

- 1- SD News Watch: COVID-19 outbreak leads to closure of Camp Judson youth camp near Keystone
- 3- Back-to-School plan
- 19- School Board Story
- 21- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller
- 24- Area COVID-19 Cases
- 25- July 27th COVID-19 UPDATE
- 28- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs
- 29- Weather Pages
- 32- Daily Devotional
- 33- 2020 Groton Events
- 34- News from the Associated Press



## COVID-19 outbreak leads to closure of Camp Judson youth camp near Keystone

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Several cases of COVID-19 have been linked to Camp Judson, a popular Christian youth summer camp located in the Black Hills, the South Dakota Department of Health has confirmed. The camp has closed and has canceled an outing scheduled for junior-high students set for July 26 to Aug. 1.

As of July 27, fewer than 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19 that were tied to the camp west of Keystone had been reported to the state health department, said department spokesman Derrick Haskins, who would not provide a specific number of confirmed cases.

The department will continue to investigate the outbreak and notify people who had close contact with those who have tested positive for the disease. Camp officials had been cooperative with the investigation, Haskins said, adding that there were no plans to issue a public notice about the incident.

The First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, which has ties to Camp Judson, reported on its Facebook Page on July 23 that three campers, three counselors and the camp director had tested positive for COVID-19. One person with close ties to the church had tested positive for the disease but had not attended church functions since returning to Sioux Falls from the camp, the posting said.

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 2 of 93**

According to the camp website, the most recent outing was the Junior Camp for children in grades 4-6 held from July 19 to July 25.

A staff person at Camp Judson reached on July 27 told South Dakota News Watch that the camp planned to release a public statement later in the day; the staff member declined to comment further.

The outbreak comes just a month before many public schools in South Dakota are set to open for in-person teaching and learning on Aug. 27.

Camp Judson has operated since 1926 and hosts Christian retreats, day camps, and overnight camps throughout the year. So far during the summer of 2020, Camp Judson has hosted a variety of camps, including weeklong camps for high school students, a weeklong family camp and several day camps. Past weeklong outings at the camp have attracted hundreds of children and youths.

Camp Judson is located about 3.4 miles west of Keystone on Old Hill City Road has canceled at least one upcoming week-long overnight camp according to posts on the camp's social media accounts. The announcement to cancel the upcoming Junior High Camp was made via Facebook on July 23.

The next upcoming outing, which has been canceled, according to the camp's Facebook page, was the Junior High Camp set for July 26 to Aug. 1 for youths in grades 7-9. The High School Camp, for youths in grades 9-12, was held July 12-18. A Family Camp outing was also scheduled for Aug. 2-8. Cost to attend youth camps was \$325 per child.

The camp website provides this biography of camp operators Tracy and Danie Koskan: "Tracy desires that Camp Judson be a place where disciples are made and equipped to live and love like Jesus. Tracy's wife, Danie, is also highly involved in camp ministry through administrative support, cooking, media promotions and many other 'as needed' duties."

The camp website and Facebook page contain many images of children and young adults engaged in camp activities such as sports, water slides, tug-of-rope, science activities and camp improvement projects.

The Facebook post announcing the closure of the camp's upcoming Junior High Camp was met with sadness and support from online commenters. In response, Pat Parks of Rapid City wrote on Facebook: "You, your family, and all campers and staff are in my prayers. Camp Judson is a place like no other. Peace that only God can provide is my prayer for you."

The camp's web page, in the About Us section, notes that, "What began around 1926 with a vision to help young people come to know and grow in Jesus through a summer camp experience has continued to grow into a year-round ministry for youth, adults and families on 160 forested acres."

A sign-up bulletin for the 2020 camp outings states that, "Since 1926, Camp Judson has given young people and families the experience of helping to build and live in a Christian community in which opportunities are provided for personal and group study, worship, work and play. Summer camp offers a break from the world of social media and electronics and invites people to engage in meaningful experiences. Here, we do things differently. We think more of Jesus and others and less often of ourselves. Campers forge genuine friendships, cope with real challenges and hear the truth that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. Caring adults mentor campers and model what it means to lead and love like Jesus. "

## Groton Area School District 06-6

### Back-to-School 2020 Plan

**The following draft of the back-to-school plan was approved at the board of education meeting last night**

#### **From Superintendent Joe Schwan RETURNING TO SCHOOL 2020 GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020**

On Monday, July 27, the Groton Area Board of Education reviewed and adopted the return-to-school plan for the District. We anticipate this plan will require changes and modifications as our understanding of the virus improves and we get new recommendations from local, state, and federal health officials.

The plan is based on updated guidance from the South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and parent/staff survey results. A committee composed of 13 individuals including board members, school administrators, teachers, and parents has spent hours reviewing information and developing a plan to allow for a safe return to school this fall while acknowledging the real possibility of the need to implement remote learning at some point during the 2020-2021 school year.

The plan includes information for families about choices available to them during the 2020-2021 school year, namely the option to participate in education remotely if that is in their best interest.

The documents also indicate what is expected when students are diagnosed with COVID-19 or other illnesses and what to expect when students are determined to be a "close contact" with someone who has tested positive.

We believe that we will be ready to provide a top-quality education to our students regardless of what this year brings.

This document is the District's plan for a safe return to instruction for the 2020-2021 school year based on the best information available at the time of publication. Modifications to the plan are anticipated and should be expected based on new information as it becomes available.

Revised 7-27-2020



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 4 of 93

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">4 Day School Week</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Traditional Learning Plan</a> .....	1-2
<a href="#">Blended Learning Plan</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Remote Learning Plan</a> .....	2-3
<a href="#">Optional Remote Learning</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Notification Timeline for Optional Remote Learning</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Continuity of Instruction Summary</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Health and Safety</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Classroom Safety</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Transportation</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Food Service</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Custodial Services</a> .....	6-7
<a href="#">Protocols for Handling Cases of COVID-19</a> .....	7-8
<a href="#">Personal Protective Equipment</a> .....	8
<a href="#">Off-Campus Remote Learning Contract</a> .....	Appendix A
<a href="#">Symptom Screening Checklist</a> .....	Appendix B
<a href="#">SD Department of Health "What Will Happen if"...</a> .....	Appendix C
<a href="#">SD Department of Health COVID19 Mitigation in Schools</a> .....	Appendix D
<a href="#">SD Department of Health School Scenarios</a> .....	Appendix E
<a href="#">SD Department of Health Initiating a Case Investigation in K-12 Schools</a> .....	Appendix F



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 5 of 93

## 4 Day School Week

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Groton Area School District will operate on a four-day week school calendar. The four-day calendar is a marked shift from typical operations of our district but presents us with opportunities to better serve our students under the current situation. The full [school calendar](#) is available online at [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com).

Under the new calendar the start and end times for the school days will be modified as follows:

Elementary:                    Start Time 8:22 AM      End Time 3:31 PM  
Middle/High School:      Start Time: 8:18 AM      End Time 3:40 PM

During the days denoted as instructional planning days, school faculty and staff will be performing work to support the education of all students under the entire spectrum of learning plans that may need to be implemented. **These instructional planning days may, in some cases, be moved to a different day during the week to best preserve in-person student contact opportunities.**

Example: If the district is closed on an instructional day due to the need to clean facilities, assist with Department of Health contact tracing, or other reasons (snow days), we will be utilizing those days for instructional planning and moving the instructional day to the Friday.

As usual, the district will communicate changes to the calendar with the following tools:

1. School District Website, [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com)
2. School District App Push Notifications – the app is available for free download for both Apple and Android Devices. Search “Groton Area Tigers, SD” in the app store.
3. Apptegy mass calling system, previously SchoolMessenger
4. Facebook
5. Groton Daily Independent

Instructional planning days may include opportunities for school staff to work with students to provide opportunities for academic support, remediation, testing, or other pre-approved activities. In such situations, contact will be made between school staff and those students/families to make appropriate arrangements.



**If sick, stay home except to get medical care.**

## Traditional Learning Plan

Students will return to in-person instruction.

Students will remain in established groups as much as possible during the day and from day-to-day. Contact between groups will be limited as much as possible.

In-person instruction will be augmented with the use of Brightspace (online learning platform). This will better prepare student and staff for a seamless transition into blended learning or fully remote learning.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 6 of 93

Juniors and seniors will have the option to use open campus privileges (typically senior privileges) for study halls and dual-credit courses to aid in our ability to provide appropriate distance within the school facility. Open campus privileges will be subject to parent permission and restrictions designed to keep students on track to successful course completion.

- Students on the ineligibility list will not have privileges during the duration of that reporting period.
- If the student receives detention or suspension for tardiness or misbehavior, privileges will be revoked for a period of time deemed necessary by the principal.
- If there is any question of a student not earning course credit, privileges may be revoked as needed.
- Students are allowed to drive. Any abuse of driving privileges will result in privileges being revoked.

Middle/High school students will report to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class upon arrival at school. Congregating in groups in the halls will not be permitted.

Elementary students will be dismissed for outdoor recess at approximately 8:02 AM.

Students will participate in scheduled hand-washing and frequent use of hand sanitizer.

The traditional learning plan provides for limited opportunities for physical distancing.

## Blended Learning Plan

Students will be provided in-person instruction two days each week and participate in virtual instruction for the other two days.

Students will be assigned to the black group (receiving in-person instruction Mondays and Tuesdays) or to the gold group (receiving in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays). Students from the same household will be assigned to the same group. Wednesdays will be used for instructional planning and facilities cleaning and sanitizing.

Student participation and assignment completion will be required on all scheduled days for instruction. Student "attendance" and engagement will be measured by analysis of student activity with the Brightspace online platform.

The blended learning plan provides for moderate opportunities for physical distancing.

## Remote Learning Plan

The district is preparing for a situation that would require implementation of a remote learning plan for all students. In such an instance, instruction will be provided online using teacher created content through Brightspace. Students absent from school for self-isolation, quarantine, or other reasons may participate in learning via Brightspace to stay current with lessons and assignments.

Schedules will be provided for students to follow during remote learning.

Student participation and assignment completion will be required on all scheduled days for instruction. Student "attendance" and engagement will be measured by analysis of student activity with the Brightspace online platform.

The remote learning plan provides for maximum opportunities for physical distancing.

## Optional Remote Learning

Students who do not wish to return to school in the fall of 2020 due to concerns about the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic may opt in to the remote learning plan. Students who opt-in to the remote learning plan must commit to doing so for the entire duration of each academic quarter. For example, a student who chooses remote learning at the beginning of the year would be able to rejoin in-person instruction at the beginning of the second quarter but not before.



Students may opt-in to remote learning at the beginning of each quarter or immediately following any instance of self-isolation or quarantine by completing the [Off-Campus Remote Learning Contract](#). For example, if a student is named a close-contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and the department of health names him/her a "close-contact" and places them under a 14 day quarantine, that student will participate in remote learning during their quarantine and may choose to continue remote learning immediately following the quarantine period through the end of the quarter.

The school principal may grant permission to opt-in to remote learning outside of the established timelines for good cause at his/her discretion.

Students enrolled in the remote learning plan remain students of the Groton Area School District subject to the rules and regulations, including grading policies approved by the Board of Education. Students enrolled in the remote learning plan will be provided a school-issued laptop or I-pad if needed but must be able to access a reliable internet connection at their own expense.

The rationale behind providing an online learning option is to provide an alternative source of learning for students who are unable to or uncomfortable returning to a traditional school setting amid the pandemic, therefore, students who opt-in to remote learning will not be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities since those activities will involve a heightened level of potential exposure.

#### Notification Timeline for Participation in Remote Learning Option

In order for the district to plan appropriately for both in-person and remote instruction, families choosing to opt-in to remote learning must provide notification to the district by the deadlines established below.

1st Quarter	Friday, August 7, 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Thursday, October 1, 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Thursday, December 10, 2020
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Friday, February 19, 2021

The following academic measures must be met by students who have opted in to the remote learning plan:

1. Daily interaction with course material and assignments. Interaction with course content is measured and logged within the Brightspace platform.
2. Quality completion of assignments by due dates established by course instructor.
3. Prompt response to inquiry from school personnel, including teachers, administrators, and school support staff.
4. Students must maintain minimum grade of C- in all courses. Grades will be evaluated on the same schedule used for determining athletic eligibility.
5. The decision to opt-in to a remote learning environment must be made after a complete analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of such a system. Those considering this option must have a clear understanding of the academic expectations of such an environment. A student who is not participating in coursework or completing required assignments may have their remote learning option revoked and be required to return to in-person instruction or be subject to truancy claims. Once a student has been notified in writing that his/her option to participate in remote learning has been revoked, he/she will not be provided the option to re-enroll in remote learning for the remainder of the year.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 8 of 93

## Continuity of Instruction Summary

The summary of learning options below represents the district's best options for providing an appropriate learning environment based on local health data. Movement between plans will be determined based on local health conditions and may not necessarily follow a linear progression.

<a href="#">Traditional Learning Plan</a>	<a href="#">Blended Learning Plan</a>	<a href="#">Remote Learning Plan</a>
<p>Students will participate in regular in-person instruction.</p> <p>The District will take practical measures to support student and staff health and safety at school facilities</p> <p>Students with health concerns may opt-in to fully remote learning or choose the option for <a href="#">traditional homeschooling</a> pursuant SDCL 13-27-3.</p> <p>Remote learning will be provided through the Brightspace Learning Management System for students who have opted in to remote learning and students who are absent from school.</p> <p>Student participation and assignment completion will be required on all scheduled days for instruction. Student "attendance" and engagement will be measured by analysis of student activity with the Brightspace Learning Management System.</p>	<p>Students will participate in two days/week of in-person instruction and two days/week of remote learning.</p> <p>The District will continue measures to support student and staff health and safety at school facilities.</p> <p>Students in the gold group will attend school on Mondays and Tuesday. Students in the black group will attend school on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be used for instructional planning and facilities maintenance.</p> <p>Students with health concerns may opt-in to fully remote learning or choose the option for traditional homeschooling pursuant SDCL 13-27-3.</p> <p>Remote learning will be provided through the Brightspace Learning Management System for all students not in physically attending.</p> <p>Student participation and assignment completion will be required on all scheduled days for instruction. Student "attendance" and engagement will be measured by analysis of student activity with the Brightspace Learning Management System.</p>	<p>All students will participate in remote learning via the Brightspace Learning Management System.</p> <p>Student participation and assignment completion will be required on all scheduled days for instruction. Student "attendance" and engagement will be measured by analysis of student activity with the Brightspace Learning Management System.</p>
Limited Physical Distancing	Moderate Physical Distancing	Maximum Physical Distancing

## Health and Safety

The Groton Area School District will continue to operate with measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. We cannot guarantee that students or school personnel will not become infected with COVID-19. School attendance may increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.

District will provide direct instruction to students and staff on healthy habits and CDC guidelines, including self-symptom monitoring, appropriate hand hygiene, physical distancing, mask etiquette including respect for others' decisions relative to using a mask, and covering sneezes/coughs.



**Monitor your symptoms.**

Families must complete the district provided [symptom screening checklist](#) prior to allowing their children to board the bus or attend school or any school function. More than ever, it is critical that students showing symptoms of any illness stay home.

All school district faculty and staff must complete the [symptom screening checklist](#) including temperature checks prior to attending work each day.

The district will be conducting temperature screenings in the middle of each day. Elementary students will be screened on their way to lunch. MS/HS students will be screened following lunch before they return to class. Screenings will be conducted with non-contact infrared thermometers. Students with temperatures higher than 100.0 will be provided a face covering, if they're not already using one, and taken to the office for further evaluation according to the temperature screening protocols established by the Department of Health.

The district will spread students out (physical distancing) as much as possible for instruction and support services such as transportation and school lunch.

## Classroom Safety

Students will be seated facing the same direction in class.

Students will be seated according to defined seating charts with as much space as possible between individual students.

Student and staff will be encouraged to bring water bottles from home for personal use.

Students will not be allowed to share water bottles and will be encouraged to take their bottles home each day to get washed.

Desks used by multiple students will be wiped clean between users.

Sharing of personal items and supplies will not be allowed.



**Clean your hands often.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 10 of 93

Recess times may be adjusted to provide better opportunities for physical distancing at recess and upon re-entry to the building. Students will participate in hand-washing upon re-entry to the building.

Hand sanitizer will be available and used on entry to and exit from classrooms.

Visual cues for physical distancing will be placed in areas of the buildings where appropriate to remind everyone of the importance of remaining physically separated whenever possible.

## Transportation



Mass transportation during the pandemic poses a set of unique challenges. The Groton Area School District will continue to offer bus transportation for the 2020-2021 school year with measures in place to provide the safest transportation as possible.

*It is our recommendation that families provide their own transportation as often as possible to minimize their potential exposure.*

Families will be provided with a [symptom screening checklist](#) for their child to be screened prior to boarding the bus or attending school or school activities. Children who are experiencing any symptoms must not ride the bus or attend school or school activities. Drivers will also be screened for symptoms prior to each trip.



Students and staff using school district transportation will be **required** to wear a cloth mask or face covering for the entire duration of their trip. Families will be expected to provide their own face covering and clean them daily. This includes school bus transportation and those who are transported in other district vehicles.

Students will be required to apply hand sanitizer upon boarding.

Students will be seated in assigned seats with students from the same household seated together. Seating charts will provide for the most distance possible between students. In most cases, this distance will be less than six feet.

No children will be permitted to use district transportation who are sick or who become sick during the day.

Drivers will perform enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces following each trip.

## Food Service

The Groton Area School District will operate a School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program with adopted modifications to support a healthy environment for congregate eating.

Elementary lunch times will be modified to allow for physical distancing between students. We will be utilizing the elementary gym and elementary lunchroom/commons area for meal times.

Middle/High school lunches will be physically distanced utilizing the GHS gymnasium.

All non-disposable food service items will be handled minimally and washed with hot water and soap or in the dishwasher. Disposable food service items may be used.

Self-service meal items and sharing of items will be prohibited.

Food service check-in will be touch free.

## Custodial Services



Given the frequency with which items will need to be cleaned and sanitized some of these responsibilities will be carried out by school personnel other than custodial personnel. School personnel will be trained in the proper use and storage of cleaning products.

Hand sanitizer dispensers will be systematically checked and refilled.

Adequate supplies will be provided to allow for necessary and appropriate hand hygiene (soap, paper towels, hand sanitizers).

Restrooms will undergo frequent cleaning and sanitizing.

## Protocols for Handling Cases of COVID-19

Staff and students will be provided with direct instruction about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 including when symptoms preclude attendance at school or school-sponsored activities and when they can return to school or school activities.

If a student shows or develops symptoms in the school setting:

Symptomatic individuals will be immediately given a face mask if they're not currently wearing one and isolated in the designated area at the school. They will be sent home to isolate and seek medical care. Families must have someone designated to pick their children up from school in these situations. Symptomatic students will not be provided transportation home.

Symptomatic students will be required to wear a cloth face covering or face mask while they're waiting to leave the facility.

Returning to the school setting:

If a person has shown symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been exposed to someone with a COVID-19 diagnosis, they may return to school following the Groton Area School District communicable diseases policy.

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional they may return to school only after ALL of the following conditions are met:

- A. It has been ten days since the person first had symptoms or since the first positive test if the person remains asymptomatic.
- B. It has been at least 24 hours since the person has had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- C. The person's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

For patients with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised, the recommended duration for transmission-based precautions was extended to 20 days after symptom onset (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>).

If a person has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, he/she must remain out of school or school activities for 14 days since the last date of exposure. A person designated as a close contact may not test out of the quarantine period by receiving a negative COVID-19 test. If the close contact individual tests positive, he/she will follow the protocols for a person with COVID-19. Individuals designated as a close contact must complete the full 14 day quarantine period even if he/she tests negative for COVID-19. The South Dakota Department of Health defines close contact as being within 6 feet of an infectious individual for a period of 15 minutes. The South Dakota Department of Health will determine if an individual meets the definition of close contact and will determine the dates of an individual quarantine period.

If a person diagnosed with COVID-19 was in the school setting while infectious, the district will coordinate with local health officials to notify staff and families to the extent allowed by law. Individual privacy will be protected as required by federal and state law and local policy.

Intermittent school closings may be necessitated by a positive case of COVID-19 within the school buildings dependent on the full context of the situation. It is possible that one facility may be closed while the other remains open. For example, if an elementary-aged student with no MS/HS student siblings tests positive, we may be required to close the elementary facility for a short period followed by full facility cleaning and disinfection but may be able to safely continue operating the high school facility.

Students excluded from attendance will participate in the remote learning plan. Students who are subject to the 14 day close contact quarantine, for example, will participate in the remote learning plan during their quarantine period.

## Masks and/or Cloth Face Coverings

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings as able when around people who live outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.



The current position of the Groton Area School District is that face coverings or masks will be **strongly encouraged and recommended** for all students and staff with the exception of transportation where face coverings will be **required**.

Families will be expected to provide and care for their own face covering.

[The CDC provides the following guidance for how to wash cloth face coverings:](#)

### Washing Machine

- You can include your face covering with your regular laundry.
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.

The use of face coverings has become a widely politicized and highly debated topic. "Mask-shaming" of any kind will not be tolerated and will be addressed under the appropriate behavior policy for each school.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 13 of 93

## Groton Area School District Off-Campus Remote Learning Contract 2020-2021 School Year

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### Program Expectations and Guidelines

Students who do not wish to return to school in the fall of 2020 due to concerns about the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic may opt in to the remote learning plan. Students who opt-in to the remote learning plan must commit to doing so for the entire duration of each academic quarter.

In order for the district to plan appropriately for both in-person and remote instruction, families choosing to opt-in to remote learning must provide notification to the district by the deadlines established below.

1st Quarter	Friday, August 7, 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Thursday, October 1, 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Thursday, December 10, 2020
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Friday, February 19, 2021

- Students may opt-in to remote learning at the beginning of each quarter or immediately following any instance of self-isolation or quarantine.
- The school principal may grant permission to opt-in to remote learning outside of the established timelines for good cause at his/her discretion.
- Students enrolled in the remote learning plan remain students of the Groton Area School District subject to the rules and regulations, including grading policies approved by the Board of Education.
- Students enrolled in the remote learning plan will be provided a school-issued laptop or I-pad if needed but must be able to access a reliable internet connection at their own expense.
- Students who opt-in to remote learning will **not** be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Once a student has been notified in writing that his/her option to participate in remote learning has been revoked, he/she will not be provided the option to re-enroll in remote learning for the remainder of the year.
- Daily interaction with course material and assignments. Interaction with course content is measured and logged within the Brightspace platform.
- Quality completion of assignments by due dates established by course instructor.
- Prompt response to inquiry from school personnel, including teachers, administrators, and school support staff.
- Students must maintain minimum grade of C- in all courses. Grades will be evaluated on the same schedule used for determining athletic eligibility.
- A student who is not participating in coursework or completing required assignments may have their remote learning option revoked and be required to return to in-person instruction or be subject to truancy claims. Once a student has been notified in writing that his/her option to participate in remote learning has been revoked, he/she will not be provided the option to re-enroll in remote learning for the remainder of the year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Symptom Screening Checklist

During the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals own a personal responsibility to protect the health of themselves and others. One important way to accomplish this is to remain home when experiencing symptoms of illness.

Parents must complete the following symptom screening checklist daily by answering these questions before sending their child to school or school activities.

	Yes	No
Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?		
Does your child have a new or worsening cough?		
Does your child have a sore throat?		
Does your child have shortness of breath?		
Does your child have unexplained fatigue or muscle/body aches?		
Does your child have new loss of taste or smell?		
Does your child have diarrhea?		
Is your child nauseous or vomiting?		
Does your child have new onset of severe headache, especially with fever?		
Has your child been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minute) with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or been advised by the Department of Health to self-quarantine?		



If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL. Please seek guidance from your medical provider. Contact the school to inform them of your child's symptoms.



If you can truthfully answer "No" to ALL of these questions, send your child to school.

## What will happen if ...

## What if...

Updated 7/8/2020

A student or staff member is named as a close contact? (A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset.)

A DOH representative will contact all persons identified as close contacts (or the guardian if the contact is a minor.)

The close contact will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. This means to stay home, avoid contact with others, and not to share household items. Contacts will also be asked to monitor symptoms and temperature daily.

A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

A DOH representative will contact the positive patient (or the patient's guardian if the patient is a minor.)

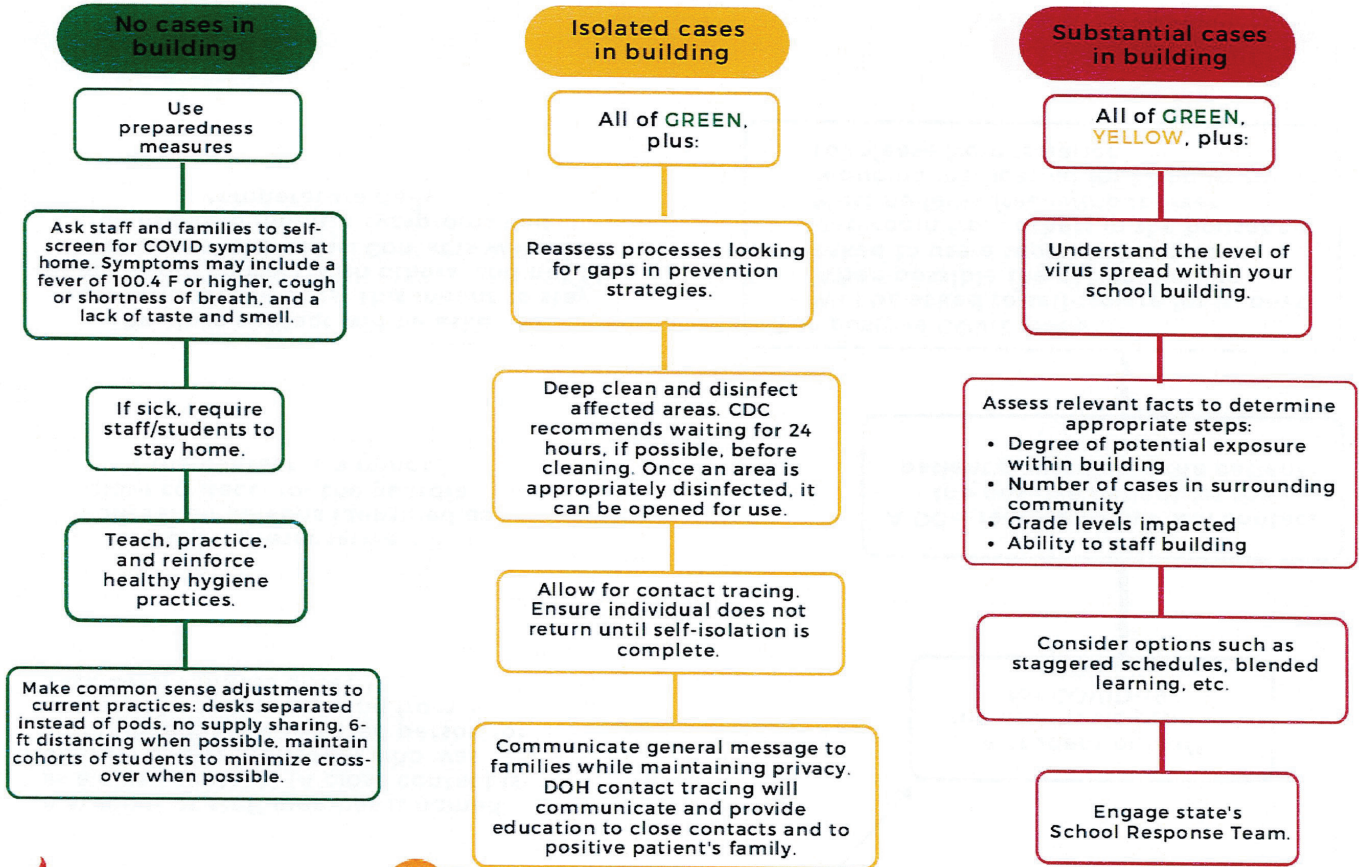
The positive COVID patient:

- Will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days
- When possible the patient will be asked to use a separate bedroom, bathroom from others in the household
- Must be fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours prior to release from isolation



## COVID-19 Mitigation in Schools

Updated 7/8/20





## COVID-19 School Scenarios

Planning for the school year under multiple conditions

Prepared by the South Dakota Department of Health - Revised July 7, 2020



### **Scenario One:** No active cases in your community, and no cases in your school building

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

### **Scenario Two:** Active cases in your community, but no cases in your school buildings

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

### **Scenario Three:** Student or staff member identified by Department of Health as close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school community

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school should continue with appropriate preparedness measures in place.

