



77°/68°
Partly cloudy

SPACEX

After delaying launch earlier in the week, a rocket hosting two astronauts launched yesterday and successfully docked at the International Space Station on Sunday.
NEWS, 3



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020



DALLAS — Protesters demonstrate police brutality in front of Dallas City Hall in downtown Dallas on May 30.



AUSTIN — Police stands guard as Austin Fire Department put out a car fire under Interstate 35 freeway on May 30.



HOUSTON — Protesters stop and chant "I can't breathe" as they march northbound on 288 just south of Tuam Street on May 29.

Abbott declares disaster

DPS, National Guard deployed as protests spread

BY ALEX SAMUELS
Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Sunday afternoon that the entire state of Texas will be placed under a disaster declaration in response to demonstrators in several Texas cities protesting the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed Monday in Minneapolis police custody.

The declaration allowed Abbott to designate federal law enforcement officers to perform the duties of peace officers in Texas.

Thousands of protesters marched in Texas cities on Friday and Saturday, outraged after Floyd was filmed crying out for help as a white police officer pinned him to the ground with a knee to his neck. The officer, Derek Chauvin, was later arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

"Every Texan and every American has the right to protest and I encourage all Texans to exercise their First Amendment rights," Abbott said in a statement. "However, violence against others and the destruction of property is unacceptable and counterproductive."

His announcement comes a day after he activated the Texas National Guard "in response to protest violence" across the state. In several of the state's large metropolitan areas — including Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio — protesters clashed with police who sometimes used rubber bullets and tear

Violence, vandalism and looting will not be tolerated in this state and those found in violation of the law will be arrested and prosecuted.

GOV. GREG ABBOTT

gas.

Abbott also sent state resources to Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio on Saturday afternoon and said he's spoken to the mayors of all four cities, as well as law enforcement officials. He said Sunday that he also increased those resources for cities throughout Texas and that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has deployed tactical teams to assist state and local law enforcement.

"Violence, vandalism and looting will not be tolerated in this state and those found in violation of the law will be arrested and prosecuted," he said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety sent more than 1,500 troopers on Saturday to assist local police departments. On Sunday, Abbott ordered thousands more troopers to various Texas cities and more than 1,000 members of the National Guard to assist the Texas Department of Public Safety and law enforcement in their efforts.

ment in their efforts.

The governor has previously called Floyd's death "horrific" and the "consequence of poor police work."

His declaration Sunday comes as other local, statewide and national leaders have called for peaceful demonstrations.

"As protests have turned violent in various areas across the state, it is crucial that we maintain order, uphold public safety and protect against property damage or loss," Abbott said in a statement Sunday announcing the statewide disaster declaration. "By authorizing additional federal agents to serve as Texas Peace Officers we will help protect people's safety while ensuring that peaceful protesters can continue to make their voices heard."

Prior to Abbott's announcement, several Texas cities took measures into their own hands. On Saturday evening, the mayor of San Antonio imposed a curfew as a result of escalating tensions due to the protests.

In Dallas, where officials defended the use of tear gas at protests for Floyd, Dallas Police Chief René Hall said Sunday afternoon that a 7 p.m. curfew will go into effect Sunday and end at 6 a.m. "for the next several days," The Dallas Morning News reported. Later in the day, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson issued a local disaster declaration for the next week; it allows the city manager to impose curfews, along with other emergency measures.

"Texas Gov. Greg Abbott declares state of disaster after George Floyd protests" was first published at <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/05/31/texas-greg-abbott-state-disaster-george-floyd/>



A worker walks past boarded up windows at a Target store in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, May 30, that was damaged during protests over the death of George Floyd. Floyd died in Minneapolis police custody on May 25.

Target, CVS briefly close stores over protests

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Target and CVS said Sunday they are temporarily closing certain locations, including some that were damaged during protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week.

