

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 1 of 77

- 1- Threshing Show Cancelled
- 2- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- Prairie Doc Column - Life Lessons
- 4- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 6- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 7- July 26th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 10- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 11- Weather Pages
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- 2020 Groton Events
- 16- News from the Associated Press



## Announcement:

After much discussion, the James Valley Pioneer Threshermen's Association has come to the extremely difficult decision to cancel the 46th Annual Show for 2020. This decision was not taken lightly and is due to restrictions currently in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health and safety of our attendees comes first, as well as the entire community, members, volunteers, visitors, and exhibitors that are ALWAYS at the front of our minds when making a decision like this.

We hope you understand and we hope to see you at our show in 2021!

Tim Olson  
President

James Valley Pioneer Threshermen's Assoc.

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

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 2 of 77

The end of the 2020 Minnesota Vikings roster breakdown is nearly here. So far, we've covered the entire offense, as well as the defensive line, linebackers and cornerbacks. This week, we move on to the safety position.

The Vikings have the best safety duo in the NFL, but they will be tested in a big way this season. With every member of the cornerback group still on their rookie contracts, there is guaranteed to be some lapses in coverage that the safeties will have to make up for. With the departure of both Andrew Sendejo and Jayron Kearse, the safety group will be without two incredibly good backups – so if either of the starters go down for an extended period of time, it could cause trouble.

Harrison Smith has been one of the best safeties in the league since he came into the NFL as a first-round pick in 2012. He has been named to the past five Pro Bowls and was named first-team All-Pro in 2017. The biggest part of Smith's game is his football IQ – he is a master at disguising his coverage who can do it all, from rushing the quarterback to covering wide receivers. The 31-year old is under contract for the next two seasons and has shown no signs of slowing down any time soon.

Anthony Harris, who starts next to Harrison Smith, has a playing style that is a perfect complement to Smith's. Where Smith plays all over the field, Harris is generally in coverage where he excels. Pro Football Focus gave him a coverage grade of 91.6 in 2019, which was first among safeties (Harrison Smith was second with 91.4). Last season he started 14 games and led the league in interceptions. The Vikings used the franchise tag on Harris, so after this year he will be a free agent. The two sides still have time to come together on a long-term contract, but with the Vikings already paying Harrison Smith a lot of money, it will be hard to shell out eight figures to both safeties.

There is still a chance the Vikings sign a veteran safety before the season starts, but as it sits now, the team has three rookies vying for the two backup safety spots.

Josh Metellus has the best chance of making the roster, simply because the Vikings used a sixth-round draft pick on the former Wolverine. Metellus is 5'11", 209 pounds, and is a fierce competitor who will likely play mostly on special teams while also mixing in at safety whenever Smith or Harris need a breather.

Brian Cole II is another safety the Vikings drafted, this time in the seventh round. Cole started his college career as a receiver at Michigan but finished at Mississippi State as a safety. He is a work in progress, and while he could play on special teams, it will likely be a few years before he's ready to see the field on defense.

Myles Dorn is the third rookie safety for the Vikings, although unlike the other two, Dorn was undrafted. He has great instincts as a player, but his lack of speed was exploited in college and it will likely only get worse for him in the NFL.

Do you think the Vikings should go after a veteran safety before the season starts? Reach out to me on Twitter and let me know (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!



By Jordan Wright

## Life Lessons

Sometimes, life has lessons for us that we don't truly appreciate until much later.

Many years ago, when I was a very wet behind the ears new doctor, I had the privilege of being part of the care team for an elderly Native American woman. She had been transferred from somewhere

in rural South Dakota to our hospital in the city in hopes of identifying her disease and ascertaining how best to help her. Her daughter accompanied her. The medical team was convinced we knew "best," while her daughter was determined that we were not going to take a single step that might conflict with her mother's values. The stage was set for conflict.

As an intern on one of my first rotations, I just could not understand why someone would come to us for help, and then not be willing to follow our recommendations for testing and procedures that we felt would give us information we needed. We were frustrated. I didn't recognize it at the time, but I learned a lot from that fierce patient advocate.

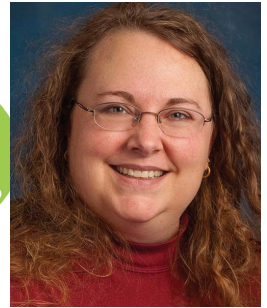
In retrospect, the most obvious lesson was the importance of acknowledging that people have different values, and those values are shaped by many things, including culture and religion. While it may be true that some values are shared across cultures, it is a mistake to assume that we can understand another person's values and priorities through the prism of our own, or based upon what we think we know about them.

Healthcare providers can best help their patients by taking time to discuss cultural values, sacred traditions, and priorities with patients. This is especially true when it comes to end of life care, but it also applies to situations such as acceptance of medical testing, preferences regarding prescription drugs versus non-pharmaceutical alternatives and culture-based healing practices.

Another lesson was the importance of an advocate for the sick and vulnerable. It is extremely valuable for both the patient and the care team to have someone else present with the patient. This is a person the patient trusts to help clarify their concerns, to remember information, and to pass that information along to the patient's loved ones. Prior to the covid-19 pandemic, few patients utilized an advocate, except in the gravest of circumstances. Now, procedures in place to protect patients, staff, and family from this dreadful virus, limit the opportunity for patients to have an advocate physically present. However, most facilities support connection to patient advocates via phone call or video call.

In the end, a wise chaplain arranged for a traditional healer to visit our patient in her hospital room. I was not present for the ceremony, but the senior physicians and the daughter agreed on a plan of action. We didn't cure the patient, but we were able to offer her physical comfort in her final days, and I believe that by blending her culture and traditions with our medical ethos, we helped both the patient and her daughter find spiritual comfort as well.

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



By Debra Johnston, M.D ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 4 of 77

**#154 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

It's Sunday, so it's time for our two-week report. I provide these reports so we can get a longer view of trends without interference from the day-to-day reporting fluctuations that can color our view of where we appear to be heading.

There is no question that things continue to worsen, but it appears the rate may be slowing. That would be a good thing, given we've added close to a million cases, 928,300, in the two-week period. We are now at 4,243,600 cases in the US, 54,000 more than yesterday, a 1.3% increase in total cases. This is a large decrease from yesterday's new case total, and if it were not a weekend, I'd be pretty pleased. As it is, I would like to be pleased, but am withholding judgement based on what the next couple of days look like; the Friday through Monday period runs slow as a rule. If this persists into Tuesday, I'll feel like we're on to something. We are up to 27 consecutive days of the worst-ever, but today was only our 22nd-worst. Considering the last six before that were all in our top 10, that looks pretty good. Florida has now also passed New York for total cases, bumping New York down to third place among states, an outcome I would not have predicted a month ago. It is definitely a sign of how bad things have become across the country that two states have passed New York, with its over 400,000 cases. We should note that Florida has been averaging almost 11,000 new cases per day for a week. While nearly a third of their cases have been in the 15-34 year old age group recently, that seems to be shifting to older individuals who can be expected to show a higher mortality rate.

Alaska, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Tennessee all set records for new cases today. Seven-day averages set records in Nevada, Texas, and South Carolina and matched records in Mississippi and North Carolina.

The increases continue, but the pace may be slowing. Both one- and two-week rates of increase have fallen slightly. One week increases in total cases, reporting on Sunday, have been, starting June 28, 270,000 (11.6%); 340,000 (13.3%); 412,000 (14.2%); 461,000 (13.9%), and today 467,000 (12.4%). Two-week increases have been 476,000 (22.3%); 612,000 (26.7%); 753,400 (29.4%); 873,100 (30.1%), and today 928,300 (28.0%).

I track 55 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and 29 of these showed two-week rates of increase greater than 30%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: US Virgin Islands (99.45% - huge decrease), Montana (90.10% - also a big decrease), Alaska (74.94% - substantial increase), Idaho (72.30% - big improvement), Florida (57.09%- improved), Puerto Rico (56.86%), Nevada (54.69%), Oklahoma (54.61%), Texas (49.70% - also better), Tennessee (49.46%), Missouri (49.07%), Alabama (47.97%), Mississippi (44.14%), South Carolina (43.34% - also better), Kentucky (41.67%), Georgia (41.60%), California (40.44%), West Virginia (40.43%), Hawaii (38.22%), Oregon (37.70%), Louisiana (37.65%), Arkansas (36.15% - better), North Dakota (35.55%), Kansas (33.52%), Wyoming (32.92%), Arizona (32.29% - a drop), Wisconsin (32.04%), North Carolina (31.47%), and Washington (30.55%). New on this list since last week is North Dakota; Utah and Ohio came off it.

Fourteen-day trends in new case reporting have 37 states and territories increasing, six fewer than last week, as follows: Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Fifteen states and territories are not showing much change, as follows: Guam, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, South Dakota, Kansas, Texas, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and West Virginia. Only one states and one territory are showing declines in new case numbers, as follows: Arizona and the US Virgin Islands.

New deaths today are down from yesterday at 448, a 0.3% increase to 146,747. Although today is a substantial decrease from the trends of the past few days, I am not so sure this is a meaningful change, given the weekend. Total weekly deaths are still significantly higher than they were last week. The past

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 5 of 77

four weeks have showed a steady increase in deaths with 4104, 5035, 5389, and 6415.

I'll have more for you tomorrow night, but I'm taking a break today and have nothing further by way of news. I'll leave you with this:

Two Maryland teenagers, Dhruv Pai and Matt Casertano, were buying groceries for their grandparents back in March when it occurred to them that there were probably other elderly people in their town who didn't have relatives to help them. In order to connect willing volunteers from their high school with these people in need of help, they created an organization they called Teens Helping Seniors and advertised their services on social media. The principle was a simple one: prospective clients contact the organization with a home address and preferred schedule, a volunteer is assigned, and the client e-mails a grocery list. The volunteer confirms a delivery time, does the shopping, and delivers to the front door; the client can leave payment outside or pay using Venmo.

It didn't stay simple for long: Demand was high, and more volunteers were recruited. They put a team on logistics and another on social media. By the end of the second week, they had a second chapter in Albany, NY. Word got out, and the project grew. At this time, the organization has 26 chapters with over 600 volunteers who have made more than 1350 deliveries in 15 states and provinces of Canada.

As time went on, the need for grocery deliveries tapered off, but the organization wanted to continue supporting seniors in their communities. As a result, they have partnered with other organizations, delivering donated food to veterans, providing services to persons with dementia, and serving local neighborhoods with senior populations.

And apparently, they're giving good service. There have been homemade birthday cakes and homemade cookies delivered along with the ordered groceries. Teens—and their parents—report that they're learning a lot about shopping. And the clients are pleased. One said, "There's a lot of tension, negativity, fear, and division in the world and in the news these days. You and your group are one of the shining lights of goodness, and are showing the people-helping-people spirit at the foundation of our country."

For all of the years I worked with young people, a recurring theme in society had to do with what's wrong with kids today, and for all of those years, young people consistently gave the lie to those complaints. They've stepped up again and again when they've been needed and done the hard things. These particular kids, a 15 and a 16-year-old, didn't sit around the house snapchatting with their friends and whining about their troubles; they looked around them—really looked, saw a need, and set about meeting that need. And they did it rather spectacularly. I think we can agree the average person does not go about solving life's problems by starting up international service organizations in their spare time. I'm going to offer my thought here that there's not much wrong with kids these days.

And if the kids are doing that, it's pretty tough for the rest of us to find an excuse to ignore the need around us, isn't it? All of us have something to give, can find some way to help, can devote a small part of ourselves to building the sort of society we would actually want to live in when we emerge from these hard times. Don't let the kids show you up. Do something.

And stay safe. We'll talk again.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 6 of 77

## 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 22	July 23	June 24	June 25	July 26	July 27
Minnesota	47,457	47,961	48,721	49,488	50,291	51,153
Nebraska	23,190	23,486	23,818	24,174	24,395	24,618
Montana	2,712	2,813	2,910	3,039	3,260	3,342
Colorado	41,059	41,698	42,314	42,980	43,789	44,336
Wyoming	1,830	1,864	1,923	1,972	2,008	2,029
North Dakota	5207	5367	5493	5614	5736	5876
South Dakota	8019	8077	8143	8200	8305	8395
United States	3,902,233	3,971,343	4,038,864	4,114,817	4,178,730	4,234,140
US Deaths	142,073	143,193	144,305	145,565	146,463	146,935

Minnesota	+350	+504	+760	+ 773	+805	+871
Nebraska	+343	+296	+332	+356	+221	+223
Montana	+91	+101	+97	+129	+221	+82
Colorado	+493	+639	+616	+455	+457	+547
Wyoming	+40	+34	+59	+49	+36	+21
North Dakota	+81	+160	+126	+121	+122	+140
South Dakota	+76	+58	+66	+57	+105	+90
United States	+70,828	+69,110	+67,521	+75,953	+63,913	+55,410
US Deaths	+1,164	+1,120	+1,112	+1,260	+898	+472

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 7 of 77

## July 26th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent  
from State Health Lab Reports

A 70-79 year old Todd County male resident became the fourth casualty in that county from Covid-19. That marks the 123rd death in South Dakota.

Bennett County is now fully recovered but Sanborn County got a new case to fall off the fully recovered list. The positive rate in South Dakota is 2.7%. North Dakota positive rate is 6.4%.

Brown County had 5 new cases while Brown, Day, and Marshall each had one recovery.

### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: +2 (20)

Recovered: +1 (357)

Total Positive: +5 (379)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (20)

Deaths: 2

Negative Tests: +41 (3913)

Percent Recovered: 94.2% (-1.0)

### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +90 (8395 total)

Negative: +3,241 (98,531 total)

Hospitalized: +3 (801 total). 48 currently hospitalized (up 2 from yesterday)

Deaths: +1 (123 total)

Recovered: +57 (7364 total)

Active Cases: +32 (908)

Percent Recovered: 87.7 -.2

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding +1 (48), unassigned +150 (5134)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Sanborn, Gained Bennett) Bennett 5-5, Bon Homme 13-13, Campbell 1-1, Custer 11-11, Edmunds 10-10, Haakon 1-1, Hand 7-7, Hyde 3-3, Jackson 7-7, Jones 1-1, Perkins 4-4, Stanley 14-14, Sully 1-1.

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

Aurora: 3 active cases  
Beadle (9): +2 positive, +5 recovered (41 active cases)  
Bennett: +1 recovered FULLY RECOVERED 5-5  
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered  
Brookings: +3 positive, 2 recovered (8 active cases)  
Brown (2): +5 positive, +1 recovered (20 active cases)  
Brule: 3 active cases  
Buffalo (3): 19 active cases  
Butte: +1 recovered (3 active cases)

Campbell: Fully Recovered  
Charles Mix: 39 active cases  
Clark: 2 active cases  
Clay: +2 positive, 1 recovered (14 active cases)  
Codington: +2 positive, 1 recovered (21 active cases)  
Corson: 3 active cases  
Custer: Fully Recovered  
Davison: +3 positive, +3 recovered (14 active cases)  
Day: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
Deuel: 2 active case

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 8 of 77

Dewey: 52 active cases  
 Douglas: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Edmunds: Fully Recovered  
 Fall River: +1 recovered (1 active case)  
 Faulk (1): 4 active cases  
 Grant: 1 active case  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: Fully Recovered  
 Hamlin: +1 recovered (1 active case)  
 Hand: Fully Recovered  
 Hanson: 3 active cases  
 Harding: No infections reported  
 Hughes (3): +1 positive (12 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: +1 positive, 1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Hyde: Fully Recovered  
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: 2 active cases  
 Lake (2): +3 positive, +3 recovered (18 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +1 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Lincoln (1): +14 positive, +5 recovered (74 active cases)  
 Lyman (1): 8 active cases  
 Marshall: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 McCook (1): 4 active cases  
 McPherson: 1 active case  
 Meade (1): +2 positive, 1 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Mellette: +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
 Miner: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (62): +35 positive, +11 recovered (276 active cases)

Moody: +1 positive (4 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (21 active cases)  
 Pennington (24): +4 positive, +8 recovered (127 active cases)  
 Perkins: Fully Recovered  
 Potter: 1 active case  
 Roberts: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Sanborn: +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Spink: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: Fully Recovered  
 Todd (4): 6 active cases  
 Tripp: 1 active case  
 Turner: +1 positive, +1 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Union (2): +3 positive (22 active cases)  
 Walworth: 2 active cases  
 Yankton (2): +4 positive, 3 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Ziebach: +4 positive (6 active cases)

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, July 26:

- 4,718 tests (2,219)
- 5,876 positives (+141)
- 4,752 recovered (+81)
- 99 deaths (+0)

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	719	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1006	12%
Hispanic	1175	14%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1360	16%
Other	843	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	3292	39%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	9
Brown	2
Buffalo	3
Butte	1
Faulk	1
Hughes	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	2
Lincoln	1
Lyman	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	62
Oglala Lakota	1
Pennington	26
Todd	4
Union	2
Yankton	2



# Broton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 9 of 77

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	37	34	345
Beadle	582	532	1788
Bennett	5	5	470
Bon Homme	13	13	701
Brookings	111	103	2402
Brown	379	357	3913
Brule	38	35	681
Buffalo	105	83	598
Butte	8	5	695
Campbell	1	1	78
Charles Mix	99	60	1150
Clark	16	14	364
Clay	106	92	1181
Codington	111	90	2555
Corson	24	21	364
Custer	11	11	721
Davison	81	67	2094
Day	21	19	567
Deuel	7	5	368
Dewey	53	1	1928
Douglas	16	12	375
Edmunds	10	10	370
Fall River	14	13	889
Faulk	26	21	162
Grant	18	17	651
Gregory	6	5	331
Haakon	1	1	276
Hamlin	14	13	576
Hand	7	7	252
Hanson	16	13	167
Harding	0	0	48
Hughes	83	68	1544
Hutchinson	24	20	831

Hyde	3	3	115
Jackson	7	6	407
Jerauld	39	37	263
Jones	1	1	49
Kingsbury	10	8	501
Lake	66	46	839
Lawrence	25	23	1891
Lincoln	481	406	5790
Lyman	84	75	860
Marshall	8	6	392
McCook	23	18	586
McPherson	6	5	192
Meade	65	55	1759
Mellette	21	11	300
Miner	12	10	237
Minnehaha	4018	3680	24422
Moody	28	24	578
Oglala Lakota	134	114	2852
Pennington	778	626	9928
Perkins	4	4	135
Potter	1	0	261
Roberts	63	57	1505
Sanborn	13	12	206
Spink	18	16	1059
Stanley	14	14	225
Sully	1	1	63
Todd	66	57	1835
Tripp	20	19	559
Turner	43	27	816
Union	175	151	1714
Walworth	18	16	527
Yankton	100	87	2821
Ziebach	7	1	275
Unassigned****	0	0	5134

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

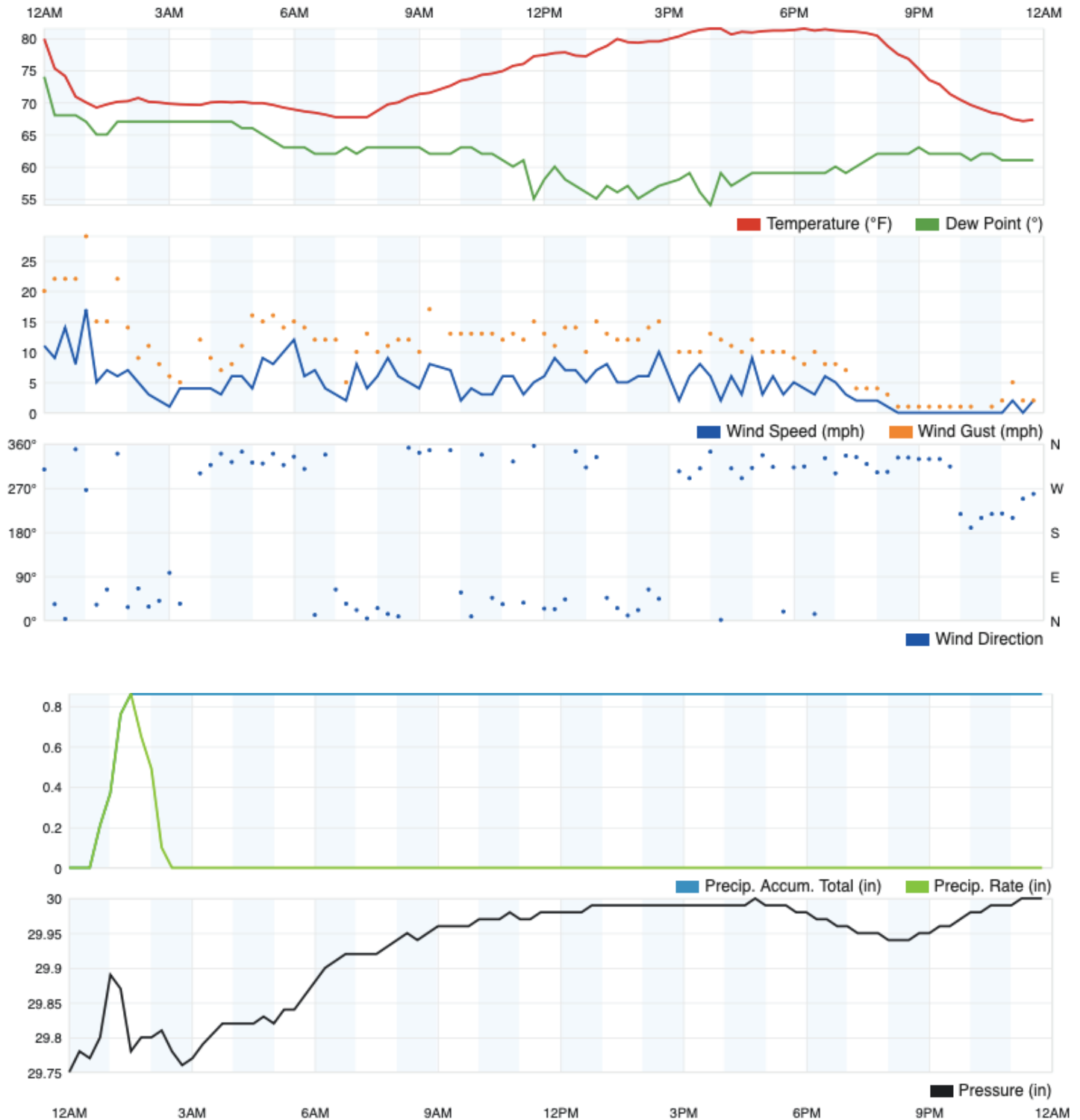
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4097	63
Male	4298	60

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1013	0
20-29 years	1762	1
30-39 years	1698	6
40-49 years	1309	7
50-59 years	1274	16
60-69 years	758	23
70-79 years	306	18
80+ years	275	52

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 10 of 77

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 11 of 77

Today



Slight Chance  
Sprinkles

High: 86 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance  
Sprinkles

Low: 59 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 85 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 85 °F

## Tranquil Weather

Mostly clear skies, with high temperatures ranging from around 80 across the Coteau to near 90 across portions of Central SD

Wind gusts of 20-30 mph from the northwest this afternoon across far northeastern SD and west central MN



Updated: 7/27/2020 2:52 AM Central

A few days of dry weather are expected, until Wednesday afternoon through Thursday morning for Central SD when showers and storms are possible. Near-normal temperatures for late July meanwhile.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 12 of 77

## Today in Weather History

July 27, 1999: Golf ball size hail and high winds destroyed hundreds of acres of crops on a farm southeast of Ipswich. Golf ball size hail and high winds caused extensive damage to the Richland Wesley Church and the pastor and associate pastor home. The hail poked numerous holes in the siding and shingles of the buildings and broke many windows. Several cars were damaged, and a large tree was also downed. An F1 tornado snapped large branches of an oak and drove them into the ground. The tornado knocked down approximately five headstones in a small cemetery and took a roof off a small outbuilding. It destroyed an empty grain bin, moved a grain auger 50 feet, and took off several large doors on a machine shed. The tornado also knocked down or snapped off numerous large trees in shelter belts and destroyed a barn and several outbuildings just north of Chelsea.

July 27, 2001: An F1 tornado damaged homes, public buildings, trees, and power lines in the town of Lennox, Lincoln County. The American Legion building had its entire front facade ripped off, and its windows shattered. Several vehicles near the building sustained significant damage from flying debris, and one was lifted and dropped partly onto another vehicle. Damage to homes included holes in permanent siding, several roofs heavily damaged, windows were broken, fences blew down, garages damaged including at least one destroyed. Damage to public buildings included the pump house at the water tower being destroyed, the roof at the water plant was damaged, flag poles next to the ambulance building were broken, and an overhead door at the fire station was torn off. A fire truck at the fire station was damaged, and the window air conditioner was blown out along with some ceiling tiles inside. Power was lost to much of the city for at least an hour and a half because of the downed power lines.

1819: A hurricane affected the coast from Louisiana to Alabama. New Orleans was on the fringe of the storm and suffered no severe damage. Ships at the Balize experienced a strong gale for 24 hours that only grounded three ships. Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne rose five to six feet during the storm, with farms along the lakes flooded by the storm tide. Forty-one lives were lost on the U.S. Man of War schooner Firebrand, a 150-ton gunship, while it lay off the west end of Cat Island. At least 43 people died in all.

1926: A destructive Category 4 hurricane struck Nassau during the evening hours on the 25th. The hurricane passed just east of Cape Canaveral early on the 28th and made landfall near present-day Edgewater, Florida.

1943: A "surprise," Category 2 Hurricane moved ashore near Galveston, Texas. Due to World War II, all news underwent censorship, including any weather reports making this the surprise storm. The hurricane killed 19 people and caused millions of dollars in damages. Of particular note, Lieutenant Colonel Joe Duckworth and Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair flew an AT-6 Texan into the eye of the hurricane, becoming the first flight into the eye of the storm. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

1989: Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, Arizona experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is typically received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24-hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions.