### **Scenario Four:** Active case is identified in one of your school buildings

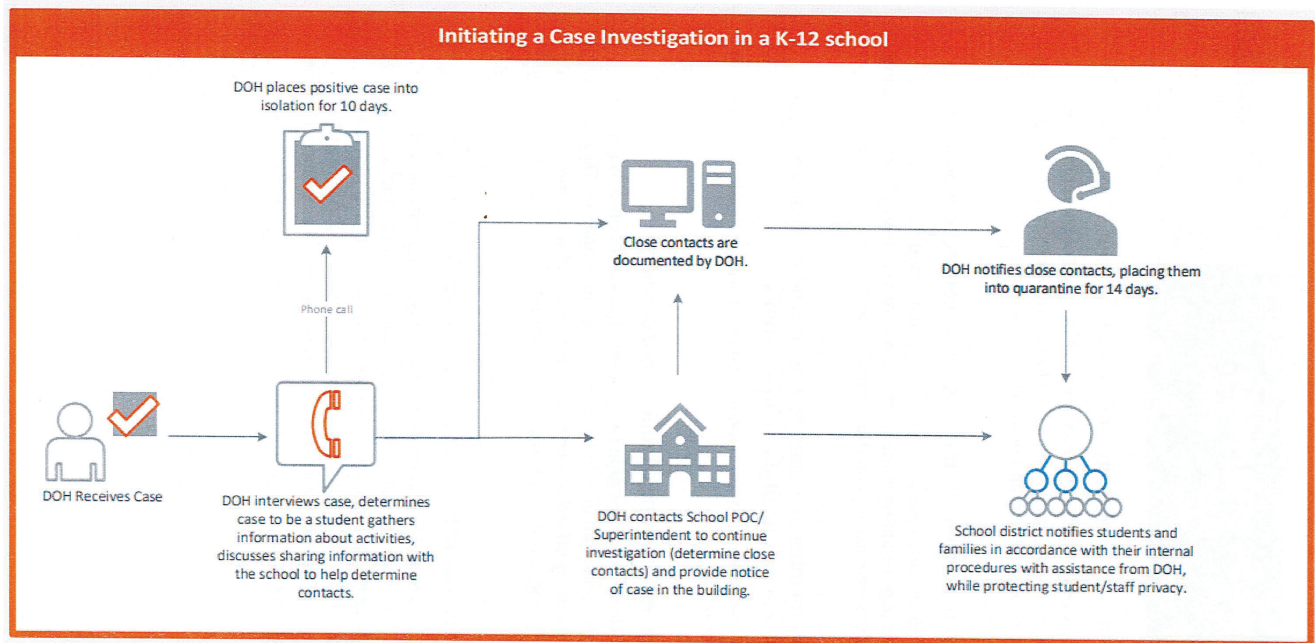
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials reassess processes - looking for gaps in prevention strategies. In the short-term, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. Once area is appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

### **Scenario Five:** Multiple active cases identified in your buildings at the same time

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials review relevant data to understand level of virus spread within the school building and conduct a risk/benefit analysis of factors such as degree of potential exposure within building; case trends in surrounding community; grade levels impacted; remote learning options; scheduling options; ability to staff buildings, etc. in determining the next steps. School leaders can request technical assistance from the DOH/DOE School Response Team if desired.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 18 of 93





## Board of Education approves back-to-school plan

The Groton Area Board of Education approved the 2020-21 Back-To-School Plan that is going to be a document that will change as time goes on. Superintendent Joe Schwan said they have had weekly calls with the Department of Health and the Department of Education and that information is constantly changing. Just last week the CDC released eight pages of new guidance for schools. "It is a flexible document," Schwan said.

Social distancing in the classrooms is a challenge and Schwan said that six feet is not realistic. Some will be three feet.

Here are some highlights from the meeting;

Juniors and seniors will have the option to leave the campus during study hall and dual credit courses. There are 82 students that could be involved in dual credit classes.

When students arrive in school, they need to go directly to their first period class. Elementary school students will go outside in the playground area.

Could go from traditional learning to remote learning then to blended learning and hopefully back to traditional learning. Blended is having students broken down to two groups where the black group would meet Mondays and Tuesdays and the gold group meeting Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Remote learning will be done differently this year than it was last spring. Everyone will be on the same platform, called Brightspace.

Everyone should be more comfortable with the new platform, Sombke said.

Students who are considered high risk can sign up for optional remote learning. They have to sign up for a full quarter. Those wanting to opt in for the first quarter have to do so by August 7, 2020.

Students need to respect other students who desire to wear a mask. People will have different opinions and Schwan warned that we don't need this to be a bullying situation.

Schwan said starting in August COVID-19 infections can be reported by school districts.

Temperatures will be taken at the elementary school prior to going to lunch and the MS/HS would be after lunch before returning to the classroom. The gym and commons areas will be used at the elementary school and the whole gym will be used at the MS/HS.

Due to contract tracing, assigned seating will be done for lunch time.

Brett Schwan said there will be no parental interaction at the elementary school, so events like donuts for dads, muffins for moms, etc., will not be held.

Eight water bottle filling stations are on order for the MS/HS building.

There was discussion on the Columbia bus route that has over 40 students. About 20 students could be taken off the bus route from the Bath area with the second shuttle going out that way to pick up those students. It would cost an additional \$9,500 to do so for the year. Schwan said he would encourage parents to bring in their children to school instead of riding the bus. The SD DOH will make the determination of close contacts.

You cannot test out of a close contact quarantine period. If you are in close contact and you are tested

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 20 of 93**

and the test comes back negative, you still remain in the quarantine for the full 14 days.

People want more information and Schwan said they cannot randomly give out information or may even know the information. For example, the only way the district will know if someone is positive is if the family comes in and tells the officials or the Department of Health informs the students. There will be situations where someone may post something on social media but district officials may not know anything about it. Schwan said that could be a sticky situation.

Schwan said he will want to revisit the mask policy at the August 10th meeting.

Deb said the district is very generous in its COVID-19 plan and there are choices that can be made.

The board gave the approval for the back-to-school plan.

As far as sporting events - Schwan said he is not in favor of not allowing fans. He said he would at least want the parents there in case there is an injury. "If we can't have the parents there, then I don't think we should play the game," he said.

There was discussion of not having transportation to events where there is an overnight stay.

Definition of close contact could be changed with the advent of wearing masks.

Steve Smith said the athletes will need to be aware of their surroundings outside of school as well or they could risk being quarantined for 14 days.

The substitute teacher pay was discussed and the board agreed to reward those who are willing to be a substitute teacher during this time. The rate will be \$125 per day for the upcoming school year. The old rate was \$100 per day.

The board

- approved the 2020-21 GTA negotiated agreement.
- Approved resignation of Chance Strom as head boys soccer coach
- Hired Kristen Dolan, EL paraprofessional for at a rate of \$11.85 an hour
- Approve educational lane change for Sydney Wilkinson from BS+15 to MS, increase of \$3,000.
- Approved educational lane change for Znne Zoellner from MS to MS+30, increase of \$1,500
- Approved two open enrollment applications
- Hired Seth Duncan as the head boys soccer coach
- Approved for Kyle Gerlach and Dalton Locke as volunteer assistant football coaches.
- Gave first reading of the COVID-19, measles and others for guidance for student communicable diseases guidelines.
-



## #155 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Mondays are typically low days for reporting. I haven't worked out why: You'd think after a weekend with uneven reporting, Monday would be catch-up day; but it doesn't seem to work like that. I've found Tuesday through Friday are the most reliable for reporting. As a result, I'm not sure what to make of today's numbers, but I'll present them, and we can hold off on any big interpretation until tomorrow.

We're up by 60,100 new cases today, a 1.4% increase. This is better than we've been running lately, but more than yesterday's 54,000. This is our 15th worst day so far and extends our streak of worst days to 28 days; that's four solid weeks. We are now at 4,303,700 cases in the US. Texas broke into the 400,000-case club today, our fourth member behind California, Florida, and New York. Not a great club to join. A great deal shifted in the landscape today: We're down to just 30 states and territories on an increasing rate of 14-day growth from 37 yesterday; that's a pretty large change. We can hope this is a trend; we're due for a break, and we're into that period where the increased restrictions and roll-back of reopening should be showing some results. I will classify my current take as nervously optimistic, which we're going to say is a touch less optimistic than cautiously optimistic. Ask me again on Friday how I'm feeling.

Deaths took a large jump today. This could be due to delayed weekend reporting, or it could be something worse. Remains to be seen which it is. There were 1701 deaths reported today, a 1.2% increase in the total; that's well on the way to the 2000+ days of a couple of months ago. Twenty-five states and territories are reporting an increasing number of deaths over a two-week period. Current total reported deaths are 148,448. That's a lot of funerals.

The big news on the day has to be the two vaccine candidates moving into phase 3 clinical trials today. This is the final step before a vaccine would be approved for use in the general public, and it means the candidate has passed safety trials and demonstrated that people will have an immune response to it. Phase 3 trials are primarily to demonstrate what's called efficacy, the ability to protect people against infection. Researchers will also be looking for rare side effects that only show up when large numbers of people are vaccinated. These trials involve 30,000 volunteers, half of whom will receive the vaccine and half of whom receive a placebo, an injection of inactive ingredients. The principle here is that the people in the trial will go about their lives, and we'll wait to see who gets infected. The primary endpoint will be preventing patients from developing Covid-19. Secondary endpoints will be preventing serious cases of the disease and protecting against asymptomatic infections.

These two candidates operate in much the same way; both are messenger RNA vaccines that carry instructions for making the virus's spike protein, that portion of the virus that attaches to and effects viral entry into host cells so they can establish infection. A vaccinated host's cells go about following these instructions and making spike proteins, which gives the host's immune system a sneak preview of a viral infection with no risk of actual infection because there's no virus attached to these proteins. The idea is that, once the host has mounted an initial immune response, a future encounter with the virus will enable a very rapid and highly efficient response that heads the virus off before it gets a chance to do any real damage. Both candidates will require two doses a few weeks apart. None of the volunteers or the researchers administering them and recording results will know who has received the vaccine and who received a placebo; that's the double-blind part of the study, when both researcher and patient are unaware which volunteers are in the test group and which are controls.

One of these vaccines was developed by Moderna with the National Institutes of Health. The hope is to gather sufficient data to be able to make a determination by November or December whether the vaccine is effective. The company is prepared to deliver up to a billion doses in the first year.

The other candidate is being tested in a few countries worldwide in an attempt to minimize the time costs of vaccine development. Pfizer actually had a few candidates and went with this one for its first round of trials. The developers intend this vaccine to produce a stronger response because it contains RNA for more of the spike protein. The timing and anticipated production capacity are similar to the Moderna candidate.

It was a good three months ago we talked about scientists in Paris trying a method to test sewage to

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 22 of 93

detect spikes in cases before the infected people were aware they were infected. The procedures is being implemented in some locations in the US. One such is in Carmel, Indiana, a suburb of Indianapolis. The tests are useful because the virus shows up in feces rather early in infection, even in asymptomatic individuals, so that if infection rates are rising, the levels of virus in sewage are rising with them a good week before people start showing up in clinics with symptoms. The tests are relatively quick and inexpensive to run and enable rapid response before things get out of control. Cities that receive such warning can prepare for a surge in cases and/or roll back reopening measures before the situation gets out of control. The hope is to begin to test wastewater from specific areas such as a large office building or a nursing home to identify the source of an outbreak and do some mitigation.

Here's an interesting possibility, a study of molecules which might block SARS-CoV-2 from binding to cells. The tests were done in vitro (in the lab) and were intended to identify molecules which might show antiviral activity so that these can be further tested. Now that we have one therapeutic agent with demonstrated effectiveness against the virus, remdesivir, other agents can be evaluated against its standard. This makes it easier to assess the likely usefulness of new medications.

The mechanism of action of the substances tested at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is a decoy strategy; the substances offer a similar fit with the virus's spike protein as the ACE2 receptors on host cells. Virus that is bound by the decoy molecule is tied up and unavailable to bind to cells, so it will degrade without causing further problems. The method has been successful in trapping other viruses, so we have evidence this can work. An earlier study indicated a class of long-chain sugar compounds called sulfated polysaccharides had good potential, so five such were tested, three variants on heparin and two fucoidans extracted from seaweed.

A dose response binding study known as an EC50 (effective concentration that inhibits 50% of viral infectivity) was done for these compounds; the lower this number, the more effective the compound is. Remdesivir, when tested using this methodology shows an EC50 of 770 nanomolar, so any other compound is potentially more effective if it has an EC50 < 770 and less effective if it has an EC50 > 770. The heparin derivatives had EC50s of 2100 and 5000 nanomolar, which isn't great; but the seaweed derivatives came in around 83 nanomolar. They did not show any toxicity at all in cells, even at high concentrations.

The thinking is that these could be used in a nasal spray which might block the virus from ever getting a foothold in the host's body. This early intervention could prevent infection entirely or moderate its severity. We'll see whether anyone picks up the concept to develop a medication and proceed to clinical trials.

Alexandra LittleJohn's job as a barista in Boulder, Colorado, evaporated during the pandemic. She needed a way to pay the bills, and so she looked for a way to generate some income. She had connections with Fresh Guys Produce, a supplier of boxes of fruits and vegetables at \$20 per box. She picked up boxes and sold them at farmers markets. The business grew, and she set up weekly pickup locations around the city and delivered boxes to customers' homes. The delivery service was useful for those who are not able to safely leave their homes.

And she offered the option to customers to donate boxes to people who'd lost their jobs in the food industry. For people who wanted to help, but couldn't go out and volunteer because of their own risk factors, it offered an opportunity to make a difference. Her project benefits local food suppliers who lost the business of closed or limited-capacity restaurants to whom they'd previously sold; it benefits clients who are able to volunteer to help in this way without taking on unacceptable risk, it benefits the environment because good food once destined for restaurants doesn't go to waste, and it benefits the recipients of the donated food boxes. She has been able to donate around a quarter of the boxes that pass through her hands.

She is now setting up as a nonprofit so she can produce more boxes and hire some employees to extend her reach instead of relying strictly on volunteers for the charitable arm of her business. Cynthia Eames, a parent liaison in the Denver school system who has connected LittleJohn with families in need, said, "It's really eye-opening that there's such a need. You don't really think about it or take it for granted. Like, 'Oh, it's just a few potatoes.' When you're a family and . . . you don't have income, it's a big deal."



# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 23 of 93**

A recipient said, "It was awesome and inspiring to receive a box from her because she was just taking her bad situation to help other people in need."

A client who donates was pleased at the opportunity to help, saying, "Covid, at least for me and some of my friends who have been lucky enough to maintain our jobs, there's been kind of this weird stuck point where I can donate money . . . . But how do I volunteer, especially when there is a concern of the virus? This has been another way to help."

And LittleJohn herself has been pleased to be of service. "True hospitality is meeting people's needs before they know they need them. That's something I'm very passionate about." Win/win.

We can do that too. Meet people's needs before they know they need them. Let's give that a try on our way to a stronger, better community emerging from this mess we're in. No time like the present to begin. And keep yourself healthy. I'll be back.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 24 of 93

## 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	July 28
Minnesota	47,457	47,961	48,721	49,488	50,291	51,153	51,803
Nebraska	23,190	23,486	23,818	24,174	24,395	24,618	24,899
Montana	2,712	2,813	2,910	3,039	3,260	3,342	3,381
Colorado	41,059	41,698	42,314	42,980	43,789	44,336	44,565
Wyoming	1,830	1,864	1,923	1,972	2,008	2,029	2,072
North Dakota	5207	5367	5493	5614	5736	5876	5986
South Dakota	8019	8077	8143	8200	8305	8395	8444
United States	3,902,233	3,971,343	4,038,864	4,114,817	4,178,730	4,234,140	4,294,770
US Deaths	142,073	143,193	144,305	145,565	146,463	146,935	148,056

Minnesota	+350	+504	+760	+ 773	+805	+871	+650
Nebraska	+343	+296	+332	+356	+221	+223	+281
Montana	+91	+101	+97	+129	+221	+82	+39
Colorado	+493	+639	+616	+455	+457	+547	+229
Wyoming	+40	+34	+59	+49	+36	+21	+43
North Dakota	+81	+160	+126	+121	+122	+140	+110
South Dakota	+76	+58	+66	+57	+105	+90	+49
United States	+70,828	+69,110	+67,521	+75,953	+63,913	+55,410	+60,630
US Deaths	+1,164	+1,120	+1,112	+1,260	+898	+472	+1,121



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 25 of 93

## July 27th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Today is relatively quiet, especially here in Brown County with no tests even being recorded. The state had 49 positive cases and 40 recoveries. The negative numbers seem out of whack as today's number is actually lower than yesterday's numbers - which could be my fault as I did yesterday's report on the road using an ipad and iphone. Hopefully it will remain quiet; however we just posted to theGDI facebook page of an outbreak out west at Camp Judson youth facility near Keystone.

#### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: 0 (20)  
Recovered: 0 (357)  
Total Positive: 0 (379)  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (20)  
Deaths: 2  
Negative Tests: 0 (3913)  
Percent Recovered: 94.2% (-1.0)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +49 (8444 total)  
Negative: ----- (98,383 total)  
Hospitalized: +5 (806 total). 47 currently hospitalized (down 1 from yesterday)  
Deaths: 0 (123 total)  
Recovered: +40 (7404 total)  
Active Cases: +9 (917)  
Percent Recovered: 87.7 +/-0

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding 0 (48)

Fully recovered from positive cases: 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): +1 positive, +4 recovered (38 active cases)

Bennett: Fully Recovered

Bon Homme: Fully Recovered

Brookings: 8 active cases

Brown (2): 20 active cases

Brule: 3 active cases

Buffalo (3): +5 recovered (14 active cases)

Butte: +1 recovered (2 active cases)

Campbell: Fully Recovered

Charles Mix: 39 active cases

Clark: 2 active cases

Clay: 14 active cases

Codington: +3 recovered (18 active cases)

Corson: 3 active cases

Custer: Fully Recovered

Davison: 14 active cases

Day: 2 active cases

Deuel: +1 positive, +1 recovered (2 active cases)

Dewey: 52 active cases

Douglas: +1 recovered (4 active cases)

Edmunds: Fully Recovered

Fall River: 1 active case

Faulk (1): 4 active cases

Grant: 1 active case

Gregory: 1 active case

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 26 of 93

Haakon: Fully Recovered  
 Hamlin: 1 active case  
 Hand: Fully Recovered  
 Hanson: +1 positive (4 active cases)  
 Harding: No infections reported  
 Hughes (3): +3 recovered (9 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: 4 active cases  
 Hyde: Fully Recovered  
 Jackson (1): Fully Recovered  
 Jerauld (1): 1 active cases  
 Jones: Fully Recovered  
 Kingsbury: +1 positive (3 active cases)  
 Lake (2): +1 positive (19 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 Lincoln (1): +7 positive, +3 recovered (78 active cases)  
 Lyman (1): 8 active cases  
 Marshall: +1 recovered (1 active case)  
 McCook (1): 4 active cases  
 McPherson: 1 active case  
 Meade (1): +2 positive (11 active cases)  
 Mellette: +2 positive, +1 recovered (11 active cases)  
 Miner: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (62): +18 positive, +10 recovered (284 active cases)  
 Moody: +1 positive (4 active cases)  
 Oglala Lakota (1): +2 positive (23 active cases)  
 Pennington (24): +8 positive, +3 recovered (132 active cases)  
 Perkins: Fully Recovered  
 Potter: 1 active case  
 Roberts: +1 recovered (5 active cases)  
 Sanborn: 1 active case  
 Spink: 2 active cases

Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: Fully Recovered  
 Todd (4): 6 active cases  
 Tripp: 1 active case  
 Turner: +1 recovered (15 active cases)  
 Union (2): +3 positive, +2 recovered (23 active cases)  
 Walworth: 2 active cases  
 Yankton (2): 11 active cases  
 Ziebach: 6 active cases

North Dakota Dept. of Health Report  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, July 26:  
 COVID-19 Daily Report, July 27:

- 4,402 tests (1,887)
- 5,986 positives (+112)
- 4,829 recovered (+77)
- 99 deaths (+0)
- 1,058 active cases (+33)

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	720	9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1007	12%
Hispanic	1180	14%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1365	16%
Other	846	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	3326	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

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 27 of 93

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	37	34	346
Beadle	583	536	1765
Bennett	5	5	470
Bon Homme	13	13	702
Brookings	111	103	2399
Brown	379	357	3913
Brule	38	35	673
Buffalo	105	88	596
Butte	8	6	695
Campbell	1	1	79
Charles Mix	99	60	1124
Clark	16	14	363
Clay	106	92	1187
Codington	111	93	2542
Corson	24	21	365
Custer	11	11	718
Davison	81	67	2089
Day	21	19	564
Deuel	8	6	361
Dewey	53	1	1863
Douglas	16	12	376
Edmunds	10	10	374
Fall River	14	13	877
Faulk	26	21	163
Grant	18	17	650
Gregory	6	5	334
Haakon	1	1	276
Hamlin	14	13	574
Hand	7	7	252
Hanson	17	13	168
Harding	0	0	48
Hughes	83	71	1571
Hutchinson	24	20	839

Hyde	3	3	115
Jackson	7	6	408
Jerauld	39	37	260
Jones	1	1	50
Kingsbury	11	8	504
Lake	67	46	839
Lawrence	26	23	1891
Lincoln	489	409	5807
Lyman	84	75	861
Marshall	8	7	399
McCook	23	19	586
McPherson	6	5	194
Meade	67	55	1749
Mellette	23	12	299
Miner	12	10	235
Minnehaha	4036	3690	24429
Moody	28	24	579
Oglala Lakota	136	114	2841
Pennington	786	629	9797
Perkins	4	4	136
Potter	1	0	261
Roberts	63	58	1491
Sanborn	13	12	204
Spink	18	16	1051
Stanley	14	14	225
Sully	1	1	63
Todd	66	57	1822
Tripp	20	19	559
Turner	43	28	816
Union	178	153	1721
Walworth	18	16	526
Yankton	100	87	2842
Ziebach	7	1	267
Unassigned****	0	0	5240

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

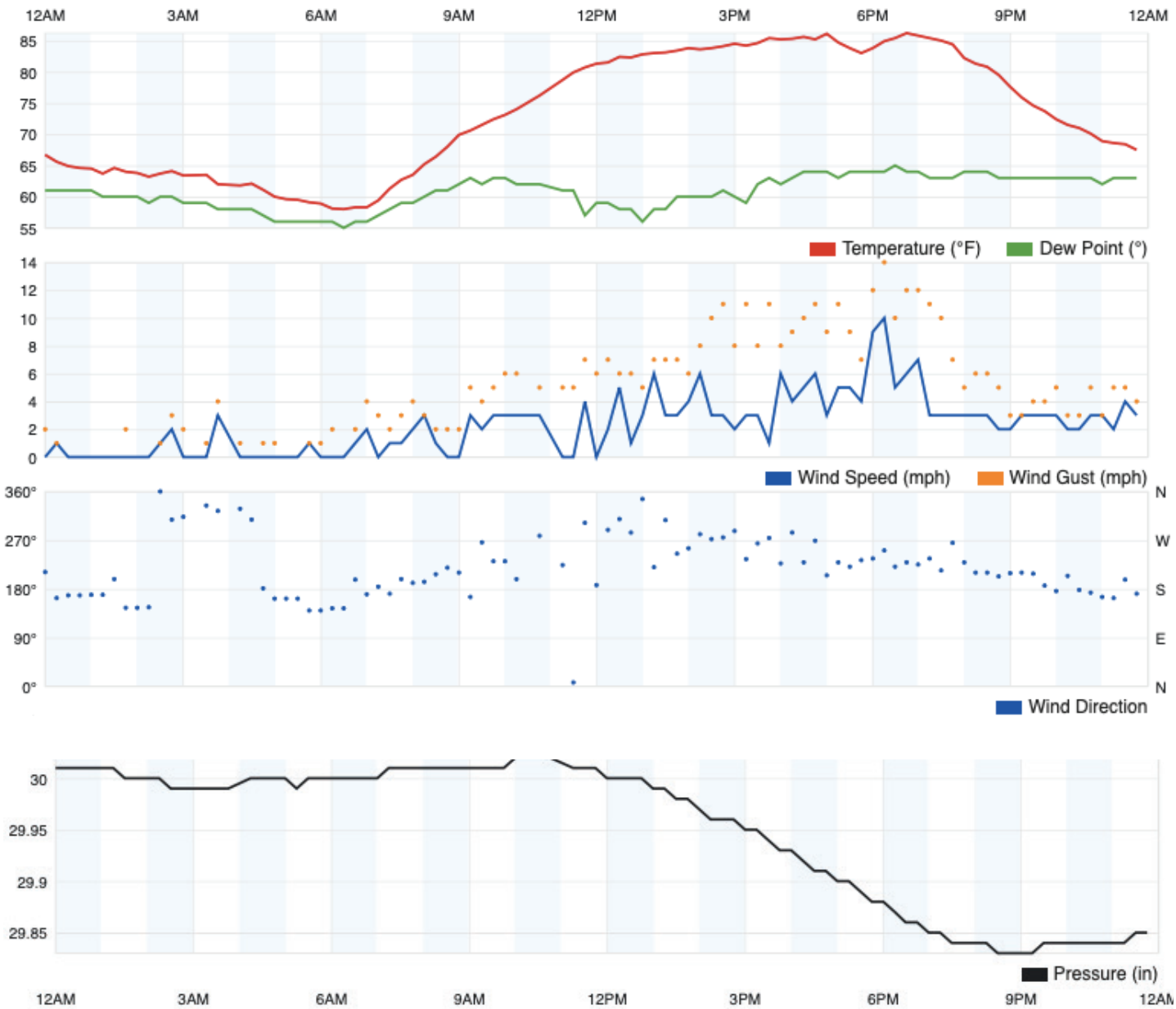
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4123	63
Male	4321	60

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1029	0
20-29 years	1773	1
30-39 years	1705	6
40-49 years	1313	7
50-59 years	1278	16
60-69 years	760	23
70-79 years	309	18
80+ years	277	52

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 28 of 93

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 29 of 93

Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday  
Night

Thursday



Sunny



Mostly Clear



Mostly Sunny



Partly Cloudy



Sunny

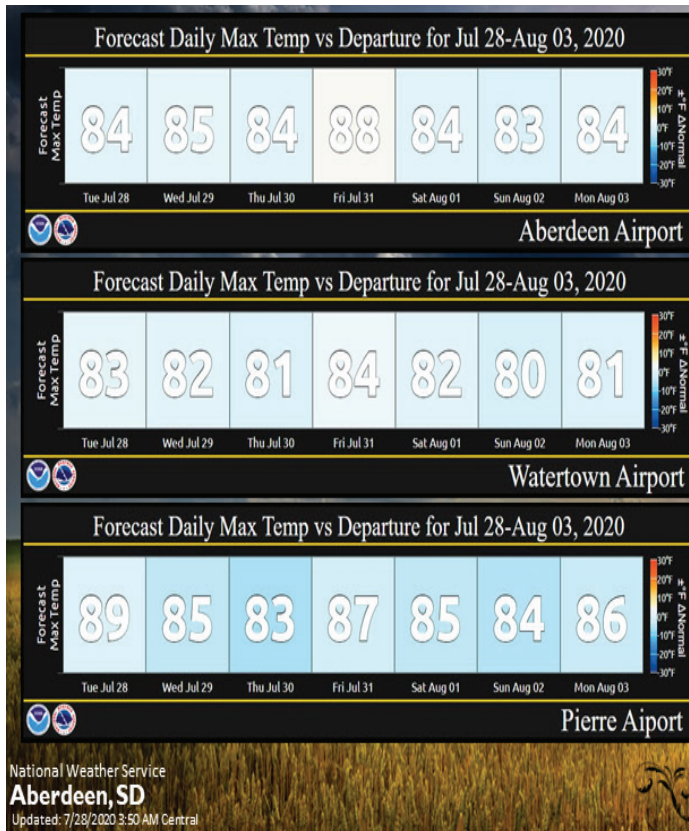
High: 85 °F

Low: 58 °F

High: 86 °F

Low: 60 °F

High: 86 °F



## Weather Outlook

Mostly Dry Through Thursday; Best Chance of Rain "west river" And South Of U.S. Highway 14

Seasonable Temperatures Through Early Next Week

Most of the region will experience dry weather conditions through Thursday. A few showers or thunderstorms, that develop across western South Dakota over the next couple of days, may find their way as far as the Missouri River valley before falling apart. Temperatures are expected to be close to normal for this time of year.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 30 of 93

## Today in Weather History

July 28, 1986: Very intense thunderstorms developed in South Dakota and Nebraska and moved into Iowa. The first of these storms produced a tornado that crossed into Iowa south of Sioux City and slammed into a coal-burning power plant. This storm caused between 25 and 50 million dollars damage to the plant. The tornado continued across farmland, then damaged a store and flattened a motel in Sloan before lifting up.