Target said it has closed six stores for an extended period. It hopes to reopen its Lake Street store in Minneapolis by the end of this year. The store was near where Floyd was killed, and it was heavily damaged during last week's protests. Another store in Minneapolis remains closed, along with stores in Oakland, California; Atlanta; Philadelphia and Chicago.

The company temporarily closed or adjusted hours at more than 200 stores over the weekend, but most were scheduled to reopen Sunday or

Monday.

"We are heartbroken by the death of George Floyd and the pain it is causing communities across the country," Target said in a statement. "Our focus will remain on our team members' safety and helping our community heal."

Employees at closed stores will be paid for up to 14 days, including premiums they are earning because of the coronavirus pandemic, Target said. They will also be able to work at Target locations that remain open.

CVS didn't say how many stores it had closed, but it said the shuttered locations are in more than 20 states and the District of Columbia. A spokeswoman for the company said pharmacies at closed stores will reroute customers to a nearby CVS so they can get prescriptions filled.

STORES CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Broadway Oakland, CA; Buckhead South Atlanta, GA; South Loop Chicago, IL; Lake Street Minneapolis, MN; Uptown Minneapolis, MN; Washington Square W Philadelphia, PA

States prepare for hurricane season

Coronavirus complicates shelter logistics

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Officials across the U.S. South are still scrambling to adjust their hurricane plans to the coronavirus. The big unknown: Where will people fleeing storms go?

The Associated Press surveyed over 70 counties and states from Texas to Virginia, with more than 60% of coastal counties saying as of late May that they're still solidifying plans for public hurricane shelters. They're also altering preparations for dealing with the sick and elderly, protective equipment and cleanup costs.

Ty Poppell, Emergency Management Agency Director in Georgia's McIntosh County, said evacuations during the pandemic would be a "nightmare." He worried about social distancing at shelters and on buses.

"I'd love to be able to tell you we've got that answered right now," Poppell said. "It's a work in progress."

Hurricane season officially starts Monday, though Tropical Storms Arthur and Bertha arrived early. Forecasters are expecting a busier-than-normal season.

"Everything that we do will be affected in one way or another, big and/or small, by COVID-19," Florida Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz said.

Most counties surveyed said they're still figuring out shelters.

While that may sound worrisome, it could be beneficial because emergency managers need to update plans as the pandemic changes, said Susan Cutter, University of South Carolina disaster expert.

"Disasters are not going to stop for COVID-19," Brad Kieserman, an American Red Cross executive, told reporters in May. "Hope is not a plan. And we've got to plan for tens of thousands of people to evacuate in the face of hurricanes and wildfires and other disasters."

Many counties are taking federal advice and hope to use hotels as smaller-scale shelters, while others plan to use more parts of schools besides large gymnasiums. Still others, especially in Louisiana, plan for big shelters with more social distancing.

Officials emphasize that shelters are last resorts, urging people to stay with friends or in hotels. But massive unemployment is making the expense of hotels less feasible.

Hope is not a plan. And we've got to plan for tens of thousands of people to evacuate in the face of hurricanes and wildfires and other disasters.

BRAD KIESERMAN, RED CROSS EXECUTIVE

"Our biggest change to our hurricane plan is sheltering. How are we going to shelter those that have to evacuate? How are we going to shelter those that are positive COVID patients? There are multiple ideas that we are considering right now," Greg Michel, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director, said.

During tornadoes in April, the state used hotels as shelters, which was good practice for hurricane season, he said.

Some officials acknowledged they aren't as ready for storm season as they were a year ago because of the virus.

"We feel the current rating of preparedness for Craven County is 50% or lower as we still have not finalized shelter options," said Stanley Kite, emergency services director of the North Carolina county hit by 2018's Hurricane Florence. "Before COVID-19, we would have estimated 90%."

Shelters were the most mentioned worry, as having enough staff for shelters is a persistent problem locally and nationally, said Jeff Goldberg, Walton County, Florida's emergency management chief. Comfort levels with other aspects of hurricane preparations varied, reflecting the difference in how states plan for disasters.