# Groton Daily Independent

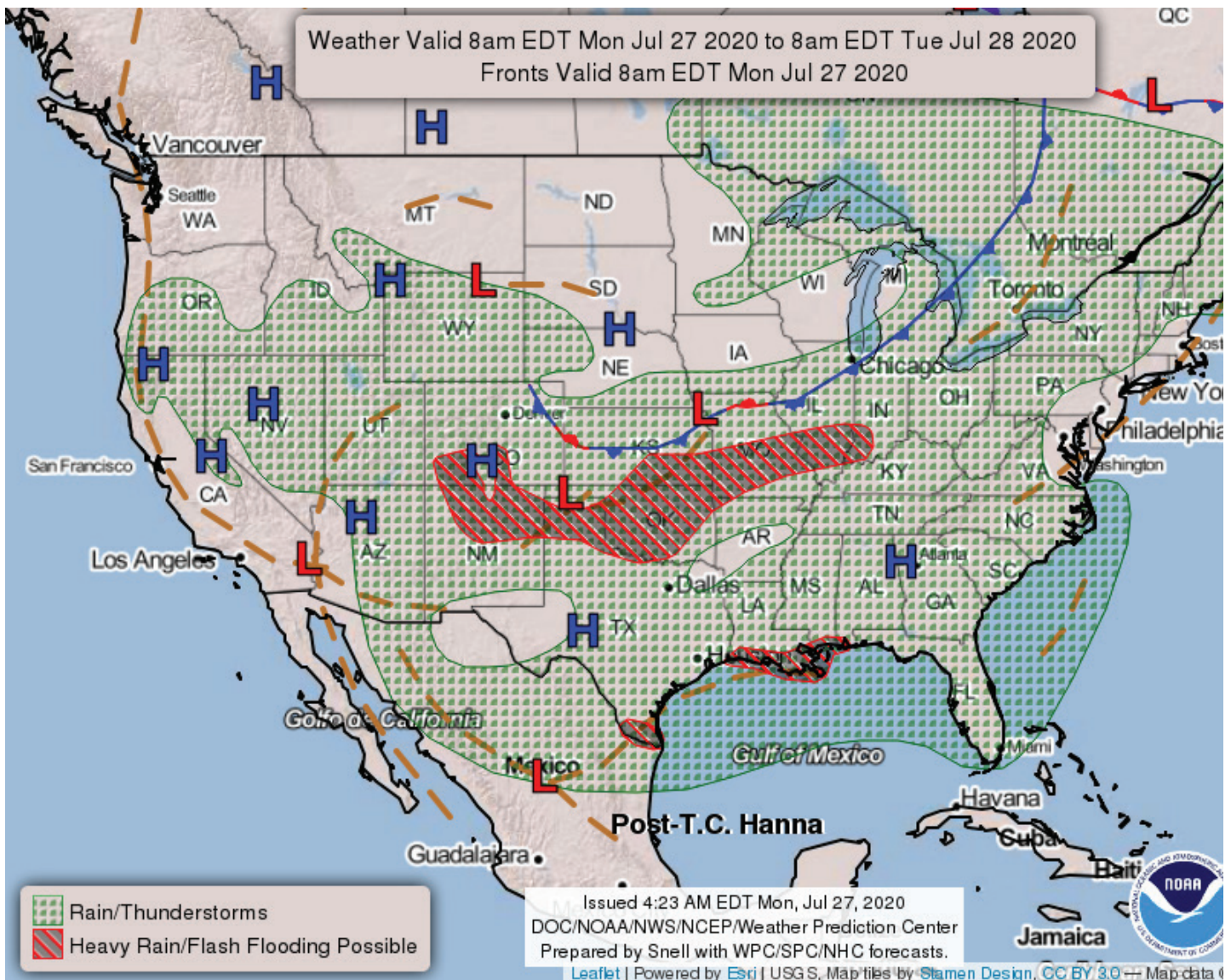
Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 13 of 77

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 82 °F at 4:04 PM**  
**Low Temp: 67 °F at 11:58 PM**  
**Wind: 29 mph at 12:57 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 110° in 1931**  
**Record Low: 41° in 1913**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 2.60**  
**Precip to date in July.: 2.19**  
**Average Precip to date: 13.44**  
**Precip Year to Date: 10.51**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:07 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 14 of 77



## LIMITED BY CHOICE

James Corbett was a one-time bank teller who became a world champion heavyweight boxer. One day while strolling through the woods, he came upon a man fishing for trout. Intrigued, he paused to watch him.

Eventually, the fisherman pulled out a huge trout, examined it carefully, and threw it back into the stream. After a short time, he caught another large trout, measured it, and then threw it back into the stream as he had with the first one. Eventually, he caught a trout half the size of the first two and kept it. Intrigued, Corbett asked, "Why did you throw the two large trout back into the stream and keep the small one?"

"Small frying pan," said the fisherman casting his line back into the stream.

Our vision keeps us in bondage. If we have small goals about what we want to achieve for God, then we will be satisfied with small gains. If we engage in little battles for God, we will be content with small victories. If we attempt nothing for God, that will be our reward.

If, on the other hand, we look to God for ideas that are worthy of Him, He will give them to us. And, not only will He give us ideas that are worthy of Him, but with them His inspiration and confirmation, His power and strength, His wisdom and insight to accomplish them. Then, we can do all things through Him if we do all things for Him. "By His mighty power," Paul said, "He can accomplish more than we can ask or hope." With God, all things are possible!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is evident that You want us to do great things for You. Give us an unlimited view of what we can do for You, and empower us to do great things for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Ephesians 3:20

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 15 of 77

## 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
- **CANCELLED** Andover Threshing Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- 11/14/2020 Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

## News from the Associated Press

### Family raises money for addiction treatment in dad's memory

By DANIELLE FERGUSON Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Harrison Olson and his sisters awoke early on their dad's birthday.

The siblings had a plan. They were going to print tickets, get all the fun birthday amenities Disney World had to offer, wake up their dad and get the perfect day started.

It was the day their worst fear was realized.

Harrison walked up to his father, who didn't respond right away, not an unusual occurrence for the heavy sleeper.

Harrison kept trying, and his father kept still.

He ran for his older sisters.

Tim Olson died on June 9, 2019, his 47th birthday, from health implications brought by years of addiction to alcohol.

"We knew his health was impacted by this," said the eldest sibling, Kaitlin Olson. "We had discussions before about being afraid of losing him. It was a sad moment to confirm one of my worst fears."

A year after their dad's death, the siblings want to help people with addiction and their families while honoring the memory of their father, the Argus Leader reported.

For Tim's birthday and Father's Day, the family hosted a fundraiser to help provide peer coaching at Face It Together, a Sioux Falls-based organization that practices peer mentoring for people with addictions and their families.

The family connected to Face It Together when Tim's wife, Heather, attended Face It Together's SMART Family & Friends meetings and received coaching from a Face It Together mentor in 2017. Harrison, 15, said he thinks those services were helpful to his mom and wanted to pay it forward.

"Treatment and counseling can be a very expensive thing," he said. "I hope everyone who needs help can get it."

The goal was \$5,000.

They reached that goal day one and reached nearly \$10,000, which will cover more than 145 free coaching sessions. Face It Together typically provides sponsorships of four-sessions, so that would be 37 sponsorships for people who are seeking addiction help.

"It's nice to know our story touched enough people that they were willing to donate, especially during a hard time," said Kaitlin, 22, a master's student at the University of Colorado-Anschutz. "It means more to me that people will get the help they need and encourage their loved ones to get help as well. That's what we wanted."

Lauren Olson, a 19-year-old sophomore at Colorado State University, noticed that her dad drank, but didn't understand that it was an issue until the family had a conversation about him going to treatment about five years ago. She had a lot of questions: How long would he be gone? What do you do at treatment? How would it help? Why do you keep drinking?

"I think I thought when I was younger that he was choosing to drink over the family," she said. "Once he went through treatment for the first time, I realized it was a true problem that he wasn't in control of."

It's one of the things she and her siblings say they learned and one of the most important messages they want to get across. Their dad was more than his drinking, and the disease of addiction doesn't discriminate.

"Knowing how much he cared and would do anything for us, if he couldn't stop, it was clearly very powerful over him," said Kaitlin, 22. "The disease aspect comes into that. It's more than personal choice."

Tim was involved in his family business with his father at Olson and Associates, and they later formed a restaurant corporation that founded Callaway's, Foley's and Tre restaurants, where Tim worked for years, according to his obituary.

He was a great cook and sports enthusiast, known for his longtime devotion to the Pittsburgh Steelers.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 17 of 77

He coached Lauren's softball team, took Harrison to Hawaii and was one of Kaitlin's biggest supporters. "I want people to know that despite him being an addict, he was the best dad I could have asked for," said Harrison. "He just wanted us to be happy."

## State Theatre opening in Sioux Falls delayed by pandemic

By PATRICK ANDERSON Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls city leaders rallied around the State Theatre last summer, approving an injection of \$1.5 million in taxpayer dollars to help finally bring to a close the extended effort to restore the downtown venue.

City Hall's gift, accompanied by \$3.5 million from First Premier Bank founder T. Denny Sanford, came with the announcement of a spring 2020 opening.

But after decades of sitting dormant along Phillips Avenue, and years of working to restore the building, the timeline for opening the State has been delayed, a representative for the theater's management group told the Sioux Falls Business Journal.

Efforts to put the finishing touches on the interior have been delayed due to complications caused by the coronavirus pandemic, said Allison Weiland, executive director for the Sioux Falls State Theatre Company.

"The majority of theaters, applied performance and cinematic, are dark right now," Weiland said. "And that's a reality."

But it's not only concerns about opening during the pandemic and the effect of the pandemic on theatergoers that have caused the delay. Restoration work has also been slowed due to closures and shutdowns in other states and how that has affected the ability of local crews to finish the job.

The State ordered its chairs from Michigan, which was shutdown for weeks. They finally arrived a few weeks back.

"But now we have to get them installed," Weiland said. "They send their installers as well, and they've all been pushed behind."

Recently crews finally had the chance to put in the elevator after the State waited on New York to reopen and send over the steel for building out the shaft.

The State has been closed since 1991. The most current effort to restore and re-open the movie theater has been ongoing since 2011.

In a perfect world, with no other complications, the State would open this fall and start screening classic movies, Weiland said. New movies are hard to come by because of how the pandemic has affected the entertainment industry.

## South Dakota reports 90 new COVID cases, 1 new death

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials report 90 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the state and one new death.

The state has now had a total of 8,395 cases of COVID-19 as of Sunday, with 908 cases still active.

The South Dakota Department of Health reports 7,364 recoveries from the disease, and a total of 48 people are currently hospitalized, up slightly from 46 on Saturday, the Argus Leader reported.

With the new death reported Sunday, South Dakota's death toll from the disease has risen to 123.

Minnehaha County added 35 cases, Lincoln County added 14 and Pennington County added four.

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

## Virtual art show offers encouragement to Lakota artists

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

The Red Cloud Indian Art Show held every summer on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 18 of 77

is usually an intimate gathering — a chance for local Lakota artists to rub elbows with big-name artists in the Indigenous art world. Not this year.

But organizers have found a way to carry out the show for a 52nd year, bringing vital income to Native American artists who work all winter in anticipation of selling their pieces at summer art shows. The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School, a Jesuit school on Pine Ridge, held a virtual opening and is displaying the art online through August.

Some of the art has a different theme this year: Paintings feature masked subjects and beadwork now adorns cloth face coverings.

“Art is an essential part of Lakota culture,” said Mary Maxon, the director of the Heritage Center at Red Cloud. “It’s a part of life. The act of creating things of beauty and meaning is often a shared experience and the way that the culture is carried forward from generation to generation.”

Since the pandemic arrived in the United States, a shared experience has often been one of isolation, especially on Pine Ridge, where tribal leadership enacted a series of strict lockdowns. Native American tribes across the nation have been especially vigilant to the pandemic, amid fears it could cripple small health care systems that treat high numbers of people with ongoing health conditions.

Molina Parker, a beadwork artist who lives in the town of Red Shirt on Pine Ridge, usually spends her summers traveling between Indigenous art shows, selling the work she completes during the winter. She’s stuck at home this year, but said the virtual show offered some encouragement to local artists.

“You have the freedom to be creative and express yourself,” she said.

The virtual show has also seen some commercial success, offering local artists a way to support themselves, Maxon said.

But Parker said it has still been difficult to focus on her work between the news of the pandemic and having her husband and child at home all day. She has tried to heed advice her grandmother once gave her: “You need to keep busy. You always need to keep working.”

This story has been updated to correct spelling of Mary Maxon.

## Police seek 2 in fatal shooting in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are seeking two people in a fatal shooting.

Officers were dispatched just after 4:30 a.m. Sunday in central Sioux Falls on a report of gunshots. Police said a male victim was found injured and later died at a hospital from gunshot wounds. The name of the victim was not released.

Police said they are looking for a 22-year-old woman and a 24-year-old man as persons of interest in the shooting. Both are considered armed and dangerous.

Police expect to release more information at their Monday press briefing.

## Virus vaccine put to final test in thousands of volunteers

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

The world’s biggest COVID-19 vaccine study got underway Monday with the first of 30,000 planned volunteers helping to test shots created by the U.S. government -- one of several candidates in the final stretch of the global vaccine race.

There’s still no guarantee that the experimental vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., will really protect.

The needed proof: Volunteers won’t know if they’re getting the real shot or a dummy version. After two doses, scientists will closely track which group experiences more infections as they go about their daily routines, especially in areas where the virus still is spreading unchecked.

“Unfortunately for the United States of America, we have plenty of infections right now” to get that answer, NIH’s Dr. Anthony Fauci recently told The Associated Press.

Moderna said the vaccination was done in Savannah, Georgia, the first site to get underway among more

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 19 of 77

than seven dozen trial sites scattered around the country.

Several other vaccines made by China and by Britain's Oxford University earlier this month began smaller final-stage tests in Brazil and other hard-hit countries.

But the U.S. requires its own tests of any vaccine that might be used in the country and has set a high bar: Every month through fall, the government-funded COVID-19 Prevention Network will roll out a new study of a leading candidate -- each one with 30,000 newly recruited volunteers.

The massive studies aren't just to test if the shots work — they're needed to check each potential vaccine's safety. And following the same study rules will let scientists eventually compare all the shots.

Next up in August, the final study of the Oxford shot begins, followed by plans to test a candidate from Johnson & Johnson in September and Novavax in October -- if all goes according to schedule. Pfizer Inc. plans its own 30,000-person study this summer.

That's a stunning number of people needed to roll up their sleeves for science. But in recent weeks, more than 150,000 Americans filled out an online registry signaling interest, said Dr. Larry Corey, a virologist with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute in Seattle, who helps oversee the study sites.

"These trials need to be multigenerational, they need to be multiethnic, they need to reflect the diversity of the United States population," Corey told a vaccine meeting last week. He stressed that it's especially important to ensure enough Black and Hispanic participants as those populations are hard-hit by COVID-19.

It normally takes years to create a new vaccine from scratch, but scientists are setting speed records this time around, spurred by knowledge that vaccination is the world's best hope against the pandemic. The coronavirus wasn't even known to exist before late December, and vaccine makers sprang into action Jan. 10 when China shared the virus' genetic sequence.

Just 65 days later in March, the NIH-made vaccine was tested in people. The first recipient is encouraging others to volunteer now.

"We all feel so helpless right now. There's very little that we can do to combat this virus. And being able to participate in this trial has given me a sense of, that I'm doing something," Jennifer Haller of Seattle told the AP. "Be prepared for a lot of questions from your friends and family about how it's going, and a lot of thank-you's."

That first-stage study that included Haller and 44 others showed the shots revved up volunteers' immune systems in ways scientists expect will be protective, with some minor side effects such as a brief fever, chills and pain at the injection site. Early testing of other leading candidates have had similarly encouraging results.

If everything goes right with the final studies, it still will take months for the first data to trickle in from the Moderna test, followed by the Oxford one.

Governments around the world are trying to stockpile millions of doses of those leading candidates so if and when regulators approve one or more vaccines, immunizations can begin immediately. But the first available doses will be rationed, presumably reserved for people at highest risk from the virus.

"We're optimistic, cautiously optimistic" that the vaccine will work and that "toward the end of the year" there will be data to prove it, Dr. Stephen Hoge, president of Massachusetts-based Moderna, told a House subcommittee last week.

Until then, Haller, the volunteer vaccinated back in March, wears a mask in public and takes the same distancing precautions advised for everyone -- while hoping that one of the shots in the pipeline pans out.

"I don't know what the chances are that this is the exact right vaccine. But thank goodness that there are so many others out there battling this right now," she said.

---

AP photographer Ted Warren in Seattle 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.

## AP-NORC poll: Anxiety props up Biden, Trump voters fervent

By STEVE PEOPLES and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Murtice Sherek is not excited about Joe Biden.

The Minnesota Democrat, a 79-year-old retired nurse, preferred another candidate in the presidential primary. She also worries about Biden's age, 77. But anxious about another four years of President Donald Trump, she says she's willing to go to any length to ensure Biden wins this fall.

"I don't really give a damn what I have to do. If I have to carry signs on the streets, if I have to carry my old friends to the polls, I'll do it," Sherek said. "This just can't be. Trump is a sick man."

Roughly three months before Election Day, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that Biden's supporters are less enthusiastic than Trump's — both about the campaign itself and about their candidate — although the Democrat's coalition may be equally motivated by anxiety.

Still, the poll reveals an American public at odds with Trump on wearing masks, on balancing restrictions to stop the virus with efforts to help the economy and on fully reopening schools. And voters give Biden higher marks on many positive traits that apply to leadership in the age of the coronavirus, including honesty, capability and caring for Americans.

Sherek's assessment of the candidates highlights the nuanced motivations underlying the so-called enthusiasm gap, which has raised concerns among Biden's allies who worry the deficit could undermine his candidacy once voting begins.

While interest in the presidential campaign is high across the board, just 31% of Biden supporters say they're excited, compared with 42% of Trump supporters. Biden's coalition is fueled by more negative emotions: 72% of Biden supporters, but 52% of Trump supporters, say they feel anxious about the 2020 campaign. The same disparity exists for frustration with the election, 65% for Biden supporters and 45% for Trump's.

Anya Kumar, an 18-year-old recent high school graduate from Columbia, Missouri, vowed to vote for Biden this fall but conceded many of her young friends who oppose Trump don't feel much passion for the former vice president. Many aren't even registered, she said.

"For the most part, people I know really just don't want Trump," Kumar said, acknowledging that she is motivated more by anxiety about Trump's reelection than genuine excitement about his Democratic rival. "If Biden doesn't win, that would suck."

Biden's team largely dismisses the idea of an enthusiasm gap. It says that with Trump's level of support shrinking, a greater share of energized supporters is left behind in the diminished pool. Indeed, Trump's job approval in the new poll sits at 38%, within the narrow range that has endured throughout his presidency but down from relative highs earlier this year.

Just 32% of voters approve of the way Trump is handling the pandemic, a low point that follows a steady decline from the outset of the crisis. While Trump's supporters almost unanimously approve of his performance overall, 2 in 10 disapprove of his response to the pandemic.

Stacey Rogus, 43, a Republican from Glendale, Arizona, who works in the medical industry, admitted some concerns about Trump. She says the president is narcissistic, doesn't act as "presidential" as she'd like and doesn't think before he speaks. But Rogus is determined to vote for him a second time because of his economic policies and support for the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

She also suspects that Trump's political opponents are exaggerating the threat of the coronavirus pandemic to hurt his reelection. She finds the timing of the outbreak "a little odd."

"He didn't make the virus," Rogus said. "If anything, maybe the Democrat party created it just to make him look bad." (The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has ruled out the virus being human-made and noted that is the scientific consensus as well.)

The poll also found that voters generally prefer Biden's character and values. About 6 in 10 registered voters say that values like "cares about people like you," "honest" and "strong leader" do not describe Trump well. By comparison, roughly the same majority say those characteristics describe Biden at least somewhat well.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 21 of 77

And in considering whether the two are “capable” — a question that likely reflects voters’ views of each man’s mental acuity and ability to govern — fewer say that describes Trump than Biden at least somewhat well, 43% vs. 56%. Trump, who’s 74, and his allies have made attacks against Biden’s age and cognitive ability a centerpiece of their message.

Trump has an advantage on standing up for what he believes. Seventy percent think this describes Trump at least somewhat well, including 54% who think it describes him very well. Sixty-three percent think standing up for his beliefs describes Biden at least somewhat well, but just 36% think it describes him very well.

Trump’s supporters are much stronger in their positive descriptions of Trump than Biden backers are of their candidate. For example, wide majorities of Trump supporters think “stands up for what he believes” (87%), “strong leader” (75%) and “capable” (76%) describe the president very well. Fewer Biden supporters think “standing up for what he believes” (63%), “strong leader” (50%) and “capable” (56%) describe Biden very well.

For Biden, a significant age gap within his coalition drives the lukewarm ratings. Older Biden supporters are much more likely than those under 45 to say such traits describe Biden very well.

Terrance Berinato, a 72-year-old Democrat from Front Royal, Virginia, who said he’ll definitely vote for Biden and describes Trump as “the worst president we’ve ever had, period.” He acknowledged that Trump supporters may be more excited about their candidate, but he predicted it wouldn’t matter given that Trump’s overall support is shrinking.

“I’m sure Trump supporters, the 30% or 40% of people who would follow him to hell, are very enthused,” Berinato said.

Peoples reported from New York.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,057 adults, including 922 registered voters, was conducted July 16-20 using a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>.

## European tourism faces turbulence only weeks after restart

By GEIR MOULSON and ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Europe’s tourism revival is running into turbulence only weeks after countries opened their borders, with rising infections in Spain and other countries causing increasing concern as authorities worry about people bringing the coronavirus home from their summer vacations.

European countries started opening up to each other’s tourists in mid-June, but recent events have shown that the new freedom to travel is subject to unpredictable setbacks. Over the weekend, Britain imposed a 14-day quarantine on travelers arriving from Spain, Norway ordered a 10-day quarantine for people returning from the entire Iberian peninsula, and France urged its citizens not to visit Spain’s Catalonia region.

In Austria, the lakeside resort town of St. Wolfgang shortened bar opening hours after an outbreak was detected on Friday. By Monday, 53 people had tested positive, many of them interns working in the tourism industry.

In Germany, officials decided last week to set up testing stations at airports to encourage people arriving from a long list of countries deemed high-risk — including traditionally popular destinations such as Turkey — to get tested. They will also allow people to get tested elsewhere for free within three days of arrival.

“We are still very concerned about holidays,” the governor of Bavaria, Markus Soeder, said Monday. “My worry is not that there will be one big Ischgl, but that there will be many mini-Ischgl,” he added, refer-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 22 of 77

ring to the Austrian ski resort that was an early European hot spot as the virus crisis took off in March.

"We are already seeing this in Spain, but also in other places," he said, adding that German residents' trips to visit families abroad are also a concern. Soeder called for tests of returning vacationers from risky areas at airports to be made obligatory, something that the federal government is considering.

"Mostly it is the considerate people who have behaved very cautiously on vacation anyway who take up the voluntary offers, while those who are more careless don't take a voluntary test," Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff, Helge Braun, told RBB Inforadio. New infections in Germany have been creeping higher from a low level.

Tourism employs 2.6 million people in Spain and generates 12% of the country's economic activity.

Juan Molas, the head of a national association of Spanish tourism companies, Mesa del Turismo, said the country's tourism sector has on average lost 5 billion euros (\$5.8 billion) a week since March.

Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto said the Spanish government is trying to persuade the U.K. to exempt the Balearic Islands, which have a relatively low infection rate, from the quarantine rule.

"We're living alongside the virus. That doesn't mean we can't travel. We can, if we are careful," Maroto said.

The head of the Valencia regional government, which includes the popular Costa Blanca, also said he wanted an exemption.

"The tourist season has already been very difficult," Ximo Puig told Cadena Ser radio. "We had some hope of salvaging something in August, but this is a very hard blow."

The northeastern Catalonia and Aragón regions have Spain's most worrying virus clusters, prompting authorities to tighten restrictions in Barcelona, in a rural area around Lleida and in Zaragoza that were relaxed only a month ago.

Catalonia is facing "the 10 most decisive days of this summer," regional leader Quim Torra said, warning that it is in everyone's hands to prevent a "critical situation" from worsening. But he also insisted that Catalonia is safe overall and said the tourism sector "is prepared with all the safety measures."

Elsewhere in Europe, authorities in Belgium said that COVID-19 cases are growing at an alarming rate amid a surge of infections in Antwerp.

And in north Africa, Morocco banned most travel to and from some major cities — including Tangier, Casablanca and Marrakech, usually a popular tourist destination — to try to stem a small spike in cases.

In the Asia-Pacific region, many countries are still essentially banning foreign travelers or, if they do allow them to enter, requiring them to submit to tests and strict quarantine. That includes Australia, where the premier of Victoria state, Daniel Andrews, said the biggest driver in the region's current outbreak is people continuing to go to work after showing symptoms.

Vietnam postponed next week's hosting of Asia's largest security forum and an annual meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers by a month to September due to the pandemic.

Two Southeast Asian diplomats said Vietnam, which leads the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year and appears to have controlled virus outbreaks within its borders, hopes to hold face-to-face meetings in mid-September.

Crossing borders was linked to other outbreaks in Asia. South Korea said 16 of the 25 new cases it confirmed Monday were tied to people arriving from abroad.

The country in past days reported dozens of cases among crew members of a Russia-flagged cargo ship and hundreds of South Korean construction workers airlifted from Iraq.

A tally by Johns Hopkins University shows more than 16.2 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide and more than 648,000 deaths. The actual numbers are thought to be much higher due to limits to testing and other issues.

Kurtenbach reported from Mito, Japan. Barry Hatton in Lisbon and Associated Press reporters from around the world contributed to this report.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 23 of 77

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

## Barr able to put his stamp on executive power as Trump's AG

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, COLLEEN LONG and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gathered in the small assembly hall in Little Rock, Arkansas, their chairs spaced 6 feet (1.83 meters) apart, the business leaders listen admiringly to the nation's chief law enforcement official.

They ask Attorney General William Barr about elder fraud. They ask about the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, about protection of federal monuments. And each thanks Barr for his devotion and service, praising him as a patriot who is working tirelessly to protect America and restore order.

But there are those who disagree. Outside, Black Lives Matter protesters approach the doors, screaming, chanting and banging on the windows. The business leaders strain to be heard over the din.

"We've been here an hour and now we all understand what you go through every day," a middle-age banker tells Barr, "so thank you."

Barr can expect this kind of praise when he appears Tuesday for the first time before the House Judiciary Committee -- but only from its Republicans. To them, he is a conservative stalwart, an unflappable foe of the left and its excesses, and -- most importantly -- a staunch defender of President Donald Trump.

The reception from the Democrats will be closer to the hostility of Little Rock's demonstrators.

In the course of roughly 18 months in office, the 70-year-old Barr has become inexorably linked to a norm-busting president with sagging popularity and uncertain reelection prospects.

His actions, including the investigation he launched into the Russia probe, have deepened criticism of him as Trump's faithful protector. Democrats have suggested he should be impeached and are holding hearings into what they say is the politicization of the Justice Department under his watch.

He came to the job with the reputation of an establishment Republican, and the expectation, by some, that he would temper the behavior of an impulsive and iconoclastic president. He has not, leading some to believe he has tailored his principles to conform with Trump's views on politics and the law.

In fact, for decades Barr has made no secret of his commitment to law and order and his support for expansive presidential power. Those views have married neatly with a president who has repeatedly tested the limits of executive authority, a pairing that has benefited both men and perhaps allowed Barr to let down his hair more than ever before.

The people who know him insist that Barr is just being Barr — that he is not motivated by ambition or anything other than the opportunity to put his heartfelt beliefs into practice.

"He doesn't have anything to prove from a professional or career standpoint," said his longtime colleague and friend, attorney Chuck Cooper. "He's been at the apex of the legal profession for a long time. And so, in that respect, he's unlike any other attorney general. He's already ascended to that pinnacle once before."

Only one other attorney general has served two non-consecutive terms -- John J. Crittenden, who held the job under presidents William Henry Harrison and John Tyler and later Millard Fillmore in the 19th century. Barr's first stint was from 1991 to 1993, under President George H.W. Bush.

He first encountered Bush, then director of the CIA, when Barr was working for the intelligence agency's legislative counsel while attending law school. Bush was testifying before Congress against a proposal to notify people whose mail had been read by the CIA.

Barr would recall, in an oral history for the University of Virginia: "Someone asked him a question, and he leaned back and said, 'How the hell do I answer this one?' I whispered the answer in his ear, and he gave it, and I thought: 'Who is this guy? He listens to legal advice when it's given.'"

Clearly, he liked having the ear of the powerful.

Devoutly Catholic son of the headmaster at a tony prep school, Barr had an upper-class, New York City upbringing: parochial elementary school, then storied Horace Mann prep school, and on to Columbia University and George Washington University for law.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 24 of 77

He was conservative from a young age. It is often noted that as a kindergartner, he gave a speech for Dwight Eisenhower. He announced he was supporting Richard Nixon in his Roman Catholic elementary school and a nun took him aside and promised to pray for him. He told a high school counselor he wanted to run the CIA.