1898: A severe thunderstorm produced considerable hail (some stones to 11 ounces) in Chicago, Illinois business district. Some people were hurt, not by hail, but by several hundred runaway horses spooked by the hailstones.

1976: At 3:42 AM, an earthquake measuring between 7.8 and 8.2 magnitudes on the Richter scale flattens Tangshan, a Chinese industrial city with a population of about one million people. An estimated 242,000 people in Tangshan and surrounding areas were killed, making the earthquake one of the deadliest in recorded history, surpassed only by the 300,000 who died in the Calcutta earthquake in 1737, and the 830,000 thought to have perished in China's Shaanxi province in 1556.

1819 - A small but intense hurricane passed over Bay Saint Louis, MS. The hurricane was considered the worst in fifty years. Few houses were left standing either at Bay Saint Louis or at Pass Christian, and much of the Mississippi coast was desolate following the storm. A U.S. cutter was lost along with its thirty-nine crew members. The storm struck the same area that was hit 150 years later by Hurricane Camille. (David Ludlum)

1930 - The temperature at Greensburg, KY, soared to 114 degrees to set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1934 - The temperature at Grofino, ID, climbed to 118 degrees to establish a record for Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1952 - A severe storm with hail up to an inch and a half in diameter broke windows, ruined roofs, and stripped trees of leaves near Benson, AZ. The temperature dropped to 37 degrees, as hail was three to four inches deep, with drifts 46 inches high. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Severe thunderstorms moving out of South Dakota across Iowa produce high winds which derailed eighteen piggyback trailer cars of a westbound freight train near Boone, IA. Sixteen of the cars fell 187 feet into the Des Moines River. The thunderstorms also spawned a number of tornadoes, including one which caused twenty-five to fifty million dollars damage at Sloan, near Sioux City, IA. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Nevada produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Searchlight, reducing visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Thunderstorms in Montana drenched Lonesome Lake with 3.78 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms drenched Wilmington, NC, with 3.33 inches of rain, bringing their monthly total 14.46 inches. Seven cities in Michigan and Minnesota reported record high temperatures for the date. Marquette, MI, hit 99 degrees, and the record high of 94 degrees at Flint MI was their tenth of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Massachusetts. Early evening thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 68 mph at Fort Myers, and evening thunderstorms in South Dakota produced nearly two inches of rain in twenty minutes at Pierpoint. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

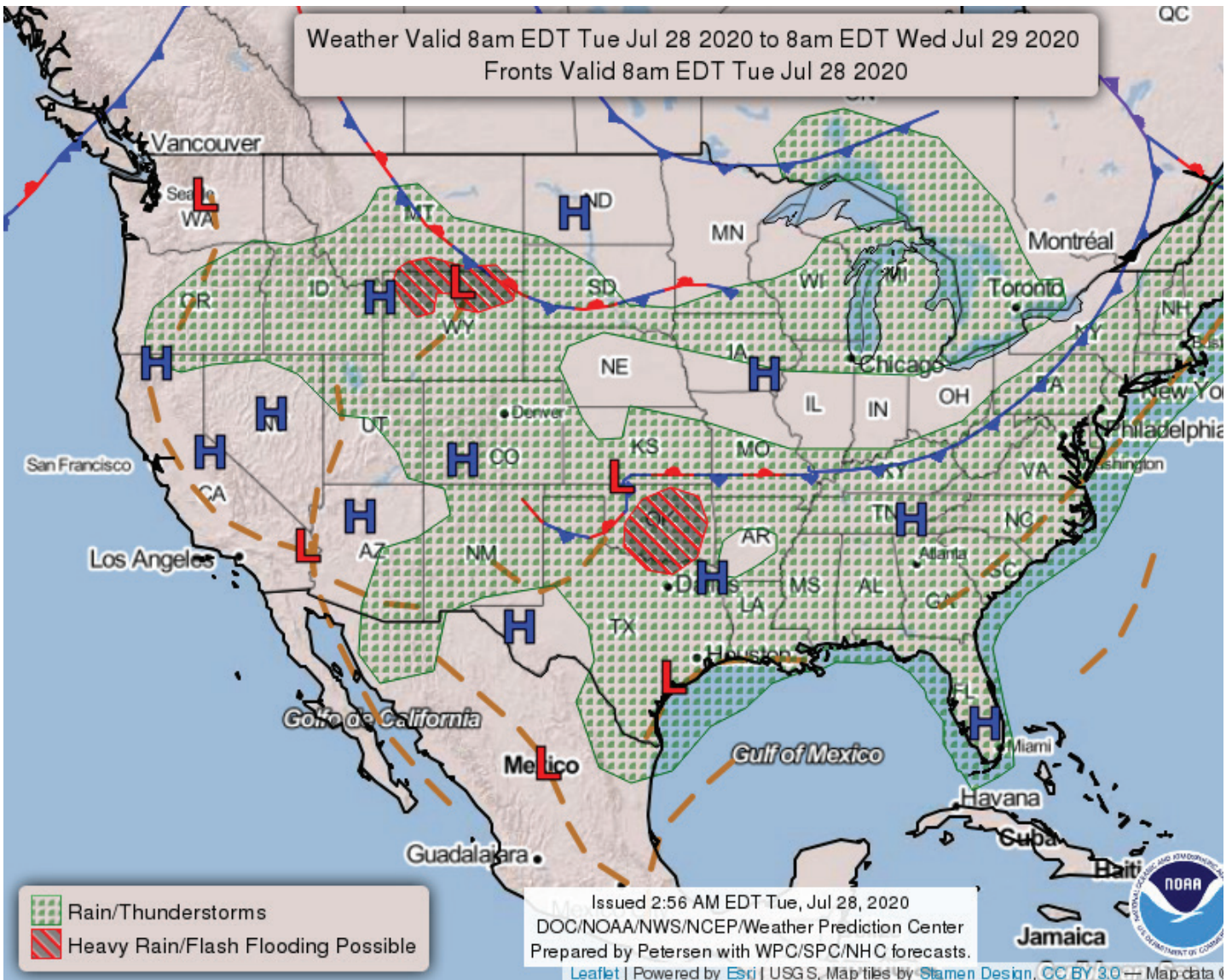
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 31 of 93

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 86 °F at 6:44 PM**  
**Low Temp: 58 °F at 6:22 AM**  
**Wind: 15 mph at 6:45 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 109° in 1975  
**Record Low:** 40° in 1913  
**Average High:** 84°F  
**Average Low:** 59°F  
**Average Precip in July.:** 2.68  
**Precip to date in July.:** 2.19  
**Average Precip to date:** 13.52  
**Precip Year to Date:** 10.51  
**Sunset Tonight:** 9:06 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:15 a.m.





# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 32 of 93



## THE WILL TO WIN!

It was the first practice of the football season. The captain of the team was trying to impress his fellow teammates with his leadership skills. Pacing back and forth in front of the team, he was doing his best to get them excited. Finally, as his voice reached a level of great intensity, he shouted, "We'll win because we have the will to win!"

The coach, looking rather amused said, "Don't fool yourself, son. The will to win is important. But more important than the will to win is the importance to surrender to hard work, sore muscles, aching joints, sweat running into your eyes, and long hours of studying our plays." In other words, winning requires hard work – not simply a will.

What is required of athletes who want to be victorious on a football field is true of the Christian who is called to live a victorious life for Christ. Paul said, "Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important for it promises a reward in this life and the life to come."

Spiritual exercise - studying God's Word, praying, worshiping, fellowship, and serving Him as well as others - and the desire to achieve success for the Christian does not come easy or simply being willing. It requires a life of discipline and surrender to the will of God. Paul reminds us, however, that if we do the "required work" we will be rewarded in this life and the life to come.

Prayer: Lord, You never promised us a life of ease. But for Your sake, we ask for Your strength and power to live a life that is worthy of You and victorious over sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important for it promises a reward in this life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 33 of 93

## 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: Man who died in jail was denied basic medical care**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The family of a man who died in a South Dakota county jail has filed a civil rights lawsuit, arguing that he died because he was denied basic medical care for his chronic health conditions.

Seryl Leroy Pomani, 30, died in the custody of Hughes County Jail after experiencing chronic health complications related to diabetes, hypertension and asthma, according to the lawsuit filed in Central Division of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota.

The lawsuit says jail staff were aware of Pomani's health conditions when he was booked on July 13, 2018, for third-degree burglary. Staff found that his blood sugar was abnormally high, but the jail nurse had left for the weekend and said she would evaluate him when she returned, the lawsuit alleges. Pomani's health deteriorated, but the jail's policy was that only the jailhouse nurse could approve medications, according to the lawsuit.

Pomani was found unresponsive in his cell Monday July 16 and died two days later at a hospital, Argus Leader reported Monday.

"To the best of the plaintiff's knowledge and understanding, the HCJ correctional officers who were on duty and supervising Mr. Pomani over the weekend became increasingly concerned that he was having a serious medical issue from what they could observe about his physical condition," the lawsuit says.

Hughes County Sheriff Darin Johnson told Argus Leader in an email that he was not aware of the lawsuit and that the jailhouse nurse, Jaclyn Lowitz, no longer works for the county .

The lawsuit names Hughes County, Lowitz, and the former sheriff of Hughes County, Mike Leidholt, in Pomani's death. The lawsuit says Pomani's civil rights were violated. It seeks a monetary award for his estate, which includes a minor child and several siblings.

### **Sheriff: 1 dead in crash of crop duster in SE South Dakota**

PARKSTON, S.D. (AP) — One person was killed when a crop dusting plane crashed in a rural area of southeastern South Dakota on Monday, authorities said.

Douglas County Sheriff Jon Coler told KELO-TV he was notified of the crash around 11:30 a.m. The crash happened just west of Parkston.

The sheriff said federal investigators were on their way. No other details were released.

### **Noem announces training for those left jobless by pandemic**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Monday announced a program to offer training at the state's technical colleges for people who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican governor described the program, called UpSkill, as a pathway to "a new career path as we get back to normal."

The program will work with the state's four technical colleges to offer certificate programs in fields like business, health care and manufacturing. People who qualify for the program will be able to attend "at little or no cost," according to a news release from the governor's office.

Since the middle of March, the state has processed roughly 58,000 claims for unemployment. That represents almost 14% of the total workforce eligible for unemployment benefits. According to the latest count, 16,594 people in South Dakota were receiving unemployment benefits.

Noem has focused on addressing the economic fallout from the pandemic, saying that the program is a part of readying the state "to bounce back from COVID-19 stronger than ever before."

The program will be funded by federal aid for addressing the pandemic.

### **South Dakota pushes individual actions after COVID-19 spike**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 35 of 93

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota health official on Monday encouraged residents to redouble their “individual” efforts to prevent the coronavirus from spreading, in line with the governor’s insistence that personal responsibility, rather than government mandates, is the best way to address the pandemic.

After the Department of Health on Saturday reported the state’s highest daily total of cases since May, state epidemiologist Josh Clayton issued a reminder that populated counties have a high risk of infections spreading in the community.

“Increases in cases like this are the reason why we want folks to pay attention to their individual actions to reduce the risk of COVID-19,” Clayton said.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem has been pushing people to take “personal responsibility” during the pandemic, resisting business closures, stay-at-home orders, or more recently, mask mandates. The approach has emboldened organizers of events including rodeos and motorcycle rallies to proceed with their plans.

But Camp Judson, a Christian summer camp near Keystone, saw an outbreak of the coronavirus among campers and canceled its plans to host junior high school students this week. Health officials said the number of cases tied to the camp was lower than 10, but that they would be monitoring camp participants as they returned home.

On Saturday, the state reported 105 confirmed new cases — its highest daily number since May. The spike appeared to be tied to an increase in the number of tests performed. The Department of Health reported 2,423 test results Saturday, and the positivity rate for tests has remained mostly steady over the last week.

Health officials also reported 49 new cases on Monday and no new deaths. Minnehaha County, which contains Sioux Falls, once again led the state in reported new cases. Health officials have not found any clusters of infections in the area, according to Clayton.

Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken tweeted over the weekend that the surge in confirmed cases was “a reminder of just how quickly things could change.”

Meanwhile, Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon said the Department of Health has received reports of scams in which callers pose as public health officials and request credit card information under the guise of sending a COVID-19 testing kit.

Malsam-Rysdon said Department of Health officials will never ask for financial information, but emphasized that it is still important people answer the phone if they receive a call from the Department.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, July 23

For once, a comet that didn’t disappoint

I’ve spent the last several nights chasing a comet, in part because I know how difficult they are to catch and in part because I just needed the escape.

The comet is called Neowise, and it has been in the northwest sky at night since early last week. (Prior to that, it had been an early-morning fixture.) I’ve been out away from lighted areas — of which, we have too much of, even here — with binoculars, a telescope and a camera to take this fleeting moment in. (I’ve also captured images like this.)

Millions of people have seen Neowise, which is in some ways surprising. From my experience, most comets are generally comprised of ice, dust, gases and disappointment.

Someone asked me last week how many comets I’ve ever seen. There have been a few, and Neowise will stand out along with 1997’s Hale-Bopp among the best. But the duds and letdowns have outnumbered the standouts.

For instance, Comet Kohoutek in 1973 was hyped as a potentially great sight — echoing longtime comparisons I’d always heard about Halley’s Comet. But Kohoutek was decidedly a fizzle; I don’t think I ever caught a glimpse of it.

The return of the legendary Halley’s Comet in 1986, which has had several memorable appearances throughout human history and therefore generated years of buildup, was a sad disappointment in more

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 36 of 93

ways than one. It was barely visible — the earth and the comet were on different sides of the sun this time around — and didn't come close to the stories of its previous visit in 1910, when it was said to be visible even in daylight. For me, the worst thing was that my grandfather, who saw the comet as a boy in 1910 and was looking forward to seeing it twice in his lifetime (which most people never do), never caught a glimpse of it. That magnified the letdown.

There was also a comet last December called 2I/Borisov that was hyped in some articles as a potentially great Christmas spectacle. But it took me a very long time to find it with binoculars, and when I did, it looked like a small, discouraging smudge in the bleak winter night.

A lot can go wrong with comets. Often, they can break up before they reach their potential, and that caveat was riding with Neowise since its discovery in late March. (I suppose it could fairly be remembered as the "COVID comet.") I was reflexively expecting it to fizzle out, so I never really got interested in it until about two weeks ago — until I knew for sure this was going to be something.

Neowise hasn't disappointed, and I've been looking at it most nights. Here's why: I may see another comet come along in, say, six months or a few years — or I may never see one again. They're fickle, unstable phenomena, so I wanted to enjoy it as much as I could.

This comet brought back memories of Hale-Bopp, a once-in-a-generation comet, from the spring of 1997. I recall being in the countryside one late-March night with a 9-year-old niece in tow tracking down the comet. It was a perfect early evening, and the world was silent as Hale-Bopp soared in the fading north-west twilight. I said to my niece, "You remember this." And last week, she did, as she went out watching Neowise with her baby daughter along.

But this comet brought back another memory from Hale-Bopp — as well as from the solar eclipse in 2017 and, honestly, from most every time I stop for a while and just look up at the stars.

As I watched both comets (and the eclipsed sun), I felt totally alone — other than that object in the sky, that aforementioned escape that both electrified and soothed my mind. I felt unfettered, removed from the debris of everyday life, and was instead locked in on this thing sailing in the heavens. Nothing else mattered in those moments; nothing else got in the way. It was a sense not only of wonder but also of peace, both of which are simply too elusive in this noisy age.

In fact, in any age and at any age.

Neowise is fading quickly, and the light of the rising, waxing moon will also gradually compromise the darkness one needs to really see what's left of this show, which will return in about 6,800 years. But these memories will glow bright for a relatively long time to come. So will the peaceful feeling that came with seeing a cosmic display that lived up to its promise, for once.

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Madison Daily Leader, July 23

Back-to-school plans are hardest to make

Making plans for the K-12 fall semester is among the hardest things this generation of school administrators have ever had to do.

There are so many people to consider: students, parents, teachers, staff, day care providers, and after-school program operators. The health and well-being -- physical, mental and social -- of all of them is at the top of their minds, but decisions are extremely hard to make.

Yes, some people see the issue as clearcut: send children to school or keep them home, but the issue is much more complicated than that.

Let's discuss just a few of the many issues:

Physical health -- Preventing spread of the virus requires people to stay distanced, but it isn't always clear how much isolation is necessary. Six feet apart? Wear masks or not? How much hand-washing and sanitization? How much testing? What if family members are sick?

Mental health -- Most observers are recognizing that complete isolation is not good for mental health, especially among young, developing students. Staying home for months at a time can be serious.

Unique health conditions -- Public schools have many students who have underlying health conditions,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 37 of 93

some of them known to district staff, some not. While the coronavirus typically doesn't harm children as much as older people, those with special conditions are susceptible.

Faculty and staff -- It isn't clear about the transmission of the virus from seemingly healthy children to adults. Could a healthy, active student give the virus to another student or teacher?

Care of youngsters -- Madison Central has about 1,165 students. Let's say the youngest third of them need to be supervised if they aren't in school. That's nearly 400 students who would need to go to day care, need a parent to stay home or need another friend or relative to supervise them. That's a substantial stress on a community.

There are many more issues that complicate decisions. But we feel strongly that school administrators are doing their absolute best to decide how the fall semester should go. While not everyone will agree with their decisions, these administrators certainly have the best interests of all concerned in their minds.

## Fans reflect on memories of Rapid City's Fitzgerald Stadium

By RICHARD ANDERSON Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — When you look around historic Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium at a Rapid City Post 22 American Legion baseball game, you don't just see people watching.

You see a community.

Fitzgerald Stadium, first home for the Basin League Rapid City Chiefs from 1957-1973 and a few years later home to the Post 22 Hardhats, will be out with the old and in with the new after the championship game on July 19 of the Veteran's Classic baseball tournament.

Construction begins July 20 on the \$5 million renovation project that is expected to be ready for the 2021 American Legion season.

Built in 1957 to be the new home of the Chiefs, the stadium was first named Sioux Park Stadium and was renamed Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium in the late 1970s for a longtime Rapid City businessman who later helped form Black Hills Sports, Inc. and served as president of the organization for eight years.

Fitzgerald was also instrumental in helping repair the stadium after it was damaged in the 1972 Rapid City flood.

Under the guidance of Hall of Fame coach Dave Ploof, Post 22 and Fitzgerald Stadium became one of the top Legion baseball stadiums in the region, if not the country. The stadium hosted four American Legion World Series tournaments from 1979 to 2005.

The Hardhats have played in eight American Legion World Series, winning the 1993 national title.

To this day, on a good night anywhere from 500 to 2,000 fans scatter around the large stadium to watch the Hardhats. Some of those fans have been coming since the early days of Sioux Park Stadium.

Dick Stone played for Post 22 in 1957-58 as a left fielder. He didn't play on this field then, but got to practice with some with the Rapid City Chiefs.

"I've been watching ever since," said Stone, who later became president of Black Hills Sports, Inc.

"When we had the World Series here it was different and exciting," Stone told the Rapid City Journal. "We had people lined up by the streets wanting to get in. It was just a fun experience."

Stone said that some of his best experiences at Fitzgerald Stadium were just the games Post 22 won and the players he was able to see.

"Baseball is my favorite sport, far and away. Even two years ago (at the Firecracker), I'd come out here at 10 in the morning and stay until 10 at night," he said. "Now that I'm a little older, I don't come for quite as long. I just enjoy watching, I enjoy watching the kids. Good plays, bad plays, good pitching, bad pitching. All of it."

Stone, whose son, Randy Stone, played for the Hardhats for five seasons, said he will miss the old Fitzgerald Stadium.

"I've been through a lot here," he said.

Craig Ericks started coming to Fitzgerald Stadium in 1980 when he moved over to the west side of Rapid City. He could hear the crowds from his house and he could see the lights from his front yard. He and a



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 38 of 93

neighbor would come over for a game or two on a summer evening just to enjoy the baseball atmosphere.

A couple of years later his nephew came to town in the Air Force, whose son played for the Bullets (Post 22 junior varsity team). They came on a regular basis when he was playing and Ericks has been hooked ever since.

"I've met a lot of neat people here, including all of these people (in the first-base side green shelter)," he said. "It's just a good time to talk to other people and watch baseball."

Ericks calls Fitzgerald Stadium the most nostalgic stadium he has ever been at.

"It is a beautiful setting," he said. "That background is like nothing anywhere else. There's a lot of history here. In our travels around the region and the state, in other stadiums, I know what a modern, new stadium looks like. They are beautiful too. There will be times I will be missing this, but I am looking forward to the new stadium."

Maybe Ericks' best memory here was the World Series Post 22 hosted after the Hardhats rallied back in Mandan, North Dakota, to qualify to play in it.

"We came back to play in Rapid City, to play in our own World Series that we were hosting," he said. "I think that has only happened one other time in history, before the World Series became permanent, that the host team played in its own tournament."

Landis Matson said it feels like forever since he has been coming to Fitzgerald Stadium, which was in 1957 to see the Chiefs "as a pup," shagging foul balls, like the current group of youngsters do now.

He looks forward to the Firecracker Tournament every year.

"This year, of course, with COVID-19, it wasn't like it should have been, but I remember the good teams coming in here, like Las Vegas. They appreciated us and we appreciated them for being here," he said.

When Matson first saw the artist renderings of the new Fitzgerald, he was impressed. He still is, but getting closer to the end of the old stadium, he's getting a little more nostalgic.

"I'm now thinking that I won't see this field anymore. I'm thinking, what is going to happen here?" he said. "It's going to be different, but I'll get used to that. It will be nice, a top-rated stadium. It will be good."

Looking around, Matson sees a lot of true baseball fans scattered around the stadium. And they see — or hear him — as well.

"If anybody knows me at the ballpark, they know my relationship with the umpires," he said with a laugh.

Steve Ringo bought his first Post 22 season pass in 1988 even though he didn't live here. His wife at the time was from Rapid City and they were here to visit for a couple of weeks when the Firecracker was going on. He has been a season-ticket holder ever since.

"I just fit right in," he said.

Fitzgerald Stadium is baseball, Ringo adds.

"I grew up in Omaha. When I first came to a game here, and before cell phones, I was on a pay phone telling somebody, 'I've figured out why they are always good.' I go, 'You should see this stadium,'" he said. "This would be the Rosenblatt Stadium (the former home of the College World Series) for us in Omaha. I look at this field, and I see 800 or 900 people watching a regular ballgame. It's all baseball."

Ringo said he was 60-40 on renovating the stadium. The biggest thing he will miss is sitting right where he and his Fitzgerald cronies were Thursday night and most nights — under the green shelter on the first base side.

"This is the most knowledgeable group right here. We talk a lot of crap, but these guys know baseball history like you wouldn't believe," he said. "This stadium is like our own little community. You'll see the same people sitting with each other that I have seen in the last 30, 35 years. And they are sitting in the same seats."

Richard Hatzenbuehler calls himself a transplant from Mandan. He knew of Post 22 when he lived in Mandan, and he knew the Hardhats were a regional powerhouse, so he couldn't wait to watch them play when they came up to play.

It was a no-brainer for him to continue to watch them when he moved to Rapid City in 1984, although he said he didn't realize just how big of a baseball town Rapid City was until then.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 39 of 93

"I was really impressed," Hatzenbuhler said. "I loved looking down on the field watching the games."

With three children — a boy and two girls — who joined the Harney Little League, he said when he really started following Post 22 when a couple Harney Little Leaguers that he watched moved up to the Hardhats.

