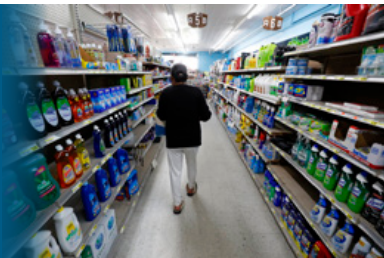




76°/67°  
Thunderstorms

## US FOOD PRICES JUMP

The cost of food bought to eat at home has skyrocketed by percentages not seen since 1974. The historic 2.6% increase is likely to stay. [SWJOURNALIST.COM](http://SWJOURNALIST.COM)



# Southwest Journalist

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## AUSTIN PROTESTS

**Hundreds gather at police headquarters, march on I-35 to protest police violence following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos. Gov. Abbott sends state troopers to Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.**

**2**  
protests in Austin

**1,500**  
troopers

**\$500,000**  
bond set for Derek Chauvin, fired officer

**I-35**  
interstate connecting Austin and Minneapolis shut down in both cities

**M**ore than 1,500 Texas state troopers were sent Saturday to various cities by Gov. Greg Abbott to help control protests over the death of Houston native George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.

"Texas and America mourn the senseless loss of George Floyd, and the actions that led to his death are reprehensible and should be condemned in the strongest terms possible," Abbott said in a news release. "As Texans exercise their First Amendment rights, it is imperative that order is maintained and private property is protected."

The troopers were being sent to Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio, the governor said.

In Austin, hundreds of people gathered outside police headquarters, and many later marched peacefully along Interstate 35 as police shut down the interstate to traffic.

The rally was for both Floyd and Michael Ramos, a 42-year-old man fatally shot last month by Austin police.

In a statement to Austin media Ramos' mother, Brenda Ramos, issued a plea for calm.

"I am heartbroken over the terrible murder of George Floyd. I understand the anger. But I am pleading with the community please do not commit

"I understand the anger. But I am pleading with the community, please do not commit violence in my son Mike's name."

**BRENDA RAMOS, MOTHER OF 42-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL RAMOS WHO WAS FATALLY SHOT LAST MONTH BY AUSTIN POLICE**

violence in my son Mike's name," the statement said.

Leaders of the protest told the Associated Press they would return Sunday.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said nearly 200 people were arrested Friday during a protest in which many blocked an Interstate 45 ramp and a highway.

Those arrested "participated in unlawful assemblies," Acevedo said Saturday on Twitter. "Most will be charged with obstructing a roadway."

Protesters also blocked a Dallas interstate, and one officer suffered non-life-threatening injuries, police said on Twitter.

Authorities in Dallas used tear gas and those in Houston used pepper spray to disperse crowds that numbered in the hundreds. Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall said officers were making sure the protest was peaceful when violence began.

"Then all of a sudden bricks start hailing, hitting our squad cars, hitting the officers ... I almost got hit with a brick," Hall said.

It was not clear how many were arrested in Dallas, and police did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment Saturday.

Protests have spread across the U.S., fueled by outrage over Floyd's death. On Friday, the white Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck was arrested and charged with murder.

### AROUND THE NATION:

Protests brought on more issues and confrontations overnight Friday and Saturday.

### SALT LAKE CITY

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has activated the Utah National Guard after protesters angry over Floyd's death turned violent during a demonstration in Salt Lake City at which some

RICARDO B. BRAZZIELL

**Two Austin Police officers arrest a protester as they shut down the southbound Interstate 35 freeway in Austin, Texas on May 30. Demonstrators were protesting the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed in police custody in Minneapolis.**

■ PROTESTS, Page 2



The SpaceX Falcon 9 and the Crew Dragon capsule, with NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley onboard, lifts off May 30 at the Kennedy Space Center.

## NASA, SpaceX launch successful

Two astronauts to arrive at International Space Station Sunday

**BY MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** — A rocket ship built by Elon Musk's SpaceX company thundered away from Earth on Saturday, ushering in a new era in commercial space travel and putting the United States back in the business of launching astronauts into orbit from U.S. soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

NASA's Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken rode skyward aboard a white-and-black, bullet-shaped Dragon capsule on top of a Falcon 9 rocket, lifting off at 3:22 p.m. from the same launch pad used to send Apollo crews to the moon a half-century ago. Minutes later, they slipped safely into orbit.