But he did not stay at the CIA. He held a clerkship with a U.S. Court of Appeals judge on the D.C. circuit, then went into private practice — though he kept a toe in the political world, working on candidate vetting, among other things. He served in the Reagan White House for more than a year.

Then, when Bush was elected, Barr joined the Justice Department — first as assistant attorney general of the Office of Legal Counsel, then as deputy attorney general, and finally as attorney general.

Even then, his views of executive power were expansive: He advised George H.W. Bush's administration that congressional authorization was not needed to attack Iraq but said a resolution of support would be helpful, nonetheless. He blessed Bush's desire to pardon Reagan administration officials in the Iran-Contra scandal as within the president's authority, and provided legal justification for the Bush administration to invade Panama and arrest Manuel Noriega.

His post-government career included a string of lucrative private-sector legal jobs — including general counsel for Verizon Communications and attorney for the Caterpillar construction equipment company — until he answered Donald Trump's call to replace Jeff Sessions as attorney general.

Barr arrived at his confirmation hearings with credentials as a member of more mainstream, and conventional, Republican circles than Trump. He was seen as a reasonable choice to restore normalcy to an agency riven with tumult, including an attorney general whose recusal from the Russia investigation left him openly and publicly despised by the president.

Despite early indications of an askance view of the Russia investigation — he authored a memo months before his nomination critical of special counsel Robert Mueller's efforts — he struck a soothing note at his confirmation hearing.

Mueller would of course be permitted to finish his work, he said. A president who offered a pardon in exchange for the concealment of incriminating information may well be committing obstruction, Barr said. And a nominee who had proposed names other than his own for the job reassured the Senate that, as someone already near the end of his career, he had no need to curry favor with the president.

He was confirmed 54-45, mostly along party lines.

But that support began to erode weeks later after he cleared Trump of obstruction of justice allegations even when Mueller and his team had pointedly declined to do the same, and after he produced a summary letter of Mueller's investigation that painted a more flattering portrait for the president than the special counsel had done.

He's since initiated an investigation of the Russia probe that Trump supporters have embraced, but that Democrats see as vindictive and backward-looking.

"In his confirmation hearing, I came in with an open mind, especially because a series of people who'd previously served with him in the DOJ, a long time ago, had reached out to me to say they believed he was committed to the rule of law and would be a good attorney general," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del. "But I have become more and more concerned about his priorities, and his leadership as the months have gone on."

Barr's supporters and friends describe him as unmoved by the criticism, committed to actions that he sees as appropriate and proper regardless of what anyone thinks.

"Nobody likes criticism, but Bill is one of those folks who follows his own path and is self-confident enough that he believes he's doing the right thing in each case. I think he's less affected by public criticism than some. I would compare him to someone like Justice Scalia," said Andrew McBride, a Washington lawyer and longtime Barr friend.

Which is a good thing for Barr, because in his second term as AG he has faced far more criticism than he did in his first. And as Barr often jokes, he's far more recognizable now than he was in the 1990s; he's



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 25 of 77

even been stopped in European bars for selfies.

He sought leniency in the sentencing of Trump ally Roger Stone — his idea alone, he insists, and a “righteous decision based on the merits.” The move promoted angry dissent in the Justice Department and the swift resignation of a well-regarded prosecutor, and though the judge did impose a sentence shorter than what the trial team had sought, Trump commuted the sentence anyway.

He also moved to dismiss the prosecution of former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn, a request the Justice Department expected would be simple but that has instead produced a pitched fight before a federal appeals court.

He tried to fire the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, but that didn’t go precisely as planned when U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman refused to step aside, leaving Berman’s deputy in his place instead of the prosecutor Barr had selected to replace him.

The actions have resulted in open letters signed by thousands of Justice Department alumni who have demanded Barr’s resignation.

They’ve also reinforced criticism that he is facilitating the vision of a president who has shown little regards for the historic norms that have for decades guided the relationship between the White House and the Justice Department, chief among them that law enforcement operates independent of politics when it comes to cases and matters.

Trump and Barr have broken on occasion: Trump wanted a full-on prosecution of players in the Russia probe, like Andrew McCabe, and bristled when Barr asked him to stop tweeting about Stone, saying that the tweets were making it impossible to do his job.

But largely, Barr has delivered, Trump has told confidants, including when he moved to drop the Flynn prosecution and ousted Berman.

And it was Barr, acting on the president’s “law and order” pledge, who stood in Washington’s Lafayette Square last month before law enforcement cleared the street of demonstrators at the height of the George Floyd protests. A short time later, he stood just a few feet away as the president held a Bible aloft outside St. John’s Church, creating one of the defining — and, as it turned out, politically damaging — moments of his presidency.

Barr fancies himself a lawman’s lawman. While sheriffs and even many rank-and-file officers adore him, after all these years he doesn’t quite fit in with the blue-collar world of the working-class cop.

Just before Christmas, Barr visited New York’s One Police Plaza to meet with New York Police Department brass after a series of suicides among New York police officers. Later that night, he hosted a thank-you dinner for hundreds of officers. The NYPD sent two officers from each precinct, along with some chiefs, the NYPD’s commissioner and his chief deputy.

As the officers streamed into the Queens catering hall, bagpipes played in the background. (Barr is a competitive bagpipe player, though he also rocks out to Shakira.)

The officers were offered drinks. But they were in uniform — Barr didn’t realize that they were not allowed alcohol. Barr apologized and told them to eat up. He paid the bill — well over \$10,000 — out of his own pocket, handing the owner his credit card.

Barr has devoted numerous speeches to discussing restoring the rule of law in America. A signature line: There is no more noble profession than being a law enforcement officer. Even as the nation engages in a growing conversation about police reform, Barr has loudly cautioned that going too far — allowing the pendulum to swing all the way — would be detrimental.

Earlier this month, Barr flew to South Carolina and Arkansas to meet with police officials and community leaders. At a predominantly African American church, community leaders told him they didn’t want to “defund” the police. The officers in their communities needed more training and better resources. Police officials shared the same views.

Barr has said he recognizes there is racism in the U.S., and that there’s reason for some communities to be more suspicious of law enforcement than others, but he doesn’t think that the system is systemically racist.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 26 of 77

"Like all power, it can be abused. And people just sort of act like it is an either-or situation, it's all about abuse or, you know, beat the Iron Fist," Barr said in an interview.

Instead, he believes it is incumbent upon the government to ensure there are adequate policies in place to protect against abuse and that officers have proper training. But going too far and pushing to defund or disband police departments or moving quickly to bring criminal charges against police officers without robust investigations is likely to lead to a mass exodus of officers, he argues.

The demonstrations happening across the country aren't a totally new phenomenon for Barr, and George Floyd's death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer is reminiscent of a major civil rights investigation he handled in his first stint as attorney general — the beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles in the early 1990s.

When a state jury acquitted three officers, and failed to reach a verdict on a fourth, it was the Barr Justice Department that brought federal charges in the case, leading to convictions of two officers.

Barr is one of the most hands-on attorneys general the nation has ever seen. He often digs into the minutia of cases or pressing investigations and demands briefings, sometimes every half hour.

But Democrats on Capitol Hill have accused Barr of acting more like Trump's personal lawyer than America's chief law enforcement officer. For Barr, that's a criticism easily shrugged off.

"I dismiss it because like many other talking points these days, there's never any actual particular matter presented to support it, so I ignore it as just part of the general background noise," Barr said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

But the criticism isn't limited to congressional Democrats. Many former federal prosecutors have puzzled over actions that they see as breaking against Justice Department convention and tilting in the favor of Trump allies, including his push to drop the prosecution of a former adviser, Michael Flynn, who had already pleaded guilty.

Like Trump, he believes there must be a thorough investigation into the origins of the Russia investigation that shadowed Trump's presidency, even as Democrats decry those probes as politically motivated. What seems "to upset them is that I am dead set on making sure we get to the bottom of what happened during the 2016 election period," he said.

He points to the Justice Department inspector general's report that found flaws in how the FBI's Russia investigation was conducted. Despite the problems the watchdog office identified, it nonetheless determined that the FBI had a legitimate basis to launch a full investigation — a finding Barr disagrees with — and that the probe was not motivated by political bias.

At the end of the day, Barr insists his most controversial decisions have been right and just.

"I think the only way to handle this kind of job, especially in the kind of environment we are in, is to just put one foot in front of the other, and every time a decision is brought to you, you make a decision and walk away with a clear conscience," Barr said.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## Trade, technology and security at risk in US-China feud

BEIJING (AP) — They have the largest economies in the world. They spend more than anyone else on their militaries. From high-tech chips to control of the high seas, their interests are closely intertwined.

The ongoing sharp deterioration in U.S.-China ties poses risks to both countries and the rest of the world. In the latest escalation, a U.S. consulate in Chengdu in southwestern China shuttered Monday, ordered by China to close in retaliation for the U.S. shutting down its consulate in Houston last week.

With the U.S. presidential campaign heating up, all bets are that relations with China will only get worse. A look at what's at stake:

TRADE

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 27 of 77

Both countries already have suffered heavy losses in a tariff war that erupted in 2018 over Beijing's technology ambitions and trade surplus. If talks on ending the dispute fail, the world could face downward pressure on trade at a time when the global economy is already reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

The United States is China's biggest single-country export market, even after President Donald Trump imposed punitive tariffs on Chinese goods. And China is the No. 3 market for American exporters, as well as a huge market for goods and services produced in China by U.S. companies ranging from General Motors Co. to Burger King.

Chinese purchases of American farm goods, semiconductors and other goods declined 11.4% last year but still exceeded \$100 billion. Exports to China support just under 1 million American jobs, according to the U.S.-China Business Council, though that was down 10% from 2017's peak.

China is the biggest export market for Iowa and other American farm states, which were slammed when Beijing suspended imports of soybeans and raised tariffs on pork and other goods.

That briefly boosted sales for soybean exporters in Brazil and Argentina, though China resumed buying lower-priced American beans under the "Phase 1" trade truce signed in January.

But if the two can't resolve broader differences on trade, it will be a blow not only to their exporters but also to other Asian economies that supply China's factories with raw materials and components.

## TECHNOLOGY

U.S. and Chinese producers of telecom, computer, medical and other technology and their markets are tightly interwoven. Apple, Dell, Hewlett-Packard and others rely on Chinese factories to assemble most of their smartphones, computers and other consumer electronics. Those factories need processor chips and other components from the United States, Japan, Taiwan and Europe.

The disruption caused by moves including the Trump administration's curbs on Chinese tech giant Huawei's access to U.S. components and technology threatens to disrupt those flows and cost suppliers, including Silicon Valley companies, billions of dollars in lost revenue.

China is also a top market for Apple and other U.S. tech brands, and is increasingly becoming a technology competitor with its own brands in smartphones, medical equipment and other fields.

The United States often is the top market for China's highest-value-added goods. Beijing has been urging exporters to find other markets, but many say Asian and even European markets won't buy such high-value goods.

## SECURITY

While the U.S. has long been the predominant military power in the Pacific, China now has two operational aircraft carriers and an arsenal of missiles seen as a threat to U.S. vessels and bases in the region.

Military tensions have largely focused on the South China Sea, a crucial waterway that is the subject of overlapping territorial claims by China and several smaller Asian nations.

In 2018, a Chinese destroyer came perilously close to colliding with a U.S. destroyer, the USS Decatur, while executing what the Navy called an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver" in the South China Sea.

A Chinese fighter jet collided with a U.S. Navy surveillance plane in international airspace over the South China Sea in 2001, leading to major diplomatic incident after the U.S. plane made an emergency landing on a Chinese island.

Taiwan is another potential flashpoint. China claims the self-governing island as its territory, to be taken by force if necessary. The U.S. is bound by its own law to ensure the island has a credible defense and has approved military sales to Taiwan under Trump.

Taiwan's foreign minister said last week that Chinese military flights near the island have been taking place on a near-daily basis, more frequently than previously reported.

Washington upped the ante earlier this month by declaring that it did not recognize most of China's maritime claims in the South China Sea, a break with its previous policy of not taking a stance on the sovereignty disputes.

## 5 things to know today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **ANGER, FEAR AND A BARRIER THAT DIVIDES** The fence protecting the federal courthouse in Portland, Oregon, from nightly assault by protesters is a stark dividing line between two radically different world views.
2. **AS VIRUS SURGES, TOURISM AND DIPLOMACY FACING PUSHBACK** Countries are considering putting away their welcome mats to tourists and putting regional meetings put on hold as the pandemic strengthens its grip in many of the worst-affected countries.
3. **DOUGLAS UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO HAWAII** Meteorologists cautioned the hurricane's path could shift slightly and could still unload its destructive power on the islands of Oahu and Kauai.
4. **GOLD HITS RECORD, CLOSE TO \$2,000 AN OUNCE** The price surged as investors moved money into an asset seen as a safe haven amid jitters about U.S.-Chinese tension and the coronavirus recovery.
5. **YOUNG ISRAELIS LEAD NEW PROTESTS** Young Israelis have emerged as a driving force in the wave of colorful and emotionally charged protests against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his handling of the pandemic and economic crises.

## Consulate closures an inflection point in China-US relations

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

CHENGDU, China (AP) — In the more than 40 years since China and the U.S. established formal diplomatic relations, accusations have been traded, tensions have risen and fallen and the two sides have come dangerously close to outright confrontation.

Yet the forced closure of the Chinese Consulate in Houston and China's order in response to shutter the U.S. Consulate in the Chinese city of Chengdu mark a new low point in ties between the world's largest economies that can't easily be smoothed over.

Mistrust and rancor surrounding disputes over alleged technology theft, national security, human rights, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the South China Sea are now the main drivers in a relationship that had long sought to compartmentalize such issues to prevent them from impeding trade ties and cooperation in managing issues such as North Korea's nuclear program and conflicts in the Middle East and Africa.

Going forward, the prospects for reconciliation look dim, even if the U.S. elects a new administration in November.

Chinese authorities took control of the former U.S. Consulate in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, on Monday after it was ordered closed in retaliation for a U.S. order to vacate the Chinese Consulate in Houston.

A State Department statement expressed disappointment, saying the consulate "has stood at the center of our relations with the people in Western China, including Tibet, for 35 years."

"We are disappointed by the Chinese Communist Party's decision and will strive to continue our outreach to the people in this important region through our other posts in China," it said.

China's foreign ministry issued a brief notice saying "competent authorities" entered through the front entrance and took over the premises after U.S. diplomats closed it at 10 a.m. Prior to that, the flag was lowered and workmen began removing plaques and other signs of U.S. sovereignty on the compound's exterior.

That conveyed a sense of permanent rupture not felt during previous crises, including the 1999 stoning of the U.S. Embassy in response to NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Serbia, along with the 2001 collision between a U.S. surveillance plane and Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea.

A day earlier, China's foreign ministry issued a statement of protest over what it called intrusions into the Houston consulate that violated the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the China-U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 29 of 77

Consular Convention.

"The Chinese side deplors and firmly opposes the U.S. move of forcibly entering China's Consulate General in Houston and has lodged solemn representations. China will make legitimate and necessary reactions," the statement said.

China maintains consulates in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York in addition to its embassy in Washington.

The U.S. has four other consulates in China and an embassy in Beijing, keeping the sides in parity in terms of diplomatic missions.

On Monday, pro-China protesters were escorted away from the shuttered consulate as workers covered over the building's exterior signs.

"Long live the Chinese people! Long live the Communist Party of China!" one man shouted before a SWAT team escorted him away.

Another briefly flashed a shirt reading "SLING OUT USA!" in English before being taken away.

Others expressed regret at the closure. An officer removed a bouquet of flowers that a woman had left at the curb across from the entrance to the consulate.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters at a daily briefing Monday that the shutdown was a "legitimate and necessary response to the unreasonable act" of the closure of the Houston consulate and the entry of U.S. authorities into it.

"We urge the U.S. to immediately correct its mistakes and create necessary conditions for the relationship between the two countries to return to the normal track," Wang said.

The Chengdu consulate briefly came to prominence when the police chief of the nearby city of Chongqing fled there in 2012, precipitating the downfall of Chongqing's politically ambitious leader Bo Xilai in China's biggest political scandal in decades. It also played host to former Vice President Joe Biden during a visit when the current prospective Democratic Party presidential candidate was accompanied by China's now-leader Xi Jinping.

Police closed off a two- to three-block area around the consulate on Monday morning, cutting off virtually any view of the property including the flag. A few vehicles were allowed through after police checks, and others could be seen moving in the distance.

Officers kept a close watch, even after re-opening the area in the afternoon, determined to prevent any sign of unrest.

Workers covered over the consulate signs on the wall outside shortly after the property was vacated. They included a bronze plaque near the entrance that a worker had tried to pry off the previous night, but without success.

Moving activity on Sunday continued well beyond midnight, with flatbed trailers entering the complex and emerging later carrying large shipping containers.

The impending closure of the consulate drew a steady stream of onlookers over the weekend as Chengdu, like Houston, found itself in the limelight of international politics.

People stopped to take selfies and photos, some waving Chinese flags in a show of patriotism and others just capturing the moment. A man who tried to unfurl a large placard late Sunday that he called an open letter to the Chinese government was quickly escorted away.

The U.S. alleged that the Houston consulate was a nest of Chinese spies who tried to steal data from facilities in Texas, including the Texas A&M medical system and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. China said the allegations were "malicious slander."

---

Associated Press photographer Ng Han Guan in Chengdu contributed to this report.

## Gold surges, Asian stocks mixed amid US-China feud, pandemic

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global stock markets were mixed and gold surged to a record price Monday amid U.S.-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 30 of 77

China tension and concern a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic might be weakening.

London, Tokyo and Hong Kong declined while Frankfurt and Shanghai advanced. U.S. stock futures were higher.

Wall Street ended last week down after a new diplomatic flare-up between Washington and Beijing and mixed earnings reports.

Global markets have regained most of this year's losses but forecasters warn the rebound might be too big and too early as virus case numbers rise in the United States and some other economies.

Weak stock prices "speak volumes of soured risk appetite amid escalating U.S.-China risks, worsening virus outbreaks and a flagging recovery," said Hayaki Narita of Mizuho Bank in a report.

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London declined 0.1% to 6,117.51 while the DAX in Frankfurt advanced 0.5% to 12,898.10. The CAC 40 in France was off less than 0.1% at 4,953.

Gold jumped \$41.80 to a record \$1,939.30 per ounce in a sign investors were looking for safe havens to park money.

On Wall Street, futures for the benchmark S&P 500 index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were up 0.4%.

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.3% to close at 3,205.23 after swinging between gains and losses. The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo lost 0.2% to 22,715.85 while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong retreated 0.4% to 24,603.26.

The Kospi in Seoul advanced 0.8% to 2,217.86 and Australia's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.3% to 6,044.20. India's Sensex lost 0.2% to 38,047.55. New Zealand and Singapore declined while Jakarta rose.

Investors were rattled by the latest U.S.-Chinese diplomatic feud. The Trump administration told Beijing last week to close its consulate in Houston. China responded by ordering the closure of the U.S. consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

That adds to strains over trade, technology, Hong Kong and human rights that have sent relations between the two biggest global economies plunging to their lowest level in decades.

Investors also are worried about a rise in U.S. layoffs as spiking coronavirus infections lead more businesses to shut down. Extra unemployment benefits expire this week. Congress has yet to agree on more economic aid.

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude lost 7 cents to \$41.21 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 22 cents on Friday to settle at \$41.29. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 16 cents to \$43.62 per barrel in London.

The dollar declined to 105.49 yen from Friday's 105.97. The euro declined to \$1.1711 from \$1.1766.

## Portland police: Rifle magazines, Molotov cocktails found

By ARON RANEN Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore (AP) — A bag containing loaded rifle magazines and Molotov cocktails was found at a park near where protests have erupted for two months in Portland, Oregon, following the death of George Floyd, police said.

A photo of the items was shared in a tweet from police late Sunday saying someone pointed out the bag to officers at Lownsdale Square Park late Sunday. No further information was immediately released.

The discovery came just hours after two people were arrested following reports that a shot was fired in the same park. Officers responded just before 7:30 p.m. A person believed to be the gunshot victim arrived later at a hospital via a private vehicle with non-life threatening injuries, police said.

It wasn't clear if either incident was connected to the demonstrations.

Portland has seen protests nightly since Floyd was killed in Minneapolis in May. President Donald Trump said he sent federal agents to Portland to halt the unrest but state and local officials said they are making the situation worse.

The protest late Sunday started peacefully, but intensified early Monday. U.S. agents declared an unlawful assembly and deployed several rounds of what appeared to be tear gas, flash bangs and pepper balls

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 31 of 77

from the federal courthouse in downtown Portland.

Some protesters climbed over the fence surrounding the courthouse, while others shot fireworks, banged on the fence and projected lights on the building.

Just after 1 a.m., federal officers confronted protesters on the street and worked to clear the area. Several people were seen being detained, but it's unclear how many may have been arrested. Law enforcement deployed more gas and less-lethal munitions, and formed a line to push back demonstrators. Many dispersed, but a few protesters remained around 2 a.m.

A similar scene had played out the night before.

Authorities had declared a riot early Sunday morning. Protesters breached a fence surrounding the city's federal courthouse building where U.S. agents have been stationed. Protesters remained in the streets past 2:30 a.m., forming lines across intersections and holding makeshift shields, as police patrolled and closed blocks abutting the area. Portland police say they arrested six people.

In the hours leading up to the riot declaration, thousands of people marched through parts of the city. Protesters paused outside a downtown hotel, where federal agents are staying, chanting "Feds go home" and yelling the names of Black people killed by police.

During demonstrations Friday night, federal agents repeatedly fired tear gas to break up rowdy protests that continued into the early morning Saturday. Authorities say six federal officers were injured and one person was arrested.

## Pilgrims arrive in Mecca for downsized hajj amid pandemic

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Muslim pilgrims have started arriving in Mecca for a drastically scaled-down hajj as Saudi authorities balance the kingdom's oversight of one of Islam's key pillars and the safety of visitors in the face of a global pandemic.

The hajj, which begins on Wednesday, normally draws around 2.5 million people for five intense days of worship in one of the world's largest gatherings of people from around the world.

This year, Saudi Arabia's Hajj Ministry has said between 1,000 and 10,000 people already residing in the kingdom will be allowed to perform the pilgrimage. Two-thirds of those pilgrims will be from among foreign residents in Saudi Arabia and one-third will be Saudi citizens.

The kingdom has one of the Mideast's largest outbreaks of the coronavirus, with more than 266,000 reported infections, including 2,733 deaths.

Fatin Daud, a 25-year-old Malaysian studying Arabic in Saudi Arabia, was among the select few whose application for hajj was approved. After her selection, Saudi Health Ministry officials came to her home and tested her for the COVID-19 virus. She was then given an electronic bracelet that monitors her movement and told to quarantine for several days at home.

After that, Daud was moved to a hotel in Mecca, where she remains in self-isolation, still wearing the electronic wristband. A large box of food is delivered to her hotel room three times a day as she prepares to begin the hajj.

"It was unbelievable. It felt surreal because I was not expecting to get it," she said of her excitement when she found out she was selected. Daud said she's praying for the end of COVID-19 and for unity among Muslims around the world.

"I am confident that safety measures are being taken and that the only thing that we need to do as pilgrims is follow instructions, and try our best to support each other," she said.

While self-isolating has been emotionally challenging, Daud said she is part of a group of about 10 Malaysian and Singaporean pilgrims connecting online and sharing tips and religious exercises to keep busy.

The Saudi government is covering the expenses of all pilgrims this year, providing them with meals, hotel accommodation, transportation and health care. Normally, the hajj can cost thousands of dollars for pilgrims who save a lifetime for the journey. It also generates billions of dollars in revenue each year for Saudi Arabia.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 32 of 77

Saudi kings have for generations assumed titles as custodians of Islam's holiest sites, and their oversight of the hajj is a source of prestige and influence among Muslims globally. Saudi Arabia has never canceled the hajj in the nearly 90 years since the country was founded.

For the first time in Saudi history, no pilgrims from abroad were permitted to take part in the hajj due to concerns about the coronavirus and overcrowding. It's a stark departure from previous years, when some 2 million pilgrims from more than 160 countries flocked to Mecca for the spiritual rituals, mostly from across Asia and Africa.

Although the hajj often draws all age groups, pilgrims this year were required to be between the ages of 20 and 50, and in good health.

The physically demanding rituals of the hajj offer a profound experience for Muslims, with the faithful often weeping, their palms stretched toward the sky, in prayer and repentance. The hajj is required of all able-bodied Muslims once in a lifetime.

This year, pilgrims must wear face masks and will only be able to drink holy water from the Zamzam well in Mecca that has been prepackaged in plastic bottles. Pebbles for casting away evil that are usually picked up by pilgrims along hajj routes will be sterilized and bagged before being distributed to the pilgrims.

Pilgrims are also bringing their own prayer rugs and will be required to pray at a distance from one another, rather than packed shoulder-to-shoulder.

## Uncertainty pushes gold price to record, over \$1,930 per oz

BEIJING (AP) — The price of gold surged to a record above \$1,934 per ounce on Monday as investors moved money into an asset seen as a safe haven amid jitters about U.S.-Chinese tension and the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

It added 2% percent after breaking its 2011 record high price on Friday, when it closed at \$1,897.50 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

As of 8:35 GMT on Monday, it was at \$1,934.60 per ounce and had traded as high as \$1,938 per ounce.

Prices of gold and silver have jumped as rising infection numbers and job losses in the United States and some other economies fuel concern the recovery from the virus and the worst global downturn since the 1930s might be faltering.

Precious metals, along with bonds, often are seen as stores of value when financial markets decline. Forecasters watch their prices as an indicator of how investors see the economic future.

## Coronavirus crisis sparks a young Israeli protest movement

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In attending his first-ever public protest, 34-year-old Nimrod Gross arrived with the only prop he felt reflected him — the blue-and-white Israeli flag.

The former combat soldier and current tour guide and after-school science teacher had seen his monthly income plunge to around \$500 as a result of the harsh economic fallout from the coronavirus. A centrist who shuns politics, but with siblings who supported Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he sought a unifying symbol to express his despair.

Instead, Gross and his flag were pummeled by powerful police water cannons. The moment was captured by an Associated Press photographer, quickly becoming an emblematic image of the public outcry generating the wave of demonstrations sweeping the country against Netanyahu and his perceived failure to handle the country's deepening economic crisis.

Netanyahu, standing trial for corruption, has tried to dismiss the youthful protesters as radicals and anarchists flouting public health restrictions while he marshals the country through a national emergency. But the thousands now taking to the streets several times a week come from all walks of life, and with unemployment surging to record numbers, they are demanding a reckoning from the longtime leader.

"I feel like I grew up on this dream that is blowing up in our faces," said Gross. "You do everything that society demands of you, and then suddenly you are illegitimate."



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 33 of 77

Israel has a long tradition of political protests that draw huge crowds, mostly along ideological lines over how to handle the conflict with the Palestinians. But the protests with the biggest impact tended to transcend the partisan divide, touching on everyday issues afflicting everyone, such as the massive cost-of-living protests in 2011.

In recent years, small weekly protests against Netanyahu were largely the domain of Israel's old guardians of liberal values, angry at what they believe are the prime minister's attempts to chip away at democratic institutions.

But the unprecedented economic downturn and a crisis of confidence in leadership spurred a younger generation of Israelis wary about their future to take a more prominent role.

It's too early to say if the outpouring will generate the type of "revolution" that some of its activists advocate. But the broad, diverse swath of protesters, and the desperate atmosphere and sudden lack of opportunities for young Israelis, has provided fertile ground.