"When they were national champions, two of them played at Harney (Brian Ogle and Nate Barnes) the same time my son was playing," Hatzenbuhler said. "When they came to Post 22, I've been here ever since. I hardly ever miss a game."

Chuck McCain's first visit to Fitzgerald Stadium was in 1957 watching the Rapid City Chiefs. His biggest memory from that time was, as an 8-year-old, standing next to 6-foot-7 slugger Frank Howard, who went on to have a good career with the Washington Senators and three other teams.

"I was probably three feet high and he looked like one of these light towers," McCain said. "I grew up about a mile north of here, so my dad brought me down to a lot of Chiefs games."

As an adult, McCain moved to Helena, Mont., but he followed Post 22 the best that he could. When he returned to Rapid City in 2000, he came back to Fitzgerald and has been a mainstay and season ticket holder since.

McCain said he has been drawn to Fitzgerald Stadium, partly because he grew up close by, and because of the program.

"I have mixed emotions about the renovations that are coming, but I realize they are necessary," he said. "I guess it is old, kind of like I am. I'll hate to see it go, but the memories will still be here. Baseball is always good no matter where you are at."

McCain, who retired eight years ago, used to take time off of work just to spend all day at Fitzgerald Stadium for the Firecracker. He said he recently talked to a mother of one of the Rocky Mountain Lobos (Fort Collins, Colorado) players, who said she was going to have to figure out a reason to come back to Rapid City next summer and see the new stadium, although her sons would be finished with American Legion baseball.

"She said, 'This is one of our favorite trips, if not the favorite trip that we take,'" McCain said. "I think there is a similar feeling for most of the teams that come here for the Firecracker. You want to come here, and you want to play here."

John Wheeler is celebrating his 50th year of coming to Fitzgerald Stadium. On a recent Thursday, he was wearing a T-shirt of a group picture of the 1996 Post 22 team that his son, Luke Wheeler, played on.

Wheeler moved here from Sioux Falls, and he said it was well known that Rapid City had the best baseball program back then. He started going to games right away.

"I just loved this stadium," he said. "I hate to see it torn down, but I guess it served its purpose, and it is time for a new one."

Because he has been coming to Fitzgerald Stadium for 50 years, Wheeler said it is like a second home.

"There's a lot of people here that you don't see anywhere else until baseball season," he said.

Al Sharp has been a Post 22 fan for about 33 years, and he has been sitting in the same seat in front of the press box for many of those years.

"I've sat here for a long time," Sharp said with a big laugh.

Like most longtime fans, Sharp said he will miss the old stadium, but he understands why there is the need for a new one.

"We have to do things," he said. "I'm in my early 80s and I would miss it if they ever left. But I know I am coming to where I belong."

Regardless of who was to play in the championship game that Sunday, Rapid City baseball fans will celebrate with memories of the old Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium and will count the days until the new Fitzgerald Stadium opens in the spring of 2021 to make new memories.

"This is the home field. This is where I like to be," McCain said.

## Malaysian ex-PM Najib given 12 years in jail in 1MDB scandal

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 40 of 93

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A Malaysian court sentenced former Prime Minister Najib Razak to serve 12 years in prison on Tuesday after finding him guilty in the first of several corruption trials linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that brought down his government two years ago.

Najib was calm and stone-faced as he became the first Malaysian leader to be convicted. He took an oath in brief remarks in the dock that he was innocent.

Judge Mohamad Nazlan Ghazali sentenced Najib to 12 years in jail on one count of abuse of power, 10 years each for three counts of criminal breach of trust, and 10 years each for three counts of money laundering, as well as a fine of 210 million ringgit (\$49.4 million). But he ordered the sentences to run concurrently, meaning that Najib will face only up to 12 years in jail.

The judge allowed a stay of the jail sentence and fine pending Najib's planned appeal. But he raised the bail amount and ordered Najib to report to the police twice a month.

The judge earlier read out an elaborate two-hour ruling that convicted Najib of all seven charges.

The judge said the sentence was "appropriate and proportionate" taking into account that Najib had committed the crime from a "position of trust" as prime minister, his final plea and the need to deter others from committing the same crime.

The ruling in the first of his five corruption trials came five months after Najib's Malay party returned to government as the biggest bloc in an alliance that took power from the reformist government that ousted Najib's in 2018 elections.

Analysts said the ruling would bolster the prosecution's case in Najib's other trials and would signal to the business community that Malaysia's legal system has strength in tackling international financial crimes. But others cautioned the ruling could be overturned as his political party remains in office.

Prosecutors earlier said the case had tarnished the country as a kleptocracy and sought a sentence that would remind those in high public office that "no one is above the law."

Najib asked the court to take into account his achievements during his nine-year tenure and gave an oath that he wasn't aware of the 42 million ringgit (\$9.8 million) channeled into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of 1MDB.

"I did not demand the 42 million, I did not plan for the 42 million, nor was the 42 million offered to me. There has been no evidence nor witness to this. And I also like to say that I have no knowledge of the 42 million," Najib insisted.

Some of Najib's supporters outside the courthouse cried when they learned of the verdict while others chanted "free bossku" and "long live bossku." The nickname meaning "my boss" was coined for Najib in his social media campaign to reinvent himself as a working-class leader.

Najib, 67, has vowed to fight to the end. He has said he was misled by rogue bankers and the case against him is political.

"I want justice. I want to clear my name," he wrote on Facebook late Monday. "After this, we will go to the Court of Appeal. I am ready." A scion of one of Malaysia's most prominent political families, he faces 42 charges in five separate trials.

"The conviction would serve as a solid foundation for the prosecution in ensuing 1MDB-related trials," said Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow with Singapore's Institute of International Affairs.

He said the ruling also would strengthen the credibility of current Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, even though he now relies on Najib's party for support. Muhyiddin was fired as Najib's deputy exactly five years ago for speaking out on the 1MDB scandal.

Najib's party is the biggest bloc in the current Malay nationalist alliance that has governed since March with a shaky, wafer-thin majority in parliament.

The ruling was "absolutely" good for Malaysia, said analyst Bridget Welsh, honorary research associate with the University of Nottingham Malaysia.

"I think that there is a sense of euphoria among the citizens that justice is being served, among the majority of Malaysians," Welsh said. "Keep in mind that majority of Malaysians voted (in 2018) for political



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 41 of 93

change, and the 1MDB case was a catalyst in that. The 1MDB case damaged Malaysia's reputation, and I think today worked towards restoring that."

Najib's father and uncle were Malaysia's second and third prime ministers. Shortly after he took office in 2009, he set up 1MDB to ostensibly accelerate Malaysia's economic development.

But the fund accumulated billions in debt, and U.S. investigators allege that at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from it and laundered by Najib's associates to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, artwork, jewelry and other extravagances. More than \$700 million from the fund allegedly landed in Najib's bank accounts.

During the trial, Najib was accused of using his position to receive a bribe for approving a government guarantee for billions in loans to SRC, committing criminal breach of trust and accepting proceeds from unlawful activities.

Evidence showed a complex trail of ill-gotten money paid for his home renovation, credit card purchases including a Chanel watch bought in Hawaii as a birthday gift for his wife, and disbursements to political parties.

The judge agreed with prosecutors on Tuesday that Najib had "overarching control" of SRC and failed to rebut allegations that he misappropriated money for his own use.

The judge said the defense's argument that Najib, as prime minister, was duped by rogue bankers led by Malaysian fugitive financier Low Taek Jho was "too far-fetched" as the two had a close relationship. Investigators have identified Low as the mastermind behind the looting of 1MDB and he remains at large.

Najib testified he assumed the money was part of a donation by the Saudi royal family arranged by Low as a guise to keep Najib from being suspicious of his plundering of the 1MDB fund. The judge debunked that argument in the guilty verdict, finding it an "elaborate but weak fabrication."

Najib's second and third trials involving some of the remaining charges are ongoing. His wife and several officials from his party and previous government have also been charged with graft related to 1MDB corruption.

"People should not really be celebrating now ... we know in Malaysia, many of these politically charged cases, once they get to the appeals court, they get reversed," said James Chin, professor of Asian studies at Australia's University of Tasmania.

"So the fact that we have today's guilty verdict doesn't mean things will change. Najib will still remain an MP (member of parliament) and we have to wait for the appeal court system," Chin added.

## Cosmetology students, hairstylists describe a race divide

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After repeatedly being denied service by high-end salons because her hair was perceived as "too difficult" to style, Kanessa Alexander took an unusual step. She opened a shop of her own in a predominantly white Boston neighborhood with four Black stylists serving all hair textures.

"I wanted to be someplace where we existed but were not represented," the African American cosmetologist said of her decision five years ago to set up Perfect 10 in West Roxbury, near where she grew up. "So many salons were just seeing a Black person."

As a racial reckoning unfolds around the globe, Alexander and more than a dozen other people of color in the beauty industry trace such bias and discrimination in mostly white salons to the sidelining of formal education on tightly curled, coiled or kinky hair.

The lack of experience, or interest, is particularly acute when it comes to hair worn naturally, a growing trend among African American women who want to celebrate both personal identity and Black culture.

"They didn't learn Black hair. They've been taught Black hair is difficult," Alexander said. "Nobody will come in here and hear that their hair is too difficult."

About 25 miles from Alexander's salon, in mostly white Westborough, Massachusetts, Damalyn Matthews knows the struggle firsthand. Matthews, who is white and Native American, has three children with her African American husband. She recently sent her two oldest, ages 7 and 5, to her regular salon, a

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 42 of 93

Supercuts, with her 21-year-old niece, who is white.

A white stylist grumbled that the children's race should have been disclosed when the appointments were made because: "We don't cut Black people's hair here," Matthews said. While service wasn't denied, the remark and others like it made by the stylist led to her termination and an apology from the salon.

"The part that bothered me the most is there were two other hairstylists standing there. Neither one of them said anything, nor reported it," Matthews said. "It's heartbreaking."

Such stories are not uncommon, from outright refusals to botched treatments and cuts by stylists who don't know what they're doing but are reluctant to say so, fearing legal retribution or out of embarrassment or guilt.

Some cosmetology schools include educators with experience on a range of textured hair, but they're often stymied by other priorities. While textbooks include pages on all hair types, students said highly textured hair is often barely mentioned during training. Mannequins of color are not routine.

It's possible to receive a cosmetology license, a process conducted by the states, without ever touching a Black head.

Kayla Naclerio, 23, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is enrolled in beauty school near her home. She plans to graduate in September.

"They don't really tend to teach ethnic hair," said Naclerio, who is white. "I would like to learn how to do Black hair. I don't really see why there seems to be such a big lack of education on Black hair."

Keen to learn, Naclerio found her own mannequin of color.

Tammy Jolivette, a Ph.D. candidate at Walden University, studies the psychological roots of biases against natural hair and how those biases affect communities of color. She's also a Houston hairstylist who specializes in working with curly hair, particularly Black hair.

"Cosmetology programs typically only teach styles and looks for people of European descent. This serves as a tactic of segregation against African Americans. If the salon stylists do not know how to do Black hair, then the business will not have to serve Black people," Jolivette said.

Serving Black people in the beauty business has become increasingly lucrative. In 2018, the Black hair care industry raked in an estimated \$2.51 billion as Black consumers have progressively made the switch from general products to those that cater specifically to them. Black women spend nine times more on ethnic-targeted beauty and grooming products than the average for all consumers in the hair sector, according to Nielsen.

Kari Williams in Los Angeles has a seat on the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, which administers exams and licenses in the state. A licensed barber, cosmetologist and salon owner, she specializes in natural hair care.

Williams said few states have licensing and certifications for natural hair, braiding, locing and twisting. Most beauty schools focus on salon safety and sanitation, and the use of heat styling tools and chemicals for straightening, coloring, perming and relaxing.

"When you have a stylist going through 1,100 hours of training, when it comes to Black hair, they're learning how to destroy Black hair," Williams said. "They're not learning how to maintain and style Black hair in its natural state."

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 30-year-old Britany Bain graduated in 2014 from Aveda Institute South Florida, one of more than 60 independently owned and run Aveda schools in the U.S. considered among the top in the industry.

"The education for textured hair was just completely zero," said Bain, who is Black. "Whenever we touched on textured hair as a topic it was just like how to straighten it. I had come from the natural hair world. It got to the point where I was saying, 'No, we need to use this, or can I bring this in?' It was always 'No, what we teach you here is the standard and you just use what we teach you to figure it out when you get into the world.' This is supposed to be the Harvard of cosmetology."

Kevin Molin, vice president of Aveda Global Education for Aveda Corp., said the company released educational curricula focused on the care and styling of curly and coily hair in 2012. A substantial expansion

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 43 of 93

is launching next month, he said, the "start of our long-term commitment to create an Aveda experience that is fully inclusive."

Students at Paul Mitchell Schools, another top name in cosmetology education, have made similar complaints. The schools, most also independently owned, recently announced initiatives aimed at including "all hair types as standard learning, not specialized."

One of the changes is getting practice dolls with a wider range of textured hair, said Paul Mitchell brand ambassador John Mosley, a Black barber in Dallas.

"I feel their pain, and I understand where they're coming from," he said of dissatisfied students, including several of color who took to KSNV-TV in Las Vegas to object.

Brittany Johnson is the senior content manager for Mayvonn, a company that connects Black hairstylists and clients. She earned her cosmetology license in California in 2010 after attending beauty school in San Jose.

"All the mannequins had names. The ones that I can remember were Jessica, Beverly and Mia. The one male mannequin was named Jake. The only Black mannequin there, they labeled her Overly Curly. It was the only one there that didn't have a name," she said.

When it came time to work on live clients, those of color were sent to the Black students, Johnson said.

"On one hand, I wanted to service these clients because I wanted them to feel comfortable and not have someone who was going to struggle with their hair texture, but on the other hand, I'm like, 'Well all these other students should learn, too,'" she said.

In the Paul Mitchell curriculum, Mosley said, hair is broken down as "straight, wavy, curly and extra curly," along with "fine, medium and coarse." Extra curly, he said, can cover a broad range of textures and curl patterns.

Inclusive enough?

"I think it is," Mosley said. "Hair is hair, not a skin tone. Paul Mitchell is definitely making rapid changes to be able to instruct on more of it."

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

## US-China spats rattle world, prompting calls for unity

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Antagonisms between the United States and China are rattling governments around the world, prompting a German official to warn of "Cold War 2.0" and Kenya's president to appeal for unity to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Global trade already was depressed by the 2-year-old tariff war between the world's two biggest economies. That rancor has spread to include Hong Kong, Chinese Muslims, spying accusations and control of the South China Sea.

Caught in the middle, other governments are trying to defend their own interests.

GERMANY:

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government wants to preserve trade and cooperation on global warming but says a security law tightening Beijing's control over Hong Kong is a "difficult issue."

The Hong Kong security law's potential disruption of the autonomy Beijing promised to the former British colony is no reason to stop talking but is "a worrying development," Merkel said.

Europe's biggest economy has yet to take a final position on Chinese tech giant Huawei despite U.S. pressure to exclude its equipment from next-generation telecom networks as a possible security risk.

"China is an important partner for us but also a competitor," Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a statement after a videoconference Friday with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi.

Peter Beyer, the government's coordinator for trans-Atlantic cooperation, expressed alarm in an interview with the RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland newspaper group.

"We are experiencing the beginning of a Cold War 2.0," Beyer said. He criticized both sides but said, "the



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 44 of 93

U.S. is our most important partner outside the EU, and that is how it will stay.”

## FRANCE:

President Emmanuel Macron calls President Donald Trump “my friend” but is trying to avoid riling Beijing. France has not echoed Trump’s criticism of Beijing’s handling of the coronavirus, but legislators applauded Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian last week when he condemned abuses of minority Uighurs in China’s northwest.

Le Drian mentioned “mass arrests, disappearances, forced labor, forced sterilizations, the destruction of Uighur cultural heritage.” He said France has asked that the camps be closed.

“All these practices are unacceptable,” the minister said. “We condemn them.”

Trump’s ambivalence toward U.S. allies and flouting of diplomatic norms has alarmed France.

“Sino-American tensions don’t benefit France,” said Valerie Niquet of the Foundation for Strategic Research, a think tank. “We share the same interests as the United States towards China, we adopt more or less the same positions, so it doesn’t bring us any positive element.”

## EUROPE:

Europe’s “strategic relations” with China will be an issue for the European Union while Germany holds the rotating presidency of the 27-nation bloc, Merkel said this month.

EU foreign ministers have not managed to agree on a common position on China.

Regarding Hong Kong, options include closer scrutiny of exports of sensitive technology to the territory and changing visa policies for its residents. But there is no talk of economic sanctions or targeting Chinese officials with penalties.

“The message is that the recent actions change the rules,” said the top EU foreign policy official, Josep Borrell. “This will require a revision of our approach and will clearly have an impact on our relations.”

## SOUTH KOREA:

South Korea is squeezed between its main military ally and its biggest trading partner.

In 2016, Beijing destroyed supermarket operator Lotte’s business in China after the conglomerate sold a plot of land in South Korea to the government for an anti-missile system over Chinese objections.

Washington is unhappy with South Korea’s desire to ease sanctions on North Korea to encourage disarmament and uneasy about its use of Huawei technology.

Trump complains about the cost of stationing 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea to protect against North Korean threats. A cost-sharing agreement expired in 2019 without a replacement.

The U.S.-Chinese row “has thrown a question to South Korea” about which side to choose, the newspaper Dong-A Ilbo said in an editorial Monday.

“Sooner or later we will be forced to provide an answer, no matter how hard we tried to avoid it,” the newspaper said.

## INDIA:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has tried to embrace both Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump, but the pandemic and a border clash that killed at least 20 Indian soldiers have fueled anti-Chinese sentiment.

Protesters have called for boycotts of Chinese goods and burned Chinese flags. They applauded the government’s ban on the popular Chinese video-sharing app TikTok and some other Chinese apps.

Washington wants stronger ties with India and supported its controversial move a year ago to split its only Muslim-majority state, restive Jammu and Kashmir, into two federally controlled territories. This month, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said the United States would stand up to China on the Indian border dispute.

“For India it is opportune that the U.S. is applying more pressure on China, and if it can get it to behave, that would be welcomed by the entire neighborhood,” said Jayadev Ranade, president of the Center for China Analysis think tank in New Delhi.

## AFRICA:

China-U.S. tensions are taking a toll: The African Development Bank said last year trade disruption due

to the tariff war could lead to a 2.5% drop in economic output for some African countries.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said political disputes should be set aside to better fight the coronavirus. "Let's not be sucked back into isolationism or unilateralism. We need each other today more than ever," Kenyatta said at an Atlantic Council event last month. "We're not going to fight coronavirus if one country fails and another succeeds."

#### SOUTHEAST ASIA:

The 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations has avoided taking steps that would alienate Washington or Beijing, both important trading partners.

"The great powers, as they escalate their rivalry, will woo us into their side," said Harry Roque, a spokesman for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. "We will advance our national interest."

The region's most sensitive conflict — over control of the South China Sea — escalated when the Trump administration publicly rejected most of Beijing's claims to one of the world's busiest waterways.

"We are making clear: Beijing's claims to offshore resources across most of the South China Sea are completely unlawful," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a July 13 statement.

The Philippines and Vietnam, among the most vocal critics of Chinese assertiveness, could benefit from that stance but will move cautiously, said Greg Poling of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"They aren't going to stick their necks in a noose until they see real follow-through from Washington," Poling said.

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Associated Press writers Geir Moulson and Frank Jordans in Berlin, Cara Anna in Johannesburg, Arno Pedram and John Leicester in Paris, Raf Casert in Brussels, Jim Gomez in Manila, Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, and Emily Schmall in New Delhi contributed to this report.

## Iran fires missile at mock aircraft carrier amid US tensions

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard fired a missile from a helicopter targeting a replica aircraft carrier in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state television reported on Tuesday, an exercise aimed at threatening the U.S. amid tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The drill, in a waterway through which 20% of all traded oil passes, underlines the lingering threat of military conflict between Iran and the U.S. after last summer saw a series of incidents targeting oil tankers in the region. In January, a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad and Tehran responded by firing ballistic missiles targeting American forces in Iraq.

While the coronavirus pandemic has engulfed both Iran and the U.S. for months, there have been increasing signs of a confrontation as America argues to extend a yearslong U.N. weapons embargo on Tehran that is due to expire in October. A recent incident over Syria involving an American jet fighter approaching an Iranian passenger plane also has renewed tensions.

Iranian commandos fast-roped down from a helicopter onto the replica in the footage aired Tuesday from the exercise called "Great Prophet 14." Other footage showed fast boats encircling the mock-up, kicking up white waves in their wake.

Iranian troops also fired anti-aircraft batteries at a drone target in the exercise from a location that state television described as being near the port city of Bandar Abbas. Troops also fired missiles launched from trucks on land and fast boats at sea, as well as shoulder-fired missiles.

The Guard will use "long-range ballistic missiles with the ability to hit far-reaching aggressor floating targets" during the drill, said Abbas Nilforoushan, the Guard's deputy commander for operations, according to Guard website [sepahnews.com](http://sepahnews.com). That suggests the drill could see a repeat of what happened in 2015, when the Guard mock-sunk a replica.

It wasn't immediately clear if all the footage was from Tuesday, as one overhead surveillance image that appeared to be shot by a drone bore Monday's date.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 46 of 93

"Our policies to protect the vital interests of the dear nation of Iran are defensive, in the sense that we will not invade any country from the beginning, but we are completely aggressive in tactics and operations," Gen. Hossein Salami, the head of the Guard, was quoted as saying. "What was shown today at this exercise at the level of aerospace and naval forces was all offensive."

State TV footage also showed Guard scuba forces underwater, followed by a cutaway to a blast hole just above the waterline on the replica carrier.

That appeared to be a not-so-subtle reminder of U.S. accusations last year that Iran planted limpet mines on passing oil tankers near the strait, which exploded on the vessels in the same area. Iran has repeatedly denied the actions, though footage captured by the American military showed Guard members remove an unexploded mine from one vessel.

The replica used in the drill resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the U.S. Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the waterway. The USS Nimitz, the namesake of the class, just entered Mideast waters late last week from the Indian Ocean, likely to replace the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Arabian Sea.

It remains unclear when or if the Nimitz will pass through the Strait of Hormuz or not during its time in the Mideast. The USS Abraham Lincoln, deployed last year as tensions initially spiked, spent months in the Arabian Sea before heading through the strait. The Eisenhower came through the strait early last week.

To Iran, which shares the strait with Oman, the American naval presence is akin to Iranian forces sailing into the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Florida. But the U.S. Navy stresses the strait is an international waterway crucial to global shipping and energy supplies. Even as America now relies less on Mideast oil, a major disruption in the region could see prices rapidly rise.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, a spokeswoman said on Monday the Navy remains "confident in our naval forces' ability to defend themselves against any maritime threat" after satellite photos showed the fake carrier being moved into place by a tugboat.

"We cannot speak to what Iran hopes to gain by building this mockup, or what tactical value they would hope to gain by using such a mock-up in a training or exercise scenario," Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich told The Associated Press then. "We do not seek conflict, but remain ready to defend U.S. forces and interests from maritime threats in the region."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press journalist Mohammad Nasiri in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

## Vietnam locks down its 3rd-largest city as virus cases grow

By HAU DINH Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam on Tuesday locked down its third-largest city for two weeks after 15 cases of COVID-19 were found in a hospital, the government said.

The new cases in the central city of Da Nang are the first confirmed to be locally transmitted in the country in over three months.

Public transport into and out of Da Nang was canceled. Over the weekend, thousands of mostly Vietnamese tourists cut short their summer holidays in the popular beach destination. The lockdown has dealt a hard blow to the city's tourism industry, which was just being revived after earlier coronavirus cases mostly subsided at the end of April.

Hotel guests quickly ended their stays and canceled upcoming trips upon the news of the first case, one hotelier said on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"Our hotel is now empty," the hotelier said. "But we had to help our guests leave the city when they still had the opportunity yesterday."

Da Nang beaches, which host some 50,000 people a day, are now closed. Only security personnel were seen on the beaches Tuesday as they patrolled to ensure no one was gathering.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 47 of 93

Authorities estimated several thousand people would be stranded by the transportation shutdown and asked hotels to shelter them.

"We did not want to rush to the airport to leave the city because of the risk of being in a crowded place. So we are now stuck here," said Lien Nguyen, who is traveling with her family of four for their summer vacation.

"But it is not a bad place to get stranded for two weeks," she said.

On Sunday, the government ordered unessential business to close and required people to practice social distancing in the city of 1.1 million people.

All 15 cases in the new outbreak are patients and health workers at Da Nang hospital.

With the new infections, Vietnam has reported 431 cases of COVID-19 without a death.

It had recorded no local transmissions of the virus since April, with all new cases coming from overseas. Vietnam on Tuesday dispatched an aircraft to Equatorial Guinea to repatriate 129 workers who have COVID-19, the health ministry said.

## Mayors want US agents blocked from Portland, other cities

By ANDREW SELSKY and ARON RANEN Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The mayors of Portland, Oregon, and five other major U.S. cities appealed Monday to Congress to make it illegal for the federal government to deploy militarized agents to cities that don't want them.

"This administration's egregious use of federal force on cities over the objections of local authorities should never happen," the mayors of Portland; Seattle; Chicago; Kansas City; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Washington wrote to leaders of the U.S. House and Senate.

Video from early Tuesday showed law enforcement officers filling a street with gas to disperse protesters. Several loud booms could be heard.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty late called for a meeting with Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf to discuss a cease-fire and removal of heightened federal forces from Portland.

Earlier in the day, a U.S. official said militarized officers would remain in Portland until attacks on a federal courthouse cease — and more officers may soon be on the way.

"It is not a solution to tell federal officers to leave when there continues to be attacks on federal property and personnel," U.S. Attorney Billy Williams said. "We are not leaving the building unprotected to be destroyed by people intent on doing so."

Local and state officials said the federal officers are unwelcome.

The city has had nightly protests for two months since the police killing of George Floyd 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.

Trump's deployment of the federal officers over the July 4 weekend stoked the Black Lives Matter movement. The number of nightly protesters had dwindled to perhaps less than 100 right before the deployment, and now has swelled to the thousands.

Early Monday, U.S. agents repeatedly fired tear gas, flash bangs and pepper balls at protesters outside the federal courthouse in downtown Portland. Some protesters had climbed over the fence surrounding the courthouse, while others shot fireworks, banged on the fence and projected lights on the building.

Trump said on Twitter that federal properties in Portland "wouldn't last a day" without the presence of the federal agents.

The majority of people participating in the daily demonstrations have been peaceful. But a few have been pelting officers with objects and trying to tear down fencing protecting the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse.

Williams, whose office is inside the courthouse, called on peaceful protesters, community and business leaders and people of faith to not allow violence to occur in their presence and to leave downtown before

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 48 of 93

violence starts. He said federal agents have made 83 arrests.

Demonstrations in support of racial justice and police reform in other cities around the U.S. were marred by violence over the weekend. Protesters set fire to an Oakland, California, courthouse; vehicles were set ablaze in Richmond, Virginia; an armed protester was shot and killed in Austin, Texas; and two people were shot and wounded in Aurora, Colorado, after a car drove through a protest.