Protective equipment is the biggest shortfall in several North Carolina counties. Money is always an issue, with counties often waiting for federal reimbursement. Handling nursing homes, hospitals and COVID-19 patients "is one of the most difficult challenges and would require a larger state response," said Jeffrey Johnson, fire chief in Newport News, Virginia.

Other places downplayed concerns. Orleans Parish Prison, located where 2005's Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, has added social distancing and protective equipment to a 10-year-old plan that's otherwise "essentially unchanged. It's a good plan," said Collin Arnold, head of the city's emergency preparedness office.

A year ago, officials in North Carolina's Beaufort County would have rated their readiness going into hurricane season at a 95 on a 0-to-100 scale. With the virus, that's down to 75. Brad Baker, emergency management director of Florida's Santa Rosa County, gave the same numbers "because there's a lot of unknowns with COVID."

Dems convention to be online

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats will begin their first large-scale virtual convention starting Monday in Texas as plans for a traditional national convention this summer remain unsettled because of the coronavirus.

Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are among the scheduled speakers. Democrats in Minnesota had also planned on holding their state convention online this weekend but postponed amid unrest over the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer used his knee to pin Floyd's neck down for several minutes.

Texas Democrats scrapped plans for an in-person convention in San Antonio because of the pandemic. Regardless, they hope the virtual gathering will serve as a springboard toward November, when Democrats have a rare shot at reclaiming power in Texas. Big gains in 2018 have put them within nine seats of flipping the Texas House for the first time in two decades.

The two Democrats in a July primary runoff to challenge Republican Sen. John Cornyn — Air Force veteran M.J. Hegar and state Sen. Royce

- What**
- Texas Democratic Convention?
- When**
- Monday, June 1
- Who's speaking**
- Former Vice President Joe Biden
 - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
 - Former presidential candidate Julián Castro
 - Former presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke
 - Sen. Kamala Harris
 - Sen. Elizabeth Warren
 - Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

West — will also debate Saturday.

The Democratic National Convention postponed its convention from July until August, but Democratic leaders are open to the idea of it unfolding virtually.

Meanwhile, Texas Republicans are still planning to hold their state convention in person in July.



Former Vice President Joe Biden participates in a Democratic presidential primary debate at CNN Studios in Washington in this March 15 file photo. Biden will close out Texas Democrats' virtual convention today that was moved online over fears of the coronavirus. Big names that Texas Democrats have rounded up for their state convention include House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Kamala Harris of California and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts who will also speak at the weeklong event via video.



People gather in Trafalgar Square in central London on Sunday, May 31 to protest against the recent killing of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis that has led to protests across the U.S.

World alarmed by violence in US; thousands march in London

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Nations around the world watched the civil unrest in the U.S. following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white police officer pressed his knee on his neck until he stopped breathing.

Floyd's death on May 25 in Minneapolis was the latest in a series of police-related deaths of black men and women in the U.S.

Burning cars and riot police featured on newspaper front pages around the globe Sunday — bumping news of the COVID-19 pandemic to second-tier status in some places.

Protestors gathered in the U.S. Embassy in Berlin on Saturday under the motto: "Justice for George Floyd." Several hundred more people took to the streets Sunday in the capital's Kreuzberg area, carrying signs with slogans like "Silence is Violence," "Hold Cops Accountable," and "Who Do You Call When Police Murder?" No incidents were reported.

Thousands gathered in central London on Sunday to offer support for American demonstrators. Chanting "No justice! No peace!" and waving placards with the words "How many more?" at Trafalgar Square, the protesters ignored U.K. government rules banning crowds because of the pandemic. Police didn't stop them.

Demonstrators then marched to the U.S. Embassy, where a long line of officers surrounded the building, and several hundred crowded the street and waved placards.

Protesters in Denmark also converged on the U.S. Embassy on Sunday. Participants carried placards with messages such as "Stop Killing Black People."

Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper on Sunday carried the headline "This killer-cop set America ablaze" with an arrow pointing to a photo of former police officer Derek Chauvin, who has been charged with third-degree murder in Floyd's death, kneel-



Police officers on horseback stand next to demonstrators blocking the road outside the Houses of Parliament in central London on May 31.

ing on Floyd. The newspaper's story reported "scenes like out of a civil war."

In Italy, the Corriere della Sera newspaper's senior U.S. correspondent Massimo Gaggi wrote that the reaction to Floyd's killing was "different" than previous cases of black Americans killed by police.

"There are exasperated black movements that no longer preach nonviolent resistance," Gaggi wrote, noting the Minnesota governor's warning that "anarchist and white supremacy groups are trying to fuel the chaos."

In countries with authoritarian governments, state-controlled media have been highlighting the chaos and violence of the U.S. demonstrations, in part to undermine American officials' criticism of their own nations.

Hu Xijin, the editor of the state-owned Global Times newspaper in China, tweeted that U.S. officials can now see protests out their own windows: "I want to ask Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Pompeo: Should Beijing support protests in the U.S., like you glorified rioters in Hong Kong?"

Hua Chunying, a Chinese foreign

States prepare for hurricanes

■ HURRICANE from Page 1

In the Corpus Christi, area which was swamped by 2017's Hurricane Harvey, officials said they were at a 95 going into hurricane season last year. Now, it's below 80, emergency management coordinator Melissa Munguia said. If another Harvey brings 50 inches of rain, she said the same reinforcements won't arrive because "everybody's been working their personnel for many hours for over 100 days."

Florida officials were far more upbeat.

"While COVID-19 complicates things and you have to plan around COVID-19, I think Florida is as prepared as ever before in response to a hurricane," said Moskowitz, the state emergency management chief.

In Louisiana, disaster officials said they're used to "overlapping emergencies, and you just have to plow through."

They anticipate making adjustments, "but it's hard to pin down what those changes will be," said Mike Steele, spokesperson for the state's emergency preparedness office. By August and September, typically the height of Louisiana's hurricane season, the number of infections and social distancing requirements may have changed, he said.

Coping with a hurricane is hard, and the coronavirus "is going to make it a little bit more difficult," Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Pete Gaynor told reporters in May. But he said FEMA has hired 500 people since March and has a record of nearly \$80 billion in its disaster fund.

Vice President Mike Pence told President Donald Trump on Thursday that the federal government

would ensure state and local authorities can handle hurricanes.

Academics who study disasters aren't so sure.

"I don't think they (federal officials) are doing the job they should be doing. I worry about their ability to handle a very large hurricane in addition to COVID-19," University of South Carolina's Cutter said.

She and others said mixed messages on the coronavirus mean some people aren't believing what they're hearing from Washington in an emergency.

"I think our lives are in danger now because we don't trust the federal government," Cutter said.

Between the pandemic, a crashing economy and patchy federal responses to three 2017 hurricanes, people should prepare for little help from the government, said Hans-Louis Charles, Virginia Commonwealth University professor.

Experts also worry that it could take longer to return to normal after a hurricane. Search and rescue teams, utility workers who restore power lines and volunteers who help clean up may be slowed or not respond at all because of concerns over virus exposure, experts said. That and other issues may mean a storm that in the past caused \$12 billion in insured damage, like 2018's Hurricane Michael, may cost 20% more, said Karen Clark, who does damage analysis for the insurance industry.

While many officials are still trying to figure out shelters, they said if people are told to evacuate in a hurricane, residents must go. Storm surge is more dangerous than the virus, officials said.

"In hurricane season, we can't have mixed messages. If you live in an evacuation zone, your plan is to evacuate if ordered to do so by local officials," former FEMA director Craig Fugate said. "This message will not change, COVID or no COVID."