"Let's light this candle," Hurley said just before ignition, borrowing the words used by Alan Shepard on America's first human spaceflight, in 1961.

The two men are scheduled to arrive Sunday at the International Space Station, 250 miles above Earth, to join three crew members already there. After a stay of up to four months, they will come home with a Right Stuff-style splashdown at sea, something the world hasn't witnessed since the 1970s.

Hurley, a 53-year-old retired Marine, and Behnken, 49, an Air Force colonel, are veterans of two space shuttle flights each. Hurley piloted the shuttle on the last launch of astronauts from Kennedy Space Center, on July

8, 2011.

The mission unfolded amid the gloom of the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed over 100,000 Americans, and racial unrest across the U.S. over the death of George Floyd, a black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police. NASA officials and others hoped the flight would lift American spirits and show the world what the U.S. can do.

Doug Marshburn, of Deltona, Florida, shouted, "USA! USA!" as he watched the 260-foot rocket climb skyward.

"I'm very proud of the United States. We are back in the game. It's very satisfying," he said.

SpaceX became the first private company to launch people into orbit, a feat achieved previ-

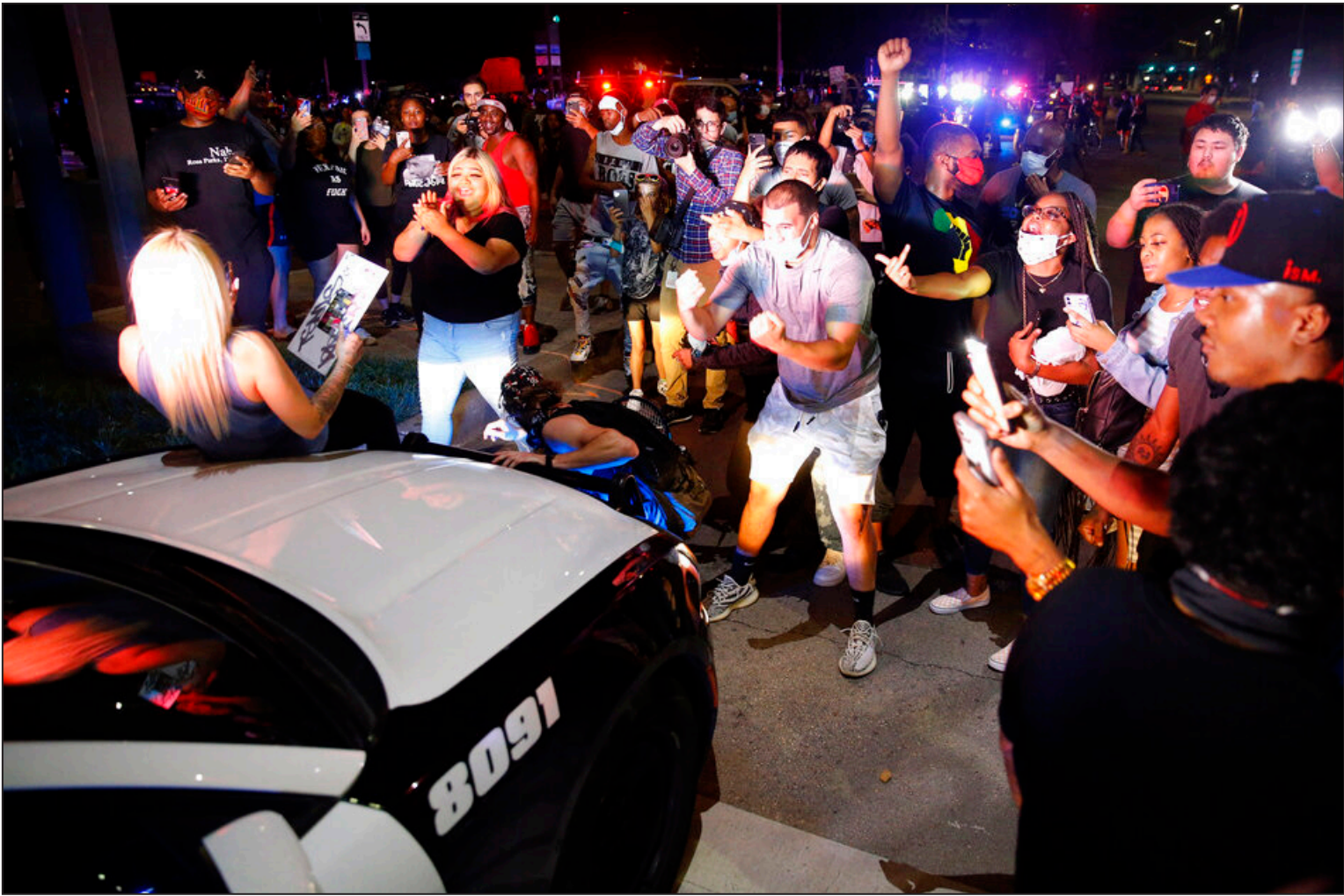
ously by only three governments: the U.S., Russia and China.