The U.S. Marshals Service has lined up about 100 people they could send to hotspots, either to strengthen forces or relieve officers who have been working for weeks, agency spokesperson Drew Wade said.

Kris Cline, principal deputy director of Federal Protective Service, said an incident commander in Portland and teams from the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice discuss what force is needed every night.

Cline refused to discuss the number of officers currently present or if more would be arriving.

Some protesters have accused Wheeler of hypocrisy for speaking out against the federal presence because, under his watch, Portland police have used tear gas and other riot-control weapons on protesters, including peaceful ones.

Cline said Portland police should take over the job of dispersing protesters from the courthouse area from the federal officers.

"If the Portland Police Bureau were able to do what they typically do, they would be able to clear this out for this disturbance and we would leave our officers inside the building and not be visible," Cline said.

He said relations between the federal officers, some of whom live in Portland, and city police were good.

Portland police responded Sunday evening to a shooting at a park close to the site of the protests. Two people were detained and later released, police said. The person who was shot went to the hospital in a private vehicle and was treated for a non-life-threatening wound.

Also late Sunday, police said someone pointed out a bag in the same park, where officers found loaded rifle magazines and Molotov cocktails. The shooting was not related to the items, police said.

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Associated Press writer Mike Balsamo contributed to this report from Washington. Selsky reported from Salem, Oregon.

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

## 5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. VIRUS-LINKED HUNGER TIED TO CHILD DEATHS The U.N. says coronavirus-linked hunger is leading to the deaths of 10,000 children a month because of fears of contamination and movement restrictions, AP finds.

2. 'THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE' The biggest test yet of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine gets underway with the first of some 30,000 Americans volunteering to receive shots created by the U.S. government.

3. US-CHINA SPATS RATTLE GLOBE The tension between Washington and Beijing prompted a German official to warn of "Cold War 2.0" and Kenya's president to appeal for unity to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

4. TRUMP RANKLES GOP OVER MAIL VOTING The president's campaign against voting by mail is setting his party back in swing states in the race to sign its voters up for the easiest and safest way to cast a ballot during the pandemic.

5. WHO'S FAVORED FOR EMMY NODS "The Morning Show" and "Ramy" are among the series vying for TV's top honors, as the Emmy Awards become the first major entertainment awards to cope with limitations forced by the pandemic.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 49 of 93

## Civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis lies in state at Capitol

By BILL BARROW and ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a solemn display of bipartisan unity, congressional leaders praised Democratic Rep. John Lewis as a moral force for the nation in a Capitol Rotunda memorial service rich with symbolism and punctuated by the booming, recorded voice of the late civil rights icon.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Lewis the “conscience of the Congress” who was “revered and beloved on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Capitol.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised the longtime Georgia congressman as a model of courage and a “peacemaker.”

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” McConnell, a Republican, said Monday, quoting the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. “But that is never automatic. History only bent toward what’s right because people like John paid the price.”

Lewis died July 17 at the age of 80. Born to sharecroppers during Jim Crow segregation, he was beaten by Alabama state troopers during the civil rights movement, spoke ahead of King’s “I Have a Dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington and was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the nation’s first Black president in 2011.

Dozens of lawmakers looked on Monday as Lewis’ flag-draped casket sat atop the catafalque built for President Abraham Lincoln. Several wiped away tears as the late congressman’s voice echoed off the marble and gilded walls. Lewis was the first Black lawmaker to lie in state in the Rotunda.

“You must find a way to get in the way. You must find a way to get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble,” Lewis intoned in a recorded commencement address he’d delivered in his hometown of Atlanta. “Use what you have ... to help make our country and make our world a better place, where no one will be left out or left behind. ... It is your time.”

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus wore masks with the message “Good Trouble,” a nod to Lewis’ signature advice and the COVID-19 pandemic that has made for unusual funeral arrangements.

The ceremony was the latest in a series of public remembrances. Pelosi, who counted Lewis as a close friend, met his casket earlier Monday at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, and Lewis’s motorcade stopped at Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House as it wound through Washington before arriving at the Capitol.

The Democratic speaker noted Lewis, frail with cancer, had come to the newly painted plaza weeks ago to stand “in solidarity” amid nationwide protests against systemic racism and police brutality. She called the image of Lewis “an iconic picture of justice” and juxtaposed it with another image that seared Lewis into the national memory. In that frame, “an iconic picture of injustice,” Pelosi said, Lewis is collapsed and bleeding near the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965, when white state troopers beat him and other Black Americans as they demanded voting rights.

Following the Rotunda service, Lewis’ body was moved to the steps on the Capitol’s east side in public view, an unusual sequence required because the pandemic has closed the Capitol to visitors.

Late into the night, a long line of visitors formed outside the Capitol as members of the public quietly, and with appropriate socially distant spacing, came to pay their respects to Lewis.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden paid his respects Monday afternoon. The pair became friends over their two decades on Capitol Hill together and Biden’s two terms as vice president to President Barack Obama, who awarded Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Notably absent from the ceremonies was President Donald Trump. Lewis once called Trump an illegitimate president and chided him for stoking racial discord. Trump countered by blasting Lewis’ Atlanta district as “crime-infested.” Trump said Monday that he would not go to the Capitol, but Vice President Mike Pence and his wife paid their respects.

Just ahead of the ceremonies, the House passed a bill to establish a new federal commission to study conditions that affect Black men and boys.

Born near Troy, Alabama, Lewis was among the original Freedom Riders, young activists who boarded commercial passenger buses and traveled through the segregated Jim Crow South in the early 1960s. They



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 50 of 93

were assaulted at many stops, by citizens and authorities alike. Lewis was the youngest and last-living of those who spoke on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington.

The Bloody Sunday events in Selma two years later forged much of Lewis' public identity. He was at the head of hundreds of civil rights protesters who attempted to march from the Black Belt city to the Alabama Capitol in Montgomery.

The marchers completed the journey weeks later under the protection of federal authorities, but then-Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, an outspoken segregationist at the time, refused to meet the marchers when they arrived at the Capitol. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on Aug. 6 of that year.

Lewis spoke of those critical months for the rest of his life as he championed voting rights as the foundation of democracy, and he returned to Selma many times for commemorations at the site where authorities had brutalized him and others. "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred," he said again and again. "It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy."

The Supreme Court scaled back the seminal voting law in 2012; an overhauled version remains bottlenecked on Capitol Hill, with Democrats pushing a draft that McConnell and most of his fellow Republicans oppose. The new version would carry Lewis' name.

Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge for the last time Sunday on a horse-drawn carriage before an automobile hearse transported him to the Alabama Capitol, where he lay in repose. He was escorted by Alabama state troopers, this time with Black officers in their ranks, and his casket stood down the hall from the office where Wallace had peered out of his window at the citizens he refused to meet.

After the memorial in Washington, Lewis's body will return to Georgia. He will have a private funeral Thursday at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, which King once led.

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Barrow reported from Birmingham, Ala. Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

## Civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis lies in state at Capitol

By BILL BARROW and ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a solemn display of bipartisan unity, congressional leaders praised Democratic Rep. John Lewis as a moral force for the nation in a Capitol Rotunda memorial service rich with symbolism and punctuated by the booming, recorded voice of the late civil rights icon.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Lewis the "conscience of the Congress" who was "revered and beloved on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Capitol." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised the longtime Georgia congressman as a model of courage and a "peacemaker."

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," McConnell, a Republican, said Monday, quoting the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "But that is never automatic. History only bent toward what's right because people like John paid the price."

Lewis died July 17 at the age of 80. Born to sharecroppers during Jim Crow segregation, he was beaten by Alabama state troopers during the civil rights movement, spoke ahead of King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington and was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the nation's first Black president in 2011.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 51 of 93

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perville in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Virus vanguard: Cape Town learned painful lessons early on**

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — When Cape Town emerged as Africa's first coronavirus hot spot, Dr. Abu Mowlana was surprised by the fear that broke out among his colleagues.

Morale was crashing among doctors and nurses at Tygerberg Hospital even as infections surged in May and June, recalled Mowlana, one of the senior doctors leading the COVID-19 response there. The staff at the city's largest hospital soon was fighting two battles: one against their own fear and another against the new disease that was killing their patients.

"It's scary for the public but it's scary for all of us," he said. "Everybody is scared. The critical-care physician. The guy in the wards. The guy cleaning. Everybody."

By the end of June, when the virus was reaching its peak in Cape Town and the surrounding Western Cape province, the area had 62,481 of South Africa's 151,209 total cases, more than 40 percent, according to government figures. And 1,859 of South Africa's 2,657 total deaths at the time from COVID-19 were in the province.

Now, as the situation begins to ease in the continent's southernmost tip and the focus shifts to South Africa's most densely populated province, the doctors in Cape Town hope their experience can serve as a blueprint for the rest of their country, as well as Africa's 1.3 billion people.

Gauteng province, home to Johannesburg, is now Africa's worst-affected region. It officially overtook the Western Cape for total virus cases on July 8, and in just three weeks its caseload has more than doubled to over 160,000 of the country's 450,000 confirmed infections.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said last week that local transmission has begun in many countries, and once it is seeded in vulnerable communities such as slums, it "spreads like wildfire, which is what we're seeing in South Africa now."

For Tygerberg and other hospitals in Cape Town, however, there is a decrease in admissions for the first time in four months, and Mowlana has entertained a thought: "It's felt like, yes, we have got this under control."

That was not the case earlier this year, when sun-seeking tourists from Europe and North America brought the virus to Cape Town.

Mowlana distinctly remembers two of the first ICU patients in March were an Uber driver who had ferried tourists to and from the airport and a receptionist at a private hospital where out-of-towners were treated.

The most important lessons he and other doctors learned came through tragedy: The first six COVID-19 patients they put on ventilators died.

"It was tough," Mowlana said. "People were dying. We didn't know what to do. So we tried something else. If A didn't work, we tried B."

Fewer than 30% of COVID-19 patients put on a ventilator at Tygerberg survived, he said.

Those early experiences were similar to what was happening in Italy, Spain and New York, where ventilators were thought to be the key to saving lives.

They later learned, through trial and error, as did doctors elsewhere, that high-flow oxygen given early through noninvasive masks and nasal tubes produced much better results.

Once they had high-flow oxygen, only four out of every 10 seriously ill patients went on ventilators.

In the meantime, workers at the hospital also were getting sick — 600 staff members contracted COVID-19 and four of them died.

Through July 15, the hospital treated 1,099 patients with the virus, and 310 died, Mowlana said.

It was a heavy burden for everyone who worked at Tygerberg, and there was no time to prepare the staff properly in terms of counseling, Mowlana said, calling it their biggest non-clinical mistake.

Tygerberg was near the breaking point with 30-40 seriously ill COVID-19 patients coming in every day at the start of July. Hospital officials feared they would be "overrun," Mowlana said. The turnaround started,



he said, when staff members who had been quarantined after falling sick were mentally ready to come back to work.

"Look after your staff," Mowlana advised hospital administrators in places where the virus has yet to hit. For another Cape Town doctor, learning lessons early was critical in saving lives.

A field hospital was opened in June in Khayelitsha, a poor township of nearly a half-million people on the city's neglected outskirts. The residents are among South Africa's most vulnerable — the poor, the elderly and those with preexisting health conditions

Dr. Celeste Jonker was the clinical manager of the facility, where a total of three doctors and eight nurses worked in around-the-clock shifts to care for as many as 55 patients at a time at the height of the outbreak. They kept going even when a storm ripped off part of the roof.

They had already learned about using oxygen, even with the less-technical breathing machines they had, as well as how blood-thinning drugs would reduce complications, Jonker said.

They also learned that turning patients onto their stomachs made a difference, even if the procedure was difficult with their limited staffing because it took several workers to safely turn a patient struggling to breathe, she said.

"We were able to pick up that this worked, this worked, this worked," Jonker said.

Their motto was simple, she said: "Let's put it all together in combination and pull our patients through." Although 28 people died in the field hospital, at least 138 survived the virus under her watch.

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

## Can you get the coronavirus twice?

The Associated Press undefined

Can you get the coronavirus twice?

Scientists don't know for sure yet, but they believe it's unlikely.

Health experts think people who had COVID-19 will have some immunity against a repeat infection. But they don't know how much protection or how long it would last.

There have been reports of people testing positive for the virus weeks after they were believed to have recovered, leading some to think they may have been reinfected. More likely, experts say people were suffering from the same illness or the tests detected remnants of the original infection. There's also the chance tests could have been false positives.

Scientists say there has been no documented instance of a patient spreading the virus to others after retesting positive.

With similar viruses, studies have shown that people could fall sick again three months to a year after their first infections. It's still too early to know whether that's also possible with the coronavirus.

"It's very much emerging science," said Dr. Philip Landrigan, director of the global public health program at Boston College.

A small U.S. study published last week also found the antibodies that fight the coronavirus may only last a few months in people with mild illness, suggesting people could become susceptible again. But antibodies aren't the only defense against a virus, and the other parts of the immune system could also help provide protection.

Settling the question of whether reinfection is possible is important. If it can occur, that could undermine the idea of "immunity passports" for returning back to workplaces. And it would not bode well for hopes of getting a long-lasting vaccine.

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

Read previous Viral Questions:

Why are coins hard to find during the pandemic?  
Is it safe to go to the gym during the coronavirus pandemic?  
Can a pregnant woman spread the coronavirus to her fetus?

## Head of China CDC gets injected with experimental vaccine

By DAKE KANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention says he has been injected with an experimental coronavirus vaccine in an attempt to persuade the public to follow suit when one is approved.

"I'm going to reveal something undercover: I am injected with one of the vaccines," Gao Fu said in a webinar Sunday hosted by Alibaba Health, an arm of the Chinese e-commerce giant, and Cell Press, an American publisher of scientific journals. "I hope it will work."

The Associated Press reported earlier this month that a state-owned Chinese company injected employees with experimental shots in March, even before the government-approved testing in people — a move that raised ethical concerns among some experts.

Gao did not say when or how he took the vaccine candidate, leaving it unclear whether he was injected as part of a government-approved human trial. He did not respond to requests for comment.

The claim underscores the enormous stakes as China competes with U.S. and British companies to be the first with a vaccine to help end the pandemic — a feat that would be both a scientific and political triumph.

China has positioned itself to be a strong contender. Eight of the nearly two dozen potential vaccines in various stages of human testing worldwide are from China, the most of any country.

Gao declined to say which of the vaccines he was injected with, saying he didn't want to be seen as "doing some kind of propaganda" for a particular company.

Last month, Gao was a coauthor on a paper introducing one candidate, an "inactivated" vaccine made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it. That candidate is being developed by an affiliate of state-owned SinoPharm.

The company previously said in an online post that 30 employees, including top executives, helped "pre-test" its vaccine in March, before it was approved for its initial human study. Scientists vehemently debate such self-experimentation, because what happens to one or a few people outside a well-designed study is not usable evidence of safety or effectiveness.

Chinese state media have also reported that employees of state-owned companies going abroad are being offered injections of the vaccine.

Gao said he took the injection to instill public confidence in vaccines, especially amid a tide of rising mistrust that has fueled conspiracy theories and attacks on scientists.

"Everybody has suspicions about the new coronavirus vaccine," Gao said. "As a scientist, you've got to be brave. ... If even we didn't do it, how can we persuade the whole world — all the people, the public — to be vaccinated?"

Andrew Rennekamp, an editor at Cell and one of the moderators of Gao's webinar, said, "This is a brave thing to do, and it shows his faith in what he believes is the safety of the vaccine and his commitment to the science and to public health."

Even as China is among the leaders in the global race for a vaccine, it is also striving to overcome years of drug scandals — the latest coming in 2018 when authorities recalled a rabies vaccine and later announced that batches of children's DPT vaccines, for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, were ineffective.

Gao himself had also been under heavy scrutiny for the China CDC's initial handling of the coronavirus outbreak, both at home and abroad. He largely vanished from public view for months, resurfacing again in an interview with state media in late April.

Recently, Gao has been involved in research on the coronavirus.

As vaccine research continues, China's CDC is now looking into potential immunization programs, trying to figure out whether to prioritize children, the elderly or healthcare workers, he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 55 of 93

Gao's revelations come at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions fueled by the outbreak. Beijing's delays in warning the public and releasing data at the beginning of the outbreak contributed significantly to the coronavirus's spread, while President Donald Trump and other American politicians have made unsubstantiated claims that the virus escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan, the central Chinese city where it was first detected.

Tensions have flared to the point where it's now disrupting research, leading to frustration among scientists who work with Chinese collaborators. The Trump administration has moved to withdraw the U.S. from the World Health Organization, and has cut funding to research initiatives studying coronaviruses in China.

Gao said repeatedly in his lecture that he wanted more cooperation between the U.S. and China, pleading for unity even as relations between Beijing and Washington plummet to new lows.

"We don't want to have China and the U.S. separated scientifically," Gao said. "We've got to work together."

## Virus exacts a heavy toll in Queens neighborhood of Corona

By CLAUDIA TORRENS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Damiana Reyes is back at work at a busy Manhattan hair salon, making highlights, blowouts and extensions. But her mind often drifts to her father, with whom she lived in Queens, before he succumbed to the coronavirus at age 76.

"All my clients ask about him and then, when I return home, people ask me in the street where he is. It's a constant reminder that he is not around anymore," said Reyes, who thinks her father got sick while playing dominoes at a day care center for elders.

The pandemic has changed Reyes' life and those of many in Corona, a Latino neighborhood in Queens that was among the hardest hit places in the world.

Even though tropical music emerges from recently reopened stores and some people sit outside at restaurants offering sidewalk dining, the lingering effects of COVID-19 are noticeable. Hunger and joblessness are rising. Survivors are still grieving lost loved ones.

Lines for free food stretch everyday for two blocks on 39th Avenue, filled mostly with Latino men who lost jobs in restaurant kitchens, in construction or doing domestic work when the city shut down in March.

Shutters are down on businesses that have closed permanently. Many people haven't paid rent in weeks, said Pedro Rodríguez, executive director of La Jornada, a food pantry.

"We have gone from 20 to 30 new clients a week to thousands in the last three months," said Rodríguez, whose pantry is based in Flushing but recently started to also deliver food once a week from the Queens Museum, in Corona, to serve between 700 and 1,000 families.

"The calls we have gotten over the last month, requesting food, come from Corona," he said. "Before the pandemic, we used to see many elderly people. Now, we see young families in their 20s, in their 30s. It's dramatic."

It is pure coincidence that the neighborhood, where more than 440 people have died, shares its name with the coronavirus. But it's no coincidence that the virus picked Corona and other neighborhoods like it in the city to reap victims.

City data shows that poor immigrants and Black New Yorkers were hit harder than wealthy, white sections of the city. Health officials have attributed that partly to the virus spreading easier in cramped apartments among laborers who can't telecommute to work.

Corona has the city's highest percentage of foreign born residents (60%) and North Corona sits in Queens Community District 3, which has the largest percentage of unauthorized immigrants in the city, according to census data. That's why many here work informal jobs, don't have health insurance and can't apply for federal relief.

Every day, immigrants from Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala and Colombia start lining up around noon to get food distributed by the nonprofit Alianza Ecuatoriana Internacional.

Eduardo Macancela, a 60-year-old Ecuadorean immigrant, is one of the first in line.

"I have sold everything I had, any jewelry, everything," said Macancela, who worked at a Forrest Hills



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 56 of 93

shoe store for more than 20 years. The store has shut down, leaving him without a job. He hasn't paid rent in weeks but he says his landlord is starting to pressure him.

"Who is going to hire me at 60?" he said. "I want to go back to Ecuador. I have three children there."

On a hot July day, families with strollers walked around in Corona, stopping in front of a taco or tamales truck. Stores displayed little statues of the Virgen de Guadalupe next to face masks and hand sanitizer. Others, called Botánicas, had signs promising effective love spells. And some, like the sign outside Ecuadorean restaurant Vasija de Barro, on Roosevelt Avenue, announced its permanent closure "due to the coronavirus."

The unemployment rate for foreign-born Latinos has jumped from 4.4% in February to 13.5% in June, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

In New York, the city partnered with the Open Society Foundations to offer a total of \$20 million in payments to immigrant workers regardless of their immigration status.

Non-profits distributed the funds. However, Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz, who represents Corona and the adjacent neighborhoods of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, said the rollout was "horrific" and help arrived late.

Cruz said the pandemic exacerbated existing problems in Corona and that many residents had preexisting health conditions they couldn't fully take care of due to lack of access to health care.

"This is a community that had already suffered years of neglect by government officials," she said. "This is a community in which people depended on daily labor so if you don't work you don't eat and you don't pay rent and often the rents had become so exorbitantly high that you had two, three families living in one very close-up space."

New York Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Bitta Mostofi, called the \$20 million in city help an important effort that gives "some measure of relief" to families who were left out of federal support. Still, Mostofi said the money is not enough: It helps over 20,000 families, but the city has more than 300,000 workers who are immigrants with no legal status.

"We really believed and continue to (believe) that the state and federal government needed to take much bigger and greater action to address this gap," she said.

In the meantime, Reyes, the Dominican hair stylist, plans to pick up her father's ashes soon. She's thinking about moving to another neighborhood, she said.

Not only to be closer to work, but also to be somewhere that doesn't remind her constantly of his death.

## Officer challenges account of violent clearing of protesters

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

The U.S. Park Police and Secret Service violently routed protesters from Lafayette Square last month without apparent provocation or adequate warning, immediately after Attorney General William Barr spoke with Park Police leaders, according to an Army National Guard officer who was there.

The account of National Guard Maj. Adam DeMarco challenges the Trump administration's explanation that vicious attacks by protesters led federal forces to turn on what appeared to be a largely peaceful crowd June 1 in the square in front of the White House. Law enforcement and security officers that night clubbed and punched protesters and unleashed mounted officers and chemical agents against them in one of the most controversial confrontations at the height of this year's nationwide protests over the killing of Black people at the hands of police.

The forceful clearing of Lafayette Square, long one of the nation's most prominent venues for demonstrations, came minutes before President Donald Trump appeared in the area without notice, on his way to stage a photo event in front of a historic church nearby.

DeMarco's account was in prepared testimony for his appearance Tuesday before the House Natural Resources Committee, which is investigating the use of force — and who directed it — against crowds in the square that night. The National Guard officer is expected to invoke the Military Whistleblower Protection Act, which in part says that no one can block a member of the armed forces from lawful communications

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 57 of 93

with Congress.

Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat, said Monday that from DeMarco's written testimony, "it's pretty obvious that at the highest levels the calls were being made," although the testimony does not give any explicit details of anyone giving orders. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday.

Acting Park Police Chief Gregory T. Monahan defended the law enforcement response in his prepared testimony. Repeating earlier statements, he said that in the days before the forceful clearing of Lafayette Square, protesters had hurled bricks, rocks and other items at officers, injuring at least 50 officers.

Monahan did not address whether protesters in Lafayette Square launched any attacks against law enforcement immediately before the action on June 1.

Videos and the accounts of journalists and protesters who were present that night depict the crowd as largely peaceful before the rout. Democratic lawmakers have challenged the administration to provide evidence of any crowd violence warranting the sudden use of brute force to drive out protesters.

"On the whole, the United States Park Police acted with tremendous restraint in the face of severe violence from a large group of bad actors who caused 50 of my officers to seek medical attention," Monahan writes. "Our actions as an agency on June 1 centered around public safety and the safety of my officers.

Monahan and the Trump administration also cite plans to build a fence to block protesters from the square as another factor leading authorities to clear the area.

The administration has previously denied that law enforcement and security forces cleared the square to make way for Trump's appearance before news cameras. Trump thrust a Bible in the air in front of St. John's Church in a show of authority against protesters, blamed for starting a small fire in a basement at the church on a previous day.

DeMarco says the rout started shortly after Barr and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared in the square, where Barr appeared to confer with Park Police leaders, he says.

"From what I could observe, the demonstrators were behaving peacefully," when Park Police, the Secret Service and other, unidentified forces turned on the crowd, DeMarco wrote in his testimony.

The legally required warnings to demonstrators before clearing the square shortly after were "barely audible" from his position 20 yards (18 meters) away, DeMarco said. Protesters were gathered still farther away, and gave no sign of hearing the warnings, he said.

Park Police and other officers then began suddenly routing the crowd without warning to National Guard forces present, DeMarco said.

A Park Police liaison officer told DeMarco that his forces were only using "stage smoke," not tear gas, against the crowd. DeMarco said the stinging to his nose and eyes appeared to be tear gas, however, and said he found spent tear gas canisters in the street later that evening.

The Park Police, a force of a few hundred officers nationwide, oversees a handful of the nation's most iconic federal lands and monuments.

Grijalva said lawmakers had also asked for recordings of the law enforcement and security forces' radio traffic that night. They were told by the administration that a "technological glitch" prevented the recordings, he said.

DeMarco says he was the appointed liaison at the event for the Interior Department's Park Police and the National Guard and was standing near a statue of Andrew Jackson, as Barr and other senior officials involved congregated.

DeMarco describes a quick conversation with Milley, the Pentagon's top general, at the time in the square that DeMarco says gave no warning of the imminent push by the Park Police, the Secret Service and others against demonstrators.

"As the senior National Guard officer on the scene at the time, I gave General Milley a quick briefing on our mission and the current situation," DeMarco writes. "General Milley told me to ensure that National Guard personnel remained calm, adding that we were there to respect the demonstrators' First Amendment rights."

Shortly after Park Police and others forced out fleeing protesters, Milley walked in military fatigues along-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 58 of 93

side Trump as the Republican president strolled to nearby St. John's Church.

Milley subsequently apologized for taking part, after heavy public criticism. Milley said he "should not have been there" and his involvement "created the perception of the military involved in domestic politics."

DeMarco previously served in the U.S. Army, including a combat assignment in Iraq. A candidate matching his name and description ran for Congress for Maryland in 2018 and lost in the Democratic primary.

## Fresh comedy faces, 'Modern Family' farewell seek Emmy nods

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Morning Show" and "Ramy" are among the series vying for Emmy nominations as TV's top honors strive to keep Hollywood's awards tradition going despite the pandemic.

The 72nd prime-time Emmys are the first major entertainment honors to unfold amid the coronavirus' disruption, and Tuesday's virtual announcement makes clear how much improvising is required.

The nominations, typically unveiled with fanfare at the TV academy's Los Angeles headquarters, will be announced online Tuesday by host Leslie Jones ("Saturday Night Live") and presenters Laverne Cox ("Orange is the New Black"), Josh Gad ("Frozen") and Tatiana Maslany ("Orphan Black").

Last year's best series winners "Game of Thrones" and "Fleabag" called it a wrap, clearing the path for others to prevail. With the downtime forced on academy TV voters by the virus, the field could include underdogs that benefited from more attention.

Something else to look for: Whether recent social justice tumult affects the Emmys' up-and-down record of ethnic and gender inclusivity in nominations and awards.