Boy Scout victims' choice: Sue rashly, or wait and risk loss

BY MIKE CATALINI
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Some victims of childhood sex abuse who are considering suing the Boy Scouts of America face a choice: They can rush to meet a deadline earlier than what lawmakers intended, or wait and sue local councils, perhaps putting them at greater risk of losing.

Attorneys for the Scouts, headquartered in Dallas, and victims agreed during federal bankruptcy proceedings this month to a Nov. 16 deadline, by which victims must come forward with a claim or be barred from bringing one later, with the victims' lawyers seeking a cutoff in late December and the Boy Scouts pushing for early October.

New Jersey, New York, California and a few other states loosened their statute of limitations last year.

Victims in New Jersey, which opened a two-year "window" for victims who were previously barred from suing, must decide whether to pursue their claim by the November date instead of the one specified in the law passed last year — in December 2021.

California opened a three-year window last year, while New York's Legislature voted to extend its one-year window, set to expire in August,

until August 2021 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.


Other states with windows that end after the Nov. 16 date include Arizona, North Carolina and Vermont, which has a permanent window for those alleging abuse. Washington, D.C., would also be affected.

Victims would still be able to pursue cases against local councils, though, according to attorneys. The drawback, attorneys say, is that councils could defend themselves by deflecting blame to the national organization, which could not be included in suits after Nov. 16.

Advocates for victims and the lawmakers who wrote the laws giving victims longer to sue say the sped-up timeline defeats their purpose: to give victims time to confront abuse and decide on their own terms to come forward.

The bankruptcy process often leaves people who don't make claims by the deadline with a reduced chance for compensation, said Marci Hamilton, the chief executive of Child USA.

More than 12,000 boys have been molested by 7,800 abusers since the 1920s, according to Boy Scout files revealed in court papers.



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Center for Editing Excellence
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Co-Director
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Co-Director
Midwestern State University

MARK GRABOWSKI
Workshop Faculty
Adelphi University

S. GRIFFIN SINGER
Workshop Director Emeritus
UT Austin School of Journalism

KATHLEEN MCELROY
Director
UT Austin School of Journalism

ALEXIS CHAVEZ
Administrative Associate
UT Austin School of Journalism

LINDA SHOCKLEY, HEATHER TAYLOR
Dow Jones News Fund

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2020 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

<p>CHRISTINE BARTRUFF bartruff@email.sc.edu @christbartruff University of South Carolina Stars and Stripes</p> <p>LYNDSY BRENNAN lgvora@gmail.com Kent State University Richmond Times-Dispatch</p> <p>NOLAN BREY nolbrey@gmail.com University of Kansas Los Angeles Times</p>	<p>GABRIELLA DEBENEDICTIS gabriedeben@gmail.com @christbartruff University of Connecticut Houston Chronicle</p> <p>JORDAN ERB jordanparkererb@gmail.com Northeastern University GateHouse/Austin American-Statesman</p> <p>CALEB FORTENBERRY caleb@polkcountypublishing.com Ashford University Tyler County Booster, Polk County Enterprise</p> <p>MATTIE LOVELL mattiekatlovel@gmail.com Texas Tech University Hereford Brand</p>	<p>JULIA MAENIUS juliamaenius@gmail.com University of Texas – San Antonio Fredericksburg Standard</p> <p>SAM NELSON samnmj1121@yahoo.com University of Missouri The Chicago Reporter</p> <p>MEGAN WEHRING megan.wehring5@gmail.com Texas State University Hays Free Press (Kyle, Texas)</p>
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BRIEFS

Texas A&M plans for fall classes

Next fall, Texas A&M students may be assigned which days they're allowed to go to class and which days class they'll be asked to stay home and follow class along from their laptops.

If there are 50 people in a math class, for example, half of them would be allowed to show up Tuesday while the other half views online. On Thursday, the students would swap places.