"Corona is just this magnifying glass that enhances everything that is already wrong with this country. We've reached this critical mass where we just have to do something," said Gross. "We just don't believe them anymore. They have no shame."

In 2011, hundreds of thousands of Israelis poured into the streets over the country's high cost of living, briefly shaking the foundations of Netanyahu's rule before petering out.

The current wave has seen the largest turnout since then. Energized by a younger, more defiant crowd that's feeling the sting firsthand, organizers hope the movement can maintain momentum, despite health-related restrictions on gatherings and the prospect of another far-reaching lockdown if contagion rates keep rising.

Israel earned praise for its early handling of the virus crisis and imposing tight movement restrictions. But since reopening the economy in May, new cases have spiked to record levels, and unemployment remains over 20%, up from 3.9% before the pandemic.

Netanyahu, who managed to remain in power after three inconclusive elections by convincing his chief rival to join him in an "emergency" government designed specifically to tackle the pandemic, has borne most of the brunt.

He's come under growing criticism for remaining in office while on trial for corruption, pushing for seemingly anti-democratic measures under the guise of combating the virus and generally mismanaging the ensuing crisis. The size of his bloated government, a minister's comment dismissing the public's pain and his own efforts to secure himself a sizable tax break have created a sense that the 70-year-old Netanyahu is detached from the troubles of his angry electorate. His family's perceived hedonism and zest for power have further alienated those who are struggling.

His government has particularly been criticized for providing too little assistance to hundreds of thousands of laid-off Israelis and struggling self-employed workers and business owners. The government has also been accused of issuing confusing and contradictory guidelines that have angered citizens.

Even with the outrage, Netanyahu's Likud party maintains a sizable lead in opinion polls, and there is little appetite for another election after three grueling campaigns in less than a year. Israel's ceremonial president has publicly rebuked the idea.

Seizing on the sight of a Palestinian flag at one of the protests, Netanyahu has tried to paint the movement as another branch of the left-wing conspiracy he says has permeated the media, law enforcement and the judiciary and is bent on toppling him. But the argument struggled to gain traction.

"One needn't agree with every word, with every placard and with every demonstrator to know that most of the demonstrators are Israeli patriots. They want a more properly governed country," wrote Ben-Dror Yemini, a conservative columnist at the Yediot Ahronot daily. "He (Netanyahu) knows that some of the demonstrators are his own former supporters. They have come out to demonstrate because they are fed up."

The protests are an odd mix of desperation alongside a carnival-like atmosphere. Celebrity chefs frustrated by the government's inconsistent reopening policies for businesses gave meals to fellow out-of-work, self-employed Israelis. Spiritual groupies held curb-side meditation sessions and handed out good-fortune trinkets to masked and armed security forces.

With most bars and clubs closed, young revelers have taken to drinking and dancing to techno music as they march. A young woman notably climbed atop a mounted candelabra, the national symbol, outside parliament and stripped off her shirt in protest. Others have resorted to similarly provocative — and innovative — forms of protest.

But the feel-good vibe was also quickly replaced with a more violent one, as police deployed a heavy hand in arresting those deemed to disturb public order. Officers have been filmed striking protesters and, in one case, pressing a knee against a demonstrator's throat.

Gross said the climate had only made him more resolute and, although he has no political agenda, he says he hopes the mobilization will awaken Israelis from their despair and lead to change down the road.

"I hope a leader will rise from this protest movement who will be able to unite us," he said. "I have no problem with it being someone from the right as long as it's someone responsible and unifying who is not driven by his own interests."

---

Follow Aron Heller at [www.twitter.com/aronhellerap](http://www.twitter.com/aronhellerap)

## **AP FACT CHECK: A more measured Trump doesn't mean accurate**

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump in recent days suddenly acknowledged the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic and edged away from some of his most audacious falsehoods about it. That's not to say he gave the public an honest accounting.

Trump minimized the potential risk to children and those around them as he advocated reopening schools. He again marveled at the number of COVID-19 tests being performed in the U.S. even as the overwhelmed testing system crucially fails to deliver sufficient access and timely results.

And he cited a low U.S. death rate from COVID-19 compared with other countries, when the global statistics appear to contradict him.

All this while Trump canceled Republican National Convention events in Jacksonville, Florida, bowing to the reality that many Republicans were reluctant to go a state where the virus has been out of control.

Meantime his press secretary peddled false internet rumors that the "cancel culture" led to the cancellation of a cartoon about puppies.

A review of some statements from the past week:

### TESTS

TRUMP, on the U.S. approaching 50 million tests: "This allows us to isolate those who are infected, even those without symptoms. So we know exactly where it's going and when it's going to be there." — briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: This is by no means true.

In many if not most parts of the country, people who manage to get a test can wait for many days for the results because labs are overwhelmed. In the meantime, those people could be and in some cases surely are spreading infection. And many people who want a test but report no symptoms can't get one.

Some labs are taking weeks to return COVID-19 results because of the crushing workload from the surge of new cases.

"There's been this obsession with, 'How many tests are we doing per day?'" said Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The question is, how many tests are being done with results coming back within a day, where the individual tested is promptly isolated and their contacts are promptly warned?"

### KIDS and COVID-19

TRUMP on young people and the virus: "Now, they don't catch it easily; they don't bring it home easily. And if they do catch it, they get better fast. We're looking at that fact." — briefing Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That isn't a fact. He doesn't have the science to reach this broad conclusion.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 35 of 77

His coronavirus task force coordinator, Dr. Deborah Birx, and other public health officials have said repeatedly that while children appear to get less sick from the virus than adults, the threat to young people and their ability to spread the virus are not understood because not enough research has been done on kids and COVID-19.

Birx underscored the point Friday on NBC's "Today" show. Whether children under 10 spread the virus the same as older children "is still an open question" she said.

"We know that children under 18 are less sick, but there are some that suffer terrible consequences if they have underlying conditions," she added. "Children under 10 do get infected. It's just unclear how rapidly they spread the virus."

Trump has been pushing for schools to reopen and at one point threatened to withhold federal money if they don't.

While his assurances about children were unsupported, they were a step back from his earlier rhetoric that portrayed kids as practically immune to infection. "It's very unique how the children aren't affected," he said in early May. "Incredible."

## U.S. DEATHS

TRUMP on the U.S. and other countries in the pandemic: "We've done much better than most. And with the fatality rate at a lower rate than most, it's something that we can talk about, but we're working, again, with them because we're helping a lot of countries that people don't even know about." — briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: No, the U.S. does not shine in comparison with other countries. The U.S. has experienced far more recorded infections and deaths from COVID-19 than any other country, including those with larger populations, and it lags a number of other nations in testing and containment.

Trump seems to have edged away from claiming that the U.S. mortality rate is the world's best, after being confronted on that point in his Fox News interview a week ago with Chris Wallace. His more modest boasts since, though, also are not correct.

Understanding deaths as a percentage of the population or as a percentage of known infections is problematic because countries track and report COVID-19 deaths and cases differently. No one can reliably rank countries in this regard.

The statistics that do exist fail to support his assertion.

In an analysis of the 20 countries currently most affected by the pandemic, the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center finds the U.S. with the fourth worst rate of deaths per 100,000 people — only Britain, Peru and Chile are seeing more reported deaths as a proportion of their populations.

On another measure, looking at what percentage of reported cases lead to death, the U.S. is in the middle of that pack, with a case-fatality ratio of 3.6%

Looking at deaths among all countries, not just the ones most suffering at this stage of the pandemic, the U.S. fares somewhat better but still not among the best. Its recorded 44 deaths per 100,000 compares favorably with Britain (68.6 per 100,000) as well as Spain (60.8), Italy (58) and Sweden (55.7), for example, but poorly with Canada (24), Brazil (40), Mexico (33) and dozens more countries.

Disparities in reporting are only one reason not to take these numbers conclusively. Many factors are in play in shaping a death toll besides how well a country responded to the pandemic, such as the overall health or youth of national populations.

## 'CANCEL CULTURE'

KAYLEIGH McENANY, White House press secretary, on Trump: "He's also appalled by cancel culture, and cancel culture specifically as it pertains to cops. We saw a few weeks ago, 'Paw Patrol,' a cartoon show about cops was canceled." — briefing Friday.

THE FACTS: No, 'Paw Patrol' was not canceled. Fake rumors online said it was. And it's not about cops. It's a cartoon about puppies. The lead puppy is a cop. There's a firefighter puppy, too.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 36 of 77

## MASKS

McENANY, when asked about Trump's change in tone this past week in urging people to wear masks: "There has been no change. ...The president has been consistent on this." -- news briefing Friday.

THE FACTS: Trump's messaging has been inconsistent, to say the least.

Trump from the beginning has made clear that wearing masks is voluntary and shunned wearing one in public. He frequently ridiculed Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden for wearing a mask in public.

In May, when a reporter declined to pull down his mask to ask a question at a news briefing so Trump could hear better, the president mocked by saying, "OK, because you want to be politically correct."

And Trump told The Wall Street Journal last month that some people may wear them as a political statement against him.

"People touch them," he said. "And they grab them and I see it all the time. They come in, they take the mask. Now they're holding it now in their fingers. And they drop it on the desk and then they touch their eye and they touch their nose. No, I think a mask is a — it's a double-edged sword."

This past week, as his poll ratings on the handling of the coronavirus have fallen, Trump on Monday tweeted a photo of himself wearing a mask and called it an act of patriotism.

That evening, he was seen maskless at the Trump International Hotel in apparent defiance of D.C. coronavirus regulations, according to video footage of the event.

"We're asking everybody that when you are not able to socially distance, wear a mask, get a mask," Trump said Tuesday at his first appearance at a coronavirus briefing since April. "Whether you like the mask or not, they have an impact."

## TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP: "You know, one day, we had a virus come in, and I closed the borders, did a lot of things that were very good. ... And nobody wanted to do it. I wanted to do it. We closed the border to China. We put on the ban. We didn't want people coming in from heavily infected China." — briefing Tuesday.

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

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

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

## VETERANS

TRUMP: "On the VA, we got Veterans Choice. Nobody thought that would be possible. That's been many decades. They've been trying to get Veterans Choice. It's called 'Choice,' where they can go get a doctor if they have to wait on line for two weeks or five weeks or two days." — briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: It's false that he achieved Veterans Choice when other presidents couldn't. President Barack Obama achieved it. Trump expanded it. It has not eliminated delays for care, including for those with waits of "two weeks" or "two days."

The program allows veterans to see a private doctor for primary or mental health care at public expense if their VA wait is 20 days (28 for specialty care) or their drive to a VA facility is 30 minutes or more. After the coronavirus outbreak, the VA took the step of restricting veterans' access to private doctors, citing the added risks of infection and limited capacity at private hospitals.

## REALITY CHECK

TRUMP on the pandemic: "It will probably unfortunately get worse before it gets better." — briefing Tuesday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 37 of 77

THE FACTS: A rare departure from his bullish accounts of progress against the virus and, by all indications, true.

Associated Press writer Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## White House, Senate GOP try again on \$1 trillion virus aid

By LISA MASCARO and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Suggesting a narrower pandemic relief package may be all that's possible, the White House still pushed ahead with Monday's planned rollout of the Senate Republicans' \$1 trillion effort as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi assailed the GOP "disarray" as time-wasting during the crisis.

The administration's chief negotiators — White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin — spent the weekend on Capitol Hill to put what Meadows described as "final touches" on the relief bill Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to bring forward Monday afternoon. "We're done," Mnuchin said as he and Meadows left Capitol Hill on Sunday after meeting with GOP staff.

But looming deadlines may force them to consider other options. By Friday, millions of out-of-work Americans will lose an \$600 federal unemployment benefit that is expiring and federal eviction protections for many renters are also coming to an end. President Donald Trump's standing is at one of the lowest points of his term, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

"They're in disarray and that delay is causing suffering for America's families," Pelosi said.

Pelosi panned the Trump administration's desire to trim the \$600 weekly unemployment boost to about 70% of pre-pandemic wages. She also said she opposes tackling a relief package in piecemeal fashion.

With the virus death toll climbing and 4.2 million infections nationwide, the administration officials converged on the Capitol to revive the Republican package that unraveled last week. Republican senators and the White House are at odds over various items, including how to cutback the jobless benefit without fully doing away with it.

Meadows said as the White House was "looking for clarity" on a "handful" of remaining issues with Republicans, but they had yet to talk to McConnell. "We have an agreement in principle," he said.

Both Mnuchin and Meadows said earlier Sunday that narrower legislation might need to be passed first to ensure that enhanced unemployment benefits don't run out for millions of Americans. They cited unemployment benefits, money to help schools reopen, tax credits to keep people from losing their jobs, and lawsuit protections for schools and businesses as priorities.

"We can move very quickly with the Democrats on these issues," Mnuchin said.

But negotiations with Democrats have yet to begin with billions at stake and deadlines near.

Separately, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units, due to expire at the end of the month, will be extended. "We will lengthen it," he said, without specifying for how long.

On the jobless benefits, Republicans have argued that federal jobless benefits should be trimmed because the combination of state and federal unemployment assistance left many people better off financially than they were before the pandemic and therefore disinclined to return to their jobs.

Many Democrats contend that a lot of people don't feel safe going back to work when the coronavirus is surging again around the country.

Meadows, a former congressman who was the head of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, said he is working with Mnuchin and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia to address complaints that outdated state computer systems will make it difficult for the jobless to get their benefits in a timely fashion if the formula

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 38 of 77

is changed.

"It's our goal to make sure that it's not antiquated computers that keep people from getting their benefits," Meadows said.

Pelosi criticized the hold-up on the GOP side. House Democrats passed a \$3 trillion relief package a couple of months ago, with the aim of jump-starting negotiations.

The White House and Senate Republicans were racing to regroup after plans to introduce a \$1 trillion virus rescue bill collapsed Thursday during GOP infighting over its size, scope and details.

It was expected to bring \$105 billion to help schools reopen, new money for virus testing and benefits for businesses, including a fresh round of loans, tax breaks and a sweeping liability shield from COVID-19-related lawsuits.

The expiration of the \$600 weekly jobless benefits boost had been propelling the Republicans to act, bracing to prevent social and economic fallout.

The White House floated plans to cut the additional aid back to \$100 a week, while Senate Republicans preferred \$200, with general GOP agreement about phasing out the flat boost in favor of one that ensures no more than 70% of an employee's previous pay.

Apart from jobless benefits, Mnuchin said Saturday that new \$1,200 direct payments would be based on the same formula from the earlier aid bill. Then, people making \$75,000 or less received the full amount and those making more than \$75,000 received less, depending on their income. People earning above \$100,000 did not qualify for the payment.

The jobless benefit officially expires July 31, but due to the way states process unemployment payments, the cutoff was effectively Saturday.

Meadows spoke on ABC's "This Week," Mnuchin was on "Fox News Sunday," Pelosi appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and Kudlow was interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union."

Superville reported from Bridgewater, New Jersey. Associated Press writer Hope Yen in Washington contributed to this report.

## Gold surges, Asian stocks mixed amid US-China feud, pandemic

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed and gold surged to a record price Monday amid U.S.-China tensions and concern a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic might be weakening.

Tokyo declined while Shanghai and Hong Kong swung between gains and losses. Australia advanced.

Wall Street ended last week down after a new diplomatic flare-up between Washington and Beijing and mixed earnings reports.

Global markets have regained most of this year's losses but forecasters warn the rebound might be too big and too early as virus case numbers rise in the United States and some other economies.

Weak stock prices "speak volumes of soured risk appetite amid escalating U.S.-China risks, worsening virus outbreaks and a flagging recovery," said Hayaki Narita of Mizuho Bank in a report.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo fell 0.5% to 22,629.30 while the Shanghai Composite Index was little-changed at 3,197.47. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 0.1% to 24,668.14.

The Kospi in Seoul advanced 1.1% to 2,226.56 and Australia's S&P-ASX 200 was off under 0.1% at 6,022.90. New Zealand lost 0.4% while Singapore and Jakarta advanced.

Gold jumped \$30 to a record \$1927.60 per ounce in a sign investors were looking for safe havens to park money.

On Friday, Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 index lost 0.6% to 3,215.63. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.7%, to 26,469.89. The Nasdaq composite fell 98.24 points, or 0.9%, to 10,363.18.

Investors were rattled by the latest U.S.-Chinese diplomatic feud. The Trump administration told Beijing last week to close its consulate in Houston. China responded by ordering the closure of the U.S. consulate

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 39 of 77

in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

That adds to strains over trade, technology, Hong Kong and human rights that have sent relations between the two biggest global economies plunging to their lowest level in decades.

Investors also are worried about a rise in U.S. layoffs as spiking coronavirus infections lead more businesses to shut down. Extra unemployment benefits expire this week. Congress has yet to agree on more economic aid.

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude was unchanged at \$41.29 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 22 cents on Friday to settle at \$41.29. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 8 cents to \$43.70 per barrel in London.

The dollar gained to 105.54 yen from Friday's 105.97. The euro declined to \$1.1712 from \$1.1766.

## On Portland's streets: Anger, fear, and a fence that divides

By MIKE BALSAMO and GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The party at the Salmon Street Springs fountain, a riverfront landmark in the heart of Portland, was just getting started.

Dozens of drummers beat out entrancing rhythms and a crowd of hundreds danced joyfully as the setting sun cast a soft pink glow on distant Mount Hood. Poster boards bearing the names of dozens of Black men and women killed by police stirred in a gentle breeze as the energy built to fever pitch and more and more people poured into the square.

Suddenly, 10-year-old Xavier Minor jumped into the center of the circle and started dancing with abandon. The emcee took note.

"Yo, Black kids are the future! Black kids are the future!" he shouted, until a beaming Xavier finally stepped out and into his father's proud embrace.

A few minutes later, as night fell, the music stopped — and the march to the federal courthouse began.

Two blocks west and one block south, the several dozen federal law enforcement agents guarding the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse could hear the protesters coming.

Under orders to protect the courthouse — federal property that has been increasingly targeted as the city's protests against racial injustice march on — the agents were accustomed to the drill. But tonight, the crowd was huge, estimated at 4,000 people at its peak and the largest they had seen.

A top commander with the U.S. Marshals Service peered out a window facing the Willamette River and watched the sea of humanity sweep toward him. It was going to be another long night.

The courthouse, a stately building with large windows and a white marble interior, looked like a feudal castle under siege. The outside was boarded up with thick plywood; narrow slits at the top of the plywood, accessed by a mechanized scaffolding, gave the agents inside a view of the crowd and an opening through which to fire pepper balls.

The terrace outside the front door was littered with garbage, the steps leading to the courthouse splattered with paint. A mixture of anti-police and Black Lives Matter graffiti covered the building's outer walls and columns to a height of about 10 feet (3 meters).

Tear gas from the previous nights' protests still hung in the air and coated the floor with a slime that had been hurriedly mopped up by custodians earlier that day. A few sickly looking potted plants still decorated the lobby, a reminder of a time before the courthouse was a battlefield.

In the no-mans-land outside stood the fence: A thick, black iron installation, erected six days before, a dividing line between protester and protector, a stark separation between two radically different world views.

To the protesters, the men inside the battened down courthouse are at best thoughtless political minions, at worst murderous henchmen. To the agents inside, the demonstrators that pack the downtown each night are violent anarchists, an angry sea of humanity bent on hurting — or even killing — federal agents doing their job.

"It's scary. You open those doors out, when the crowd is shaking the fence, and ... on the other side of that fence are people that want to kill you because of the job we chose to do and what we represent,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 40 of 77

said a Deputy U.S. Marshal who has been protecting the courthouse for weeks. He requested anonymity because protesters have identified him and posted his personal information online.

"I can't walk outside without being in fear for my life," he said. "I am worried for my life, every time I walk outside of the building."

This weekend, journalists for the Associated Press were both outside, with the protesters, and inside the courthouse, with the federal agents, documenting the chaotic fight that has become an unlikely centerpiece of the protest movement gripping America.

The nation is seething with anxiety and deeply divided about the role of police, the value of Black lives and the limits of federal authority in an election season like none other. In Portland, on a single city block owned by the U.S. government, that anxiety has turned to turmoil.

Is this the beginning of the United States transforming into a military state, where federal agents flood the streets and overrule local authorities? Or is it a battle to keep the violence in Portland from becoming the new America, a frightening vision painted by President Donald Trump of what the future will hold without his leadership?

Fear and uncertainty about the answers to those questions have exploded in Portland in a surreal armed conflict that plays out every night.

The chaos in Portland spread this weekend to other cities, from Oakland to Aurora, Colorado, to Richmond, Virginia as the nation reels under its division.

At 10:15 p.m. in Portland, the protesters made their first foray into conflict: A man tried to climb the fence and was quickly arrested.

Thirty minutes later, the fence rocked and leaned sharply as dozens of protesters pressed their weight against it, some of them throwing their bodies against it at a running start. The fence, designed to absorb the impact from a car going up to 30 mph (48 kph), undulated like a wave and tilted dangerously before springing back.

Behind the front lines, the drummers that had whipped demonstrators up at the fountain regrouped and led the crowd in dancing and chanting.

Monica Arce gyrated to the music and waved her cell phone flashlight in the air with hundreds of others. The professional midwife had left her 14-year-old son at home and joined her sister-in-law, a teacher, to protest the presence of the federal agents and to support Black Lives Matter.

"We are not here being violent or being destructive. We have a positive message — there is nothing to quell here," she said, referencing Trump's statement that the agents were there to quell unrest. "The people of Portland are saying, 'We don't want this presence here and we don't think we need them at all.'"

As she spoke, small pods of three to four protesters dressed in black circulated in the crowd, stopping every few minutes to point green laser beams in the eyes of agents posted as lookouts on porticoes on the courthouse's upper stories. The agents above were silhouetted against the dark sky as dozens of green laser dots and a large spotlight played on the courthouse walls, projected from the back of the crowd.

Thirty minutes later, someone fired a commercial-grade firework inside the fence. Next came a flare and then protesters began using an angle grinder to eat away at the fence. A barrage of items came whizzing into the courthouse: rocks, cans of beans, water bottles, potatoes and rubber bouncy balls that cause the agents to slip and fall.

Within minutes, the federal agents at the fence perimeter fired the first tear gas of the night.

Inside the courthouse, it was dark, pitch dark except for one narrow ceiling bulb that cast a cone of light over the stairs.

Without lights, the agents hoped they would be better protected from people in the crowd who were firing metal ball bearings through the windows with sling shots. Thick ribbons of green light from blinding lasers crisscrossed the courthouse lobby, forcing the agents who were resting in between deployments to the fence to duck and weave to protect their eyes.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 41 of 77

Agents on scaffolding fired pepper balls through the window slits at the crowd while others sat quietly on marble benches in the lobby, alone or in small groups, and waited for their turn at the fence.

No one talked much over the whir of the industrial fans set up to blow the tear gas back outside. The men who weren't on the front line sat with helmets in their laps but left their gas masks on so they could breathe, the air still thick with chemical irritants.

Every few minutes, a huge boom from a commercial-grade firework tossed over the fence caused the walls to rattle; the crowd outside cheered as explosions of red, white and green flashed against a thick curtain of yellowish tear gas.

The Federal Protective Service, U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents were tired and frustrated. They didn't want to confront the crowd; they just wanted to go home. For weeks, the chaos at the courthouse had flipped their sleep schedules, turned their family lives upside down and left them scared each night that they would be hit by a firework or flare or blinded by a laser. Many were sent from out of town to reinforce the local agents — some are members of an elite Border Patrol tactical team sent in as reinforcements. But others were already stationed there and said they had chosen to live in the Portland area and call it home.

"You see a lot of commentary on social media about, 'Well, they're wearing protective gear so that it's not going to hurt them.' Okay, I'll put the same protective gear on you and I'll throw a brick at your head and you tell me if you feel comfortable with that," said a senior U.S. Marshals Service official who's overseeing the response in Portland.

"They can put out 10 seconds of something (on social media) that unfolded over several minutes, and those are the 10 seconds that look bad for us, whereas the rest of it would look bad for everybody," he said, speaking of the protesters. "They use what serves their narrative."

---

Outside, a young woman with long blond hair wearing a halter top and jeans who had been gassed threw up in the gutter.

The tear gas pushed back the people assailing the fence and throwing fireworks at agents, but tendrils of acrid smoke also seeped deep into a park across from the courthouse.

The vapors, indiscriminate, hit a man biking past, a middle school teacher, a musician, a volunteer medic and dozens of others who'd been far back in the protest crowd dancing to the drums and chanting.

"I think what people fail to realize is, us in Portland, we're still playing defense so anything we do, it's a defensive maneuver. We are protecting ourselves at the very most and each other," said Eli Deschera, 21.

"I think that using chemical warfare on civilians is anything but protecting and serving, which is what they're supposed to be doing," said Deschera, of Portland.

One of the people at the very front of the fence was Travis Rogers. The former U.S. Air Force veteran recently quit his job as a Medicaid case manager, in part because he would have been fired anyway if he got arrested.

On this night, Rogers wore a helmet and carried a blue shield made out of the side of a plastic barrel. Like most days, he spent most of the protest trying to take down the fence and screaming at the federal agents guarding it, asking them to explore their conscience.

After six years working for the military, Rogers said he felt better equipped than many to find talking points that might make the agents think about their mission more critically.

"I think it is a good idea to try to plant some seeds in their heads for ... them to go home and sleep on. These are people's kids and mothers and wives and daughters that they're gassing and they're going to have to go home to THEIR mothers and wives and daughters," said Rogers, as explosive booms echoed around him. "I try to encourage them to think about the fact that they're on the wrong side of history and that they will not be treated so kindly."

But anything Rogers said was lost in the thunderous noise, the booms of fireworks and tear gas canisters whisking his words away into the chaos of the night.

---

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 42 of 77

The firework came whizzing over the fence so fast that the agent didn't have time to move.

It exploded with a boom, leaving his hearing deadened and bloody gashes on both forearms. Stunned, with help from his cohorts, he stripped to his boxer shorts and a black T-shirt so his wounds could be examined and photographed for evidence.

He told his fellow agents he was more worried about his hearing than about the gouges and burns on his arms.

By the end of the night, five other federal agents would be injured, including another who got a concussion when he was hit in the head with a commercial-grade firework. One agent was hospitalized. Several agents have lingering vision problems from the lasers.

After each night of protest, they seize dozens of homemade shields, slingshots, blocks of wood and chunks of concrete.

"My friends have been hit in the head with hammers. I know people who have been shot with fireworks. It's disgusting," said the Deputy U.S. Marshal who's been at the courthouse for weeks. "I've never thought I'd have to walk around in my office building wearing a gas mask to go sit in front of my computer."

Outside, hundreds of protesters surged back from the courthouse with each new round of tear gas, dumped saline solution and water into their stinging eyes, vomited or doubled over to catch their breath, then regrouped to march back to the fence.

"Stay together, stay tight! We do this every night!" they chanted.

The protesters' numbers, however, were half what they had been just a few hours before. Tear gas seeped in even around the edges of the gas masks many of the remaining protesters, journalists and legal observers wore. Paper and fabric masks that most people wore to protect from the coronavirus got soaked in gas from the air, causing the fabric to burn the skin. Even an apple one protester ate as a midnight snack tasted "spicy" because of the chemicals coating its skin.

"I was just standing right on the corner ... listening to the music and kind of didn't even see it coming. I mean, there wasn't any announcement or anything like that," said middle school teacher Azure Akamay, who was coughing so hard from tear gas that she could barely speak. "By the time I just got to this corner here, I basically couldn't see."

In the very front, those with gas masks formed a wall against the tear gas and pepper balls with shields and umbrellas. Protesters who began wielding leaf blowers to push the gas back on the federal agents several days ago found that now the agents, too, had leaf blowers.