The flight also ended a nine-year launch drought for NASA. Ever since it retired the space shuttle in 2011, NASA has relied on Russian spaceships launched from Kazakhstan to take U.S. astronauts to and from the space station.

In the intervening years, NASA outsourced the job of designing and building its next generation of spaceships to SpaceX and Boeing, awarding them \$7 billion in contracts in a public-private partnership aimed at driving down costs and spurring innovation. Boeing's spaceship, the Starliner capsule, is not

■ SPACE, Page 2





Protestors stop Dallas Police officers responding to a confrontation at Young St. and S. Griffin St. in downtown Dallas May 29. People marched in protest of the in-custody death of George Floyd when they confronted Dallas Police tactical officers and tear gas was fired.

## Texans begin demonstrating

■ PROTESTS from page 1

participants carried rifles.

Herbert says in a tweet that the Guard will help control “the escalating situation” in the downtown area following the unrest Saturday afternoon.

The protest started peacefully but degenerated into violence. A group of people flipped over a police car and lit it on fire. Some demonstrators smashed eggs and wrote graffiti on the walls of the Salt Lake City police station. Others marched through downtown to the state Capitol.

### LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti imposed a downtown curfew for Saturday night after some protests turned violent.

With protesters back out Saturday, Garcetti said everyone must be off downtown streets by 8 p.m. and stay away until 5:30 a.m.

Several police cars were torched Saturday afternoon as some protesters

ignored authorities’ call for peaceful demonstrations.

That followed a night of violence during which people smashed windows, robbed stores and set fires. Los Angeles police reported arresting 533 people during the night.

### MINNEAPOLIS

Several Minneapolis City Council members are asking Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to appoint the state’s attorney general as a special prosecutor in the Floyd’s death.

Six of the council’s 13 members say they support a call from Floyd’s family for Attorney General Keith Ellison to handle the prosecution of the police officer who held his knee on Floyd’s neck Monday. The council members say they don’t think Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman has the public trust necessary for the job.

Freeman on Friday charged now-fired officer Derek Chauvin with third-degree murder in Floyd’s death. Chauvin is white; Floyd was black.

The council members say Freeman waited too long in bringing charges. They say Ellison, who is black, is best qualified to handle the case. They also cite a working group he helped lead.



Protesters shut down southbound Interstate 35 freeway in Austin, Texas May 30.

## SpaceX gets second chance

■ SPACE from page 1

expected to fly astronauts until early 2021.

NASA hopes to rely in part on commercial partners as it pursues its next goals: sending astronauts back to the moon in the next few years and on to Mars in the 2030s.

Musk, the visionary also behind the Tesla electric car company, had no immediate comment on the successful liftoff.

At a rally a short time later at NASA’s massive 525-foot-high Vehicle Assembly Building, Vice President Mike Pence commended Musk for a “job well done.”

Pence said that as the nation deals with the coronavirus and the racial strife, “I believe with all my heart that millions of Americans today will find the same inspiration and unity of purpose that we found in those days in the 1960s” during Apollo.