This is one of several measures in a plan Texas A&M University System officials approved last week in an effort to create social distance in crowded classrooms. The guidance will apply to each of the system's 11 institutions. A&M is the first major university system in the state to formally adopt plans for the fall, although officials warned there is much more work to be done before classes begin in August. While some face-to-face classes will resume at A&M, many will be conducted in a hybrid model mixing in-person and online instruction. Certain courses will be prioritized for in-person instruction, such as speech, performance and clinical classes. Chancellor John Sharp said the campus experience is "invaluable."

"You can get a degree online, but it's very hard to become an Aggie online," Sharp said.

The federal stimulus program gave the A&M System \$76 million to be split between its campuses, covering revenue losses and providing financial aid for students.

Researchers find 246M-year-old fossil

It was Oct. 3, 2011, and German paleontologist Martin Sander and his team were nearing the end of a two-week expedition in an area that's a hotspot for ichthyosaur — or extinct aquatic reptiles similar to porpoises — fossils.

At an outcropping around 6,000 feet in elevation, he spotted what appeared to be fossilized remains of an ichthyosaur spine.

They returned in 2014 and excavated the rest. It was just one of two major ichthyosaur. Last month, they published a paper on the respective 246 and 249 million year old findings. The ichthyosaur was the second-oldest pregnant specimen ever found and it was of a species that had never before been identified.

Even more remarkable, it was just one of two major ichthyosaur findings at the location in the Augusta Mountains.

"It is an incredible place and there is new stuff coming out all the time," Sander said. "Everything we touch, new stuff is coming out of it."

Average US gas prices rose over 2 weeks

The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline rose 8 cents over the past two weeks, to \$2.05 per gallon.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday the jump comes as crude oil costs rise and gasoline demand increases amid widespread easing of stay-at-home orders.

Lundberg says the current average price is down by 88 cents compared to a year ago.

The average price of diesel is \$2.55, up a penny.

Notre Dame forecourt opens to public after long cleanup

Grounds in front of Notre Dame reopen after cleanup

Notre Dame Cathedral's forecourt is being opened to the public for the first time since last year's fire.

The group overseeing the Gothic structure's restoration said Sunday the reopening was made possible after several deep clean operations took place to remove toxic lead dust from the large forecourt.

Dozens of tons of lead went up in flames during the fire, sending poisonous lead dust onto the surrounding ground.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo will join senior clergy on a visit to the area in the afternoon.

To protect public health, the site will continue to "be regularly cleaned and samples also taken" for monitoring and analysis.

The cathedral is still closed and will be for several years during renovations.

IS claims Afghan bus attack; civilians killed in clashes

The Islamic State group took responsibility Sunday for a deadly roadside bombing against a local TV station's bus in Kabul, while renewed fighting in nearby provinces killed at least seven civilians, including a woman and several children.

In a statement on an IS-affiliated website, the group said Saturday's attack in Kabul targeted a bus carrying employees of Khurshid TV, a station it described as "loyal to the Afghan apostate government."

Two employees were killed and four were wounded, said Marwa Amini, the Interior Ministry deputy spokeswoman. The two of the wounded were in critical condition Sunday, said Mohammad Rafi Sediqi, an official at the station.

US cities assess damage

Protests erupt, towns face unrest

TIM SULLIVAN AND MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — America's cities boarded up windows, swept up glass and covered graffiti Sunday as the country's most significant night of protests in a half-century promised to spill into another day of unrest fueled by killings of black people at the hands of police.

The turbulence sparked by the death of George Floyd — a black man who died after being pinned under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer — shook not only the streets of Washington, D.C., New York and Los Angeles but also dozens of smaller communities such as Fargo, North Dakota, and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Peaceful protests on Saturday gave way, in some places, to rioting, looting and violence, with police vehicles torched, stores emptied and objects hurled at officers. The police response varied from restrained to aggressive. About 5,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen were activated in 15 states and Washington, D.C.

In Minneapolis, where the protests began, police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in soon after an 8 p.m. curfew took effect Saturday to break up demonstrations. The show of force came after three days in which police avoided engaging protesters and after the state poured more than 4,000 National Guard troops into Minneapolis.