Kennedy Verrett, a composer and music teacher, had been teargassed twice and was ready to go home. He had to be up early the next day to teach piano lessons but planned to be back for again another night.

"When you are sent to protect property ...." he said of the agents, trailing off. "My ancestors were once property. No one protected them. Tear gas is nothing when you have lived in America as a Black man for 40 years."

Somewhere, a bell tower chimed midnight — even though it was 12:38 a.m. — and a trumpet plaintively played the taps as munitions whizzed through the air.

The whole world seemed upside-down.

It was 2:30 a.m. A large bonfire was burning in front of the courthouse. Protesters were nose-to-nose with federal agents at the fence. A woman with a megaphone screamed obscenities through the wire.

Tear gas canisters bounced and rolled in the street, their payload fizzing out into the air before protesters picked them up and hurled them back over the fence at the agents, who held their ground.

A woman weaved through the crowd of the few hundred people who remained and told someone on the phone, "We've reached some kind of stand-off, I think."

When the federal agents finally came, they came with force. A line of agents marched in lock step down Third Street, pushing the crowd in front of them with tear gas and pepper balls. People scattered and small groups roamed the downtown as tear gas choked the air.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 43 of 77

In less than two hours, it would be daylight.

"I finally get outside at 7 a.m., after being in the building since 3 p.m. the day prior, and I look east and I'm like, 'Oh, the world's normal over there and people are driving to work and the city is clean and functioning,'" said the Deputy U.S. Marshal. "And I look out on the street and it looks like downtown Baghdad."

The battle over, the agents and the demonstrators gathered their things and headed to bed, protesters and protectors sleeping in the same city — perhaps even on the same street — resting up for the next night's fight.

For at nightfall, it would all begin again.

Balsamo reported from inside the courthouse with the federal agents; Flaccus reported from outside with the protesters. Associated Press writer Sara Cline in Salem, Oregon; Associated Press photographers Noah Berger and Marcio Sanchez in Portland, Oregon; and Associated Press video journalist Aron Ranen in Portland, Oregon all contributed to this report.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at @gflaccus and Mike Balsamo at @MikeBalsamo1.

## Flooding threat continues as Hanna drops rain on borderland

By JOHN L. MONE and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A downgraded Hanna continued charging across the borderland of South Texas and northeastern Mexico, where flooding remained the biggest threat Monday in a region that was already reeling from a surge in cases of the coronavirus.

Hanna, downgraded to a tropical depression, passed over the U.S.-Mexico border Sunday with winds near 50 mph (85 kph), the National Hurricane Center said. It unloaded more than 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in some areas, and more was expected.

Border communities whose health care systems were already strained by COVID-19 cases — with some patients being airlifted to larger cities — found themselves grappling with Hanna. There were no immediate reports of any deaths on either side of the border.

Dr. Ivan Melendez, the health authority in Hidalgo County, Texas, was treating a patient overnight at a hospital when he and a nurse noticed water streaming down a wall and pooling on the floor. The water was flowing through a vent in the room, which had been retrofitted with a fan to create negative pressure and prevent the virus spreading through the hospital.

After driving home in the storm in the middle of the night, Melendez was trapped Sunday morning in his home by downed trees and had no electricity. He used the phone to discuss whether to put a 58-year-old woman on a ventilator, a decision he felt uncomfortable making without seeing the patient in person.

"You look at the people's eyes," he said. "You'll know if they're in despair."

Another doctor decided to place the woman on the ventilator, he said later.

Henry Van De Putte, CEO of the Red Cross' Texas Gulf Coast chapter, said the organization would open more shelters with reduced capacity to ensure social distancing. Volunteers and people seeking refuge will undergo temperature checks, and a medical professional will be assigned to each location, he said.

A community building known as the "Dome" in Mercedes, Texas, was set aside for evacuees who had tested positive for COVID-19 or were exposed to the virus. Across the region, shelters were also opened in hotels, schools and gyms.

Van De Putte emphasized that people should not delay seeking help because of the virus.

"Yes, coronavirus provides risk, but so does floodwater, so does not having electricity, so does not having required medications," he said. "We're doing everything we can do possible to make it a safe environment."

In the Mexican border city of Reynosa, a maternity hospital was damaged by heavy rain, and water had to be pumped out, authorities said. Some patients had to be moved to upper floors, and a few were evacuated to other hospitals, said Pedro Granados, director of civil protection for Tamaulipas state.

Coastal states scrambled this spring to adjust emergency hurricane plans to account for the virus, and

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 44 of 77

Hanna was the first big test. Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday that some people in need of shelter would be given hotel rooms to keep them apart from others.

Abbott announced Sunday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved an emergency declaration that will provide federal aid.

Hanna blew ashore as a Category 1 storm late Saturday afternoon with winds of 90 mph (145 kph) not far from Port Mansfield, which is about 130 miles (210 kilometers) south of Corpus Christi.

Myrtle Tucker, 83, tried to ride out the storm in a powerboat docked in a Corpus Christi marina. But winds and rain blew out the vessel's windows. Eventually rescuers in a dinghy were able to reach him and bring him to shore. Many other boats were flooded and lashed by the storm.

Tucker said he told his rescuers he wasn't sure he would be able to climb out of his boat.

"They picked me up," he said. "They carried me like a box of napkins."

More than 150,000 customers lost power Sunday throughout South Texas, including Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Brownsville, utility officials said.

Corpus Christi is in Nueces County, where 60 babies tested positive for COVID-19 from July 1 to July 16. Farther south in Cameron County, more than 300 new cases have been reported almost daily for the past two weeks. The past week has also been the county's deadliest of the pandemic.

Hanna came nearly three years after Hurricane Harvey blew ashore northeast of Corpus Christi. Hanna was not expected to be as destructive as Harvey, which killed 68 people and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage in Texas.

In the Mexican city of Matamoros, across from Brownsville, the rains shook tents in a refugee camp housing an estimated 1,300 asylum seekers, including newborns and elderly people, who have been waiting for months for court dates under a U.S. immigration policy informally known as "Remain in Mexico."

In the Pacific Ocean, meanwhile, Hurricane Douglas closed in on Hawaii over the weekend.

Merchant reported from Houston. Associated Press writer Maria Verza in Mexico City and Desiree Seals in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## The Latest: S. Korea reports 25 new coronavirus cases

By The Associated Press undefined

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has reported 25 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing its national caseload to 14,175 infections and 299 deaths.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday said 16 of the new cases were tied to people arriving from abroad. The country in past days have reported dozens of cases among crew members of a Russia-flagged cargo ship docked in the southern port of Busan and hundreds of South Korean construction workers airlifted from virus-ravaged Iraq.

Among the nine local transmissions, eight were from the Seoul metropolitan area, which has been at the center of a virus resurgence since late May. Health authorities have scrambled to stem transmissions linked to various places and groups, including churches, welfare centers, restaurants and door-to-door salespeople.

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

- South Africa warns COVID-19 corruption puts 'lives at risk'
- Spain takes aim at nightclubs and beaches as virus rebounds
- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un placed the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea under total lockdown after a person was found with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, saying he believes "the vicious virus" may have entered the country.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 45 of 77

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

BEIJING — China on Monday reported 61 new confirmed cases of coronavirus, spread between its northeastern and northwestern regions. The Xinjiang region in the northwest reported 41 new cases, while Liaoning and Jilin provinces in the northeast saw a combined total of 16. Another four cases were brought by Chinese travelers from outside the country. No new deaths were reported, leaving the toll from COVID-19 in the country at 4,634 among 83,891 cases. A total of 339 people are receiving treatment for the disease, 21 of them in serious condition, while 305 people are being monitored in isolation for showing signs of infection or for having tested positive for the virus without showing symptoms.

The latest outbreaks come as most of the country is opening up, with major cities restarting indoor recreation venues and sporting events, albeit without fans in attendance.

Xinjiang's outbreak has been focused on its largest city of Urumqi, where case numbers have approached 200 over the last two weeks.

MELBOURNE, Australia: Australia's hard-hit Victoria state on Monday posted a new daily record of 532 new COVID-19 cases, and the government leader warned that a lockdown in the city of Melbourne would continue while infected people continued to go to work.

Melbourne is almost half way through a six-week lockdown aimed at curbing community spread of coronavirus. Mask-wearing in Australia's second-largest city became compulsory last week.

The new cases and six deaths reported on Monday surpasses a previous record of 484 new infections reported on Wednesday last week.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the biggest driver of the new infections was people continuing to go to work after showing symptoms.

"This is what is driving these numbers up and the lockdown will not end until people stop going to work with symptoms and instead go and get tested," Andrews said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison called for patience in Victoria.

"There has been significant community transmission in Victoria. That will take some time to get on top of," Morrison said.

MANILA, Philippines — Vietnam has postponed its hosting of Asia's largest security forum, which includes North Korea, and an annual meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers by a month to September due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Two Southeast Asian diplomats said Monday that Vietnam, which leads the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year, hopes to hold face to face meetings in mid-September instead of doing them by online video due to travel restrictions if the annual gatherings were to be held as originally scheduled later this week.

The 10-nation bloc hosts the ASEAN Regional Forum, which brings together its top diplomats with counterparts from the United States, China, Japan, Russia, India, the two Koreas and other Asia Pacific countries to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and other security issues.

Most of about 1,300 ASEAN meetings this year have so far been shifted online due to the coronavirus pandemic, including an annual summit of ASEAN leaders last month. More sensitive talks, including secretive negotiations between China and ASEAN member states for a so-called "code of conduct" in the disputed South China Sea, have been delayed indefinitely, said the two diplomats, who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the matter publicly.

WASHINGTON -- President Donald Trump won't be throwing out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium next month after all.

Trump tweeted Sunday that he won't be able to make the trip because of his "strong focus" on the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 46 of 77

coronavirus, vaccines and the economy. Trump said in the tweet: "We will make it later in the season!" He had announced at a briefing Thursday on Major League Baseball's opening day that he'd be at Yankee Stadium on Aug. 15 to throw out the first pitch.

Trump has been trying to show voters that he is taking the virus seriously by holding briefings and canceling Republican convention events set for Jacksonville, Florida. Florida is among several states where the virus is raging.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota health officials reported 871 newly confirmed coronavirus cases on Sunday, the fourth straight day the state has reported more than 700 new cases.

The spike in new daily cases was one of the largest in Minnesota since May, the Star Tribune reported. But the increase came on a volume of more than 16,000 completed tests, which is much higher than daily test tallies in May.

The new cases raise the total of confirmed infections in Minnesota since the pandemic started to more than 51,000.

Three new deaths also were reported Sunday, raising Minnesota's death toll to 1,574. One of the newly reported deaths was a resident of a long-term care or assisted-living facility. Such residents make up more than three-quarters of the people who have died of COVID-19 in Minnesota.

A total of 273 patients were hospitalized Sunday, down from 287 on Saturday. The number of patients requiring intensive care remained at 115 on Sunday. Daily counts for hospitalized patients in Minnesota have been trending down or holding steady in recent weeks.

ORLANDO, Fla. — Florida surpassed New York over the weekend as the state with the second-most confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S.

More than 9,300 new cases were reported in the Sunshine State on Sunday, along with 78 new deaths.

Florida's nearly 424,000 coronavirus cases as of Sunday are surpassed only by California, which has more than 450,000. With 39.5 million residents, California has almost double Florida's population of 21.4 million.

New York, slightly less populous than Florida with 19.4 million residents, has close to 412,000 cases and was once the epicenter of the virus in the U.S. Texas, the only state besides California with more people than Florida, has about 390,000 cases.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis led pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the weekly Sunday blessing in a round of applause for elderly people suffering from loneliness during the pandemic.

Francis, on the feast day for Jesus's maternal grandparents Saints Anne and Joachim, urged the faithful to consider every elderly person his or her own grandparent.

"Don't leave them alone," he implored, urging the faithful to reach out with a phone call, video chat or a visit where possible under distancing rules to impede the virus' spread.

"I would like to invite young people to make a gesture of tenderness toward the elderly, especially those who are alone, at home and in residences, those who for many months have not seen loved ones," the pope said.

"Send them a hug," the pope said. "They are your roots."

The elderly have been especially vulnerable to the new coronavirus, and outbreaks in nursing homes have proven particularly deadly. In many places, the elderly are not permitted visits from loved ones, and are restricted to periodic phone calls and video chats, or at most a wave through a window.

SKOPJE, North Macedonia — Health authorities in North Macedonia reported that confirmed cases of the coronavirus surged above 10,000, meaning that almost 0.5 percent of the population of 2.1 million have been infected.

The number of new cases over the past day was 152, raising the total to 10,086. No fatalities were recorded for the first time in two weeks, but the number of deaths, 460, still puts Macedonia 19th globally

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 47 of 77

(10th in Europe) in deaths per million.

MADRID — Spain says it is negotiating with Britain to exclude the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands from a 14-day quarantine imposed on travelers returning to Britain from Spain.

Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya said Sunday, hours after the British measure took effect, that “our efforts at the moment are focused on ensuring that the British authorities can exclude the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands from their quarantine measures.”

The emergence of clusters of the coronavirus has worried authorities in northeast Catalonia and Aragón but has not appeared in Spain’s two archipelagos, which are highly popular tourist destinations for British and other European visitors.

González Laya says that the islands are “highly controlled territories” and that their current epidemiological situation is not worse than that of Britain.

Tui, Britain’s biggest tour operator, said Sunday it has canceled all flights due to depart to mainland Spain, but it has maintained flights and travel packages for trips to Spain’s Balearic and the Canary Islands.

HONOLULU -- As Hawaii prepares for the onslaught of Hurricane Douglas, state health department officials contacted each of the 625 people who were currently in isolation or quarantine as of Friday because they are either COVID-19 positive or have been in contact with someone who is. Every one of those indicated they would shelter-in-place and not seek refuge at a hurricane shelter.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said that gives officials a sigh of relief.

Hawaii has some of the lowest coronavirus infection rates in the nation, but COVID-19 numbers have been rising in recent weeks. Every day since Thursday, Hawaii has reported record highs of newly confirmed cases, including 73 on Saturday.

Caldwell says 13 shelters were to open at 9 a.m. Sunday around Oahu, well ahead of the hurricane impacting the island, anywhere from midday into the evening. People will have to wear face coverings to be admitted, and will have to wear them unless they are eating, drinking or sleeping.

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serbia has reported a record number of daily cases of the new coronavirus.

Health authorities said Sunday that 467 people have tested positive for the virus in the past 24 hours, the highest number since the start of the outbreak. They said eight people have died.

Epidemiologist Darija Kisić Tepavčević said, however, that there is reason to be optimistic because there have been fewer people in need of hospitalization.

Serbia has confirmed 23,730 cases of the virus while 534 people have died of COVID-19 in the country of some 7 million people.

Numbers of new infections spiked after the Balkan country fully relaxed lockdown measures in May that critics say was a maneuver to pave the way for a parliamentary vote in June. Authorities have denied this, but the government crisis team has faced calls to step down over its handling of the outbreak.

BERLIN — A popular resort town in Austria has ordered restaurants and clubs to close early and urged people to avoid going out as it grapples with a new outbreak of the coronavirus.

The dpa news agency reported Sunday that hundreds of people have already been tested in the town of St. Wolfgang, east of Salzburg, after the outbreak was first detected Friday. At least 44 of those have tested positive, at least 26 whom are interns working in the tourism industry, Austria’s Kurier newspaper reported.

They’re thought to have become infected while partying in the town’s bars, two of which have now been temporarily closed to prevent further spread. All have been ordered to close no later than 11 p.m. until further notice, the Kurier reported.

Austria had relaxed many coronavirus restrictions in recent weeks, but has seen a rise in the number of infections lately.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 48 of 77

Chancellor Sebastian Kurz last week announced that the country was reintroducing mandatory face masks again in supermarkets, smaller grocery stores, post offices and banks.

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani health official is warning that the coronavirus curve that flattened last month could spike again in the country if people violate social distancing regulations during the upcoming Eid al-Adha festival.

The three-day festival will be celebrated in Pakistan starting July 31.

The health official, Zafar Mirza, said at a news conference Sunday that more than 80% of coronavirus patients have recovered in Pakistan. But he said the experience of other countries showed that COVID-19 cases could spike again in Pakistan if people don't adhere to social distancing rules.

His comments came hours after Pakistan reported 1,226 new cases. The country has confirmed a total of 273,113 cases, including 5,822 deaths.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has announced more than 12,000 new confirmed coronavirus cases as the total in one of the world's worst affected countries reaches 434,200 with 6,655 deaths.

South Africa makes up well over half the confirmed cases on the African continent, where experts say the virus could smoulder in areas poorly served by health services.

Africa now has more than 828,000 cases. The true number of cases on the continent of 1.3 billion people is unknown because of testing shortages and insufficient data.

The World Health Organization has said more than 10,000 health workers in Africa have been infected, many of them nurses, further challenging efforts to contain the virus spread.

## South Texas drenched by cyclone amid surge in virus cases

By JOHN L. MONE and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A day after roaring ashore as a hurricane, Hanna lashed the Texas Gulf Coast on Sunday with high winds and drenching rains that destroyed boats, flooded streets and knocked out power across a region already reeling from a surge in coronavirus cases.

Downgraded to a tropical depression, Hanna passed over the U.S.-Mexico border with winds near 50 mph (85 kph), the National Hurricane Center said. It unloaded more than 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain on parts of South Texas and northeastern Mexico.

Border communities whose health care systems were already strained by COVID-19 cases — with some patients being airlifted to larger cities — found themselves under siege from the first hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic season. There were no immediate reports of any deaths on either side of the border.

Dr. Ivan Melendez, the health authority in Hidalgo County, Texas, was treating a patient overnight at a hospital when he and a nurse noticed water streaming down a wall and pooling on the floor. The water was flowing through a vent in the room, which had been retrofitted with a fan to create negative pressure and prevent the virus spreading through the hospital.

After driving home in the storm in the middle of the night, Melendez was trapped Sunday morning in his home by downed trees and had no electricity. He used the phone to discuss whether to put a 58-year-old woman on a ventilator, a decision he felt uncomfortable making without seeing the patient in person.

"You look at the people's eyes," he said. "You'll know if they're in despair."

Another doctor decided to place the woman on the ventilator, he said later.

Henry Van De Putte, CEO of the Red Cross' Texas Gulf Coast chapter, said the organization would open more shelters with reduced capacity to ensure social distancing. Volunteers and people seeking refuge will undergo temperature checks, and a medical professional will be assigned to each location, he said.

A community building known as the "Dome" in Mercedes, Texas, was set aside for evacuees who had tested positive for COVID-19 or were exposed to the virus. Across the region, shelters were also opened in hotels, schools and gyms.

Van De Putte emphasized that people should not delay seeking help because of the virus.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 49 of 77

"Yes, coronavirus provides risk, but so does floodwater, so does not having electricity, so does not having required medications," he said. "We're doing everything we can do possible to make it a safe environment."

In Mexico, four people were missing — one in Topo Chico, Nuevo Leon and three in Reynosa, Tamaulipas — and 22 people were in shelters in the Mexican border city of Reynosa, according to a statement from the Security and Civil Protection agency.

In Reynosa, a maternity hospital was damaged by heavy rain, and water had to be pumped out, authorities said. Some patients had to be moved to upper floors, and a few were evacuated to other hospitals, said Pedro Granados, director of civil protection for Tamaulipas state.

Coastal states scrambled this spring to adjust emergency hurricane plans to account for the virus, and Hanna was the first big test. Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday that some people in need of shelter would be given hotel rooms to keep them apart from others.

Abbott announced Sunday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved an emergency declaration that will provide federal aid.

Hanna blew ashore as a Category 1 storm late Saturday afternoon with winds of 90 mph (145 kph) not far from Port Mansfield, which is about 130 miles (210 kilometers) south of Corpus Christi.

Myrtle Tucker, 83, tried to ride out the storm in a powerboat docked in a Corpus Christi marina. But winds and rain blew out the vessel's windows. Eventually rescuers in a dinghy were able to reach him and bring him to shore. Many other boats were flooded and lashed by the storm.

Tucker said he told his rescuers he wasn't sure he would be able to climb out of his boat.

"They picked me up," he said. "They carried me like a box of napkins."

More than 150,000 customers lost power Sunday throughout South Texas, including Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Brownsville, utility officials said.

Corpus Christi is in Nueces County, where 60 babies tested positive for COVID-19 from July 1 to July 16. Farther south in Cameron County, more than 300 new cases have been reported almost daily for the past two weeks. The past week has also been the county's deadliest of the pandemic.

Hanna came nearly three years after Hurricane Harvey blew ashore northeast of Corpus Christi. Hanna was not expected to be as destructive as Harvey, which killed 68 people and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage in Texas.

In the Mexican city of Matamoros, across from Brownsville, the rains shook tents in a refugee camp housing an estimated 1,300 asylum seekers, including newborns and elderly people, who have been waiting for months for court dates under a U.S. immigration policy informally known as "Remain in Mexico."

In the Pacific Ocean, meanwhile, Hurricane Douglas closed in on Hawaii over the weekend.

---

Merchant reported from Houston. Associated Press writer Maria Verza in Mexico City and Desiree Seals in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Oakland protesters set fire to courthouse, smash windows

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A protest in Oakland, California, in support of racial justice and police reform turned violent when a small group of demonstrators wearing helmets and goggles and carrying large signs that doubled as shields set fire to a courthouse, vandalized a police station and shot fireworks at officers, authorities said.

About 700 demonstrators participated in what started as a peaceful march Saturday night but then some broke from the larger group and smashed windows, spray-painted graffiti and pointed lasers at officers, said Officer Johnna Watson, an Oakland Police Department spokesperson.

Several fires were set in the downtown area, including one at the Alameda County Superior Courthouse that was quickly contained. Demonstrators hurled rocks, ceramic paint-filled balls and frozen water bottles through windows at the courthouse, federal building and police building in a raucous night that was unlike peaceful marches that have taken place in the city in recent weeks, Watson said.

"This was different," Watson said. "This group of protesters had specific intentions to participate in one

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 50 of 77

way or another — whether that's carrying backpacks in with clearly very heavy items, and the smaller group would actually be engaged in doing the damage — there is a nexus with all of the attendees."

Police made several arrests but did not provide details. There were no immediate reports of injuries to protesters or officers or immediate cost estimates of the vandalism, Watson said.

The protest began earlier Saturday evening with groups such as the "Wall of Moms," similar to a group that formed in Portland, Oregon, as protesters faced off with U.S. agents deployed to that city to guard a federal courthouse. President Donald Trump had sent the federal agents there to clamp down on protests that have occurred nightly since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25.

A violent protests also broke out late Saturday in Sacramento. After a peaceful demonstration, police said a separate group of 150 protesters wearing black clothing and protective gear broke windows and spray-painted graffiti.

A television news crew was assaulted and forced to leave the area and one person was arrested, police said in a statement.

In Los Angeles, police said a peaceful demonstration was disrupted Saturday when some individuals in the crowd assaulted officers and walked onto a freeway. Four officers and three demonstrators were treated for minor injuries and four people were arrested, Los Angeles police said on Twitter.

About 100 protesters gathered at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles Saturday evening, the Federal Bureau of Prisons said in a release. Protesters broke the glass on the front entrance door and wrote graffiti on the front of the building while there for a few minutes.

The prison was secured and barricade fencing was put up, the release said. There were no serious injuries.

In Oakland, police called on demonstrators to disperse as the night wore on and little by little they did, but they said they would be back, Watson said.

"The city is here to provide safe places and safe spaces for demonstrations, for marches, for protests," Watson said, adding that many area businesses were likely spared damage because they were already boarded up following earlier demonstrations. "However, when there is violence against the police or first responders, this makes it dangerous for everyone."

On Sunday, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf warned in a statement that the vandalism could be used by Trump to justify sending federal agents to the city — a proposal that she has rejected.

"We celebrate passionate protest but Oaklanders need to know that when they attend protests after dark, they may be providing cover for agitators who are more intent on stoking civil unrest than advancing racial justice," Schaaf said.

## Hurricane Douglas swirls 'uncomfortably close' to Hawaii

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Heavy rain and wind gusts battered Maui on Sunday as Hurricane Douglas swirled off the coast of Hawaii and officials urged residents to take shelter.

Forecasters said the Category 1 hurricane would pass close to Oahu and potentially even make a direct hit on the island, which is home to state's biggest city of Honolulu.

"We remain uncomfortably close to a dangerous hurricane here in the state of Hawaii," Robert Ballard, the science and operations officer at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, said during a teleconference.

The center of Hurricane Douglas, which Ballard called a "pretty nasty hurricane," appears to have passed within 45 miles (72 kilometers) to the north of Hana, Maui.

At mid-afternoon, the storm was 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of Honolulu.

Maui was projected to have the brunt of the storm before Douglas moved on to Honolulu in the afternoon. Kauai would see the worst of the storm in the evening, possibly after dark.

Ballard said the storm was tracking west-northwest over the island chain and any variation of the path closer could bring much worse weather. A direct hit on Oahu still remains a possibility, he said.

"It's probably not the most likely solution right now, but when you're forecasting a hurricane to go 40 miles or so north of Oahu, any little jog to the left would bring much worse conditions to the main Hawai-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 51 of 77

ian Islands. So that's a big concern," he said.

Forecasters are warning powerful winds, rain and storm surge could inflict damage. Douglas had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph) in the afternoon.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell urged residents to take the threat seriously, saying Oahu has repeatedly gotten lucky in recent years as hurricanes bearing down on the island have ultimately fizzled out or veered away. But not this time, he said.

"We're going to be seeing strong winds and storm surge on parts of the island where roads are very close to the water, where homes are very close to the water. It could be a life threatening event," he said. "We don't want to see anyone get hurt or worse."

Duke Stevens, who lives in Hana on Maui's eastern tip, said by early afternoon there was no longer any wind and the light rain that fell persistently through the night had subsided.

"I've seen a lot worse," said Stevens, who has lived on Maui since 1987.

Authorities on Oahu and Maui sounded emergency sirens as rain fell and blustery winds swayed trees. Officials urged residents to shelter in place or, as last resort, to take refuge at shelters.

About 300 people evacuated to the Hawaii Convention Center on the edge of Waikiki. On Maui, 22 people were at five shelters around the island.

Evacuees were told to bring masks and hand sanitizer along with the usual emergency supplies of food and water. People will have to wear face coverings to be admitted, and will have to wear them unless they are eating, drinking or sleeping.

State health department officials contacted each of the 625 people who were currently in isolation or quarantine as of Friday because they are either COVID-19 positive or have been in contact with someone who is. Every one of those indicated they would shelter-in-place and not seek refuge at a hurricane shelter.

Hawaii has some of the lowest coronavirus infection rates in the nation, but COVID-19 numbers have been rising in recent weeks. For three consecutive days through Saturday, Hawaii reported record highs of newly confirmed cases.

President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration for Hawaii because of the hurricane, directing federal assistance to supplement state and local response efforts.

Hawaiian Airlines canceled all Sunday flights between Hawaii and the U.S. mainland and also between the islands.

Rainfall was expected to be between 5-15 inches (13-38 centimeters).

Oahu, Kauai and Maui were all under a hurricane warning, though a hurricane watch was canceled for the Big Island.

Gov. David Ige said residents should already have their 14-day emergency supply kit in place, but because of COVID-19, he encouraged people to add masks, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

Honolulu resident Scott Silva had supplies in hand.

"Just make sure I had enough food, you know, enough extra water, which I usually do anyway, so that's about it," he said. "Not expecting too much trouble from this one."

