigan, an invasive mosquito known to transmit dengue, Zika and other tropical viruses has already been detected for the first time this season, said Mary Grace Stobierski, the state's public health veterinarian.

The state also had its first case of West Nile virus this season. A more common but less severe mosquito-borne disease than EEE, it can cause fevers, headaches, body pain and other symptoms. The infection was found in a captive hawk in early June.

Ticks are also expected to be out earlier and in larger numbers this season because of the relatively mild winter, warned Aaron Bernstein, a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital and a director at Harvard's School of Public Health.

That could mean more cases of debilitating Lyme disease and other tick-related illnesses for local health care systems already feeling the pressure of responding to the coronavirus, he said.

"Some of the people going into the woods more now might not be experienced with how to protect themselves in the forest, and that's a concern," he said.

Officials say people should avoid the evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most active, use bug spray and wear long clothing where possible when outdoors.

The CDC has offered states additional help with mosquito testing this season as the coronavirus pandemic has overwhelmed state public health offices, said Candice Hoffmann, an agency spokeswoman.

Officials in eight states and the District of Columbia have so far taken up the offer: Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont, Maine, Florida and Arizona.

During last year's EEE outbreak, the CDC provided about \$700,000 in emergency funding and technical assistance to Rhode Island, Indiana, Michigan, and Massachusetts on top of roughly \$18 million it provided to states for annual vector-borne disease surveillance, Hoffmann said.

In Michigan, where six of that state's 10 cases of EEE last year proved fatal, officials this summer have launched a pilot program to improve the state's response to mosquito-borne illnesses.

Ned Walker, a medical entomologist at Michigan State University heading up the effort, said the goal is to create the kind of regular mosquito surveillance system already in place in Massachusetts and elsewhere to better predict and prepare for disease outbreaks.

In Connecticut, officials have boosted the number of testing sites for mosquitoes in its high risk eastern portion, according to Philip Armstrong, a virologist with the state Department of Environmental Sciences.

In Massachusetts, which was the hardest hit by EEE last year, with 12 cases and 6 fatalities, officials have been testing earlier, more often and in a wider range of locations this year in order to quickly identify

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 72 of 73

infection clusters, said State Epidemiologist Catherine Brown. A pilot effort is also testing the efficacy of different larvicides to help cull the mosquito population at its earliest stages, she said.

One troubling development: the two earliest cases of EEE in mosquitoes this year were found in a northern part of the state close to New Hampshire, rather than the virus' typical hotspots near Cape Cod, where officials also detected the virus in a mosquito sample last week.

That, along with last year's widespread cases, strongly suggests the territory of EEE-carrying mosquitoes is expanding, according to Brown. Climate changes that are causing warmer summers and altering bird migration patterns and local mosquito populations could be among the drivers, she said.

Meanwhile an environmental group is calling on Massachusetts to avoid resorting to widespread aerial spraying of insecticide, which took place six times last year as cases surged.

Maryland-based Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Inspector General's office this month, arguing that 2019's aerial spraying cost more than \$2 million but wasn't effective in reducing EEE-carrying mosquitoes.

Brown disputes the group's assertion, but acknowledges the insecticides can be toxic to bees and other species, another concern raised by the group. "Last year was unprecedented," she said. "No one wants to do that again."

Back in Sudbury, David and Kirstin Garabedian say they're optimistic their daughter can continue to heal from EEE.

Now 6, she was able to return to kindergarten in January before the coronavirus pandemic shuttered schools weeks later. But her parents say she still regularly goes to speech and occupational therapy to deal with lingering speech and memory problems.

Kirstin Garabedian says she understands people want to take advantage of the outdoors this summer. "Go outside and enjoy yourself, but take the proper precautions," she said. "Just be vigilant. Use common sense."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 21, the 203rd day of 2020. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 21, 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tennessee, with John T. Scopes found guilty of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned on a technicality.)

On this date:

In 1796, Scottish poet Robert Burns died in Dumfries at age 37.

In 1861, during the Civil War, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Virginia, resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II, capturing it from the Japanese some three weeks later. The Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominated Sen. Harry S. Truman to be vice president.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the ascent stage of the lunar module for docking with the command module.

In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.

In 1990, a benefit concert took place in Germany at the site of the fallen Berlin Wall; the concert, which drew some 200,000 people, was headlined by Roger Waters, a founder of Pink Floyd. (The concert ended with the collapse of a mock Berlin Wall made of styrofoam.)

In 1998, astronaut Alan Shepard died in Monterey, California, at age 74; actor Robert Young died in Westlake Village, California, at age 91.

In 1999, Navy divers found and recovered the bodies of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 018 ~ 73 of 73

sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette (bih-SEHT'), in the wreckage of Kennedy's plane in the Atlantic Ocean off Martha's Vineyard.

In 2000, Special Counsel John C. Danforth concluded "with 100 percent certainty" that the federal government was innocent of wrongdoing in the siege that killed 80 members of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, in 1993.

In 2009, prosecutors in Cambridge, Massachusetts, dropped a disorderly conduct charge against prominent Black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who was arrested by a white officer at his home near Harvard University after a report of a break-in.

In 2011, the 30-year-old space shuttle program ended as Atlantis landed at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after the 135th shuttle flight.

In 2008, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich), one of the world's top war crimes fugitives, was arrested in a Belgrade suburb by Serbian security forces. (He was sentenced by a U.N. court in 2019 to life imprisonment after being convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.)

Ten years ago: A triumphant President Barack Obama signed into law the most sweeping overhaul of U.S. lending and high finance rules since the 1930s.

Five years ago: The Defense Department said a U.S. airstrike in Syria on July 8, 2015 had killed Muhsin al-Fadhli, a key figure in the Khorasan Group, a dangerous al-Qaida offshoot. Ohio Gov. John Kasich became the 16th notable Republican contestant to enter the U.S. 2016 presidential race. After a nearly decade-long steroids prosecution, Barry Bonds emerged victorious when federal prosecutors dropped what was left of their criminal case against the career home runs leader.

One year ago: Clashes involving Hong Kong's protest movement escalated violently, with police launching tear gas at protesters who didn't disband after a march, and subway riders being attacked by masked assailants who appeared to be targeting the pro-democracy demonstrators. Disney's photorealistic remake of "The Lion King" wiped out opening-weekend box office records for the month of July, while "Avengers: Endgame" crept past Avatar to become the highest-grossing film of all time. As a sellout crowd cheered him on, Irishman Shane Lowry won the British Open by six shots at Royal Portrush, a course in Northern Ireland that had last hosted the Open in 1951.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Norman Jewison is 94. Actor Leigh Lawson is 77. Singer Yusuf Islam (also known as Cat Stevens) is 72. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau is 72. Actor Jamey Sheridan is 69. Rock singer-musician Eric Bazilian (The Hooters) is 67. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 63. Actor Lance Guest is 60. Actor Matt Mulhern is 60. Comedian Greg Behrendt is 57. Rock musician Koen Lieckens (K's Choice) is 54. Soccer player Brandi Chastain is 52. Rock singer Emerson Hart is 51. Rock-soul singer Michael Fitzpatrick (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 50. Actress Alysia Reiner is 50. Country singer Paul Brandt is 48. Christian rock musician Korey Cooper (Skillet) is 48. Actress Ali Landry is 47. Actor-comedian Steve Byrne is 46. Rock musician Tato Melgar (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 43. Actor Justin Bartha is 42. Actor Josh Hartnett is 42. Contemporary Christian singer Brandon Heath is 42. Actress Sprague Grayden is 42. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 42. Country singer Brad Mates (Emerson Drive) is 42. Former MLB All-Star pitcher CC Sabathia (suh-BATH'-ee-uh) is 40. Singer Blake Lewis ("American Idol") is 39. Latin singer Romeo Santos is 39. Rock musician Will Berman (MGMT) is 38. Rock musician Johan Carlsson (Carolina Liar) is 36. Actress Vanessa Lengies (LEHN'-jeez) is 35. Actress Betty Gilpin is 34. Actor Rory Culkin is 31. Actor Jamie Waylett ("Harry Potter" films) is 31. Figure skater Rachael Flatt is 28.