Dozens of additional protests were underway or expected on Sunday, from Miami to Kansas City to San Francisco.

At the Minneapolis intersection where Floyd was killed, people gathered with brooms and flowers, saying it was important to protect what they called a "sacred



CAROLYN KASTER

Spray paint that reads "Yall Not Tired Yet?" is seen on the base of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, early Sunday, May 31, the morning after protests over the death of George Floyd. Floyd died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on Memorial Day.

bat.

At least 13 police officers were injured in Philadelphia, and at least four police vehicles were set on fire. In New York, a video showed two police cruisers lurching into a crowd of demonstrators. Several people were knocked to the ground.

In Indianapolis, two people were reported dead in bursts of downtown violence, adding to deaths reported in Detroit and Minneapolis in recent days.

The protests of Floyd's killing have gripped many more cities, but the losses have yet to approach the staggering totals LA saw during five days of rioting in 1992, when more than 60 people died, 2,000-plus were injured, thousands were arrested and property damage topped \$1 billion.

The droves of people congregating in chanting demonstrations threatened to trigger new outbreaks, a fact overshadowed by the boiling tensions.

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington, D.C. "They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys."

South Korean AI to aid with virus

KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — In a cramped office in eastern Seoul, Hwang Seungwon points a remote control toward a huge overhead screen stretching across one of the walls.

With each flick of the control, an array of pie charts, graphs and maps reveals the search habits of thousands of South Korean senior citizens being monitored by voice-enabled "smart" speakers, an experimental remote care service the company says is increasingly needed during the coronavirus crisis.

"We closely monitor for signs of danger, whether they are more frequently using search words that indicate rising states of loneliness or insecurity," said Hwang, director of a social enterprise that handles SK Telecom's services. TAs South Korea's government pushes to allow businesses to access personal information and to ease restrictions holding back telemedicine, tech firms could potentially find bigger markets for their artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

The drive, resisted for years by civil liberty advocates and medical professionals, has been reinvigorated by a technology-driven fight against COVID-19. It has so far allowed South Korea to emerge as a coronavirus success story but also raised worries that privacy is being sacrificed for epidemiological gains.

Armed with an infectious disease

law that was strengthened after a 2015 outbreak of a different coronavirus, MERS, health authorities have used credit-card records, surveillance videos and cellphone data to find and isolate potential virus carriers.

Locations where patients went before they were diagnosed are published on websites and released through cellphone alerts. Smartphone tracking apps monitor around 30,000 individuals quarantined at home.

Starting Monday, major South Korean cities will be required to register customers with smartphone QR codes so they can be located if needed. The requirement expands nationwide on June 10.

But there's a dark side.

People here have managed to trace back the online information to the virus carriers, exposing personal details and making them targets of public contempt.

In early May, local media described some Seoul nightclubs linked to hundreds of infections as catering to sexual minorities, triggering homophobic responses.

Officials reacted by expanding "anonymous testing," which allowed people to provide their phone numbers and not their names during tests. There was a subsequent increase in tests.

The past months have exposed a division about the best ways to make decisions when privacy concerns collide with public health needs, said Haksoo Ko, a Seoul National University law professor and co-director of the



LEE JIN-MAN

Hwang Seungwon, director of a social enterprise that handles SK Telecom's services, speaks in front of an electronic dashboard during an interview in Seoul, South Korea, May 13. Thousands of South Korean senior citizens being monitored by voice-enabled "smart" speakers, an experimental remote care service the company says is increasingly needed during the coronavirus crisis.

school's Artificial Intelligence Policy Initiative.

Around 3,200 people across the country, mostly older than 70 and living alone, have so far allowed the SK Telecom speakers to listen to them 24 hours a day since the service launched in April 2019.

The company expects users to double by the end of the year. The technology has reduced human contact in welfare services while still providing governments with a tool to prevent elderly residents from dying alone.