On the drama side, "The Morning Show" is aiming for best series and actress bids for Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon. It's the flagship entry from Apple TV+, one of the new kids on the increasingly competitive streaming block.

"The Handmaid's Tale," which took the best drama trophy in 2017, is vying for its third nomination in the category. "Big Little Lies," last year's winner for best limited series, is hunting for a drama series nod for its second season.

Among the previously nominated drama contenders asking for more: "Succession"; "Better Call Saul"; "The Crown"; "Ozark"; "Stranger Things"; "Westworld"; "This Is Us"; "Pose," and the eighth and final season of past winner "Homeland."

The comedy categories hold the promise of fresh faces, including the Muslim American series "Ramy." Its star and co-creator, Ramy Youssef, earned a Golden Globe in January for his performance.

Others seeking their first top comedy nod include the female-led comedies "Insecure"; "Dead to Me"; "Better Things" and "The Great," with past winner "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" also in the running.

Previous nominees "Schitt's Creek," "The Good Place" and "Silicon Valley" are pursuing recognition for their farewell seasons, as is "Modern Family" — which aired for 11 seasons and has five wins to date in the category, a record it shares with "Frasier."

The Emmy Awards, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, will be presented Sept. 20 on ABC.

Online: <http://www.emmys.com>

## Civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis lies in state at Capitol

By BILL BARROW and ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a solemn display of bipartisan unity, congressional leaders praised Democratic Rep. John Lewis as a moral force for the nation on Monday in a Capitol Rotunda memorial service rich with symbolism and punctuated by the booming, recorded voice of the late civil rights icon.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Lewis the "conscience of the Congress" who was "revered and beloved on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Capitol." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised the longtime Georgia congressman as a model of courage and a "peacemaker."

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," McConnell, a Republican, said, quot-



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 59 of 93

ing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "But that is never automatic. History only bent toward what's right because people like John paid the price."

Lewis died July 17 at the age of 80. Born to sharecroppers during Jim Crow segregation, he was beaten by Alabama state troopers during the civil rights movement, spoke ahead of King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington and was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the nation's first Black president in 2011.

Dozens of lawmakers looked on Monday as Lewis' flag-draped casket sat atop the catafalque built for President Abraham Lincoln. Several wiped away tears as the late congressman's voice echoed off the marble and gilded walls. Lewis was the first Black lawmaker to lie in state in the Rotunda.

"You must find a way to get in the way. You must find a way to get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble," Lewis intoned in a recorded commencement address he'd delivered in his hometown of Atlanta. "Use what you have ... to help make our country and make our world a better place, where no one will be left out or left behind. ... It is your time."

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus wore masks with the message "Good Trouble," a nod to Lewis' signature advice and the COVID-19 pandemic that has made for unusual funeral arrangements.

The ceremony was the latest in a series of public remembrances. Pelosi, who counted Lewis as a close friend, met his casket earlier Monday at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, and Lewis' motorcade stopped at Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House as it wound through Washington before arriving at the Capitol.

The Democratic speaker noted that Lewis, frail with cancer, had come to the newly painted plaza weeks ago to stand "in solidarity" amid nationwide protests against systemic racism and police brutality. She called the image of Lewis "an iconic picture of justice" and juxtaposed it with another image that seared Lewis into the national memory. In that frame, "an iconic picture of injustice," Pelosi said, Lewis is collapsed and bleeding near the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965, when state troopers beat him and other Black Americans as they demanded voting rights.

Following the Rotunda service, Lewis' body was moved to the steps on the Capitol's east side in public view, an unusual sequence required because the pandemic has closed the Capitol to visitors.

Late into the night, a long line of visitors formed outside the Capitol as members of the public quietly, and with appropriate socially distant spacing, came to pay their respects to Lewis.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden paid his respects late Monday afternoon. The pair became friends over their two decades on Capitol Hill together and Biden's two terms as vice president to President Barack Obama, who awarded Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

Notably absent from the ceremonies was President Donald Trump. Lewis once called Trump an illegitimate president and chided him for stoking racial discord. Trump countered by blasting Lewis' Atlanta district as "crime-infested." Trump said Monday that he would not go to the Capitol, but Vice President Mike Pence and his wife paid their respects.

Just ahead of the ceremonies, the House passed a bill to establish a new federal commission to study conditions that affect Black men and boys.

Born near Troy, Alabama, Lewis was among the original Freedom Riders, young activists who boarded commercial passenger buses and traveled through the segregated Jim Crow South in the early 1960s. They were assaulted and battered at many stops, by citizens and authorities alike. Lewis was the youngest and last-living of those who spoke on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington.

The Bloody Sunday events in Selma two years later forged much of Lewis' public identity. He was at the head of hundreds of civil rights protesters who attempted to march from the Black Belt city to the Alabama Capitol in Montgomery.

The marchers completed the journey weeks later under the protection of federal authorities, but then-Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, an outspoken segregationist at the time, refused to meet the marchers when they arrived at the Capitol. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 on Aug. 6 of that year.

Lewis spoke of those critical months for the rest of his life as he championed voting rights as the foundation of democracy, and he returned to Selma many times for commemorations at the site where authorities had brutalized him and others. "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred," he said again and again. "It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy."

The Supreme Court scaled back the seminal voting law in 2012; an overhauled version remains bottlenecked on Capitol Hill, with Democrats pushing a draft that McConnell and most of his fellow Republicans oppose. The new version would carry Lewis' name.

Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge for the last time Sunday on a horse-drawn carriage before an automobile hearse transported him to the Alabama Capitol, where he lay in repose. He was escorted by Alabama state troopers, this time with Black officers in their ranks, and his casket stood down the hall from the office where Wallace had peered out of his window at the citizens he refused to meet.

After the memorial in Washington, Lewis's body will return to Georgia. He will have a private funeral Thursday at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, which King once led.

Barrow reported from Birmingham, Ala. Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Darlene Superville contributed to this report from Washington.

## US won't expel migrant children detained in Texas hotel

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The Trump administration has agreed not to expel a group of immigrant children it detained in a Texas hotel under an emergency declaration citing the coronavirus and will instead allow them to seek to remain in the U.S., the administration said Monday.

The move comes days after The Associated Press first reported on the U.S. government's secretive practice of detaining unaccompanied children in hotels before rapidly deporting them during the virus pandemic. Government data obtained by AP showed the U.S. had detained children nearly 200 times over two months in three Hampton Inn & Suites hotels in Arizona and two Texas border cities.

But the Trump administration has not said it will stop using hotels to detain children. The legal groups that sued Friday night said they still plan to fight the larger practice in court.

Their agreement only covers 17 people known to have been detained as of Thursday at the Hampton Inn in McAllen. After the hotel's owner said Friday it would end reservations of rooms used for child detention, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed the children from the hotel but refused to say where it had taken them.

Now, immigration authorities will transfer the children to shelters operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where they will have access to lawyers and should eventually be placed with family sponsors as they pursue asylum cases or other immigration relief to try to remain in the country. The legal groups withdrew their request Sunday for a temporary restraining order.

"The children in this hotel averted disaster only because we happened to hear about them before they were deported, yet hundreds if not thousands of other children are being sent back to harm in secret," said Lee Gelernt, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union. "The government must stop expelling children in secret without giving them asylum hearings."

Federal anti-trafficking laws and a two-decade-old court settlement that governs the treatment of migrant children normally require that most children be sent to shelters operated by HHS. The shelters are licensed by the states where they're located and generally have bedrooms, recreation areas, and schooling.

Instead, more than 2,000 children have been expelled since March, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a declaration allowing immigration agencies to effectively shut down the asylum process out of concern about the spread of COVID-19.

The AP found that contractors paid by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement have held children as young as 1 in Hampton Inns. ICE called the contractors from MVM Inc. "transportation specialists" and refused to confirm whether they had passed FBI background checks or had backgrounds in child care.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 61 of 93

Instead, it said the contractors were “non-law enforcement staff members trained to work with minors and to ensure that all aspects of the transport or stay are compliant” with the court settlement known as the Flores agreement.

An advocate with the Texas Civil Rights Project who walked through the Hampton Inn in McAllen on July 17 saw people in scrubs going room to room on the fourth and fifth floors of the hotel caring for children. The advocate, Roberto Lopez, said he saw one small child holding onto a gate in a doorway as an adult on the other side played with him.

On Thursday, video posted by the project showed one of its lawyers trying to enter the fourth floor to find children. The video shows three men in plainclothes confronting him, then shoving him back and slamming him into an elevator wall.

The records indicate the children were not accompanied by a parent but don't say more about the circumstances of their crossing the border. In the past, some very young children have been brought by older siblings or other relatives. Others have been sent by parents waiting for their court dates in refugee camps on the U.S.-Mexico border with hopes they will be placed with relatives.

A spokeswoman for Hilton, which owns the Hampton Inn brand, said franchisees owned all three Hampton Inns and the others in Phoenix and El Paso, Texas, would also stop child detention in its hotels. Hilton said in a statement that the company expected all of its franchisees “to reject business that would use a hotel in this way.”

Andrea Ordin, a monitor appointed by the federal judge who oversees the Flores agreement, called on the U.S. government last week to stop detaining children in hotels, citing the lack of oversight and standards and the threat that children could suffer emotional and physical harm.

The Trump administration responded by questioning Ordin's authority to issue the report. Ordin's report was “wholly outside the scope” of her responsibility, wrote Sarah Fabian, a U.S. government lawyer who was previously criticized for suggesting in court that the government may not have to provide children with toothbrushes in Border Patrol custody.

Judge Dolly Gee, who oversees the Flores settlement, wrote Saturday that hotel detention does fall under the scope of Ordin's duties.

This story has been corrected to show that the agreement only covers 17 people known to have been detained as of Thursday.

## US attorney: Feds will stay in Portland until attacks end

By ANDREW SELSKY and ARON RANEN undefined

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — U.S. militarized officers will remain in Portland until attacks on a federal courthouse cease, a top official said Monday after another night of violence. And more officers may soon be on the way.

“It is not a solution to tell federal officers to leave when there continues to be attacks on federal property and personnel,” U.S. Attorney Billy Williams said. “We are not leaving the building unprotected to be destroyed by people intent on doing so.”

Local and state officials said the federal officers are unwelcome.

Meanwhile, the mayors of Portland and five other major U.S. cities appealed Monday to Congress to make it illegal for the federal government to deploy militarized agents to cities that don't want them.

“This administration's egregious use of federal force on cities over the objections of local authorities should never happen,” the mayors of Portland, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Washington wrote to leaders of the U.S. House and Senate.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty late called for a meeting with Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf to discuss a cease-fire and removal of heightened federal forces from Portland.

The city has had nightly protests for two months since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 62 of 93

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.

Trump's deployment of the federal officers over the July 4 weekend stoked the Black Lives Matter movement. The number of nightly protesters had dwindled to perhaps less than 100 right before the deployment, and now has swelled to the thousands.

Early Monday, U.S. agents repeatedly fired tear gas, flash bangs and pepper balls at protesters outside the federal courthouse in downtown Portland. Some protesters had climbed over the fence surrounding the courthouse, while others shot fireworks, banged on the fence and projected lights on the building.

Trump said on Twitter that federal properties in Portland "wouldn't last a day" without the presence of the federal agents.

The majority of people participating in the daily demonstrations have been peaceful. But a few have been pelting officers with objects and trying to tear down fencing protecting the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse.

Williams, whose office is inside the courthouse, called on peaceful protesters, community and business leaders and people of faith to not allow violence to occur in their presence and to leave downtown before violence starts. He said federal agents have made 83 arrests.

Demonstrations in support of racial justice and police reform in other cities around the U.S. were marred by violence over the weekend. Protesters set fire to an Oakland, California, courthouse; vehicles were set ablaze in Richmond, Virginia; an armed protester was shot and killed in Austin, Texas; and two people were shot and wounded in Aurora, Colorado, after a car drove through a protest.

The U.S. Marshals Service has lined up about 100 people they could send to hotspots, either to strengthen forces or relieve officers who have been working for weeks, agency spokesperson Drew Wade said.

Kris Cline, principal deputy director of Federal Protective Service, said an incident commander in Portland and teams from the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice discuss what force is needed every night.

Cline refused to discuss the number of officers currently present or if more would be arriving.

Some protesters have accused Wheeler of hypocrisy for speaking out against the federal presence because, under his watch, Portland police have used tear gas and other riot-control weapons on protesters, including peaceful ones.

Cline said Portland police should take over the job of dispersing protesters from the courthouse area from the federal officers.

"If the Portland Police Bureau were able to do what they typically do, they would be able to clear this out for this disturbance and we would leave our officers inside the building and not be visible," Cline said.

He said relations between the federal officers, some of whom live in Portland, and city police were good.

Portland police responded Sunday evening to a shooting at a park close to the site of the protests. Two people were detained and later released, police said. The person who was shot went to the hospital in a private vehicle and was treated for a non-life-threatening wound.

Also late Sunday, police said someone pointed out a bag in the same park, where officers found loaded rifle magazines and Molotov cocktails. The shooting was not related to the items, police said.

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Associated Press writer Mike Balsamo contributed to this report from Washington. Selsky reported from Salem, Oregon.

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

## At least 3 MLB games postponed amid Marlins' virus outbreak

By STEVEN WINE AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The Marlins scrambled for roster replacements as they coped with a coronavirus outbreak. The New York Yankees had an unscheduled day off in Philadelphia while the home team underwent CO-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 63 of 93

VID-19 tests. The Baltimore Orioles were flying home from Miami without playing a game.

And Washington Nationals manager Dave Martinez summed up the situation in a season barely underway. "I'm going to be honest with you: I'm scared," Martinez said.

More than a dozen Marlins players and staff members tested positive for COVID-19 in an outbreak that stranded the team in Philadelphia, disrupting Major League Baseball's schedule on the fifth day of the pandemic-delayed season.

Miami's home opener against Baltimore was postponed as was Tuesday's finale of the two-game series at Marlins Park. Also postponed was the Yankees' series opener Monday at Philadelphia, where New York would have been in the same clubhouse the Marlins used last weekend.

"Obviously, we don't want any player to get exposed. It's not a positive thing," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said on the MLB Network. "But I don't see it as a nightmare. We built the protocols to allow us to continue to play. That's why we have the expanded rosters, that's why we have the pool of additional players. And we think we can keep people safe and continue to play."

Nine Marlins players on the 30-man roster, two taxi squad players and two staff members tested positive, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the results hadn't been publicly disclosed.

The Yankees are staying in Philadelphia and have their own clubhouse staff with the team there, a person familiar with their plans said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because details were not disclosed. The Marlins postponed their flight home Sunday night after their series finale against the Phillies.

The Orioles planned to fly to Baltimore from Miami on Monday night. They are scheduled to host the Marlins in a two-game series starting Wednesday.

"If the testing results are acceptable, the Marlins will resume play in Baltimore on Wednesday against the Orioles," Manfred said.

Meanwhile, Chicago White Sox manager Rick Renteria will be kept away from his team after experiencing a "slight cough and nasal congestion," general manager Rick Hahn said. Tests were planned.

The Marlins' outbreak was the talk of baseball, and Martinez choked on his words as he discussed the situation. Martinez missed time last season because of a heart condition, and the Nationals are scheduled to play in Miami this weekend.

"My level of concern went from about an eight to a 12. I mean this thing really hits home now," Martinez said. "I got guys in our clubhouse that are really concerned, as well."

MLB announced the postponement of the two Monday games about eight hours before the scheduled first pitch and said additional COVID-19 testing was being conducted. That included Phillies players being tested Monday.

"The members of the Marlins' traveling party are self-quarantining in place while awaiting the outcome of those results," MLB said in a statement.

Coming just days into the 60-game season, the Marlins' outbreak raised anew questions about Manfred's plan for navigating the pandemic.

"Now we REALLY get to see if MLB is going to put players health first," tweeted Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher David Price, who opted out of playing this season. "Remember when Manfred said players health was PARAMOUNT?! Part of the reason I'm at home right now is because players health wasn't being put first. I can see that hasn't changed."

Manfred said test results should be available late Monday and there likely will be a public update Tuesday. He said there are factors that would force MLB to alter plans.

"A team losing a number of players that rendered it completely non-competitive would be an issue that we would have to address and have to think about making a change," he said. "Whether that was shutting down a part of the season, the whole season, that depends on the circumstances. Same thing with respect to league-wide. You get to a certain point league wide where it does become a health threat, and we certainly would shut down at that point."

Dr. Andrew Morris, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Toronto, said the Marlins' out-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 64 of 93

break isn't a surprise because MLB's plan was seriously flawed.

"Baseball is in huge trouble," Morris said. "It makes me wonder if they are listening to the advice of experts or whether their experts are giving them good advice. This was not a plan anyone who knows what they are talking about would have conceived. It's playing out like it was supposed to play out."

The Marlins placed infielder Garrett Cooper, outfielder Harold Ramirez and right-hander José Ureña on the injured list. They claimed right-hander Justin Shafer and left-hander Josh Smith off waivers from Cincinnati, and will likely rely heavily on reinforcements from their training camp in Jupiter, Florida.

Because there are no minor league games this season, teams are allowed to retain 60 players each. They have 30-man rosters during the first two weeks of the season plus a taxi squad of up to three players for every road trip, giving them immediate options to replace ailing players.

The Marlins could bus from Philadelphia to Baltimore. Marlins CEO Derek Jeter released a statement saying the health of players and staff was his organization's primary focus.

"Postponing tonight's home opener was the correct decision to ensure we take a collective pause and try to properly grasp the totality of this situation," Jeter said.

Ureña was scratched from his scheduled start in Sunday's game, and catcher Jorge Alfaro went on the injured list Friday. No reasons were given for the moves, and it was unclear when the Marlins received the latest positive test results.

Atlanta might have been the source of the Marlins' outbreak. They played exhibition games there Tuesday and Wednesday against the Braves, who have since been without their top two catchers, Tyler Flowers and Travis d'Arnaud, after both showed symptoms of COVID-19.

MLB and the union held talks Monday after aspects of the protocols were widely ignored during the season's first four days, such as the prohibitions on high-fives and other physical celebrations.

Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell said that in the wake of Marlins' outbreak, his team will double down on efforts to be safe.

"This was a huge punch to the face, a realization that we have to be perfect," Counsell said. "It feels like a tough task, but we're going to try and get it right."

The NBA and NHL plan to resume their seasons in bubble environments, with basketball at Lake Buena Vista, Florida, and hockey at Edmonton, Alberta, and Toronto.

"The NBA and the NHL have an advantage: smaller numbers of players, shorter period of time," Manfred said. "I understand why they did what they did. I'm just not sure it was workable for us."

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AP Sports Writers Ronald Blum in New York, David Ginsburg in Baltimore, Howard Fendrich in Washington, Rob Maaddi in Philadelphia, Janie McCauley in Oakland, California, Steve Megargee in Milwaukee and Associated Press Writer Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report.

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## At least 3 MLB games postponed amid Marlins' virus outbreak

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# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 65 of 93

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# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 66 of 93

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## Experimental COVID-19 vaccine is put to its biggest test

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, MICHAEL HILL and JOCELYN NOVECK Associated Press

The biggest test yet of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine got underway Monday with the first of some 30,000 Americans rolling up their sleeves to receive shots created by the U.S. government as part of the all-out global race to stop the pandemic.

The glimmer of hope came even as Google, in one of the gloomiest assessments of the coronavirus's staying power from a major employer, decreed that most of its 200,000 employees and contractors should work from home through next June — a decision that could influence other big companies.

Final-stage testing of the vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., began with volunteers at numerous sites around the U.S. given either a real dose or a dummy without being told which.

"I'm excited to be part of something like this. This is huge," said Melissa Harting, a 36-year-old nurse who received an injection in Binghamton, New York. Especially with family members in front-line jobs that could expose them to the virus, she added, "doing our part to eradicate it is very important to me."

Another company, Pfizer Inc., announced late Monday that it had started its own study of its vaccine candidate in the U.S. and elsewhere. That study also aimed to recruit 30,000 people.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 67 of 93**

It will be months before results trickle in, and there is no guarantee the vaccines will ultimately work against the scourge that has killed over 650,000 people around the world, including almost 150,000 in the U.S.

"We've been sitting on the sidelines passively attempting to wear our masks and social distance and not go out when it's not necessary. This is the first step of becoming active against this," said Dr. Frank Eder of Meridian Clinical Research, the company that runs the Binghamton trial site. "There's really no other way to get past this."

As if to underline how high the stakes are, there were more setbacks in efforts to contain the coronavirus.

In Washington, the Trump administration disclosed that national security adviser Robert O'Brien has the virus — the highest-ranking U.S. official to test positive so far. The White House said he has mild symptoms and "has been self-isolating and working from a secure location off site."

The move to restart the national pastime ran into trouble just five days into the long-delayed season: Two major league baseball games scheduled for Monday night were called off as the Miami Marlins coped with an outbreak — the Marlins' home opener against the Baltimore Orioles, and the New York Yankees' game in Philadelphia, where the Marlins used the clubhouse over the weekend.

As for relief from the economic damage done by the virus, Republicans on Capitol Hill rolled out a \$1 trillion package that includes another round of \$1,200 direct payments but reduces the extra \$600 a week in federal unemployment benefits that expire for millions of Americans on Friday. Republicans proposed \$200 a week, saying the generous bump discourages people from returning to work. Democrats call the added benefits a lifeline for those who have lost their jobs.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows worked through the weekend on the GOP proposal and have agreed to negotiate with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer. House Democrats passed a \$3 trillion relief package a couple of months ago.

In Europe, rising infections in Spain and other countries caused alarm only weeks after nations reopened their borders in hopes of reviving tourism. 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.

Scientists set speed records getting vaccines into massive testing just months after the coronavirus emerged. But they stressed that the public shouldn't fear that anyone is cutting corners.

"This is a significant milestone," NIH Director Francis Collins said after the first test injection of Moderna's vaccine was given, at 6:45 a.m. in Savannah, Georgia. "Yes, we're going fast, but no, we are not going to compromise" on proving whether the vaccine is safe and effective.

"We are focusing on speed because every day matters," added Stephane Bancel, CEO of Massachusetts-based Moderna.

After volunteers get two doses a month apart, scientists will closely track which group experiences more infections as they go about their daily routines, especially in areas where the virus is spreading unchecked.

The answer probably won't come until November or December, cautioned Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIH's infectious-diseases chief.

Among many questions the study may answer: How much protection does just one dose offer compared with the two scientists think are needed? If it works, will it protect against severe disease or block infection entirely?

Don't expect a vaccine as strong as the measles vaccine, which prevents about 97% of measles infections, Fauci said, adding he would be happy with a COVID-19 vaccine that's 60% effective.

Several other vaccines made by China and by Britain's Oxford University began smaller final-stage tests in Brazil and other hard-hit countries earlier this month. But the U.S. requires its own tests of any vaccine that might be used in the country.

Every month through the fall, the government-funded COVID-19 Prevention Network will roll out a new study of a leading candidate, each with 30,000 volunteers.

The final U.S. study of the Oxford shot is set to begin in August, followed by a candidate from Johnson



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 68 of 93

& Johnson in September and one from Novavax in October.

That's a stunning number of people needed to roll up their sleeves for science. In recent weeks, more than 150,000 Americans filled out an online registry signaling interest, Collins said. But many more are needed.

NIH is working to make sure that the study isn't just filled with healthy, younger volunteers but includes populations hit hardest by COVID-19, including older adults, those in poor health and African-Americans and Latinos.

"We really are going to depend upon that sense of volunteerism for individuals from every different corner of society if we're going to really find out how this vaccine, and its potential to end this terrible pandemic, is go to work in each of those groups," Collins said.

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.

## White House Rose Garden is getting a face-lift

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the most famous gardens in America is getting a face-lift.

Melania Trump on Monday announced details of a plan already underway to spruce up the White House Rose Garden, an iconic outdoor space famous for its proximity to the Oval Office.

The current garden design has been around since the Kennedy years, but the first lady says a "comprehensive renovation" is needed after decades of use for weddings, state dinners and countless presidential news conferences, statements and Thanksgiving turkey pardons.

She used the Rose Garden to announce her "Be Best" youth program in May 2018.

Mrs. Trump said the redesign will increase the garden's "beauty and functionality" and blend the past with the present in "complete harmony."

"Protecting the historic integrity of the White House landscape is a considerable responsibility, and we will fulfill our duty as custodians of the public trust," she wrote in the opening of a detailed report on the project, which is expected to be completed in about three weeks.

Early signs of the work ahead were visible Monday.

Tarps, drapes and other padding had been hung to protect the West Wing colonnade, including in front of the Oval Office.

The most visually striking change to the garden will be the addition of a 3-foot (0.91-meter)-wide limestone walking path bordering the central lawn, according to Perry Guillot, the landscape architect working on the project.

Less noticeable changes include improved drainage and infrastructure, and making the garden more accessible for people with disabilities. Audiovisual, broadcasting and other technical fixes are part of the plan, too.

President Donald Trump has been using the Rose Garden more lately for open-air statements and news conferences in the age of coronavirus, a trend he's likely to continue until the virus is brought under control and as the November presidential election nears.

Mrs. Trump said the plan will return the Rose Garden to its original 1962 footprint.

President John F. Kennedy was so inspired by the gardens he saw during a 1961 state visit to France, and other stops in Europe, that he enlisted his friend Rachel Lambert Mellon to design the outdoor space by the Oval Office.

Inspiration came to Mellon as she walked along New York's Fifth Avenue on a cold October afternoon in 1961, she wrote for the White House Historical Association.

First ladies are largely in charge of ensuring upkeep of the White House and its grounds, and they often endeavor to leave something behind for future presidential families to enjoy.

Michelle Obama planted a produce garden on the South Lawn that Mrs. Trump has continued.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 69 of 93

Mrs. Trump has overseen several renovation projects, including refurbishment of Red Room wall coverings, Blue Room furniture and the White House bowling alley.

She faced sharp criticism for announcing, around the time of the virus outbreak earlier this year, that construction had begun on a privately funded tennis pavilion on the south grounds. She pushed back in a tweet that encouraged those "who choose to be negative & question my work" to "contribute something good & productive in their own communities."

The Rose Garden renovation plan, which is also to be paid for with private donations, has been approved by the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, which offers advice on preservation projects. The White House did not provide a cost estimate.

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## Trump lawyers renew legal assault on tax records subpoena

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's lawyers filed fresh arguments Monday to try to block a criminal subpoena for his tax records, saying it was issued in bad faith, might have been politically motivated and calling it a harassment of the president.

Lawyers filed a rewritten lawsuit in Manhattan federal court to challenge the subpoena by a state prosecutor on grounds they believe conform with how the U.S. Supreme Court said the subpoena can be contested.

They asked a judge to declare it "invalid and unenforceable."

The high court ruled earlier this month that Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. could subpoena tax records from Trump's accountant over his objections.

But the court said Trump could challenge the subpoena as improper just as anyone else can.

Trump's lawyers had argued that the president could not be criminally investigated while he was in office. In their new court papers, Trump's lawyers said the subpoena of his tax records was "wildly overbroad" and "amounts to harassment of the President."