---

AP journalists Caleb Jones in Honolulu, Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska, Brian P.D. Hannon in Phoenix, and Julie Walker in New York contributed to this report.

## Police and protesters clash in violent weekend across the US

By JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Protests took a violent turn in several U.S. cities over the weekend with demonstrators squaring off against federal agents outside a courthouse in Portland, Oregon, forcing police in Seattle to retreat into a station house and setting fire to vehicles in California and Virginia.

A protest against police violence in Austin, Texas, turned deadly when police said a protester was shot and killed by a person who drove through a crowd of marchers. And someone was shot and wounded in Aurora, Colorado, after a car drove through a protest there, authorities said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 52 of 77

The unrest Saturday and early Sunday stemmed from the weeks of protests over racial injustice and the police treatment of people of color that flared up after the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd, who was Black and handcuffed, died after a white police officer used his knee to pin down Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes while Floyd begged for air.

In Seattle, police officers retreated into a precinct station early Sunday, hours after large demonstrations in the city's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Some demonstrators lingered after officers filed into the department's East Precinct around 1 a.m., but most cleared out a short time later, according to video posted online.

At a late-night news conference, Seattle police Chief Carmen Best called for peace. Rocks, bottles, fireworks and mortars were fired at police during the weekend unrest, and police said they arrested at least 45 people for assaults on officers, obstruction and failure to disperse. Twenty-one officers were hurt, with most of their injuries considered minor, police said.

In Portland, thousands of people gathered Saturday evening for another night of protests over George Floyd's killing and the presence of federal agents recently sent to the city by President Donald Trump. Protesters breached a fence surrounding the city's federal courthouse building where the agents have been stationed.

Police declared the situation to be a riot and at around 1:20 a.m., they began ordering people to leave the area surrounding the courthouse or risk arrest, saying on Twitter that the violence had created "a grave risk" to the public. About 20 minutes later, federal officers and local police could be seen attempting to clear the area and deploying tear gas, however protesters remained past 2:30 a.m., forming lines across intersections and holding makeshift shields as police patrolled and closed blocks abutting the area. Multiple arrests were made, but it wasn't immediately clear how many.

In the Texas capital of Austin, 28-year-old Garrett Foster was shot and killed Saturday night by a person who had driven through the march against police violence.

Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said a car turned onto the block where protesters stood and honked its horn. The driver and several witnesses told police that Foster approached the driver and pointed an assault rifle at them.

In video streamed live on Facebook, a car can be heard honking before several shots ring out and protesters start screaming and scattering for cover. Police could then be seen tending to someone lying in the street.

Manley said the driver called 911 to report the incident and was later taken into custody and released. Police didn't immediately identify the driver.

Sheila Foster, Garrett's mother, said she was told her son was pushing his fiancée, who uses a wheelchair, through an intersection when the suspect was driving "erratically" through the crowd. She said she was told the driver shot her son three times.

In the Denver suburb of Aurora, Colorado, meanwhile, a protester shot and wounded someone after a car drove through a crowd marching on an interstate highway, police said. The wounded person was taken to a hospital in stable condition. Police didn't release many details about the shooting, including whether the person who was shot had been in the car. Police said on Twitter that demonstrators also caused "major damage" to a courthouse.

Protesters in Oakland, California, set fire to a courthouse, damaged a police station, broke windows, spray-painted graffiti, shot fireworks and pointed lasers at officers after a peaceful demonstration Saturday evening turned to unrest, police said.

In Virginia's capital, Richmond, a dump truck was torched as several hundred protesters and police faced off late Saturday during a demonstration of support for the protesters in Portland. Police declared it to be an "unlawful assembly" at around 11 p.m. and used what appeared to be tear gas to disperse the group. Five people were arrested in the incident and charged with unlawful assembly. A sixth person was also arrested and charged with rioting and assault on a law enforcement officer.

In downtown Atlanta on Sunday, federal agents examined damage to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility where windows were shattered late Saturday. The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, FBI spokesman Kevin Rowson said in an email. No arrests had been announced.

And in Baltimore, people from a group of nearly 100 demonstrators spray-painted anti-police messages on

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 53 of 77

a Fraternal Order of Police building and adjacent sidewalks on Saturday night, The Baltimore Sun reported.

Associated Press writers Gillian Flaccus and Sara Cline in Portland, Oregon, and Sally Ho and Chris Grygiel in Seattle contributed to this report.

## **Trump now says he won't throw first pitch at Yankees game**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump won't throw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium next month after all.

In a tweet Sunday, Trump blamed the turn of events on his "strong focus" on the coronavirus, vaccines and the economy. "We will make it later in the season!" he promised.

Just three days ago, Trump revealed during a White House briefing that he'd throw the first pitch at Yankee Stadium on Aug. 15. Trump made the announcement on Major League Baseball's opening day Thursday as former Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera watched from the briefing room.

After months of playing down its seriousness, Trump recently began starting to show the public that he is taking the virus seriously. He has resumed holding televised briefings about virus developments and last week canceled Republican convention events that had been set for late August in Jacksonville, Florida. Florida is among several states where the virus is raging.

But on Saturday, the White House tweeted a photo of Trump and former Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre after they played golf at Trump's private club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

With baseball teams playing in largely empty stadiums, Trump wouldn't have had to contend with crowd reaction to his appearance at the Bronx stadium. Some of Trump's previous appearances at major sporting events have drawn mixed responses.

But another issue could have been tricky for Trump, who has been very critical of athletes taking a knee during the national anthem before games.

The Yankees and the Washington Nationals took a knee before the season's opening game last Thursday in Washington, then stood for the national anthem. New York also had two players kneel for the national anthem Saturday, Aaron Hicks and Giancarlo Stanton. Both have said they will continue to kneel during the anthem throughout the season.

During an interview last Thursday night with Fox News' Sean Hannity, Trump said he would take part in the prestigious tradition of throwing out the first pitch for the Yankees, but said he hoped players would stand during the national anthem.

"It's great that baseball is back, and other sports are back. I hope everyone's standing; I hope they're not going to be kneeling when the flag is raised. I don't like to see that," Trump said.

Some New York City politicians, including Mayor Bill de Blasio and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., had complained loudly about Trump throwing the Yankees' first pitch.

Associated Press writer Will Lester contributed to this report.

## **Miami Marlins postpone trip home amid fear of virus outbreak**

By STEVEN WINE AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami Marlins scratched right-hander Jose Urena from his scheduled start Sunday in Philadelphia and delayed their postgame trip home amid concerns about a possible coronavirus outbreak within the team.

No reason was given for Urena being scratched in the series finale, which Miami won 11-6.

Manager Don Mattingly said the Marlins decided to wait until Monday to leave Philadelphia, and they planned to arrive in Miami hours before their home opener against Baltimore. The trip might be made while multiple players remain in Philadelphia.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 54 of 77

"The guys that tested positive are quarantined here in Philly," Mattingly said. The team made no roster moves after the game.

Miami catcher Jorge Alfaro went on the injured list hours before the season opener Friday at Philadelphia. The Marlins didn't give a reason but said they expected Alfaro to return this season.

The team's precarious health raised anew doubts about MLB's ability to finish the season during a pandemic. In Cincinnati, Reds second baseman Mike Moustakas and center fielder Nick Senzel felt sick Sunday, a day after a teammate went on the injured list because he tested positive for COVID-19.

The Marlins' decision to postpone their flight home was made with family members in mind.

"We were more comfortable flying as a group later," Mattingly said. "We're talking about these guys traveling back home to their families and their kids, and it's the reason we want to be safe."

Some Marlins players texted each other about the team's health issues before Sunday's game, but there was no talk of declining to play, shortstop Miguel Rojas said.

"That was never our mentality," Rojas said. "We knew this could happen at some point. We came to the ballpark ready to play."

Said Mattingly: "It's fair to say guys are concerned about things. They want how they're feeling about the situation to be heard. I think it's fair. We're talking about health."

Right-hander Robert Dugger said he learned at 8:30 a.m. that he would fill in for Urena. Dugger said the Marlins are braced for the uncertainty that comes with trying to hold a season during a pandemic.

"There's nothing we can really do," he said. "It's out of our control. We just do the best we can with the masks and social distancing and all that, and hope for the best."

The Marlins played exhibition games at Atlanta on Tuesday and Wednesday against the Braves, who have since been without their top two catchers, Tyler Flowers and Travis d'Arnaud, after both players showed symptoms of the coronavirus.

Mattingly declined to say whether he thought the Marlins' health issues were related to the Atlanta stop. But he said he'll be happy to return to Miami, even though it's a hot spot for the pandemic.

"It feels safer in Miami than anywhere," Mattingly said. "You feel safe at the ballpark; I feel safe with my surroundings going home. It's a lot scarier on the road."

---

Follow Steven Wine on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Steve\\_Wine](https://twitter.com/Steve_Wine)

---

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

## White House pushes narrow virus aid; Pelosi blasts GOP delay

By LISA MASCARO and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday assailed Republican "disarray" over a new pandemic relief package as the White House suggested a narrower effort might be necessary, at least for now.

The California Democrat panned the Trump administration's desire to trim an expiring temporary federal unemployment benefit from \$600 weekly to about 70% of pre-pandemic wages. "The reason we had \$600 was its simplicity," she said from the Capitol.

The administration's chief negotiators — White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin — spent a few hours at the Capitol later Sunday to put what Meadows described as "final touches" on a \$1 trillion relief bill Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to bring forward Monday afternoon.

"We're done," Mnuchin said as he and Meadows left Capitol Hill after meeting with GOP staff.

Meadows said as the White House was "looking for clarity" on a "handful" of remaining issues ahead of Monday. "We have an agreement in principle," he said.

Both Mnuchin and Meadows said earlier Sunday that narrower legislation might need to be passed first to ensure that enhanced unemployment benefits don't run out for millions of Americans. They cited un-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 55 of 77

employment benefits, money to help schools reopen, tax credits to keep people from losing their jobs, and lawsuit protections for schools and businesses as priorities.

Pelosi has said she opposes approving a relief package in piecemeal fashion.

"We can move very quickly with the Democrats on these issues," Mnuchin said.

Separately, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said a federal eviction moratorium on millions of rental units, due to expire at the end of the month, will be extended. "We will lengthen it," he said, without specifying for how long.

Republicans have argued that federal jobless benefits should be trimmed because the combination of state and federal unemployment assistance left many people better off financially than they were before the pandemic and therefore disinclined to return to their jobs.

Many Democrats contend that a lot of people don't feel safe going back to work when the coronavirus is surging again around the country.

A former Republican congressman from North Carolina, Meadows said he is working with Mnuchin and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia to address complaints that outdated state computer systems will make it difficult for the jobless to get their benefits in a timely fashion if the formula is changed.

"It's our goal to make sure that it's not antiquated computers that keep people from getting their benefits," Meadows said.

Pelosi criticized the hold-up on the GOP side. House Democrats passed a \$3 trillion relief package a couple of months ago, with the aim of jump-starting negotiations. Republicans abruptly halted rollout of their bill last week amid differences between senators and the White House.

"They're in disarray and that delay is causing suffering for America's families," Pelosi said.

She declined to say whether she could accept 70% of wages in place of the now-expired \$600 weekly benefit.

"Why don't we just keep it simple?" she asked, referring to a flat dollar amount.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said he doesn't support the GOP legislation as proposed. He argued for lifting taxes and regulations he says are "hammering" small businesses. Cruz also argued for a payroll tax cut, which will not be in the bill. President Donald Trump had insisted on a temporary trim of payroll taxes, but both parties resisted the idea.

Cruz alleged that Pelosi isn't working to solve either the virus crisis or the economic one.

"Her objectives are shoveling cash at the problem and shutting America down," he said. "It's just shoveling money to her friends and not actually solving the problem."

The White House and Senate Republicans were racing to regroup after plans to introduce a \$1 trillion virus rescue bill collapsed Thursday during GOP infighting over its size, scope and details.

It was expected to bring \$105 billion to help schools reopen, new money for virus testing and benefits for businesses, including a fresh round of loans, tax breaks and a sweeping liability shield from COVID-19-related lawsuits.

The expiration of the \$600 weekly jobless benefits boost had been propelling the Republicans to act. Democrats already approved their sweeping \$3 trillion plan from Pelosi two months ago. But with millions of Americans about to be suddenly cut off from the aid, they were bracing to prevent social and economic fallout.

The White House floated plans to cut the additional aid back to \$100 a week, while Senate Republicans preferred \$200, with general GOP agreement about phasing out the flat boost in favor of one that ensures no more than 70% of an employee's previous pay.

Apart from jobless benefits, Mnuchin said Saturday that new \$1,200 direct payments would be based on the same formula from the earlier aid bill. Then, people making \$75,000 or less received the full amount and those making more than \$75,000 received less, depending on their income. People earning above \$100,000 did not qualify for the payment.

The jobless benefit officially expires July 31, but due to the way states process unemployment payments, the cutoff was effectively Saturday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 56 of 77

Meadows spoke on ABC's "This Week," Mnuchin was on "Fox News Sunday," Pelosi and Cruz appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and Kudlow was interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union."

Superville reported from Bridgewater, New Jersey. Associated Press writer Hope Yen in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Olivia de Havilland embodied old Hollywood, and shook it up**

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — She was one of Hollywood's most glamorous stars and determined off-screen fighters. No one was better suited than Olivia de Havilland to play the sainted Melanie Wilkes in "Gone With the Wind" or more tenacious about the right to appear in the films of her choosing.

Fans and actors alike owe much to de Havilland, the Oscar-winning performer who became, almost literally, a law unto herself.

De Havilland, who died Sunday at 104, was one of the last survivors of Hollywood's so-called Golden Age. She was beloved to millions as Wilkes in "Gone With the Wind," but also won Oscars for "To Each His Own" and "The Heiress" and challenged and unchained Hollywood's contract system.

De Havilland died peacefully of natural causes at her home in Paris, publicist Lisa Goldberg said.

During a career that spanned more than 70 years, de Havilland was praised in roles ranging from an unwed mother to a psychiatric inmate in "The Snake Pit," a personal favorite. The doe-eyed actress projected both a gentle, glowing warmth and a sense of resilience and mischief that made her uncommonly appealing, leading critic James Agee to confess he was "vulnerable to Olivia de Havilland in every part of my being except the ulnar nerve."

The sister of fellow Oscar winner Joan Fontaine, with whom she had one of Hollywood's most famous sibling rivalries, de Havilland was the last surviving lead from "Gone With the Wind." The 1939 epic, based on Margaret Mitchell's best-selling Civil War novel and winner of 10 Academy Awards, is often ranked as the all-time box office champion (adjusting for inflation), but is now widely condemned for its glorified portrait of slavery and antebellum life.

The pinnacle of producer David O. Selznick's career, "Gone With the Wind" had a dramatic and troubled back story. Three directors worked on the film, stars Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable were far more connected on screen than off and the fourth featured performer, Leslie Howard, was openly indifferent to the role of Ashley Wilkes, Melanie's husband. But de Havilland, drawn to Melanie's empathy and generosity, remembered the movie as "one of the happiest experiences I've ever had in my life. It was doing something I wanted to do, playing a character I loved and liked."

She was otherwise known as Errol Flynn's co-star in a series of dramas, Westerns and period pieces, most memorably as Maid Marian in "The Adventures of Robin Hood." But de Havilland also was a prototype for an actress too beautiful for her own good, typecast in romantic roles while desiring greater challenges. Her frustration finally led her to sue Warner Bros. in 1943 when the studio tried to keep her under contract after it had expired, claiming she owed six more months because she had been suspended for refusing roles.

Her friend Bette Davis had failed to get out of her contract under similar conditions in the 1930s, but de Havilland prevailed, with the California Court of Appeals ruling that no studio could extend an agreement without the performer's consent. The decision is still unofficially called the "De Havilland law" and made her as much a pioneer in the entertainment field as baseball star Curt Flood, who took on the game's "reserve clause" binding players to teams, was in sports.

Fans of "Gone With the Wind" knew of her talent and determination. She was so anxious to play Melanie that she lobbied the wife of studio boss Jack Warner to receive permission to work for Selznick. When Selznick fired director George Cukor and replaced him with Victor Fleming, de Havilland continued to consult privately with Cukor (Leigh did the same). When Gable was reluctant to cry during one of the movie's most emotional scenes, Melanie comforting Rhett Butler over Scarlett's miscarriage, de Havilland helped talk him into it and provided unforgettable support on screen.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 57 of 77

De Havilland was nominated for an Oscar for "Gone With the Wind" and went on to earn her own Academy Award in 1946 for "To Each His Own," a melodrama about out-of-wedlock birth. A second Oscar came three years later for "The Heiress," in which she portrayed a plain homebody (as plain as it was possible to make de Havilland) opposite Montgomery Clift and Sir Ralph Richardson in an adaptation of Henry James' "Washington Square." Agee had noted a breakthrough in the 1946 drama "The Dark Mirror," writing that her performance was "thoughtful, quiet, detailed and well sustained."

She moved to Paris in 1953, "at the insistence" of her then-husband, Frenchman Pierre Galante, she told The Associated Press in 2016. "Hollywood had become a "dismal, tragic place" and she found no reason to return to the U.S.

"By 1951, television had already made such inroads on the income garnered by motion picture companies that the Golden Era which had prevailed until then was beginning to disintegrate," she said.

In middle age and after, she appeared in several movies for television, including "Roots" and "Charles and Diana," in which she portrayed the Queen Mother. She also co-starred with Davis in the macabre camp classic "Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte" and was menaced by a young James Caan in the 1964 chiller "Lady in a Cage," condemning her tormenter as "one of the many bits of offal produced by the welfare state." In 2009, she narrated a documentary about Alzheimer's, "I Remember Better When I Paint." Catherine Zeta-Jones played de Havilland in the 2017 FX miniseries about Davis and Joan Crawford, but de Havilland objected to being portrayed as a gossip and sued FX. The case was dismissed.

Fitting for one of Hollywood's most majestic stars, she spent her latter years residing in a town house near the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. One reason she liked Paris was because she could walk down the street without being bothered, at least until "Gone With the Wind" aired on French television.

In 2008, de Havilland received a National Medal of Arts and two years later was awarded France's Legion of Honor.

She was born in Tokyo on July 1, 1916, the daughter of a British patent attorney, and as an adult openly envied the security she imagined Melanie enjoyed from a happy family life. The actress' parents separated when she was 3, and her mother brought her and her younger sister Joan, to Saratoga, California. De Havilland's own two marriages, to Galante and to Marcus Goodrich, ended in divorce. She had a child with each of them.

She is survived by one of those children, daughter Gisele Galante Chulack, along with son-in-law Andrew Chulack and niece Deborah Dozier Potter. Her funeral will be private.

De Havilland had lived in Paris since 1953. In a rare interview with The Associated Press in her luxurious residence there in 2016, as she celebrated her 100th birthday, she said she moved to the City of Light "at the insistence" of Galante, her late French former husband, and found no reason to return to the U.S.

She attributed her longevity to three L's: "love, laughter, and learning," and displayed a keen sense of humor — even calling her interviewer a "rascal" for a probing question.

Her acting ambitions dated back to stage performing at Mills College in Oakland, California. While preparing for a school production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," she went to Hollywood to see Max Reinhardt's rehearsals of the same comedy. She was asked by Reinhardt to read for Hermia's understudy, stayed with the production through her summer vacation and was given the role in the fall.

Warner Bros. wanted stage actors for their lavish 1934 production and chose de Havilland to co-star with Mickey Rooney, who played Puck.

"I wanted to be a stage actress," she would recall. "Life sort of made the decision for me."

By 1935, she had been paired with Flynn in the adventure "Captain Blood" and she worked with him often over the next decade. Well after much of the public had forgotten such releases as "Dodge City" and "Santa Fe Trail," fans remained obsessed with how well Flynn and de Havilland — one of the screen's most attractive couples — got along in private life. Flynn was a compulsive womanizer even by Hollywood standards, but de Havilland insisted that her bond with the dashing actor remained, somehow, platonic.

"Oh, Errol had such magnetism! There was nobody who did what he did better than he did," de Havilland said. "We were lovers together so often on the screen that people could not accept that nothing had happened between us."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 58 of 77

She did date Howard Hughes and James Stewart and had an intense affair in the early '40s with John Huston. Their relationship led to conflict with Davis, her co-star for the Huston-directed "In This Our Life"; Davis would complain that de Havilland, the supporting actress, was getting more flattering time on camera.

"It was Valentine's Day on the set," studio boss Jack Warner later said.

Around the same time, the De Havilland-Fontaine feud became public, a conflict aired by the 1941 Oscar race that placed them in competition for best actress. Fontaine was nominated for the Hitchcock thriller "Suspicion" while de Havilland was cited for "Hold Back the Dawn, a drama co-written by Billy Wilder and starring de Havilland as a school teacher wooed by the unscrupulous Charles Boyer.

Asked by a gossip columnist if they ever fought, de Havilland responded, "Of course, we fight. What two sisters don't battle?" Like a good Warner Bros. melodrama, their relationship was a juicy narrative of supposed slights and snubs, from de Havilland reportedly refusing to congratulate Fontaine for winning the Oscar to Fontaine making a cutting crack about de Havilland's poor choice of agents and husbands. In 2016, de Havilland broke a long silence and referred to her sister as a "dragon lady."

"On my part, it was always loving, but sometimes estranged and, in the later years, severed," she said, succinctly, to the AP. "Dragon Lady, as I eventually decided to call her, was a brilliant, multi-talented person, but with an astigmatism in her perception of people and events which often caused her to react in an unfair and even injurious way,"

De Havilland once observed that she related to Scarlett O'Hara as a "career woman," one who knew what she wanted and was determined to have it. But she longed for Melanie's spirituality and inner balance. She remembered a conversation with Flynn in the mid-1930s, soon after they met. They were on the Warner Bros. lot and Flynn asked de Havilland, just 18 at the time, what her goals were in life.

"And I thought, 'What an extraordinary question to be asked! Nobody has asked me that ever,'" she told the Academy of Achievement, based in Washington, D.C., in 2006. "And I said, 'I would like respect for difficult work well done.' And then I said, 'Well, what do you want out of life?' And he said, 'I want success.'"

"And what he meant by that was fame and riches, both of which he certainly did achieve. But when he said it, I thought, 'But that's not enough.'"

AP correspondents John Leicester and Thomas Adamson in Paris and former AP Writer Dolores Barclay in New York contributed to this report.

## Olivia de Havilland, Oscar-winning actress, dies at 104

By HILLEL ITALIE and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Olivia de Havilland, the doe-eyed actress beloved to millions as the sainted Melanie Wilkes of "Gone With the Wind," but also a two-time Oscar winner and an off-screen fighter who challenged and unchained Hollywood's contract system, died Sunday at her home in Paris. She was 104.

Havilland, the sister of fellow Oscar winner Joan Fontaine, died peacefully of natural causes, said New York-based publicist Lisa Goldberg.

De Havilland was among the last of the top screen performers from the studio era, and the last surviving lead from "Gone With the Wind," an irony, she once noted, since the fragile, self-sacrificing Wilkes was the only major character to die in the film. The 1939 epic, based on Margaret Mitchell's best-selling Civil War novel and winner of 10 Academy Awards, is often ranked as Hollywood's box office champion (adjusting for inflation), although it is now widely condemned for its glorified portrait of slavery and antebellum life.

The pinnacle of producer David O. Selznick's career, the movie had a troubled off-screen story.

Three directors worked on the film, stars Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable were far more connected on screen than off and the fourth featured performer, Leslie Howard, was openly indifferent to the role of Ashley Wilkes, Melanie's husband. But de Havilland remembered the movie as "one of the happiest experiences I've ever had in my life. It was doing something I wanted to do, playing a character I loved and liked."

During a career that spanned six decades, de Havilland also took on roles ranging from an unwed mother to a psychiatric inmate in "The Snake Pit," a personal favorite. The dark-haired De Havilland projected both

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 59 of 77

a gentle, glowing warmth and a sense of resilience and mischief that made her uncommonly appealing, leading critic James Agee to confess he was "vulnerable to Olivia de Havilland in every part of my being except the ulnar nerve."

She was Errol Flynn's co-star in a series of dramas, Westerns and period pieces, most memorably as Maid Marian in "The Adventures of Robin Hood." But De Havilland also was a prototype for an actress too beautiful for her own good, typecast in sweet and romantic roles while desiring greater challenges.

Her frustration finally led her to sue Warner Bros. in 1943 when the studio tried to keep her under contract after it had expired, claiming she owed six more months because she had been suspended for refusing roles. Her friend Bette Davis was among those who had failed to get out of her contract under similar conditions in the 1930s, but de Havilland prevailed, with the California Court of Appeals ruling that no studio could extend an agreement without the performer's consent.

The decision is still unofficially called the "De Havilland law."

De Havilland went on to earn her own Academy Award in 1946 for her performance in "To Each His Own," a melodrama about out-of-wedlock birth. A second Oscar came three years later for "The Heiress," in which she portrayed a plain young homebody (as plain as it was possible to make de Havilland) opposite Montgomery Clift and Sir Ralph Richardson in an adaptation of Henry James' "Washington Square."

In 2008, de Havilland received a National Medal of Arts and was awarded France's Legion of Honor two years later.

She was also famous as the sister of Fontaine, with whom she had a troubled relationship. In a rare 2016 interview with The Associated Press, de Havilland referred to her late sister as a "dragon lady" and said her memories of Fontaine, who died in 2013, were "multi-faceted, varying from endearing to alienating."

"On my part, it was always loving, but sometimes estranged and, in the later years, severed," she said. "Dragon Lady, as I eventually decided to call her, was a brilliant, multi-talented person, but with an astigmatism in her perception of people and events, which often caused her to react in an unfair and even injurious way."

De Havilland once observed that Melanie Wilkes' happiness was sustained by a loving, secure family, a blessing that eluded the actress even in childhood.

She was born in Tokyo on July 1, 1916, the daughter of a British patent attorney. Her parents separated when she was 3, and her mother brought her and her younger sister Joan to Saratoga, California. De Havilland's own two marriages, to Marcus Goodrich and Pierre Galante, ended in divorce.

She had lived in Paris since 1953. In her interview with the AP at her luxurious Paris residence in 2016, as she celebrated her 100th birthday, she said she moved to the City of Light "at the insistence" of Galante, her late French former husband, and found no reason to return to the U.S.

She attributed her longevity to three L's: "love, laughter, and learning," and displayed a keen sense of humor — even calling her interviewer a "rascal" for a probing question.

De Havilland's acting ambitions dated back to stage performing at Mills College in Oakland, California. While preparing for a school production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," she went to Hollywood to see Max Reinhardt's rehearsals of the same comedy. She was asked to read for Hermia's understudy, stayed with the production through her summer vacation and was given the role in the fall.

Warner Bros. wanted stage actors for their lavish 1935 production and chose de Havilland to co-star with Mickey Rooney, who played Puck.

"I wanted to be a stage actress," she recalled. "Life sort of made the decision for me."

She signed a five-year contract with the studio and went on to make "Captain Blood," "Dodge City" and other films with Flynn, a hopeless womanizer even by Hollywood standards.

"Oh, Errol had such magnetism! There was nobody who did what he did better than he did," said de Havilland, whose bond with the dashing actor remained, she would insist, improbably platonic. As she once explained, "We were lovers together so often on the screen that people could not accept that nothing had happened between us."

She did date Howard Hughes and James Stewart and had an intense affair in the early '40s with director John Huston. Their relationship led to conflict with Davis, her co-star for the Huston-directed "In This Our

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 60 of 77

Life"; Davis would complain that de Havilland, a supporting actress in the film, was getting more flattering time on camera.