The speakers are built with an artificial intelligence called "Aria" and a lamp that turns blue when processing voice commands.

But it's difficult for SK Telecom's clients to use the information they collect without clear legal guidelines on health data on private networks.

Similar reasons may also impede domestic use of health technologies

developed by Samsung Electronics.

KT, SK Telecom's telecommunications rival, is focused on business customers, providing artificial intelligence devices such as speakers and service robots to hotels, offices and new apartments.

Officials are preparing regulations for revised data laws that lawmakers passed in January after months of wrangling. They aim to allow businesses freedom in collecting and analyzing anonymous personal data without seeking individual consent.

If they work as intended, optimists say the laws would allow artificial intelligence to truly take off and pave the way for highly customized financial and health care services after they start in August.

South Korea's anti-virus experience provides "lots of lessons and implications" as it steps toward a data-driven economy, Ko said.

SpaceX reaches station

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX delivered two astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA on Sunday, following up a liftoff with a smooth docking in yet another first for Elon Musk's company.

With test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken poised to take over manual control if necessary, the SpaceX Dragon capsule pulled up to the station and docked automatically, with no assistance. The hatches swung open a few hours later, and the two Dragon riders floated into the orbiting lab and embraced the three station residents.

Unlike the SpaceX and NASA flight control rooms, where everyone was spaced well apart, there was no social distancing or masks needed in orbit.

Jim Bridenstine, NASA administra-

tor, called the mission "an inspiration to the world" in a call from Mission Control in Houston.

It was the first time a privately built and owned spacecraft carried astronauts to the space station. NASA considers this the opening volley in a business revolution encircling Earth and eventually stretching to the moon and Mars.

"NASA is not going to purchase, own and operate rockets and capsules the way we used to," Bridenstine said. "We're going to partner with commercial industry."

The docking occurred 19 hours after a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasted off Saturday afternoon from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. NASA said viewership online hit 10 million.

The achievement is expected to drive down launch costs so more people might be able to afford a ticket to space in the coming years.



DAVID J. PHILLIP

A SpaceX Falcon 9, with NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken in the Crew Dragon capsule, lifts off from Pad 39-A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Saturday, May 30. The two astronauts are on the SpaceX test flight to the International Space Station. For the first time in nearly a decade, astronauts blasted towards orbit aboard an American rocket from American soil, a first for a private company.

TESSA WEINBERG
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — When Archer County Judge Randy Jackson got the call about two weeks ago from the state offering to set up a pop-up mobile testing site, he declined.

While metro areas across Texas report hundreds of new cases of the coronavirus daily, Archer County just received its first confirmed case two weeks ago.

With a population of 8,500 near the Texas-Oklahoma border, the county

has developed its own system, screening residents for symptoms and sending them north to Wichita Falls or south to Olney to be tested, Jackson said.

"We're spread out more, and we don't have the industry like bigger urban areas do, so we kind of had to initiate our own protocol," Jackson said. "We're taking care of ourselves."

Archer County is one of more than 100 Texas counties that have five or fewer active COVID-19 cases. They have been approved by the Texas De-

partment of State Health Services to reopen their businesses at 50% capacity as a result — while the remaining counties are restricted to 25% capacity.

But in many North Texas counties like Archer permitted to reopen at double the capacity, fewer cases have been coupled with less testing. Their populations are a small fraction of Tarrant County's more than 2 million residents; some surrounding counties have as few as 9,000 people. State data shows many have conducted fewer tests per capita than some of the re-

gion's more populous counties.

And Archer County wasn't the only one to decline the state's offer of a mobile test site that could have boosted its testing capabilities.

Public health experts have warned sufficient testing is a key component to understanding the level of spread in a community. Without it, the virus may be spreading undetected. As of May 15, based on state data, Archer County had conducted 31 tests — or about 3.6 tests per 1,000 residents.