They said it was issued in bad faith, copying a Congressional subpoena.

"Whether the District Attorney photocopied a congressional subpoena for political reasons, for efficiency reasons, or for both, he knowingly and intentionally issued a wildly overbroad subpoena for the President's records," the lawyers said.

They said the subpoena seeks detailed information about all of Trump's assets in the U.S. and abroad for a 10-year period.

"Simply put, it asks for everything," the lawyers wrote.

Vance sought the tax records in part for a probe of how Trump's then-personal lawyer arranged during the 2016 presidential race to keep the porn actress Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal from airing claims of extramarital affairs with Trump. Trump has denied the affairs.

Vance, a Democrat, has requested eight years of the Republican president's personal and corporate tax records.

Danny Frost, a spokesperson for Vance, declined comment Monday.

The Supreme Court had returned the case to a federal judge in Manhattan who has arranged for both sides to finish filing their legal arguments over challenges to the subpoena by mid-August.

Last year, the same judge ruled against Trump in a written opinion that was upheld by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

In their new court filing, Trump's lawyers said the tax subpoena "demands voluminous documents related to every facet of the business and financial affairs of the President and numerous associated entities — from the banal to the complex, from drafts and memoranda to formal records, from source documents to summaries."

They said it was wrong for Vance to seek records dating to 2011 when he was primarily investigating events that took place in 2016.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 70 of 93

The lawsuit said the subpoena concerns entities in California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. It said other affected entities are located outside the U.S., including in Canada, the Dominican Republic, Dubai, India, Indonesia, Ireland, the Philippines, Scotland, and Turkey.

"Taken together, the subpoena demands an accounting and analysis of every single asset and liability of the President, including each one of the listed entities," the lawyers wrote, calling the request "an overreaching demand designed to pick apart the President."

## Virus-linked hunger tied to 10,000 child deaths each month

By LORI HINNANT and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

HOUNDE, Burkina Faso (AP) — The lean season is coming for Burkina Faso's children. And this time, the long wait for the harvest is bringing a hunger more ferocious than most have ever known.

That hunger is already stalking Haboue Solange Boue, an infant who has lost half her former body weight of 5.5 pounds (2.5 kilograms) in the last month. With the markets closed because of coronavirus restrictions, her family sold fewer vegetables. Her mother is too malnourished to nurse her.

"My child," Danssanin Lanizou whispers, choking back tears as she unwraps a blanket to reveal her baby's protruding ribs. The infant whimpers soundlessly.

All around the world, the coronavirus and its restrictions are pushing already hungry communities over the edge, cutting off meager farms from markets and isolating villages from food and medical aid. Virus-linked hunger is leading to the deaths of 10,000 more children a month over the first year of the pandemic, according to an urgent call to action from the United Nations shared with The Associated Press ahead of its publication in the Lancet medical journal.

Further, more than 550,000 additional children each month are being struck by what is called wasting, according to the U.N. — malnutrition that manifests in spindly limbs and distended bellies. Over a year, that's up 6.7 million from last year's total of 47 million. Wasting and stunting can permanently damage children physically and mentally, transforming individual tragedies into a generational catastrophe.

"The food security effects of the COVID crisis are going to reflect many years from now," said Dr. Francesco Branca, the World Health Organization head of nutrition. "There is going to be a societal effect."

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In Burkina Faso, for example, one in five young children is chronically malnourished. Food prices have spiked, and 12 million of the country's 20 million residents don't get enough to eat.

Lanizou's husband, Yakouaran Boue, used to sell onions to buy seeds and fertilizer, but then the markets closed. Even now, a 50-kilogram bag of onions sells for a dollar less, which means less seed to plant for next year.

"I'm worried that this year we won't have enough food to feed her," he said, staring down at his daughter over his wife's shoulder. "I'm afraid she's going to die."

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From Latin America to South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, more families than ever are staring down a future without enough food. The analysis published Monday found about 128,000 more young children will die over the first 12 months of the virus.

In April, World Food Program head David Beasley warned that the coronavirus economy would cause global famines "of biblical proportions" this year. There are different stages of what is known as food insecurity; famine is officially declared when, along with other measures, 30% of the population suffers from wasting.

The agency estimated in February that one in every three people in Venezuela was already going hungry, as inflation rendered many salaries nearly worthless and forced millions to flee abroad. Then the virus arrived.

"The parents of the children are without work," said Annelise Mirabal, who works with a foundation that



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 71 of 93

helps malnourished children in Maracaibo, the city in Venezuela thus far hardest hit by the pandemic. "How are they going to feed their kids?"

These days, many new patients are the children of migrants who are making long journeys back to Venezuela from Peru, Ecuador or Colombia, where their families became jobless and unable to buy food during the pandemic. Others are the children of migrants who are still abroad and have not been able to send back money for more food.

"Every day we receive a malnourished child," said Dr. Francisco Nieto, who works in a hospital in the border state of Tachira. He added that they look "like children we haven't seen in a long time in Venezuela," alluding to those in famines in parts of Africa.

In May, Nieto recalled, after two months of quarantine in Venezuela, 18-month-old twins arrived at his hospital with bodies bloated from malnutrition. The children's mother was jobless and living with her own mother. She told the doctor she had only been able to feed them a simple drink made with boiled bananas.

"Not even a cracker? Some chicken?" he asked.

"Nothing," the children's grandmother responded.

When doctors tried to treat them, one of the boys developed "refeeding syndrome," where food can result in metabolic abnormalities. Eight days later, he died.

Nieto said aid groups have provided some relief, but their work has been limited by COVID-19 quarantines. A home set up in Tachira to receive malnourished children after they are released from the hospital is no longer in operation. So now children are sent directly back to their families, many of whom are still unable to feed them properly.

"It's very frustrating," Nieto said. "The children get lost."

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The rise in child deaths worldwide would reverse global progress for the first time in decades. Deaths of children younger than 5 had declined steadily since 1980, to 5.3 million around the world in 2018, according to a UNICEF report. About 45 percent of the deaths were due to undernutrition.

The leaders of four international agencies — the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Food Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization — have called for at least \$2.4 billion immediately to address hunger. Even more than the money, restrictions on movement need to be eased so that families can seek treatment, said Victor Aguayo, the head of UNICEF's nutrition program.

"By having schools closed, by having primary health care services disrupted, by having nutritional programs dysfunctional, we are also creating harm," Aguayo said. He cited as an example the near-global suspension of Vitamin A supplements, which are a crucial way to bolster developing immune systems.

In Afghanistan, restrictions on movement prevent many families from bringing their malnourished children to hospitals for food and aid just when they need it most. The Indira Gandhi hospital in the capital, Kabul, has seen only three or four malnourished children, said specialist Nematullah Amiri.

"Transportation between Kabul and the provinces was not allowed regularly and also people were afraid of coronavirus," Amiri explained. Last year, 10 times as many malnourished children filled the ward. The same is true of hospital beds in multiple countries, according to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Afghanistan is now in a red zone of hunger, with severe childhood malnutrition spiking from 690,000 in January to 780,000 — a 13% increase, according to UNICEF. Food prices have risen by more than 15%, and a recent study by Johns Hopkins University indicated an additional 13,000 Afghans younger than 5 could die.

Four in 10 Afghan children are already stunted. Stunting happens when families live on a cheap diet of grains or potatoes, with supply chains in disarray and money scarce. Most stunted children never catch up, dampening the productivity of poor countries, according to a report released this month by the Chatham House think tank.

In Yemen, restrictions on movement have also blocked the distribution of aid, along with the stalling of salaries and price hikes. The Arab world's poorest country is suffering further from a fall in remittances and a huge drop in funding from humanitarian agencies.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 72 of 93

Yemen is now on the brink of famine, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, which uses surveys, satellite data and weather mapping to pinpoint the places most in need. A UNICEF report predicted that the number of malnourished children could reach 2.4 million by the end of the year, a 20% increase.

Days after 7-month-old baby Issa Ibrahim left a medical center in the impoverished northern district of Hajjah, he succumbed to severe acute malnutrition. His mother found the body on July 7, lifeless and cold.

Fatma Nasser, a 34-year-old mother of seven, is among three million displaced people in Yemen who don't have enough money to feed themselves or their children. She lives on one meal a day. Ibrahim Nasser, the father, lost his only source of income, fishing, after roads to the sea were closed because of the coronavirus.

The mother's milk dried up, and the baby lived on formula. But doctors say families tend to use less milk powder to save money, and babies don't usually get enough nutrition.

"It's God's will," the mother said. "We can say nothing."

Some of the worst hunger still occurs in sub-Saharan Africa. In Sudan, 9.6 million people are living from one meal to the next in acute food insecurity — a 65% increase from the same time last year.

Lockdowns across Sudanese provinces, as around the world, have dried up work and incomes for millions. The global economic downturn has brought supply chains to a standstill, and restrictions on public transport have disrupted agricultural production. With inflation hitting 136%, prices for basic goods have more than tripled.

"It has never been easy but now we are starving, eating grass, weeds, just plants from the earth," said Ibrahim Youssef, director of the Kalma camp for internally displaced people in war-ravaged south Darfur.

Long before the pandemic hit, Sudan's economy had plummeted, especially after the oil-rich south seceded in 2011. Decades of economic mismanagement under Omar al-Bashir led to a surge in food prices, and the transitional government now in power has struggled to stop the tailspin.

Natural disasters are making the situation even worse. The country's production of grain has dropped by 57% compared to last year, largely due to pests and seasonal floods. And swarms of desert locusts have already infested three Sudanese provinces, threatening more losses to farmers.

Internally displaced people in the restive provinces of Darfur, Kassala and Kordofan have been hit hardest, and the poorest say they can barely afford one meal a day.

"I don't have the basics I need to survive," said Zakaria Yehia Abdullah, 67, a farmer in the Krinding camp in West Darfur, who hasn't worked the fields since authorities imposed a partial lockdown in April and local militias escalated attacks. "That means the 10 people counting on me can't survive either."

Before the pandemic and lockdown, his family ate three meals a day, sometimes with bread, or they'd add butter to porridge. Now they are down to just one meal, in the morning, of "millet porridge" — water mixed with grain. He said the hunger is showing "in my children's faces."

Adam Haroun, a Krinding camp official, recorded nine deaths linked with malnutrition, otherwise a rare occurrence, over the past two months — five newborns and four older adults, he said.

To mitigate the crisis, the government, with support from the World Bank, is rolling out a \$1.9 billion cash transfer program to Sudan's neediest families. But many residents of Sudan's long-neglected regions remain skeptical that authorities can alleviate their suffering.

"The hunger here is not any normal hunger," said Adam Gomaa, a local activist in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, who helps run displacement camps in the area.

Back in Burkina Faso, COVID-19 restrictions are also hitting hard, keeping families like that of 14-year-old Nafissetou Niampa from the market. Niampa lay face down on a bed at the Yalgado Ouedraogo University Hospital in the capital, Ouagadougou, fanned by her mother. The teenager has a heart condition that affects her breathing and now is shedding weight as well.

"Before the disease we didn't have anything," said Aminata Mande, her mother. "Now with the disease we don't have anything also."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 73 of 93

Burkina Faso was already facing a growing food crisis, with rising violence linked to militants cutting families off from their farms. With the advent of the coronavirus, the government closed markets, restricted movement and shut down public transport, making it much harder for traders to buy and sell food.

While malnutrition deaths routinely rise during the four-month wait for the next harvest in October, this year is worse than anyone can remember, according to physicians and aid workers. On the World Food Program's hunger map, nearly all of Burkina Faso is a red zone of need.

Even though the Tuy province produces the most corn in the country, food there is not reaching those who need it most. In Tuy between March and April, the number of underweight newborns increased by 40%, signifying that the mothers were most likely malnourished during pregnancy, said Joseph Ouattara, chief doctor at the hospital in the small town of Hounde.

Child deaths due to malnutrition are also escalating. In a normal year, an average of 19 children die from malnutrition in Tuy. But in the first five and a half months of this year alone, the number of children dying from what appears to be malnutrition is already up to 20 just at the province's central hospital in the main town of Hounde.

Ernestine Belebongo, a 37-year-old trader with a stand at the Hounde market, was unable to buy or sell food for weeks, so there has been no fish or meat for her five children since March. Her 3-year-old daughter is swiftly losing weight, and even though most of the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, Belebongo still serves her family only grain.

"I'm worried about the lean season," she said. "I have many kids and no money."

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Hinnant reported from Paris. Contributors include Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia; Fazel Rahman in Kabul, Afghanistan; Issa Mohammed in Al-Hanabiya, Yemen; and Isabel DeBre in Cairo.

## Democratic National Convention to require masks, distancing

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Everyone attending the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee next month will have to wear a face mask, consent to daily testing for COVID-19, fill out questionnaires and maintain a physical distance from others.

Organizers of the convention released details of the coronavirus safety plan Monday, three weeks before the Aug. 17 start of the four-day event. The convention has been scaled down from original plans and now will be mostly online with only a few hundred people gathered at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee.

Attendees will have to self-isolate for a minimum of 72 hours before departing for Milwaukee or when first entering the convention's main venue if they're already in the city. Once at the convention, attendees must fill out a daily questionnaire indicating that they are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and have not had contact with anyone who is infected.

All convention guests, law enforcement, media, and staff must agree to daily COVID-19 testing, either at the Wisconsin Center or another offsite location. They must also agree to follow any other "reasonable restrictions that convention organizers may impose based on changing health conditions."

While presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and everyone else will be required to wear a mask once inside, anyone making a speech will be allowed to remove theirs. The podium will be 20 feet from other people. Organizers are also encouraging attendees to wear a face shield or goggles to protect their eyes.

Organizers are also recommending that attendees "avoid bars, restaurants, and other locations where social distancing is not possible or not practiced."

"Ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone involved with the convention is our top priority," said convention spokeswoman Katie Peters. "After consultation with public health officials, the Democratic National Convention Committee will implement robust health and safety protocols that will govern the convention's in-person activities and keep attendees safe before and during the convention."



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 74 of 93

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, a Democrat, called the safety protocols "thoughtful and thorough."  
"While it is important to protect every person attending the convention, it is also important to protect the entire Milwaukee community," Barrett said. "These protocols establish reasonable requirements in order to prevent additional COVID-19 infections in Milwaukee."

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have spiked in Wisconsin since mid-June, with roughly a third of the state's 49,417 cases in Milwaukee County and nearly half of the state's 893 deaths there. A city ordinance requires masks to be worn when in a building that is open to the public or outside in a public space and within 6 feet of any other person who is not a household or family member.

## Trump seeks political shot in the arm in vaccine push

By ZEKE MILLER, KEVIN FREKING and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic put his political fate in grave jeopardy. Now he's hoping to get credit for his administration's aggressive push for a vaccine — and crossing his fingers that one gets approved before Election Day.

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence visited vaccine development sites on Monday, marking the beginning of the largest COVID-19 vaccine research trial yet. Their trips to North Carolina and Florida, respectively, come as the White House is grappling with its most prominent virus case since the crisis began and a nationwide spike in the outbreak that threatens to undermine an economic rebound. White House officials say a vaccine is necessary to fully restore a sense of normalcy.

"I heard very positive things," Trump said, when asked about the timetable for bringing a vaccine to market, "but by the end of the year we think we're in very good shape to be doing that."

Trump's standing in the polls, trailing former Vice President Joe Biden less than 100 days before the election, underscores the urgency to highlight vaccines and therapeutics — which include the antiviral drug remdesivir and convalescent plasma.

The economic toll of the pandemic has undone the job gains of Trump's presidency and his administration has faced bipartisan criticism for its handling of efforts to test and contain the outbreak. Trump aides view the hunt for the vaccine as something they can still get right.

Privately, many White House officials have pinned their reelection hopes on the potential emergence of a vaccine for the coronavirus, believing it to be the ultimate "October surprise." Some believe Trump may well be doomed without one, and that even with one, it may be too late to save his fortunes with so many Americans expected to vote before Election Day on Nov. 3.

Under the federal government's Operation Warp Speed vaccine program, multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being developed simultaneously with a goal of delivering 300 million safe and effective doses by January 2021.

Trump was visiting the FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies' Innovation Center in Morrisville, a suburb of Raleigh. The facility has begun production of the first batch of a possible vaccine developed by Novavax, a Maryland company.

The batches produced at the North Carolina facility will be used in a Phase 3 clinical trial of up to 30,000 subjects, which is expected to begin this fall and will determine the drug's safety and effectiveness, according to Novavax, which received \$1.6 billion from the federal government under Operation Warp Speed.

The president is working to highlight progress in the development of a vaccine before voters go to the polls in about three months. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, has said he is cautiously optimistic that one and maybe more vaccines will be available by the end of this year.

"The ultimate goal of this would be to get full licensure based on clear-cut efficacy and safety data," Fauci told reporters Monday.

Peter Navarro, a senior Trump economic adviser, framed the effort as a political home run for Trump, who pushed for development of the vaccine while simultaneously working on a process to distribute it quickly.

But even as Trump has tried to shift the nation's focus from new infections to hope for cures, he's been interrupted by rising case loads across the Sunbelt and word Monday that Robert O'Brien, his national

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 75 of 93

security adviser, has tested positive for the virus.

The political imperative for Trump has sparked concerns among members of Congress that Trump could try to take shortcuts in the approval process. Administration experts have dismissed those concerns, and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn said Monday, "We must maintain confidence of the American people in the scientific process."

Hahn joined Pence in Miami to highlight the beginning of Phase 3 testing of a different vaccine candidate developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., which began its first injections Monday.

"It's a historic day, a day when we begin in earnest to work on a vaccine," Pence said.

"We want to ensure we move at a safe and effective pace. I want to assure the people of Florida and people all across this country that we will cut no corners in the development of this or any vaccine," Pence added.

About 4.2 million confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported in the United States and there have been more than 146,000 deaths.

With the election approaching, Trump has begun to run short on time to shift the narrative of the race, which so far appears shaping up to be as a referendum on his handling of the pandemic. He faces deficits in battleground states across the map, has struggled to land attacks on Biden and has been forced by the virus to scrap rallies and GOP convention events, moments he might have used to change the momentum of the contest.

Instead, White House aides seem to be growing more resigned to hoping for an outside event to change the trajectory of the contest, whether a serious misstep by Biden or, increasingly, a vaccine breakthrough. North Carolina is a key battleground state in the coming election, and Trump's visit marks his 10th trip to the state during his presidency. Trump won the state by nearly 4 percentage points in 2016.

The state's importance was reflected in the party's plans to hold its nominating convention in Charlotte, before Trump moved the event to Florida, only to later cancel those plans as well. Instead, a small subset of GOP delegates will formally renominate Trump on Aug. 24 in Charlotte at an event scheduled to last just four hours.

## **NASA's next Mars rover is brawniest and brainiest one yet**

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With eight successful Mars landings, NASA is upping the ante with its newest rover.

The spacecraft Perseverance — set for liftoff this week — is NASA's brawniest and brainiest Martian rover yet.

It sports the latest landing tech, plus the most cameras and microphones ever assembled to capture the sights and sounds of Mars. Its super-sanitized sample return tubes — for rocks that could hold evidence of past Martian life — are the cleanest items ever bound for space. A helicopter is even tagging along for an otherworldly test flight.

This summer's third and final mission to Mars — after the United Arab Emirates' Hope orbiter and China's Quest for Heavenly Truth orbiter-rover combo — begins with a launch scheduled for Thursday morning from Cape Canaveral. Like the other spacecraft, Perseverance should reach the red planet next February following a journey spanning seven months and more than 300 million miles (480 million kilometers).

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine doesn't see it as a competition. "But certainly we welcome more explorers to deliver more science than ever before," he said following a launch review Monday, "and we look forward to seeing what it is that they're able to discover."

Here's a peek at Perseverance:

PERSEVERANCE VS. CURIOSITY:

The six-wheeled, car-sized Perseverance is a copycat of NASA's Curiosity rover, prowling Mars since 2012, but with more upgrades and bulk. Its 7-foot (2-meter) robotic arm has a stronger grip and bigger drill for collecting rock samples, and it's packed with 23 cameras, most of them in color, plus two more on Inge-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 76 of 93

nuity, the hitchhiking helicopter. The cameras will provide the first glimpse of a parachute billowing open at Mars, with two microphones letting Earthlings eavesdrop for the first time. Once home to a river delta and lake, Jezero Crater is NASA's riskiest Martian landing site yet because of boulders and cliffs, hopefully avoided by the spacecraft's self-navigating systems. Perseverance has more self-driving capability, too, so it can cover more ground than Curiosity. The enhancements make for a higher mission price tag: nearly \$3 billion.

## SAMPLE COLLECTION:

Perseverance will drill into rocks most likely to hold signs of ancient life and stash the collection on the ground to await a future rover. Forty-three sample tubes are on board this rover, each one meticulously scrubbed and baked to remove Earthly microbes. NASA wants to avoid introducing organic molecules from Earth to the returning Martian samples. Each tube can hold one-half ounce (15 grams) of core samples, and the goal is to gather about a pound (0.5 kilogram) altogether for return to Earth. NASA hopes to launch the pickup mission in 2026 and get the samples back on Earth by 2031 — at the soonest.

## HELICOPTER DEMO:

The 4-pound (1.8-kilogram) helicopter, Ingenuity, will travel to Mars clutching the rover's belly and, a few months after touchdown, attempt to fly solo. Once dropping onto the Martian surface, Ingenuity will start out like a baby bird, rising 10 feet (3 meters) into the planet's extremely thin atmosphere and flying forward up to 6 feet (2 meters). With each attempt, it will try to go a little higher and farther. "It really is like the Wright brothers' moment," said project manager MiMi Aung. She has one month to squeeze in as many helicopter hops as possible before the rover moves on to more pressing geologic work. The future could see next-generation helicopters scouting out distant Martian territory for astronauts or even robots.

## HUMAN BENEFITS:

Besides the helicopter, Perseverance carries other experiments that could directly benefit astronauts at Mars. An instrument the size of a car battery will covert atmospheric carbon dioxide into oxygen, an essential ingredient for rocket propellant and breathing systems. Another instrument, zapping rocks with lasers to identify organic molecules and minerals, carries samples of spacesuit material. NASA wants to see how the fabrics withstand the harsh Martian environment. It will be the 2030s at best, according to NASA, before astronauts venture to Mars.

## COOL STOWAWAYS:

A couple Martian meteorites are finally headed home, or at least slivers of them to be used as calibration targets by laser-shooting instruments aboard Perseverance. Other cool stowaways: silicon chips bearing the names of nearly 11 million people who signed up, as well as a small plate showing Earth and Mars on opposite sides of the sun with the message "explore as one" in Morse code tucked into the solar rays. There's also a plaque paying tribute to medical workers on the pandemic's front lines. The coronavirus is preventing hundreds of scientists and other team members from traveling to Cape Canaveral for the launch.

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## Target joins Walmart in ending Thanksgiving store shopping

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Target is joining Walmart in closing its stores on Thanksgiving Day, ending a decades-long tradition of jump-starting Black Friday door buster sales.

The move, announced Monday, comes as stores are rethinking this year's Black Friday shopping bonanza weekend — along with other key retail days during the holiday season — as the country battles the coronavirus pandemic.

Stores always depended on big holiday crowds and work as much as a year in advance with manufacturers on securing exclusive items. Now, the virus has turned the holiday shopping model upside down. Stores have slashed orders and crowds are an anathema. With fears of a wave of virus cases in the fall, the big-



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 77 of 93

gest nightmare would be if retailers had to reclose during the most critical time of the year, analysts said. "Historically, deal hunting and holiday shopping can mean crowded events, and this isn't a year for crowds," Minneapolis-based Target said in a corporate blog posted. It said its holiday deals would come earlier than ever — starting in October.

Walmart, the nation's largest retailer, announced its move last week.

Target opened for the first time on Thanksgiving in 2011, joining other stores in starting Black Friday sales a day early and creating a new tradition of shoppers heading out to the stores after their turkey feast. Many retailers did so because they were trying to better compete with Amazon and other online players.

But sales ended up eating into Black Friday and many critics lambasted stores for not honoring the holiday and allowing their workers to spend it with family. In response to the backlash and also poor sales, some stores and malls like Bloomington, Minnesota-based Mall of America, reversed course and have not to opened on Thanksgiving in recent years. Costco and Nordstrom among others have always remained closed on Thanksgiving, noting they want to respect the holiday.

The bigger question still looms on how to handle Black Friday itself, which also draws huge crowds — and sales. Despite competition from Thanksgiving shopping, Black Friday ranks as either the top or No. 2 sales day of the year.

Thanksgiving is not even in the top 10 because sales start around 5 p.m. But the day ranked third in online shopping behind Cyber Monday and Black Friday respectively last year, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online sales for 80 of the top 100 retailers.

Walmart and Target declined to comment on their plans for Black Friday, but analysts say they believe that the retailers will pivot their business more online and focus on limiting the number of shoppers in stores. Like Target, other retailers will also likely start holiday sales even earlier to stretch out crowds.

Macy's CEO Jeff Gennette said earlier this month that the department store will be pivoting its Black Friday business more toward online and will likely be going "full force" with holiday marketing right after Halloween. It also will be staggering events to reduce customer traffic in the store.

Still, pushing sales further online will likely be more costly for retailers because of shipping expenses. And while many stores like Macy's will ramp up curbside pickup for the first time this holiday season, that strategy will create logistical challenges to meet shoppers' holiday demands.

Sucharita Kodali, an e-commerce analyst at Forrester Research Inc., said that the profit margins retailers get on their online sales are anywhere from 50% to 80% of what they get when the same item is bought in the store.

"This is going to be a very tough holiday season in terms of where sales are going to come from," said Joel Rampoldt, a managing director in the retail practice at AlixPartners.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## Trump national security adviser O'Brien has the coronavirus

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, has tested positive for the coronavirus — making him the highest-ranking official to test positive so far.

The White House said O'Brien has mild symptoms and "has been self-isolating and working from a secure location off site."

Officials did not respond to questions about the last time the president and O'Brien had contact, but the White House insisted that "There is no risk of exposure to the President or the Vice President" and that the "work of the National Security Council continues uninterrupted."

Trump told reporters as he left the White House on Monday that he wasn't sure when his national security adviser had tested positive and that he hadn't "seen him lately," but would be giving O'Brien a call. White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow had said earlier that O'Brien's daughter also has the virus and that that is how officials think he was exposed.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 78 of 93

O'Brien also recently returned from a trip to France, where he met with top European officials and was photographed standing close to others and not wearing a mask.

O'Brien is the first White House official known to have contracted the virus since May, when a personal valet to the president and the vice president's press secretary tested positive for the virus that has now infected more than 4 million people nationwide. Numerous Secret Service agents and Trump campaign staffers have also tested positive, including national finance chair Kimberly Guilfoyle, who is the girlfriend of Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr.

Senior White House staff and anyone who comes into close contact with the president and vice president are tested for the virus daily, but mask-wearing remains lax across the White House complex.