De Havilland allegedly never got along with Fontaine, a feud magnified by the 1941 Oscar race that placed her against her sister for best actress honors. Fontaine was nominated for the Hitchcock thriller "Suspicion" while de Havilland was cited for "Hold Back the Dawn," a drama co-written by Billy Wilder and starring de Havilland as a school teacher wooed by the unscrupulous Charles Boyer.

Asked by a gossip columnist if they ever fought, de Havilland responded, "Of course, we fight. What two sisters don't battle?"

Like a good Warner Bros. soap opera, their relationship was a juicy narrative of supposed slights and snubs, from de Havilland reportedly refusing to congratulate Fontaine for winning the Oscar to Fontaine making a cutting crack about de Havilland's poor choice of agents and husbands.

Although she once filmed as many as three pictures a year, her career slowed in middle age. She made several movies for television, including "Roots" and "Charles and Diana," in which she portrayed the Queen Mother. She also co-starred with Davis in the macabre camp classic "Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte" and was menaced by a young James Caan in the 1964 chiller "Lady in a Cage," condemning her tormentor as "one of the many bits of offal produced by the welfare state."

In 2009, she narrated a documentary about Alzheimer's, "I Remember Better When I Paint."

Catherine Zeta-Jones played de Havilland in the 2017 FX miniseries about Davis and Joan Crawford, but de Havilland objected to being portrayed as a gossip and sued FX. The case was dismissed.

Despite her chronic stage fright, she did summer stock in Westport, Connecticut, and Easthampton, New York. Moviemaking, she said, produced a different kind of anxiety: "The first day of making a film I feel, 'Why did I ever get mixed up in this profession? I have no talent; this time they'll find out.'"

She is survived by her daughter, Gisele Galante Chulack, her son-in-law Andrew Chulack and her niece Deborah Dozier Potter.

Goldberg, the publicist, said funeral arrangements are private and that memorial contributions should go to Paris' American Cathedral.

Italie reported from New York. AP correspondents John Leicester and Thomas Adamson in Paris and former AP Writer Dolores Barclay in New York contributed to this report.

## ProPublica posts NYPD records, bypassing judge's blockade

NEW YORK (AP) — Days after a federal judge paused the public release of New York City police disciplinary records, a news website has published a database containing complaint information for thousands of officers.

ProPublica posted the database Sunday, explaining in a note to readers that it isn't obligated to comply with Judge Katherine Polk Failla's temporary restraining order because it is not a party to a union lawsuit challenging the release of such records.

Deputy Managing Editor Eric Umansky said ProPublica requested the information from the city's police watchdog agency, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, soon after last month's repeal of state law that for decades had prevented the disclosure of disciplinary records.

Unions representing police officers and other public safety workers sued the city on July 15 to block Mayor Bill de Blasio from making good on a pledge to start posting misconduct complaints on a government website. The unions argue that allowing the public to see unproven or false complaints could sully officers' reputations and compromise their safety.

A state judge who first handled the case had issued a narrower restraining order that temporarily blocked the public disclosure of records concerning unsubstantiated and non-finalized allegations or settlement agreements.

ProPublica said it excluded allegations that investigators deemed unfounded from the material it published. In all, the searchable database contains 12,056 complaints against 3,996 active NYPD officers.

"We understand the arguments against releasing this data. But we believe the public good it could do

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 61 of 77

outweighs the potential harm," ProPublica Editor-in-Chief Stephen Engelberg said. "The database gives the people of New York City a glimpse at how allegations involving police misconduct have been handled, and allows journalists and ordinary citizens alike to look more deeply at the records of particular officers."

Failla's ruling Wednesday blocks the CCRB, the police department and other entities from disclosing disciplinary records until at least Aug. 18, when she'll hear arguments in the case. In issuing the temporary restraining order, Failla also barred the New York chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union from publicly releasing records it had already obtained.

The organization said it requested officer misconduct complaints from the CCRB under the state's open records law and received them before the union's lawsuit was filed. Like ProPublica, the NYCLU argued it was not a party to the lawsuit.

"The federal court has no authority to bar us from making it public, and we will contest this unprecedented order as quickly as possible," NYLU legal director Christopher Dunn said.

## Virus spike in Spain prompts UK, France to warn off tourists

By JOSEPH WILSON and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Nightclubs, bars and beaches — some of Spain's most beloved summer venues — are facing new lockdown restrictions after turning into coronavirus hot spots, and some European nations are warning citizens not to visit the country.

The northeast regions of Catalonia and Aragón host the three most worrying virus clusters in Spain, prompting authorities to tighten restrictions in Barcelona, in a rural area around Lleida and in Zaragoza that were relaxed only a month ago when Spain had its devastating outbreak in check.

Britain put Spain back on its unsafe list beginning Sunday, announcing hours earlier that travelers arriving in the U.K. from Spain must now quarantine for 14 days. Norway also ordered a 10-day quarantine for those returning from the Iberian Peninsula. France and Belgium are recommending that travelers ditch plans to spend their summer vacations in Barcelona and its nearby beaches, which have seen crowds too massive to allow for social distancing.

Tui, the UK's biggest tour operator, said Sunday it had cancelled all flights due to depart to mainland Spain until Aug. 9, but it has maintained flights and travel packages for trips to Spain's Balearic and Canary Islands.

Travelers were caught off guard by Britain's move — even U.K. Transport Minister Grant Shapps is on holiday in Spain.

"I think that it is extreme. If you only come for one day, no way," José González, a Spaniard heading to his home in London, said at Madrid's airport. "We will have to see what happens next. We will have to respect it and that's that. You can't do anything else."

Spain reported over 900 new daily infections on Thursday and Friday as authorities warned that the country which lost at least 28,400 lives before getting its outbreak under control could be facing the start of a second major onslaught.

Catalonia ordered all nightlife venues to close for 15 days and applied a midnight curfew on bars in and around Barcelona and Lleida, hours after French Prime Minister Jean Castex urged French citizens not to visit Catalonia due to the upticks in new infections.

"If we see that the growth of contagion is exponential, then the only way to stop it is to limit free movement," said Catalonia public health chief Josep Maria Argimon.

Catalonia's regional government, run by separatists who had complained about Spain's centralization of the health crisis from March to June, is struggling to tamp down on the growing clusters that have overwhelmed Spain's undermanned contact tracing teams.

Tourism employs 2.6 million people in Spain and generates 12% of the country's economic activity. Spain's government, unions and industry leaders are heavily invested in promoting the message that Spain is a safe destination for foreigners to salvage the 2020 tourism season. That now looks more like wishful thinking.

"The season is practically lost now," Martín Sarrate, president of Catalonia's association of travel agencies,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 62 of 77

told Spain's public broadcaster TVE. "This is an important setback. Who is going to travel to a country if you have to go into a 14-day quarantine?"

At least one tourist disagreed.

"We are returning this afternoon having had the most wonderful holiday," English tourist Sue Marshall wrote on Twitter from Mallorca. "We would spend three weeks self-isolating to do it all again."

Spain was negotiating with the U.K. to lift the quarantine on travelers returning from the Balearic and Canary Islands, which have an even greater dependence on tourism. Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya said the islands are "highly controlled territories" that are doing better in the pandemic now than the U.K.

France said there's no need yet to shut its border with Spain. The U.K. and France sent a combined 4.2 million tourists to Spain in August 2019.

"We have seen a wave of cancellations above all by foreign clients from France, Germany and England who were supposed to come next week, above all to Barcelona," said David Riba, president of the Federatur tourist apartments group.

Lyndsey Thomas, CEO of the travel site Girlabout.co.uk, said the announcement was a body blow to an industry already struggling to emerge from the pandemic.

"I think we were really hopeful that 2020 might just survive. I think being able to go to Spain in the summer holidays was great news for the travel industry," she told The Associated Press. "Spain is the No. 1 destination for Brits going into Europe, going on a fly-and-flop beach holiday. And for this to happen, there's going to be a major impact."

While families and the at-risk elderly in Spain are mostly complying with rules to wear face masks and maintain a 1.5-meter (5-foot) distance from others, teenagers and young adults have been flouting the health rules.

With Spain's 19 regional governments back in charge of their health care systems, there's been a variety of responses to the revival of the virus. But all agree on stopping the rise of cases related to nightclubs and bars, which are supposed to be requiring social distancing and face masks. Many regions have reduced the occupancy of nightclubs and some have demanded tables on the dance floors to discourage close contact. Officials in Madrid are considering similar restrictions.

Two business associations for nightclubs and bars say they will take the Catalan government to court to block a decision they say puts 35,000 jobs at risk.

Despite the worrying trends, authorities tried to send a message of calm.

"Like other European countries, Spain has outbreaks, that is not unusual," González Laya said. "The important thing is that Spain is making a huge effort to control these outbreaks."

Kirka reported from London and John Leicester in Paris contributed to this report.

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

## AP-NORC poll: US course at record low, Trump sinks on virus

By JULIE PACE and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the November election 100 days away, more Americans say the country is heading in the wrong direction than at any previous point in Donald Trump's presidency, putting the incumbent in a perilous position as his reelection bid against Democrat Joe Biden enters a pivotal stretch.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research also finds Trump's approval for his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic falling to a new low, with just 32% of Americans supportive of his approach. Even Trump's standing on the economy, long the high water mark for the president, has fallen over the past few months after seeming ascendant earlier this year.

Those political headwinds have sparked a sudden summer shift in the White House and the Trump campaign. After spending months playing down the pandemic and largely ignoring the virus' resurgence

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 63 of 77

in several states, Trump warned this past week that the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better. After repeatedly minimizing the importance of wearing masks to limit the spread of the virus, Trump urged Americans to do exactly that. And after insisting he would press forward with a large campaign convention in August, the president announced that he was scrapping those plans.

Trump's abrupt about-face underscores the reality of the situation he faces just over three months from Election Day. Even as he tries to refocus his contest with Biden on divisive cultural issues and an ominous "law and order" message, Trump's reelection prospects are likely to be inextricably linked to his handling of the pandemic and whether voters believe the country will head back in the right direction under his leadership.

The AP-NORC poll makes clear the challenge ahead for Trump on that front: 8 in 10 Americans say the country is heading in the wrong direction. That's more than at any point since Trump took office. The poll also finds just 38% of Americans say the national economy is good, down from 67% in January, before the pandemic upended most aspects of everyday life.

Biden's campaign is eager to keep the final months of the campaign focused squarely on Trump, confident that the former vice president can emerge victorious if the contest is a referendum on whether the current commander in chief has succeeded during his four years in office.

"People are sick and tired of a government that is divided and broken and unable to get things done," said Kate Bedingfield, Biden's deputy campaign manager. "What people feel like they're getting from Trump right now is a hodgepodge mess of self-interested political talk."

The past few months have proved to be beneficial for Biden's campaign. He managed to swiftly consolidate the Democratic Party in ways Hillary Clinton, the party's 2016 nominee, struggled to do. Biden's fundraising, a weakness for him in the primary, has surged, allowing his campaign to build out infrastructure and start ad spending in both traditional battleground states and more aspirational targets, including Texas and Georgia.

Biden has also benefited from Trump landing on the wrong side of the public in his initial reactions to the pandemic. For example, 3 in 4 Americans back requiring people to wear masks in public, which Trump initially dismissed.

Another pandemic test for the president lies ahead in August and September, as Trump and his administration aggressively try to sell a skeptical public on reopening schools. The poll finds that about third of Americans are opposed entirely to the idea, while close to half say major adjustments to instruction will be required.

The limitations the pandemic placed on the candidates' ability to travel and hold large rallies have also played more to Biden's strengths. While Trump relishes headlining rallies at packed arenas, Biden is less adept in those settings. He's instead spent the past several months delivering speeches to small groups of invited guests and journalists within driving distance of his home in Delaware, and holding virtual events with supporters and donors.

Trump argues that shows Biden doesn't have the stamina for a full-blown campaign; Biden's advisers say voters want to see their leaders abide by the same public health guidelines they're urging others to follow.

Democrats have been buoyed by public polls finding Biden ahead of Trump both nationally and in some battleground states by a comfortable margin. However, Biden advisers caution that they expect the race to tighten in the final stretch before Election Day as more Republicans who may be dissatisfied with Trump's job performance gravitate back to their party's leader.

Overall, 38% of Americans approve of the president's job performance — well within the narrow range that Trump's approval ratings have stayed throughout this presidency, but down slightly from earlier this year before the pandemic. Most Republicans — 81% — approve of Trump's job performance, but just 68% of Republicans support his handling of the pandemic.

Publicly, Trump and his advisers say they have been here before: underestimated and counted out. They point to public polls throughout the summer of 2016 that showed Trump trailing Clinton, only to eclipse her on Election Day.

But privately, Trump's political aides and allies have spent months trying to sound the alarm bells for the

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 64 of 77

president, warning that he could lose the Midwestern battlegrounds he carried in 2016, as well as some reliably red states, if the trajectory — both of his campaign and the virus — continues.

One of the most concrete signs that Trump recognized he had gone off course came this month, when he demoted longtime campaign manager Brad Parscale, replacing him with experienced GOP operative Bill Stepien.

Stepien told reporters he expects the campaign to “be a knock-down, drag-out fight to the very end.”

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow, Zeke Miller and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Hannah Fingerhut at <http://twitter.com/hrfingerhut>

## Workers praise Disney virus safety, but will visitors come?

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Every week, it seems, Kaila Barker, her husband and their five children change their minds about whether to travel from their home in Connecticut to Florida’s Walt Disney World as planned in September.

On the one hand, the lack of crowds means more opportunities to go on rides without long waits. On the other hand, Connecticut and Florida have implemented pandemic-related quarantines for each other’s residents and visitors, and the Barkers worry whether the Disney “magic” will get lost with mandatory mask-wearing for visitors and workers, temperature checks and no parades, fireworks shows or up-close “meet-and-greets” with costumed characters.

“We keep going back and forth. It’s such a hard decision to make,” Barker said last Tuesday.

Two weeks after Disney World started opening its theme parks for the first time since closing in March because of COVID-19, the Barkers’ quandary affects not only Disney World’s future but that of central Florida’s tourism-reliant economy.

More than 75 million visitors came to Orlando in 2018, mostly due to its reputation as a theme park mecca, which also includes Universal Orlando and SeaWorld Orlando. But the coronavirus has upended Orlando’s status as the most visited place in the U.S.

In the week that Disney World’s Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom started welcoming back visitors, occupancy of hotel rooms in the Orlando area was down more than 60% from the previous year, a much deeper drop than the state as a whole, which declined more than 41%, according to STR, which tracks hotel data.

Less than half of Disney World’s 43,000 unionized workers have been recalled to their old jobs, contributing to two Orlando-area counties having the state’s highest unemployment rates last month — Osceola at 22.9% and Orange at 17.2%. Disney World has an overall workforce of 77,000 employees, the nation’s largest single-site labor force.

Many of those still-furloughed workers are about to lose federal benefits at the end of the month.

“This is an extremely difficult moment,” said Paul Cox, president of the local union that represents stagehands and show technicians at Disney World. “There are still a majority of workers who are staying at home and they’re about to lose support. Things are going to get bad.”

Union officials estimate the Disney parks are no more than a third full, but that may be more by design to maintain social distancing. Disney World doesn’t release attendance figures, but in pre-pandemic times its four parks and two water parks could host around 150,000 visitors a day.

Florida has had a surging coronavirus caseload recently, and other Disney parks around the globe have run into coronavirus-related roadblocks. Hong Kong Disneyland Park was forced to close earlier this month following the city’s decision to ban public gatherings of more than four people, and Disney’s California parks delayed reopening while they awaited state guidelines.

Cowen Inc. estimated recently that Disney’s parks and resorts won’t return to pre-pandemic profitability until fiscal year 2025, and there is a “meaningful” probability that Disney World could close again because



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 65 of 77

of the pandemic.

Leaders of the Disney World workers' unions describe the virus-related safety measures Disney has taken as "exemplary."

After workers complained about patrons walking around with their masks pulled down while eating food like turkey legs, Disney World updated its mandatory mask policy, requiring visitors to eat in one place while maintaining social distancing.

In response to other worker concerns, Disney has distributed personal hand sanitizer containers for workers to wear on their belts, added additional break rooms to limit the number of workers in them and reduced the number of riders on buses that shuttle workers from parking lots to the parks. Performers dressed as Disney princesses being driven in a horse-powered carriage through the parks now sit individually in rows separated by clear-plastic window partitions.

"Singing their praises seems so strange," said Julee Jerkovich, an official with a United Food & Commercial Workers union, which represents Disney merchandise and banquet workers. "As far as this grand experiment, I would have to say Disney has done a really good job."

But not all unions are happy. The union that represents actors and singers has filed a grievance with Disney World, saying their 750 members were locked out of returning to work after they complained about Disney ignoring their demands for getting coronavirus tests since they can't wear masks while performing. Some performers, though, are eager to return to work and are pushing the union to reach an agreement with the company, as they worry about Disney replacing their shows with temporary ones featuring non-actors.

Actor's Equity Association fired a new salvo against Disney over the weekend by tweeting a re-edited version of a welcome-back video produced by the company featuring workers preparing the park for visitors. In Equity's version, a rolling count of Florida's coronavirus cases runs on the screen.

There have been isolated cases of workers and visitors connected to the theme parks getting sick with COVID-19, "but we haven't seen any large number of positive cases that come from any of the parks," Dr. Raul Pino, health officer for Florida's Department of Health, said last Monday.

Disney's policy of granting sick workers with paid time off so they can quarantine has made a difference, said Eric Clinton, president of Unite Here! Local 362, which represents Disney World park greeters, attractions workers and custodians.

But Clinton wonders if the current operating model can last until the pandemic is over, given that just over 20,000 of the 43,000 workers represented by unions have returned to work, only half of Disney World's 30 onsite hotels currently are back open and several in-park restaurants still are closed.

"Disney is a strong brand. They have a great product, but does the novelty wear off? Do people want to go to a theme park now? Is it more appealing with less crowds?" Clinton said. "I'm hopeful but nervous."

—  
Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

## Some US police resist enforcing coronavirus mask mandates

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Lang Holland, the chief of police in tiny Marshall, Arkansas, said he thinks the threat of the coronavirus has been overstated and only wears a face mask if he's inside a business that requires them. He doesn't make his officers wear them either.

So the day after Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed an order requiring masks to be worn in public throughout Arkansas, Holland made it clear his department wasn't going to enforce the mandate in the Ozarks town of about 1,300, calling it an unconstitutional overreach.

"All I'm saying is if you want to wear a mask, you have the freedom to choose that," said Holland, who said he supports President Donald Trump. "It should not be dictated by the nanny state."

Holland is among a number of police chiefs and sheriffs in Arkansas and elsewhere who say they won't enforce statewide mask requirements, even within their departments. Some say they don't have the man-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 66 of 77

power to respond to every mask complaint, treating violations of the requirement as they would oft-ignored minor offenses such as jaywalking. Others, including Holland, reject the legal validity of mask requirements.

The pushback is concerning to health officials, who say a lack of enforcement could undermine what they say is a much-needed and simple step that can be taken to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"If people undermine that mandate, they undermine the public health benefits of masking in the setting of this pandemic, and that just doesn't make any sense to me," said Dr. Cam Patterson, the chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, who had called for a statewide requirement.

More than half the states have issued orders to wear masks in most public settings, with virus cases and hospitalizations on the rise. Polling shows overwhelming public support for such requirements, and even Trump, who had long been dismissive of wearing masks, last week said it was patriotic to wear one.

The most vocal police pushback to mask requirements is coming from Republican-led states that aggressively reopened businesses or previously opposed stricter measures such as mask requirements. Hutchinson, who was among a handful of governors who didn't issue a stay-at-home order, long resisted issuing a mask mandate in Arkansas, but he relented in the face of the state's worsening numbers.

Arkansas' active virus cases, meaning those excluding people who have died or recovered from COVID-19, have nearly quadrupled since Memorial Day. The number of people hospitalized with the disease in the state is almost five times higher than it was that day.

"This is a way to enlist the support of everyone in this fight," Hutchinson said before signing the order, which took effect Monday.

Several police chiefs and sheriffs immediately said they wouldn't enforce Hutchinson's order, which prohibits people from being jailed for violations and only imposes fines for repeat offenders. The Texarkana Police Department said it wouldn't enforce the order, saying its primary responsibility was "fighting crime and providing police services."

John Staley, the sheriff of Lonoke County in central Arkansas, said he agrees with the need for masks and his deputies wear them when in contact with the public. But he said his department doesn't have the manpower to respond to complaints about them.

"I support the governor's position and his decision, but we're not going to be out writing tickets for masks," Staley said.

None of the resistant law enforcement agencies are refusing to respond to disturbances related to masks, which have turned violent or deadly in some incidents. Staley and officials from several other law enforcement agencies have said they would respond if businesses complain about people refusing to wear masks or to leave the premises.

Several sheriffs in neighboring Texas have also said they wouldn't enforce a mask requirement issued by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott. And a group of 38 sheriffs in Montana signed an op-ed this month saying they believe that the mask requirement issued by the state's Democratic governor this month "is not a mandate for law enforcement to issue citations and arrest violators."

Enforcement of Alabama's mask rule, which took effect this month, has also varied. Some police said they would provide masks to those not wearing them in public, and others said they didn't plan to ticket people for violations.

"We as law enforcement are NOT the social distancing police OR the face mask police. Just be responsible, that's all, and be safe," the Bay Minette Police Department announced in a Facebook post.

In New York City, which was at the heart of the U.S. coronavirus outbreak early on in the pandemic, the nation's largest police department has struggled with how to enforce mask mandates. Police initially assigned 1,000 officers this spring to enforce mask wearing and social distancing rules, but they backed off after some violent arrests were caught on video.

Now, the city relies chiefly on civilian workers and community group members to hand out masks and encourage people to wear them.

Hutchinson said he would defer to local police and sheriffs on how to enforce his order, saying it was their prerogative on how to prioritize offenses. But he also said police "don't pick and choose" which laws

they enforce. The difficulty of enforcing a mandate in a rural state like Arkansas was one of the reasons Hutchinson gave for resisting the requirement until recently.

Not all police departments are resistant to enforcing mask mandates, though they're hoping to avoid the need to write anyone up for not complying.

"I am confident that the overwhelming majority of Fort Smith residents and visitors care about each other and will choose to help us through personal accountability, making the need for enforcement action non-existent," Danny Baker, the chief of police in Fort Smith, an Arkansas city along the Oklahoma border, said in a statement.

Supporters of mask mandates say penalties were never their goal and that they never envisioned police having to respond to every complaint about someone not wearing one.

"Nobody's asking for a masking gestapo," Patterson said. "We're just asking for good behavior and support from our local communities."

---

Associated Press writer Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed to this report.

## Everywhere and nowhere: The many layers of 'cancel culture'

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — So you've probably read a lot about "cancel culture." Or know about a new poll that shows a plurality of Americans disapproving of it. Or you may have heard about a letter in Harper's Magazine condemning censorship and intolerance.

But can you say exactly what "cancel culture" is? Some takes:

— "It seems like a buzzword that creates more confusion than clarity," says the author and journalist George Packer, who went on to call it "a mechanism where a chorus of voices, amplified on social media, tries to silence a point of view that they find offensive by trying to damage or destroy the reputation of the person who has given offense."

— "I don't think it's real. But there are reasonable people who believe in it," says the author, educator and sociologist Tressie McMillan Cottom. "From my perspective, accountability has always existed. But some people are being held accountable in ways that are new to them. We didn't talk about 'cancel culture' when someone was charged with a crime and had to stay in jail because they couldn't afford the bail."

— "'Cancel culture' tacitly attempts to disable the ability of a person with whom you disagree to ever again be taken seriously as a writer/editor/speaker/activist/intellectual, or in the extreme, to be hired or employed in their field of work," says Letty Cottin Pogrebin, the author, activist and founding editor of Ms. magazine.

— "It means different things to different people," says Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

In tweets, online letters, opinion pieces and books, conservatives, centrists and liberals continue to denounce what they call growing intolerance for opposing viewpoints and the needless ruining of lives and careers. A Politico/Morning Consult poll released last week shows 44% of Americans disapprove of it, 32% approve and the remaining 24% had no opinion or didn't know what it was.

For some, "cancel culture" is the coming of the thought police. For others, it contains important chances to be heard that didn't exist before.

Recent examples of unpopular "cancellations" include the owner of a chain of food stores in Minneapolis whose business faced eviction and calls for boycotts because of racist social media posts by his teenage daughter, and a data analyst fired by the progressive firm Civis Analytics after he tweeted a study finding that nonviolent protests increase support for Democratic candidates and violent protests decrease it. Civis Analytics has denied he was fired for the tweet.

"These incidents damage the lives of innocent people without achieving any noble purpose," Yascha Mounk wrote in The Atlantic last month. Mounk himself has been criticized for alleging that "an astonishing number of academics and journalists proudly proclaim that it is time to abandon values like due process

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 68 of 77

and free speech.”

Debates can be circular and confusing, with those objecting to intolerance sometimes openly uncomfortable with those who don't share their views. A few weeks ago, more than 100 artists and thinkers endorsed a letter co-written by Packer and published by Harper's. It warned against a "new set of moral attitudes and political commitments that tend to weaken our norms of open debate and toleration of differences in favor of ideological conformity."

The letter drew signatories from many backgrounds and political points of view, ranging from the far-left Noam Chomsky to the conservative David Frum, and was a starting point for contradiction.

The writer and trans activist Jennifer Finney Boylan, who signed the letter, quickly disowned it because she "did not know who else" had attached their names. Although endorsers included Salman Rushdie, who in 1989 was forced into hiding over death threats from Iranian Islamic leaders because of his novel "The Satanic Verses," numerous online critics dismissed the letter as a product of elitists who knew nothing about censorship.

One of the organizers of the letter, the writer Thomas Chatterton Williams, later announced on Twitter that he had thrown a guest out of his home over criticisms of letter-supporter Bari Weiss, the New York Times columnist who recently quit over what she called a Twitter-driven culture of political correctness. Another endorser, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, threatened legal action against a British news site that suggested she was transphobic after referring to controversial tweets that she has written in recent months.

"The only speech these powerful people seem to care about is their own," the author and feminist Jessica Valenti wrote in response to the Harper's letter. "(Cancel culture') is certainly not about free speech: After all, an arrested journalist is never referred to as 'canceled,' nor is a woman who has been frozen out of an industry after complaining about sexual harassment. 'Canceled' is a label we all understand to mean a powerful person who's been held to account."

"Cancel culture" is hard to define, in part because there is nothing confined about it — no single cause, no single ideology, no single fate for those allegedly canceled.

Harvey Weinstein and Bill Cosby, convicted sex offenders, are in prison. Former television personality Charlie Rose has been unemployable since allegations of sexual abuse and harassment were published in 2017-18. Oscar winner Kevin Spacey has made no films since he faced allegations of harassment and assault and saw his performance in "All the Money in the World" replaced by Christopher Plummer's.

Others are only partially "canceled." Woody Allen, accused by daughter Dylan Farrow of molesting her when she was 7, was dropped by Amazon, his U.S. film distributor, but continues to release movies overseas. His memoir was canceled by Hachette Book Group, but soon acquired by Skyhorse Publishing, which also has a deal with the previously "canceled" Garrison Keillor. Sirius XM announced last week that the late Michael Jackson, who seemed to face posthumous cancellation after the 2019 documentary "Leaving Neverland" presented extensive allegations that he sexually abused boys, would have a channel dedicated to his music.