The first launch attempt, on Wednesday, was called off because of lightning with less than 17 minutes to go in the countdown. On Saturday, stormy weather threatened another postponement for most of the day, but the skies began to clear just in the time.

The astronauts set out for the

launch pad in a gull-wing Tesla SUV after Behnken pantomimed a hug of his 6-year-old son, Theo, and said: “Are you going to listen to Mommy and make her life easy?” Hurley blew kisses to his 10-year-old son and wife.

Nine minutes after liftoff, the rocket’s first-stage booster landed, as designed, on a barge a few hundred miles off the Florida coast, to be reused on another flight.

“Thanks for the great ride to space,” Hurley told SpaceX ground control. His crewmate batted around a sparkly purplish toy, demonstrating that they had reached zero gravity.

SpaceX controllers at Hawthorne, California, cheered and applauded wildly.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine declared: “This is everything that America has to offer in its purest form.”

“It’s been nine years since we’ve launched American astronauts on American rockets from American soil — and now it’s done. We have done it. It’s been way too long,” he said.

Attendance inside Kennedy Space Center was strictly limited because of the coronavirus, and the crowd amounted to only a few thousand. By NASA’s count, over 3 million viewers tuned in online.

Despite NASA’s insistence that the public stay safe by staying home, spectators gathered along beaches and roads hours in advance.

Among them was Neil Wight, a machinist from Buffalo, New York, who staked out a view of the launch pad from a park in Titusville.

“With everything that’s going on in this country right now, it’s important that we do things extraordinary in life,” Wight said. “We’ve been bombarded with doom and gloom for the last six, eight weeks, whatever it is, and this is awesome. It brings a lot of people together.”

The astronauts were kept in quasi-quarantine for more than two months because of the coronavirus. The SpaceX technicians who helped them get into their spacesuits wore masks and gloves that made them look like black-clad ninjas. And at the launch center, the SpaceX controllers wore masks and were seated far apart.

In keeping with Musk’s penchant for futuristic flash, the astronauts wore angular white uniforms with black trim. Instead of the usual multitude of dials, knobs and switches, the Dragon capsule has three large touchscreens.

SpaceX has been launching cargo capsules to the space station since 2012. In preparation for Saturday’s flight, SpaceX sent up a Dragon capsule with only a test dummy aboard last year, and it docked smoothly at the orbiting outpost on autopilot, then returned to Earth in a splashdown.

Under the new, 21st-century corporate-public partnership, aerospace companies design, build, own and op-

erate the spaceships. NASA is essentially a paying customer on a list that could eventually include non-government researchers, artists and tourists. (Tom Cruise has already expressed interest.)

Saturday’s mission is technically considered by SpaceX and NASA to be a test flight. The next SpaceX voyage to the space station, set for the end of August, will have a full, four-person crew: one Japanese and three American astronauts.

The first flight was originally targeted for around 2015. But the project encountered bureaucratic delays and technical setbacks. A SpaceX capsule exploded on the test stand last year. Boeing’s first Starliner capsule ended up in the wrong orbit and was nearly destroyed during a test flight in December.

For SpaceX — and the future of public-corporate space exploration — the stakes were extraordinarily high, and Musk said he would take responsibility if anything went wrong. Just before liftoff, SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said she was “super nervous — stomach in throat.”

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Mike Schneider in Cape Canaveral, Fla., contributed to this report.



The massive protests sweeping across U.S. cities following the police killing of a black man in Minnesota have elevated fears of a new surge in cases of the coronavirus. Images showing thousands of screaming, unmasked protesters have sent shudders through the health community, who worry their calls for social distancing during the demonstrations are unlikely to be heard.

## EXPERTS WORRY PROTESTS COULD FUEL VIRUS

BY BRIAN MELLEY AND JOHN SEEWER  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The massive protests sweeping across U.S. cities following the police killing of a handcuffed black man in Minnesota have elevated fears of a new surge in cases of the coronavirus.

Images showing thousands of screaming, unmasked protesters have sent shudders through the health community, which worries its calls for social distancing during the demonstrations are unlikely to be heard.