Trump, who has long dismissed the severity of the virus and claimed wrongly earlier this month that "99%" of cases are "totally harmless," said in a recent interview on Fox News Channel that he had personally "lost five people, probably six, actually, as of this moment, I think, pretty soon" to the virus.

O'Brien is Trump's fourth national security adviser, having been named in September to replace John Bolton, who was ousted over policy disagreements and went on to write a scathing tell-all book about his time at the White House. The national security adviser oversees the National Security Council and is the administration's point person on national security issues.

O'Brien had previously served as Trump's top hostage negotiator and successfully worked for the release of several Americans, including pastor Andrew Brunson, who spent two years in a Turkish prison. Since taking on his new role, O'Brien has worked to establish an amiable relationship with the president, who has been drawn to O'Brien's low-key California vibe and style.

The Republican lawyer, who also worked in the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama, is generally seen as a jovial presence, frequently stopping by to chat with reporters traveling aboard Air Force One. He typically works from a corner office on the first floor of the White House, a few steps from the Oval Office.

O'Brien's positive test was first reported by Bloomberg News.

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Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## House OKs bill protecting Massachusetts tribe's reservation

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved legislation that would prevent the Trump administration from rescinding a Native American tribe's contested reservation in Massachusetts.

The amendment, included in a broader spending package passed by the Democratic-controlled chamber Friday, bars the Interior Department from revoking its 2015 decision to place some 300 acres of land into trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe.

The legislation also would prevent the agency from reversing a corresponding declaration of the lands as the tribe's sovereign reservation, where it could legally build a casino under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

"In recent months, the Trump administration has used the COVID-19 pandemic as cover to try to steal the Tribe's land and define their people out of existence," U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III, a Massachusetts Democrat who sponsored the bill, said in a written statement. "This amendment will put an immediate stop to those dangerous efforts."

U.S. Rep. William Keating, a Massachusetts Democrat who also sponsored the measure, said it will limit the administration's "constant efforts to undermine the Tribe's rights." He said the issue is about "people, their rights, their health, their education, and their livelihoods."

In March, the Trump administration moved to undo the 2015 decision, declaring that then-President Barack Obama's administration had no authority to put land into trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe since it only became federally recognized relatively recently.

But the Cape Cod-based tribe, which traces its ancestry to the Native Americans that encountered the Pilgrims four centuries ago this year, challenged the decision. A federal judge in Washington, D.C., last month ordered the Interior Department to halt the revocation process, re-review the matter and issue

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 79 of 93

new findings.

The tribe has more than 300 acres in the town of Mashpee and in Taunton near the Rhode Island state line.

Cedric Cromwell, the tribe's chairman, said House passage of the bill moves the tribe one step closer to ensuring its homeland isn't taken away. A similar proposal passed the House in 2019 but has stalled in the Republican-controlled Senate.

## 'Tenet' to open internationally first, in US a week later

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the latest plan for Hollywood's hopeful return to moviegoing during the pandemic, Warner Bros. will release Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" in an unprecedented fashion, opening it internationally first on Aug. 26, with a U.S. release in select cities to follow over Labor Day weekend.

Warner Bros. on Monday said "Tenet" will arrive in more than 70 countries on Wednesday, Aug. 26, including Japan, Russia, much of Europe, Australia and Canada. The \$200 million thriller will open in the U.S. about a week later on Thursday, Sept. 3.

The staggered release will be tailored to outbreaks of COVID-19. Instead of the usual global launch of a summer blockbuster, "Tenet" will make its way through theaters as they are open. The film, originally set for release July 17, has already had its premiere postponed several times. Each time, spikes in cases through the U.S. has forced the studio to remake its plans.

Now, Warner Bros. has upended the usual launch of a would-be blockbuster. When "Tenet" lands in the U.S., it will be piecemeal throughout the country and dependent on areas where cinemas are allowed open. They are currently shuttered in California and New York (each home to one of the country's top two markets), among other states. But that could change in the next month.

Warner Bros. will also deliberately spread out its opening weekend, debuting the film mid-week to space out eager moviegoers. The major theater chains are expecting to operate with heightened cleaning measures and at reduced capacities of 25-50% to facilitate social distancing. AMC Theaters, the world's largest chain, last week postponed its U.S. reopening to mid-to-late August.

While the release of other tentpoles have been further delayed, Nolan and Warner Bros. have sought to lead the charge back into theaters. Exhibitors, the wide majority of which have been closed for more than four months, are desperate for new films and have implored distributors to accept atypical release patterns.

Walt Disney Co. last week indefinitely delayed its "Mulan" remake. Paramount Pictures put off "A Quiet Place Part II" to April 2021.

Last week, cinemas reopened in China, the world's second largest market, although "Tenet" doesn't yet have a release date there. In Europe, about a third of AMC's locations have resumed operating. In the meantime, movie theaters have mostly been showing older films.

## As Congress fights, analysts warn economy needs help now

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Congress and the White House resume their efforts to agree on a new economic aid package, evidence is growing that the U.S. economy is faltering. And so is concern that the government may not take the steps needed to support hiring and growth.

"We're in a pretty fragile state again," warned Nancy Vanden Houten, lead economist at Oxford Economics, a consulting firm. "The economy needs another shot in the arm."

With unemployment still at a high 11.1% and hiring potentially slowing in July, the economy is likely to weaken further without more government aid, economists say. Few agree with White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow's assertion on Sunday that the nation is on a V-shaped recovery path, in which the sharp recession that began in February would be followed by a quick rebound.

What's needed, most economists say, is continued extra aid for tens of millions of unemployed Americans, along with more funding for state and local governments and more grants for struggling small companies,



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 80 of 93

many of which could go out of business.

Yet even with the viral outbreak intensifying and nearly half of Americans whose families have endured a layoff saying they fear those jobs are lost forever, Congress isn't anywhere close to agreeing on the outlines of a package even as a \$600-a-week federal payment to the unemployed has expired.

The debate coincides with worrisome signs about the job market and the economy. The number of laid-off workers who have applied for unemployment benefits has topped 1 million every week for 18 straight weeks. Before the pandemic, that figure never exceeded 700,000. Real-time data shows that Americans' visits to shops and restaurants have leveled off after having grown in May and June. Air travel fell last week compared with the week before.

As Congress struggles to reach a compromise on a new financial rescue plan, the main sticking point is the supplemental federal unemployment aid, which provides \$600 a week on top of whatever benefit each state provides.

The White House wants to replace the enhanced benefit with a payment that would vary by state but would combine with a state unemployment benefit to replace 70% of recipients' previous income, likely with some cap for high-income earners. On average, state benefits are equivalent to 45% of workers' former incomes.

Senate Republicans favor reducing the \$600 to a flat payment of \$200, possibly as a bridge to a 70% replacement system. The flat payment had been adopted in March because most states' unemployment systems use antiquated software that cannot adjust individual payments using a percentage formula.

The Democratic-led House has already approved legislation that would extend the \$600 through January. Research has shown that, counting the \$600 a week in federal aid, roughly two-thirds of those out of work are receiving more money from their jobless benefits than they earned at their previous jobs. That conclusion has fueled Republican concerns that the extra aid has discouraged some of the unemployed from returning to work, potentially slowing the recovery.

Many small businesses have said the \$600 weekly federal benefit has made it harder for them to fill jobs. But some unemployed people are reluctant to return to work because they fear becoming infected. And others have tried and failed to find any work.

One new finding suggests that the federal jobless benefit hasn't broadly kept people from going back to work. In a paper released Monday, a group of economists and doctoral students at Yale University found that unemployed people with larger percentage gains in their benefits were no less likely to return to work than those with smaller increases.

When the unemployment rate is as high as it is now, economists generally worry less about disincentives, because so few jobs are available. It's when unemployment is low and people who are out of work know that jobs are widely available that the disincentive to work would more likely apply.

William Spriggs, chief economist at the AFL-CIO, argued that the 7.5 million jobs that the economy added in May and June suggest that most of the unemployed will take a job offer when unemployment is high, because they know another opportunity may be hard to find.

"This is the last lifeboat leaving, and if you don't get on it, you're toast," Spriggs said. Most workers also prefer the security of a job over a temporary, if generous, benefit, he said.

Jeremiah Spelts is among those who would like to find new work. Spelts, 41, earned more money from his diesel mechanic job, which he lost in June, than on unemployment. He worked in the oil fields in Wyoming until his employer of two years ran through their Paycheck Protection loan from the government and oil prices fell.

Still, the extra \$600 has made it possible for him to cover all his bills.

If that goes away, "I would literally start losing things," he said. "The first to go would be my apartment and utilities."

On other issues, Senate Republicans have indicated that they oppose further aid to state and local governments, though they support more money for schools. The House Democrats' bill provides \$1 trillion for state and local governments. Both parties support additional funding for small businesses, but Senate Republicans are considering limiting new grants to businesses whose revenue has shrunk at least 50%.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 81 of 93

Michael Strain, an economist at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute, says he supports reducing the extra benefit to roughly \$200 a week. But says that the money saved from that cut should be pumped back into the economy. He favors more aid for state and local governments to prevent them from making any further layoffs, and more funds for small businesses.

"The goal is to support the economy and support consumer spending, without disrupting work incentives," Strain said.

But Scott Shane, an economics professor at Case Western Reserve University, said he thinks aid should focus more on the unemployed than on small businesses, because many companies may not survive, particularly those involved in in-person services such as restaurants, bars and hotels.

The benefit of keeping a restaurant open, for example, is limited, even if it pays all its employees, Shane said. It won't order food or new equipment from its suppliers, which, in turn, have to cut jobs. And there's no way to know at this point when restaurants and other in-person businesses will reopen.

In fact, the potentially open-ended nature of government aid keeps Shane up at night. Congress approved a \$2 trillion package in March. The aid Congress is considering now will likely top \$1 trillion.

"Are we going to do this twice more every six months going forward?" he asked. "You can't just borrow forever."

AP Writer Thalia Beaty in New York contributed to this report.

## 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 reopened their borders, with rising infections in Spain and other nations causing increasing concern among health authorities over 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 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, including many people 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 popular destinations such as Turkey — to get tested. They will also allow people to get tested elsewhere for free within three days of arrival.

Bavaria's governor, Markus Soeder, said he is worried about travelers returning from vacation. Referring to the Austrian ski resort that was an early European hot spot in March, he said: "My worry is not that there will be one big Ischgl, but that there will be many mini-Ischgl's."

Later Monday, Health Minister Jens Spahn said he had decided to make obligatory the testing of returning vacationers from risky areas, and that the new regulations should come into effect within the next week, the dpa news agency reported.

"We need to prevent travelers from infecting others without it being detected and starting new infection chains," he said.

New infections in Germany have been creeping higher from a low level.

The tourism industry 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 tourism companies, Mesa del Turismo, said Spain'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 Britain to exempt the Balearic Islands, which have a low infection rate, from the quarantine rule.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 82 of 93

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

The 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.

Elsewhere in Europe, authorities in Belgium said COVID-19 cases are growing at an alarming rate amid a surge of infections in Antwerp. Greek authorities said they are likely to extend the mandatory use of masks at churches and shopping malls.

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 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 outbreak is people continuing to go to work after showing symptoms.

The crossing of 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. Over the past few days, the country 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 about 16.3 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide and around 650,000 deaths. The actual numbers are thought to be much higher because of limits on testing and the many minor cases that have gone unreported.

The World Health Organization said the pandemic continues to accelerate, with a doubling of cases over the past six weeks.

The U.N. health agency's emergencies chief, Dr. Michael Ryan, stressed the need to "keep pressure on the virus."

"Every single country where pressure has been lifted on the virus, where virus is still at community level, there's been a jump back in cases," he said.

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

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

## 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 83 of 93

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," 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



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 84 of 93

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.

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."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 85 of 93

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.

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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."

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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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 86 of 93

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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

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

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and MICHAEL HILL 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 87 of 93

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 than seven dozen trial sites scattered around the country.

In Binghamton, New York, nurse Melissa Harting said she volunteered as a way "to do my part to help out."

"I'm excited," Harting said before she received a study injection Monday morning. Especially with family members in front-line jobs that could expose them to the virus, "doing our part to eradicate it is very important to me."

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

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 U.S. 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.

## 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 nearly 269,000 reported infections, including 2,760 deaths.

Fatin Daud, a 25-year-old Malaysian who is 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 movements, 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 for a lifetime for the journey. It also generates billions of dollars in revenue each year for Saudi Arabia.

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.

King Salman, who typically oversees the hajj from Mecca, underwent surgery to remove his gallbladder at a hospital in the capital, Riyadh, the royal court said last week. The 84-year-old monarch was to remain at the hospital to recover and be observed by doctors.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 89 of 93

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, international media were not given permission to cover the hajj from Mecca.

Also 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.

## Guatemala teacher pedals classroom to students in pandemic

By MOISES CASTILLO Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ DEL QUICHE, Guatemala (AP) — When the novel coronavirus closed Guatemala's schools in mid-March, teacher Gerardo Ixcoy invested his savings in a secondhand, adult tricycle.

But this is not just transportation. It's also a mobile classroom, with plastic sheets to protect against virus transmission, a whiteboard and a small solar panel that powers an audio player he uses for some lessons.

Each day, the 27-year-old pedals among the cornfields of Santa Cruz del Quiché to give individual instruction to his sixth-grade students.

On a recent day, 12-year-old Paola Ximena Conoz wiped her glasses as she waited for Ixcoy to set up just outside the door to her home. They greeted each other warmly — though without contact. Ixcoy deployed the mop that measures the distance between him and his students.

Standing behind the plexiglass window of his tricycle, he produced a pizza box.

The day's lesson: fractions.

Ixcoy is known universally as "Lalito 10," a childhood nickname that stuck. He tries to visit each of his students twice a week.

The classroom-on-a-trike was born of necessity. Ixcoy quickly realized there were challenges to remote learning in this farming community in Guatemala's western highlands.

"I tried to get the kids their work sheets sending instructions via WhatsApp, but they didn't respond," Ixcoy said. "The parents told me that they didn't have money to buy data packages (for their phones) and others couldn't help their children understand the instructions." Illiteracy in the area is about 42%. And in the entire department or province, only about 13% of homes have internet.

"The cellphones they have at home are very basic," Ixcoy said. "They can't download apps like Zoom that would allow you to give a virtual class."

Paola's 36-year-old father, Victor Conoz, traveled regularly to Belize to sell produce. Due to the pandemic, he hadn't worked in four months.

"The situation is really complicated," he said. "You're not going to believe me, but some days we didn't have food and buying data for the cellphone was impossible for me."

For the kids, the classes break up the monotony of weeks in quarantine. Eleven-year-old Oscar Rojas waited anxiously in the doorway of his home in a black button-down shirt tucked into navy blue trousers. He lined up his notebooks and pencils and slipped on a face mask.

The pandemic has really altered Oscar's routine, "because now I'm not receiving normal classes," he said. "Teacher Lalito only comes for a little while to teach me, but I learn a lot."

In the afternoon, Ixcoy pedals for home to beat the curfew. He and his wife Yessika and their 3-year-old son Dylan walk to a small plot of land they rented to grow corn as another source of income. They also planted a vegetable garden beside their home.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 90 of 93

The families he serves often struggle to stave off hunger.

"One day the mother of a student told me they didn't have food," Ixcoy said. "When class ended and I began to ride away on my tricycle she calls me and with a look of gratefulness says, 'Teacher, they gave me some food, I want to share half with you.'"

"I arrived home crying," he recalled.

While nonstop news about the effects of the coronavirus has become commonplace, so, too, have tales of kindness. "One Good Thing" is a series of AP stories focusing on glimmers of joy and benevolence in a dark time. Read the series here: <https://apnews.com/OneGoodThing>

## Black soldiers monument faces scrutiny amid racial reckoning

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The white Union Army commander sits rigid atop an imposing horse. His Black men, rifles to their shoulders, march resolutely alongside on their way to battle.

For L'Merchie Frazier, the towering bronze relief in downtown Boston captures the stirring call to arms answered by Black soldiers who served in the state's famed Civil War fighting unit, which was popularized in the 1989 Oscar-winning movie "Glory."

But the longtime Boston artist says she understands how the imagery of the Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial can conjure mixed feelings as the nation takes another hard look at its monuments and memorials in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

"Whose story is being told with this monument?" said Frazier, who is the education director at the nearby Museum of African American History. "The hierarchy is very evident. White commander out front; Black soldiers in the background. It's the first thing you see."

Amid the national reckoning on racism, the Shaw memorial is the latest and, perhaps, one of the more curious to receive scrutiny.

Unlike other felled monuments, the work by American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens isn't a paean to the Confederacy. It doesn't have explicit ties to colonialism, such as the Christopher Columbus monuments that have been toppled in Boston and elsewhere.

Instead, the creation of the memorial in the aftermath of the Civil War was championed by prominent Black Bostonians of the day.

It was originally envisioned as a traditional equestrian monument to Shaw, but the colonel's family, a wealthy Boston clan strongly opposed to slavery, requested that it also honor the Black men who served and died alongside him during their famed charge on Fort Wagner in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1863.

The monument is also significant because it's the nation's first honoring Black soldiers, said Elizabeth Vizza, executive director of the Friends of the Public Garden, a group helping pay for a \$3 million restoration of the monument, which started in earnest in May.

Saint-Gaudens spent 14 years creating a richly detailed bas relief, using Black men of different ages as models for his realistic soldiers. After it was unveiled to fanfare in 1897, American author Henry James declared the work "real perfection," according to the National Park Service.

"This was a radical piece of art," Vizza said. "It was not lost on people back then."

The work, which sits across from the Massachusetts Statehouse, has been vandalized over the years, mostly by people snapping off Shaw's broadsword. But during the unrest that followed Floyd's killing in May, the monument was tagged with anti-police slogans, expletives and other graffiti, along with about a dozen others in and around the Common.

Kevin Peterson, founder of the New Democracy Coalition that's calling on Boston to rename Faneuil Hall after Crispus Attucks, said the Shaw monument should be moved to a museum because it casts Blacks as "subservient" to whites.

Similar complaints have prompted the removal of other ostensibly well-meaning monuments in recent weeks, including a statue of Theodore Roosevelt in front of the American Museum of Natural History in

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 91 of 93

New York and a statue of Abraham Lincoln depicting a freed slave kneeling at his feet in Boston.

The Rev. Vernon Walker, a board member with Massachusetts Peace Action, which has called for changing the state seal's controversial depiction of a Native American man, suggests the Shaw memorial could better recognize the achievements of the Black soldiers themselves.

Roughly half the regiment's 600 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or presumed dead following the failed assault on Fort Wagner, and their heroism inspired tens of thousands of Black men and others to sign up for the Union Army, helping turn the tide of the war.

Sgt. William Carney became the first Black man awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the regiment's flag from capture. Two sons of prominent Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who had pushed Lincoln to allow Blacks to serve in the war, also fought at Fort Wagner.

But while the names of Shaw and other fallen white commanding officers were etched in the monument from its unveiling, those of the Black soldiers weren't added until the 1980s, during its last major facelift.

The film "Glory" features shots of the restored monument in its end credits. Director Edward Zwick and leading cast members, including Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman, declined to comment through their representatives.

For now, the Shaw memorial is not among the public works that have come up as Boston continues to review public concerns about city monuments in the wake of the national debate on racism, said Mark Pasnik, who chairs the city's Art Commission overseeing the process.

But Vizza, of the park group, doesn't think the memorial, which is expected to be restored by November, should be changed or moved.

She believes people will have a greater appreciation for the work if they simply learn more about it, something her organization, the mayor's office, and the National Park Service have taken pains to do.

Ahead of the restoration, which included disassembling parts of the memorial last week, officials hosted forums on public monuments that included prominent Black scholars and civil rights activists.

A temporary exhibit also has been installed on the fencing around the construction site detailing the 54th regiment's exploits. And a new "augmented reality" app leads people on a virtual tour of the monument where they can learn more about its significance and ongoing restoration.

Frazier, of the Museum of African American History, says those are all laudable steps, and agrees the monument should remain where it is.

"It's not enough to just see the piece. You have to go deeper," she said. "There's so much not told, but the monument is so moving that it can lead you to those things, if you're curious."

## **VIRUS DIARY: Keeping New York alive, one song at a time**

By JAIME HOLGUIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Outside, the soundtrack of sirens wailed, each another death blow to the city that had nurtured my development as a musician for so long. But from inside my life on lockdown, an unexpected reconnection to my catalog of sounds was handing me hope for New York's future.

When I moved here in autumn 1996, as I learned to engineer and produce music, I started recording everything from found sounds to late-night jam sessions to my own dabbling. And I'd saved everything.

In January, my longtime musical collaborator suggested we catalog, curate and upload my decades-rich audio archive to the online music site Bandcamp. Under normal circumstances I would've said no; I'd considered those recordings unfinished, meant for private enjoyment and reflection.

But within the context of a pandemic, I pushed aside insecurity and instead saw opportunity.

And so the excavation of long-forgotten boxes began. From their depths came microcassettes. MiniDiscs. CDs. Hard drives. What emerged was a historical document shaped by my personal and professional journey in the city.

To a wide-eyed 23-year-old from Las Cruces, New Mexico, New York offered unexpected adventures and limitless possibilities. Inspiration was always around the corner.

One night I ended up in the basement of the fabled CBGB, rubbing elbows with Iggy Pop, Joey Ramone



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 92 of 93

and Neil Young while watching Sonic Youth perform a private set. Another evening, I landed in a makeshift studio, deploying my nascent recording skills for a session with Gordon Gano of the Violent Femmes.

New York's serendipitous moments have long been fueled by the streets and subway tunnels, its arteries. These great equalizers compel coexistence, pushing inhabitants into its daily motion, fabric and swell. What is left when the people — the hemoglobin in this multicultural organism — disappear? Does New York die?

I decided to keep my city alive by revisiting my relationship with it one audio file at a time. Each box I opened yielded a different medium, a different state of mind.

My first instrument was the microcassette recorder. I'd play it like a turntablist, jerking the forward/reverse switch to "scratch" the sounds I'd collect — from a radiator to a frozen lake to a revving engine. I found recordings of interviews I'd conducted with artists including Mike Patton, Marc Ribot and Latin Playboys.

A synergy was taking place, I realize now. Journalism was granting me access to master classes on songwriting and production; I would use what I'd learned to feed myself and The Associated Press, where I became de facto in-house composer and created music tracks for our journalism.

Sitting in my studio surrounded by artifacts, I pieced together a memoir from lo-fi samples and Alan Lomax-inspired field recordings: Mexican songs from family singalongs. Church hymns sung by relatives. Rancheras played by prison inmates in Juarez, Mexico, where I was researching a documentary.

As lockdown days dragged on, I dug deeper. Next up: nested folders inside my first laptop, the Apple Powerbook G3, the model used by Sarah Jessica Parker in "Sex and the City." While Carrie Bradshaw was recording observations on romance, I was sampling, layering and manipulating New York's sounds in ways unimaginable prior to 1998.

The laptop would become my mobile recording studio — and, in the mid-2000s, my ticket into music venues and apartments of the musicians who appeared on my AP podcast, "One Mic, One Song."

As I listened to the episode featuring Lila Downs, who displayed her range with a jaw-dropping acapella rendition of "La Noche De Mi Mal," I thought of my late parents, who grew up listening to its songwriter, Jose Alfredo Jimenez.

Their voices, prominent throughout my archive, were fresh in my mind alongside the countless other people who have participated in — and defined — the soundtrack of my life in New York City.

During the past four months, we have each sought refuge in different ways. I found mine. I have reframed my New York narrative, moment by unearthed moment. Along the way, I've discovered a years-long song that I never realized I was writing.

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Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus pandemic through the eyes of AP journalists around the world. Jaime Holguin is AP's director of original programming. Check out his audio archive at <https://en-stereo.bandcamp.com/> and follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/enstereo>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 28, the 210th day of 2020. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 28, 1945, the U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

On this date:

In 1794, Maximilien Robespierre, a leading figure of the French Revolution, was sent to the guillotine.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1929, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was born in Southampton, N.Y.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing, which had limited people to one pound of coffee every five weeks since it began in Nov. 1942.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 025 ~ 93 of 93**

In 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

In 1959, in preparation for statehood, Hawaiians voted to send the first Chinese-American, Republican Hiram L. Fong, to the U.S. Senate and the first Japanese-American, Democrat Daniel K. Inouye, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1989, Israeli commandos abducted a pro-Iranian Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim cleric, Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid (AHB'-dool kah-REEM' oh-BAYD'), from his home in south Lebanon. (He was released in January 2004 as part of a prisoner swap.)

In 2016, Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia, where she cast herself as a unifier for divided times as well as an experienced leader steeled for a volatile world while aggressively challenging Republican Donald Trump's ability to lead.

In 2017, the Senate voted 51-49 to reject Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's last-ditch effort to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul with a trimmed-down bill. John McCain, who was about to begin treatments for a brain tumor, joined two other GOP senators in voting against the repeal effort.

Ten years ago: U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton put most of Arizona's toughest-in-the-nation immigration law on hold just hours before it was to take effect. (In September 2012, Bolton ruled that police could enforce the so-called "show me your papers" provision of the law.) Airblue Flight 202, a Pakistani Airbus A321, crashed into the hills overlooking Islamabad, killing all 152 people aboard.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama wrapped up his trip to Kenya and Ethiopia in Addis Ababa, where he urged African leaders to leave office peacefully after their terms expired. It was announced that Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Naval intelligence analyst who had spent nearly three decades in prison for spying for Israel, had been granted parole. In a case that outraged animal lovers, Zimbabwean police said they were searching for an American who had shot and killed a well-known, protected lion known as Cecil during a bow hunt; Walter Palmer, a Minnesota dentist, issued a statement saying he thought everything about his trip was legal. (Officials in Zimbabwe later said Palmer had not broken the country's hunting laws.) Tom Brady's four-game suspension for his role in using underinflated footballs during the AFC championship game was upheld by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

One year ago: A gunman opened fire at a popular garlic festival in Gilroy, California, killing three people, including a six-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, and wounding 17 others before taking his own life. President Donald Trump announced that Dan Coats would be resigning from his post as director of national intelligence, after a turbulent two years in which he and Trump were often at odds over Russian interference in the 2016 election. (Trump named John Ratcliffe to succeed Coats, but the Texas Republican congressman withdrew after five days of growing questions about his experience and qualifications.) Egan Bernal, a 22-year-old from Colombia, became South America's first winner of cycling's Tour de France.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 89. Ballet dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise is 86. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 79. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 77. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 75. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 74. Actress Linda Kelsey is 74. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 73. Actress Sally Struthers is 73. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 71. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 66. Former CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 63. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 59. Actor Michael Hayden is 57. Actress Lori Loughlin is 56. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 55. Former hockey player Garth Snow is 51. Actress Elizabeth Berkley is 48. Singer Afroman is 46. Country musician Todd Anderson (Heartland) is 45. Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 44. Country singer Carly Goodwin is 39. Actor John David Washington is 36. Actor Jon Michael Hill is 35. Actor Dustin Milligan is 35. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 34. Rapper Soulja Boy is 30. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd (TV: "The X Factor") is 27.