Cancellation in one subculture can lead to elevation in others. Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has not played an NFL game since 2016 and has been condemned by President Donald Trump and many others on the right after he began kneeling during the National Anthem to protest "a country that oppresses black people and people of color." But he has appeared in Nike advertisements, been honored by the ACLU and Amnesty International and reached an agreement with the Walt Disney Co. for a series about his life.

"You can say the NFL canceled Colin Kaepernick as a quarterback and that he was resurrected as a cultural hero," says Julius Bailey, an associate professor of philosophy at Wittenberg University who writes about Kaepernick in his book "Racism, Hypocrisy and Bad Faith."

In politics, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, a Democrat, remains in his job 1 1/2 years after acknowledging he appeared in a racist yearbook picture while in college. Sen. Al Franken, a Democrat from Minnesota, resigned after multiple women alleged he had sexually harassed them, but Lt. Governor Justin

Fairfax of Virginia defied orders to quit after two women accused him of sexual assault.

Sometimes even multiple allegations of sexual assault, countless racist remarks and the disparagement of wounded military veterans aren't enough to induce cancellation. Trump, a Republican, has labeled cancel culture "far-left fascism" and "the very definition of totalitarianism" while so far proving immune to it.

"Politicians can ride this out because they were hired by the public. And if the public is willing to go along, then they can sometimes survive things perhaps they shouldn't survive," Packer says.

"I think you can say that Trump's rhetoric has had a boomerang effect on the rest of our society," says PEN America CEO Suzanne Nossel, who addresses free expression in her book "Dare to Speak," which comes out next week. "People on the left feel that he can get away with anything, so they do all they can to contain it elsewhere."

## From police chief to VP? Inside Val Demings' unlikely path

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and TAMARA LUSH Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Val Demings has already been vice president.

In 1972, the future Florida congresswoman was a young Black girl struggling to make friends at a predominantly white Jacksonville high school. She and her best friend, Vera Hartley, created the Charisma Club. Hartley was president and Demings was her second-in-command.

"We created an environment of inclusion," Hartley said, recalling how she and Demings invited white students to join. Then "we were able to get into other clubs."

Nearly four decades later, Demings is again being considered for vice president — this time by presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. As a Black woman with a background in policing who hails from America's premier battleground state, Demings has honed the charisma she learned in high school to build a rapid national profile.

But she's also facing scrutiny, particularly over her four years as Orlando's police chief. While those credentials could blunt President Donald Trump's argument that a Biden administration would lead to lawlessness, they could also spur unease among progressives who are leery of law enforcement, especially at a time of reckoning over systemic racism and policing.

"She's out here touting a national plan" for criminal justice reform, said Mike Cantone, an Orlando liberal activist who previously supported Demings' bid for Congress. "But she's never once called for that kind of reform right here in her backyard."

In a recent interview, Demings argued she used the tools available to her to address excessive force and bad actors on the police force.

"I think people don't really fully understand sometimes the restraints that law enforcement executives have as it pertains to discipline," she said.

She insisted she "found some creative ways to get around" those rules and developed her own way "to force officers who I believed should not have been law enforcement officers to resign, pending termination."

In retrospect, Demings says, one of her biggest problems is that throughout her career, she's not been the flashy or outspoken type, and didn't speak up publicly about those efforts. Her parents, she said, "taught me to be pretty humble."

"If you use an 'I' too many times, it's just not who I am," she said. "I just tried my best to do what was right. I did what I could, when I could."

### OVERCOMING SEGREGATION

Demings speaks of her childhood with a cheeriness that belies the difficulties she faced as the youngest of seven, the daughter of a maid and a janitor and a descendant of slaves, growing up in a two-bedroom house in Jacksonville, a city known for its history of racial unrest.

In sixth grade, she was part of a group of Black students bused to a predominantly white school 15 miles from home as part of desegregation.

"Being the first Blacks to integrate Loretta Elementary School wasn't always the best, most fun experience," Demings said. "People remind you daily that you are different from the majority, and sometimes

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 70 of 77

in a very cruel way.”

Demings recalled a time when she wanted to sleep over at a white friend’s house in sixth grade, and the girl’s mother refused.

“We don’t want that N- in our house,” the mother told her daughter, Demings said.

But she made the most of that tough place. In junior high school, she and Hartley won first place in the school talent show, dancing and singing to Aretha Franklin’s “Respect.” In high school, she was on student council, was captain of the band’s flag corps, played softball, and was elected Miss Congeniality.

“I did my dance routine and ended with the robot, and all the kids went wild,” she said of the performance that won her Miss Congeniality.

## BECOMING CHIEF

Demings worked her way through college at Florida State University, majoring in criminal justice. She was a social worker before starting at the police academy, with no small amount of ambivalence about the idea.

But it would be a significant move — to Orlando, a city she didn’t know well; into a job that was still majority white and male. Her plan, she said, was “to stay under the radar, not draw attention to myself.”

And then her classmates in her police academy class asked her to run for class president.

“I’m not sure why I said yes —I think it was just to overcome, and to just, don’t let fear paralyze you,” she said.

Up against two other white men for the job, Demings won by a landslide.

She rose through the ranks over the next few decades until she became the Orlando Police Department’s first female chief in 2007. She led a force that has grappled with a long record of excessive-force allegations, calls for reforms and more transparency for years before, during and after her tenure, which ended in 2011.

From 2010 to 2014, the department faced at least 47 lawsuits against the department’s officers and paid out more than \$3.3 million in damages, according to an investigation by local news station WFTV.

And an Orlando Sentinel investigation covering the same period found that Orlando officers used force in 5.6% of arrests — more than twice the rate of some other police agencies — and used force disproportionately against Black suspects.

Demings’ defenders note she was credited with reducing violent crime in the city by 40% at the time of her retirement from the department in 2011, something John Mina, the current sheriff of Orange County, said was a priority of hers, along with improving communication with the city’s under-served areas.

“She’s very direct and a good communicator,” he said. “She had really good vision of what she wanted to get accomplished. She communicated that vision.”

## ‘PUSH BACK’

After she retired as police chief in 2011, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer encouraged Demings to talk to national Democrats about a run for Congress. Demings was initially reluctant, he said.

“It took convincing to get her to go talk to them the first time,” he said. “I don’t think she’d ever considered it.”

She lost her bid to incumbent Republican Rep. Daniel Webster, but ran again in 2016 after the district was redrawn in a manner that was more favorable to Democrats. This time, she won.

On Capitol Hill, her background in law enforcement helped boost her profile. She was tapped as one of the impeachment managers for House Democrats, the only non-lawyer chosen to try the case in the Senate.

The impeachment trial was Demings’ first big stage in national politics. But it also served as a reminder of the racism that still persists for Black women in public life.

“One lady called my district office and said, ‘Well, why is she trying to dress like a white woman?’” Demings said. “There were people who called and said I was just the most disgusting thing, or talked about my hair, my clothes, my looks, said I was the ugliest person they’d ever seen.”

But in the same breath, Demings returned to the lessons her parents taught her as a child.

“There will always be people who try to put obstacles in your way and remind you that you’re different,” she said. “And you’ve got to push back.”

Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Florida.

## Twitter and Facebook become targets in Trump and Biden ads

By AMANDA SEITZ and BARBARA ORTUTAY Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Social media has become the target of a dueling attack ad campaign being waged online by the sitting president and his election rival. They're shooting the messenger while giving it lots of money.

President Donald Trump has bought hundreds of messages on Facebook to accuse its competitor, Twitter, of trying to stifle his voice and influence the November election.

Democratic challenger Joe Biden has spent thousands of dollars advertising on Facebook with a message of his own: In dozens of ads on the platform, he's asked supporters to sign a petition calling on Facebook to remove inaccurate statements, specifically those from Trump.

The major social media companies are navigating a political minefield as they try to minimize domestic misinformation and rein in foreign actors from manipulating their sites as they did in the last U.S. presidential election. Their new actions — or in some cases, lack of action — have triggered explosive, partisan responses, ending their glory days as self-described neutral platforms.

Even as the two presidential campaigns dump millions of dollars every week into Facebook and Google ads that boost their exposure, both are also using online ads to criticize the tech platforms for their policies. Trump is accusing Twitter and Snapchat of interfering in this year's election. Biden has sent multiple letters to Facebook and attacked the company for policies that allow politicians, Trump specifically, to freely make false claims on its site. Biden is paying Facebook handsomely to show ads that accuse Facebook of posing a "threat" to democracy.

Meantime Trump is paying Facebook to run ads trashing the medium he uses like none other, Twitter. "Twitter is interfering in the 2020 Election by attempting to SILENCE your President," claimed one of nearly 600 ads Trump's campaign placed on Facebook

It's "a huge departure from 2016," said Emerson Brooking, a fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, a Washington think-tank. "If you were leading the Trump or Clinton campaign, you weren't writing letters to Facebook all day long. It wasn't so much a central campaign issue. Now it seems like it very much is."

Americans, after all, are on high alert about the platforms' policies after discovering that Russian trolls posted divisive messages, created fake political events and even used rubles to buy Facebook ads intended for U.S. audiences in the 2016 election. Research already shows the Kremlin is at it again.

Since the last presidential election, Facebook and Twitter have banned voting-related misinformation and vowed to identify and shut down inauthentic networks of accounts run by domestic or foreign troublemakers. Before this year's election, Twitter banned political ads altogether, a decision a company spokesman told the AP it stands behind. And Facebook, along with Google, began disclosing campaign ad spending while banning non-Americans from buying U.S. political ads.

Facebook didn't comment for this story.

But calls to deflate Big Tech's ballooning power have only grown louder from both Democrats and Republicans, even though the two parties are targeting different companies for different reasons to rally supporters.

Those politics will no doubt be on full display Wednesday, when four big tech CEOs, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Google's Sundar Pichai and Apple's Tim Cook, testify to a House Judiciary Committee panel as part of a congressional investigation into the tech industry's dominance.

Biden has focused on Facebook, with a #MoveFastFixIt campaign that admonishes Facebook for not doing enough to protect users from foreign meddling or being duped by falsehoods, particularly those spread by Trump about mail-in voting.

His campaign just last month spent nearly \$10,000 to run ads scolding the company on its own platform.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 72 of 77

"We could lie to you, but we won't," says one of Biden's ads. "Donald Trump and his Republican allies, on the other hand, spend MILLIONS on Facebook ads like this one that spread dangerous misinformation about everything from how to vote to the legitimacy of our democratic process."

Despite criticizing Facebook, Biden's campaign said it's still purchasing millions of dollars in Facebook ads because it's one of the few ways to counter Trump's false posts — since Facebook won't fact check him.

The ads are also a cheap and effective way for the campaigns to rally supporters who are unhappy with the platforms, said Kathleen Searles, a Louisiana State University political communications professor.

"We do know that anger can be very motivating — it motivates them to get their name on an email list, or donate \$20," Searles said. "What better way to get people angry than a faceless platform?"

While Biden has focused on Facebook, Trump has honed in on Twitter, and occasionally Snapchat, with his campaign running online ads that accuse both companies of "interfering" in the election.

Twitter became a Trump campaign target after the company rolled out its first fact check of his inaccurate tweet about voting in late May. Twitter has since applied similar labels to five other Trump tweets, including two that called mail-in ballots "fraudulent" and predicted that "mail boxes will be robbed" if voting doesn't take place in person.

Trump responded by signing a largely symbolic executive order challenging Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which provides protections from lawsuits for internet companies that have served as a bedrock for unfettered speech online.

"It's preposterous that Silicon Valley, the bastion of diversity and liberalism, is terrified of intellectual diversity and conservative voices," Trump deputy national press secretary Ken Farnaso said in a statement.

Republican leaders have since joined in railing against Twitter.

This month, Rep. Jim Jordan, a firebrand conservative from Ohio, demanded Twitter hand over a full accounting, including emails, of how it decided to fact check the president. Saying "big tech is out of control," Republican Sen. Ted Cruz joined dozens of conservative media outlets, Trump staffers and politicians who waged a two-day campaign last month urging their Twitter followers to ditch the platform and join Parler, a social media app that does not moderate its content as closely.

Facebook could be next for a face-off with the president and his allies now that the company has vowed to label any posts — Trump's included — that violate its rules against voting misinformation or hate speech. Facebook has yet to take such action, though.

"Social media censorship is going to be a very potent campaign issue," Brooking said. "And there's going to be incentive from a number of folks running for office in 2020 to push the envelope still further, to try to invite more and more social media moderation because they see it as a potent political stunt."

Ortutay reported from Oakland, California.

## Rift between royal brothers laid bare in new book extract

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince William infuriated Prince Harry when he told his younger brother he should move slowly in his relationship with the former Meghan Markle, fearing that he was being "blindsided by lust," a new book on the Windsors says.

The second installment of a serialized version of the book "Finding Freedom," which appeared in the Sunday Times, claimed that Harry was angered by what he perceived as William's snobby tone in a discussion about the American actress when they were dating. Royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand wrote that Harry disliked William's advice to "take as much time as you need to get to know this girl."

The authors quote a source close to William as saying he didn't want Harry to be "blindsided by lust." The authors wrote that Harry "no longer felt as though he needed looking after," and took it badly.

"In those last two words, 'this girl,' Harry heard the tone of snobbishness that was anathema to his approach to the world," the excerpt said, noting that Harry has spent 10 years in the military and outside the royal bubble.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 73 of 77

"Also, to remove Meghan from the equation, Harry was tired of the dynamic that had become established between him and his older brother," the authors added.

In announcing the book's publication, Harper Collins U.K. said the book by Scobie, royal editor of Harper's Bazaar and Durand, Elle magazine's royal correspondent, would aim to capture "the real Harry and Meghan." The publisher said the authors have been given "unique access" and the cooperation of those closest to the couple.

Ahead of the book's release, Harry and Meghan issued a statement denying taking part in the publication.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were not interviewed and did not contribute to 'Finding Freedom,'" it said. "This book is based on the authors' own experiences as members of the royal press corps and their own independent reporting."

The book described how the rest of the family and the Royal Household also didn't know what to make of Meghan. One senior courtier is said to have told a colleague: "There's just something about her I don't trust." Another called her "Harry's showgirl."

The excerpt is even harsher when it comes to the Duchess of Cambridge, suggesting she hardly rolled out the red carpet for Meghan, despite the similarity of challenges both would face.

"Though it was not necessarily her responsibility, Kate did little to bridge the divide. She was fiercely loyal to her husband and his family," the authors wrote. "Once Harry and Meghan were married, the gap between the brothers only widened.

"William and Kate's feelings seemed obvious to the Sussexes that summer and beyond. Among all the friends and family Harry and Meghan hosted at their house in Oxfordshire between May 2018 and March 2019, the Cambridges failed to visit," the excerpt said.

The book excerpts have focused on the months of palace intrigue surrounding the decision to step back from senior royal duties. The couple surprised the Royal Household in January by making public their plans to be more independent.

The couple wished to be part-time royals, but the idea fell apart during talks with the family. In January the queen outlined how the couple would step away from royal duties in March, at least for a while, but always remain part of the royal family.

Harry is sixth in the line for the throne, behind his father, Prince Charles, his brother William, and William's three young children, George, Charlotte and Louis.

The couple have re-located to North America with their 14-month old son, Archie.

---

Follow all AP coverage of the royal family at <https://apnews.com/Prince Harry>.

## South Africa warns COVID-19 corruption puts 'lives at risk'

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's COVID-19 response is marred by corruption allegations around its historic \$26 billion economic relief package, as the country with the world's fifth highest number of COVID-19 cases braces for more.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced a wide-ranging investigation into claims that unscrupulous officials and private companies are looting efforts to protect the country's 57 million people.

"More so than at any other time, corruption puts our lives at risk," he said in a national address Thursday night.

Food for the poor. Personal protective equipment for health workers. Grants for the newly laid off. All have been affected, he said.

South Africa is seen as the best-prepared of any country in sub-Saharan Africa for COVID-19, but years of rampant corruption have weakened institutions, including the health system. In October, the head of the government's Special Investigating Unit said fraud, waste and abuse in health care siphoned off \$2.3 billion a year.

The unit is already investigating more than 20 cases of corruption related to the COVID-19 relief money,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 74 of 77

spokesman Kaizer Kganyago said.

South Africa now has more than 434,000 confirmed virus cases — well over half of the continent's total — and over 6,600 deaths, while a new report has suggested the real death toll could be higher. Public hospitals struggle and some health workers are openly scared. More than 5,000 of them have been infected.

While nurses and others plead for more protection, overpricing scams for badly needed supplies are on the rise. After inflating face mask prices by up to 900%, companies Sicuro Safety and Hennox Supplies admitted guilt and were fined.

In South Africa's new virus epicenter, Gauteng province, a company supplying the government with PPE, Royal Bhaca, charged more than four times the regular price — or about \$3.50 — per surgical mask. Sanitizer was almost twice the price, or \$5 for a 500ml bottle, according to an investigation by The Sunday Independent newspaper.

Even Dis-Chem, a popular pharmacy, was fined for inflating the price of masks.

At health workers union Hospersa, general secretary Noel Desfontaines welcomed the government's acknowledgement of the trouble.

"The health minister tells us that enough money has been distributed for PPE to provinces, but when we go to hospitals we do not see this," Desfontaines said. "In some cases, it has been purchased but it does not reach the people it was intended for."

Pandemic-related corruption has been reported across South Africa.

In Kwazulu-Natal province, the government suspended officials allegedly involved in making massively overpriced purchases of up to \$2.4 million of personal protective equipment and blankets for the poor.

Eastern Cape province, one of the poorest regions and a growing COVID-19 hot spot, faces questions over the purchase of unsuitable "emergency scooters." The provincial health department allegedly purchased 100 of the motorbikes at \$5,993 each, though they retail for about \$2,337 apiece.

Other allegations include fake charity organizations that have sprung up to tap relief funds.

Meanwhile, the pandemic and lockdown restrictions have badly hurt the economy. Unemployment is now above 30%, and more than 16 million people already were on social welfare grants. That number will climb.

Some 3 million people lost their jobs in the first month of the lockdown, according to the latest National Income Dynamics Study conducted by researchers from five South African universities.

Many families are relying on government food parcels to survive, often lining up in the Southern Hemisphere's wintry weather for hours.

But some allege they have been turned away for the emergency COVID-19 relief grant of just over \$20 for unemployed South Africans.

Meanwhile, the Unemployment Insurance Fund has reported claims of fraudulent payouts. In one case, \$340,000 meant for 200 workers was paid to an individual's bank account.

Ramaphosa has addressed the complaints, saying over 4.4 million people have received the grants. "There were delays in paying this amount but future payments will be made more quickly now that the necessary systems are in place," he said.

The grants are planned for six months. The pandemic should last much longer.

Ramaphosa was under pressure to act against corruption even before the pandemic. He took office in 2018 after predecessor Jacob Zuma resigned amid sprawling allegations of graft, then won the 2019 election on an anti-corruption ticket, vowing to clean out the rot.

But the latest revelations have hit close to home. The husband of the president's spokeswoman, Khusela Diko, has been accused of securing large contracts to provide COVID-19 protective equipment and supplies.

Diko has denied wrongdoing, saying her husband, King Madzikane Thandisizwe Diko II, had withdrawn from the contracts due to concerns over a possible conflict of interest.

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

## Colleges plan for virus testing, but strategies vary widely

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

BOSTON (AP) — For students heading to Colby College in Maine this fall, coronavirus testing is expected to be a routine part of campus life. All students will be required to provide a nasal swab every other day for two weeks, and then twice a week after that. All told, the college says it will provide 85,000 tests, nearly as many as the entire state of Maine has since the pandemic started.

Colby, a private school of 2,000 students, joins a growing number of colleges announcing aggressive testing plans to catch and isolate COVID-19 cases before they spread. Harvard University says all students living on campus will be tested when they arrive and then three times a week. Boston University plans to test most students at least once a week.

But whether colleges should be testing every student — and whether there's capacity for it — is a subject of debate. Some colleges plan to test students only if they show symptoms or come into close contact with someone who has tested positive. But some researchers say that approach could quickly cause outbreaks caused by students who don't show symptoms.

As universities hurry to make plans for virus testing, federal officials are warning that they could overload labs that process tests for hospitals. In a call with governors last Monday, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said too many colleges are signing contracts with commercial labs, which threatens to "jam up the capacity" of the system.

Instead, Azar said colleges should develop testing operations in their own labs, especially at big research universities.

Colleges have been trumpeting testing plans as they work to reassure families that they can reopen safely. For some, it's partly meant to signal that officials will spend whatever it takes to keep the campus protected.

"It's first and foremost to provide a safe environment. But truthfully it's also to give all of us comfort, to give our local community comfort, and to give our students and families comfort," said Doug Terp, vice president for administration and chief financial officer at Colby. The testing plan will cost the college an estimated \$5 million, he said.

But at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, officials argue that testing every student could "create a false sense of security." Instead, the school plans to test students who show symptoms or were exposed to the virus, and those in high-risk groups.

Virus testing is just one of many safety measures colleges are planning as they look to reopen. Many also plan to reduce class sizes, limit dorm capacity, require masks and ban large gatherings. By testing, colleges hope to identify sick students and place them in isolation spaces to prevent further spread of the virus.

For months, university leaders have argued that testing is crucial to a safe reopening. But with limited guidance from federal officials, colleges have created a patchwork of strategies based on advice from state agencies and on research from their own health experts.

The Texas A&M University system recently announced that it will divide 15,000 tests among its campuses each month, to be reserved for those who show symptoms or are exposed to known cases. Other schools planning to focus on those with symptoms include Harvey Mudd College near Los Angeles and Macalester College in Minnesota.

Dozens of universities plan to test students when they arrive, but after that initial screening, some plan to focus on students with symptoms. Some other schools say they will test random samples of students, while some plan to test all students at various intervals.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discourages widespread testing, saying colleges should primarily test students with symptoms. The agency says broader testing should be considered only in areas with higher virus transmission rates.

But researchers at several universities warn that relying on symptoms alone won't be enough. They say many young people carry the virus but never feel ill. Without catching those cases, they say, the virus could rapidly spread out of control.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 76 of 77

At Cornell University, a research team recently found that students would need to be tested every seven days to keep infections down. A separate study at Yale University and Harvard Medical School suggested that all students should be tested every two or three days. It found that testing only once a week could lead to thousands of infections over a semester.

Of particular concern for colleges is the risk that students could arrive on campus carrying the virus without knowing it. Some are asking students to get tested before they arrive. Ithaca College recently announced that students from more than 20 states with higher virus rates will be barred from campus.

At Cornell, students have been asked to get tested before leaving home, and they will face another test when they arrive. Officials hope that by testing twice, they will identify asymptomatic cases and drive down false test results. Once on campus, students will be tested once a week.

"It's incumbent on us to do everything we can to create a safe environment," said Michael Kotlikoff, the university's provost. "Whatever we do, there is going to be risk. All we can do is use science to create the best conditions for public health safety."

Even with testing, several colleges have already seen outbreaks among athletes and other students who returned to campus this summer. The University of North Carolina paused football workouts this month after 37 athletes, coaches and staff members tested positive.

Uncertainty around testing has also led to tension between college administrators and their professors. Faculty unions at schools including the Georgia Institute of Technology and Western Kentucky University have demanded widespread testing as a condition for reopening.

While some research universities have created their own testing operations, including at Boston University, others are turning to local hospital systems or commercial labs. In New England, Colby and more than 30 other colleges plan to have samples tested through the Broad Institute, a research center tied to Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Some, however, say widespread testing isn't an option.

A month ago, Boise State University said students living on campus would face mandatory testing when they arrived. But as cases spiked this month, the school scrapped the plan, saying local testing capacity had become "significantly strained."

And at Randolph College, a school of 600 students in Lynchburg, Virginia, officials on Thursday canceled plans for in-person classes this fall. A key factor, they said, was their inability to test large numbers of students.

---

Associated Press reporter Alan Suderman contributed to this report from Richmond, Virginia.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 27, the 209th day of 2020. There are 157 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, charging he had personally engaged in a course of conduct designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

On this date:

In 1794, French revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre was overthrown and placed under arrest; he was executed the following day.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe (a previous cable in 1858 burned out after only a few weeks' use).

In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Virginia, for one hour and 12 minutes.

In 1919, race-related rioting erupted in Chicago; the violence, which claimed the lives of 23 Blacks and

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 27, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 024 ~ 77 of 77

15 whites, lasted until Aug. 3.

In 1946, American author, poet and publisher Gertrude Stein, 72, died in Neuilly-sur-Seine (NU'-yee-suhr-sehn), France.

In 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

In 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the Kerner Commission to assess the causes of urban rioting, the same day Black militant H. Rap Brown told a press conference in Washington that violence was "as American as cherry pie."

In 1976, Air Force veteran Ray Brennan became the first person to die of so-called "Legionnaire's Disease" following an American Legion convention in Philadelphia.

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo, Egypt, at age 60.

In 1996, terror struck the Atlanta Olympics as a pipe bomb exploded at Centennial Olympic Park, directly killing one person and injuring 111. (Anti-government extremist Eric Rudolph later pleaded guilty to the bombing, exonerating security guard Richard Jewell, who had been wrongly suspected.)

In 2003, comedian Bob Hope died in Toluca Lake, Calif. at age 100. Lance Armstrong won a record-tying fifth straight title in the Tour de France. (However, Armstrong was stripped of all seven of his Tour de France titles in 2012 by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.)

Ten years ago: BP announced that its much-criticized chief executive, Tony Hayward, would be replaced by Robert Dudley as the company reported a record quarterly loss and set aside \$32.2 billion to cover the costs of the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Canadian character actor Maury Chaykin died in Toronto on his 61st birthday.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, during a visit to Ethiopia, unleashed a blistering and belittling rebuke of Republican White House hopefuls, calling their attack on his landmark nuclear deal with Iran "ridiculous if it weren't so sad." The Boy Scouts of America ended its blanket ban on gay adult leaders while allowing church-sponsored Scout units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

One year ago: President Donald Trump described the Baltimore-area congressional district represented by one of his chief Democratic critics, Elijah Cummings, as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess." Russian police cracked down fiercely on demonstrators in central Moscow, beating some and arresting more than 1,000 who were protesting the exclusion of opposition candidates on the ballot for Moscow city council. A balcony inside a nightclub in South Korea collapsed, killing two people and injuring 16 others, including American and other athletes at the world swimming championships. The Boston Red Sox announced that former star David Ortiz had been released from Massachusetts General Hospital, where he'd had surgery after being shot at a bar in the Dominican Republic.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 98. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 81. Actor John Pleshette is 78. Actress-director Betty Thomas is 73. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 72. Singer Maureen McGovern is 71. Actress Janet Eilber is 69. Rock musician Tris Imboden (formerly with Chicago) is 69. Actress Roxanne Hart is 66. Country musician Duncan Cameron is 64. Comedian-actress-writer Carol Leifer is 64. Comedian Bill Engvall is 63. Jazz singer Karrin Allyson is 58. Country singer Stacy Dean Campbell is 53. Rock singer Juliana Hatfield is 53. Actor Julian McMahon is 52. Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (NIH'-koh-lye KAH'-stur WAHL'-dah) is 50. Comedian Maya Rudolph is 48. Rock musician Abe Cunningham is 47. Singer-songwriter Pete Yorn is 46. Former MLB All-Star Alex Rodriguez is 45. Actor Seamus Dever is 44. Actress Martha Madison is 43. Actor Jonathan Rhys (rees) Meyers is 43. Actress/comedian Heidi Gardner is 37. Actor Blair Redford is 37. Actress Taylor Schilling is 36. MLB All-Star pitcher Max Scherzer is 36. Singer Cheyenne Kimball is 30. Golfer Jordan Spieth (speeth) is 27. Actress Alyvia Alyn Lind is 13.