Leaders appealing for calm in places where crowds smashed storefronts and destroyed police cars in recent nights also have been handing out masks and warning protesters they were putting themselves at risk.

Minnesota’s governor said Satur-

day that too many protesters weren’t socially distancing or wearing masks after heeding the call to protest earlier in the week.

But many seemed undeterred. “It’s not OK that in the middle of a pandemic we have to be out here risking our lives,” Spence Ingram said Friday after marching with other protesters to the state Capitol in Atlanta. “But I have to protest for my life and fight for my life all the time.”

Ingram, 25, who was wearing a mask, said she has asthma and was worried about contracting the virus. But she said as a black woman, she always felt that her life was under threat from police and she needed to protest that.

The demonstrations over the killing of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee into his neck, are coming at a time when many cities were beginning to relax stay-at-home orders.

That’s especially worrisome for health experts who fear that silent car-

## BRIEFS

### Sheriff: Texas constable mistakenly killed by deputy

A Texas deputy mistakenly shot and killed another responding officer early Friday while searching a home after a neighbor reported a suspicious person in the area, authorities said.

The shooting happened in the Sienna Plantation subdivision in Missouri City, about 15 miles southwest of Houston.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls said a neighbor reported someone suspicious running in the area. County sheriff’s deputies and Deputy Constable Caleb Rule responded, he said.

Nehls said the 911 caller reported seeing the suspect through a security camera running into a house the caller knew was vacant.

Three deputies and the constable arrived at the scene within a minute of one another, Nehls said.

The deputies entered the home through an unlocked door, Nehls said. While searching it, a deputy fatally shot Rule, mistaking him for an intruder, Nehls said.

Rule is survived by his wife and their four teenage children, Nehls said.

The deputy, whose name has not been released, has more than 20 years of experience, Nehls said. The deputy was placed on leave, which is department policy in deputy-involved shootings. An investigation into the shooting is underway.

### Maine Democrats’ virtual voting continues

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Democratic Party is continuing remote elections for delegates to the Democratic National Convention this weekend.

Voting began Friday and wraps up Sunday with a virtual rally featuring Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. The event is happening on the weekend that Democrats were supposed to hold their state convention in Bangor.

The Democratic National Committee approved the plan for remote elections of delegates to August’s national convention in Milwaukee.

### No news on rescheduled Olympics until fall

TOKYO — Olympics organizing CEO Toshiro Mutō said not to expect much solid news on progress toward next year’s rescheduled Tokyo games until planning reaches its “second phase” in the fall.

This includes who pays for the delay, estimated in Japan at \$2 billion to \$6 billion; deal-making to secure the same 43 venues and competition schedule; and how to keep fans, staff and athletes safe from the coronavirus.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has suggested a possible quarantine for athletes, floated the possibility of little fan access, and has not ruled out empty stadiums.

“If you ask, are we just around the first corner of the 400-meter race, I cannot answer that question,” said Mutō, speaking through an interpreter during an online news conference. “But I can tell you this much. I do not feel we are late in our preparations. I do not feel we are being delayed in any way.”

### Alaska tests travelers, extends quarantine

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Travelers coming to Alaska must be tested for coronavirus before boarding a plane to the state or submit to a 14-day quarantine upon arrival, Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy announced.

Out-of-state travelers will soon need to show proof of testing within 72 hours of boarding and fill out paperwork. If either test results or paperwork is lost, travelers will be subjected to another test at the airport or quarantine for two weeks.

Dunleavy also extended the 14-day quarantine policy until June 5. It was set to expire June 2. The new testing requirements are intended to replace the quarantine rule first implemented in March.

Some smaller communities with limited health care infrastructure could still restrict incoming nonessential travel, he said. State officials are scheduled to discuss overland travel from Canada or ferry travel protocols next week. Further policy changes are expected to be clarified on Monday.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowit’s administration has said it wants to fully analyze the new travel regulations before commenting on it, spokeswoman Carolyn Hall said.

“I am not planning on anything right now,” Berkowitz said. “We are going to wait and see what the state is going to do.”

For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks.