

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

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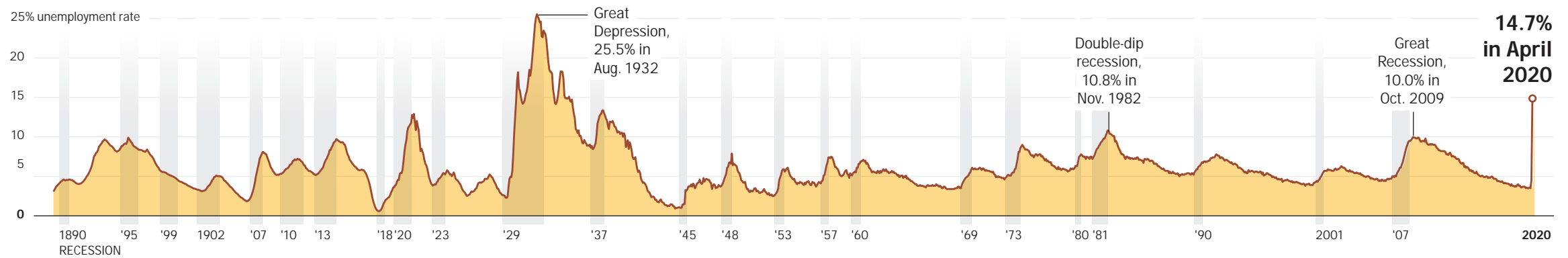
Partly sunny, windy 55/40 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 66/50 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020 • \$2

Unemployment worst since Depression era

In a forthcoming paper, economists analyzed historical sources to estimate the monthly unemployment rate back to 1890 — about 70 years before the beginning of monthly observations from the Labor Department.



Note: Seasonally adjusted; figures from before 1948 are estimates
Sources: Labor Department (1948-present); annual estimates from David Weir (University of Michigan) in Research in Economic History disaggregated to monthly data by Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau (San Francisco Fed) and Lu Zhang (Ohio State University) in Journal of Monetary Economics

ELECTION 2020

Biden scales up campaign; no signs he's leaving home

BY MICHAEL SCHERER AND SEAN SULLIVAN

Former vice president Joe Biden has greenlighted a major hiring spree to shore up his campaign for the general election and calm roiling concerns among Democratic leaders about his operation's scale and reach.

The additions, which involve dozens of staffers in all major departments, come as senior Democratic strategists and major donors have expressed concern for weeks about the massive advantages enjoyed by President Trump's campaign. They've offered public and private warnings that though Biden leads in the polls now, his comparatively trim operation could prove politically fatal under an onslaught of Trump attacks this fall.

Some donors and strategists have argued that Biden needs to branch out from his basement studio — which has formed the backdrop for a campaign waged largely through uneven video

SEE BIDEN ON A4

After arrests in Ga. killing, many ask why it took so long

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR. AND MICHAEL BRICE-SADDLER

BRUNSWICK, GA. — The arrests of two white men in the fatal shooting of a black jogger did little to calm outrage in this coastal community Friday, where face-mask-wearing demonstrators called for the resignations, recalls or arrests of authorities who allowed the suspects to walk free for 10 weeks.

Activists, politicians and legal experts across the country have raised alarm that it took 74 days and the graphic, viral video of Ahmaud Arbery's final moments to compel authorities to arrest the father and son suspected of cornering the 25-year-old with a pickup truck before he was gunned down.

A Georgia Bureau of Investigation official said Friday that there's no plan to investigate the local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies that did not

SEE JOGGER ON A22

Shrinking demand for labor could shake U.S. economy, politics for years

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

The United States is facing a political and economic challenge like nothing it has seen in nearly 100 years.

Mass unemployment on a scale not seen since the Great Depression has erased the economic gains of the past decade and now threatens to linger for years, fueling social discord and shaking an already polarized political system.

Almost overnight, it seems, the U.S. economy, which just two months ago boasted abundant jobs and soaring stock values, has become a shambles. Not since the government began collecting official data in 1948 has a smaller share of the U.S. population been employed.

The unique character of this economic collapse, triggered by an ongoing public health crisis, may lead to an enduring decline

SEE UNEMPLOYMENT ON A15

JOBLESS RATE ROCKETS TO 14.7% IN APRIL

And analysts don't see a quick post-virus reversal

BY HEATHER LONG AND ANDREW VAN DAM

The U.S. unemployment rate jumped to 14.7 percent in April, the highest level since the Great Depression, as many businesses shut down or severely curtailed operations to try to limit the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

The Labor Department said 20.5 million people abruptly lost their jobs, wiping out a decade of

employment gains in a single month. The speed and magnitude of the loss defies comparison. It is roughly double what the nation experienced during the entire financial crisis from 2007 to 2009.

As the virus's rapid spread accelerated in March, President Trump and a number of state and local leaders put forth restrictions that led businesses to suddenly shut down and shed mil-

SEE JOBS ON A15

Remarks by Trump cast a cloud over FBI's Wray

BY DEVLIN BARRETT, MATT ZAPOTOSKY AND JOSH DAWSEY

President Trump cast fresh doubt Friday on the future of his FBI director as federal law enforcement officials privately wrestled with fallout from the Justice Department's move to throw out the guilty plea of former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The president's comments in a phone interview with Fox News highlight the ongoing distrust between the White House and some law enforcement officials in the aftermath of a nearly two-year investigation by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III into Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign.

"It's disappointing," Trump said when asked about Christopher A. Wray's role in ongoing reviews of the FBI's handling of the Russia investigation. "Let's see what happens with him. Look, the jury's still out."

Trump faulted the FBI director as "skirting" the debate surround-

SEE FBI ON A5

Still grateful after 75 years



EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Veterans salute as President Trump and first lady Melania Trump participate in a ceremony at the National World War II Memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the Allied forces' 1945 victory in Europe.



MASON TRINCA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST
Alyce LaGasse of Portland, Ore.

From 760 miles away, a mother's agonizing wait for a death or a recovery

BY ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER

It's a Tuesday evening when the bad news comes. Alyce LaGasse can barely hear her son over the phone. He is hoarse and struggling to breathe. He's calling from a hospital in Salt Lake City, where he arrived in an ambulance.

Alyce had been thinking a lot about covid-19 before this mo-

ment, and not just because she's 70. She's read those news stories about people dying alone, with no relatives allowed to hold their hand, or hold a proper funeral, and it makes her heart hurt. She feels for these families, contemplating the thought of not being there for the ones she loves. She's a natural caregiver, always has been.

And now here's Adam on the

phone. Adam, her baby boy, even if he's now 48. Adam, the sweetheart who never fails to look you in the eye and say, "How are you? What can I do for you today?" Adam, the vulnerable one, the paralegal living for years with diabetes, who just took the biggest leap of faith in his life a few months ago, when he left Oregon and moved to Utah because he

SEE MOTHER ON A10

More coverage

Trump flouts protocols even as another staffer tests positive
Experts warn of the need to protect President Trump, who says, "I don't worry about things." **A6**

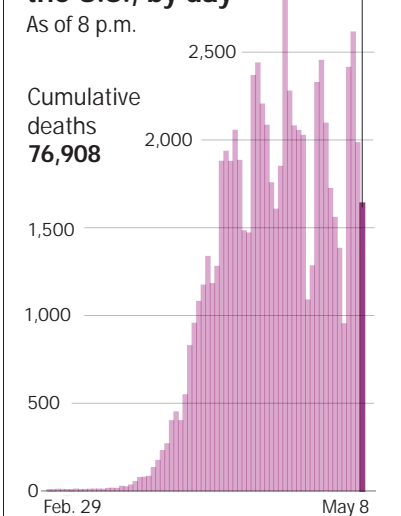
Virus testing: Trump says it "isn't necessary." **A6**

Islamic State: Group has increased attacks amid Iraq's lockdown. **A9**

China showdown: Next battlefield may be federal retirement plan. **A13**

Advice on advice: Poultry company tells doctors what to suggest. **B1**

New deaths in the U.S., by day



IN SUNDAY'S POST

Booked up >> Ron Charles highlights 12 novels that changed us by appearing at just the right time to shape how we live. **Arts & Style**

Love and legacy For Mother's Day, stories of a daughter's effort to save her mom — and herself — and another who had an early brush with history. **Magazine**



TRISHA KRAUSS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Traipsing by TV Seven writers put together a viewing guide, organized by genre, to help keep the urge to explore alive during the pandemic. **Travel**

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INSIDE

REAL ESTATE
A timeout for luxury
The pandemic has added several new factors into buying decisions.

THE WORLD
Stalin's last female flier
At 16, she joined to fight the Nazis. At 95, pain and glory remain. **A8**

THE ECONOMY
Amid sadness, a surge
Future-lookers rallied U.S. markets as job losses hit 20.5 million. **A14**

SPORTS
The Redskins' 2020 vision
A look at what's memorable and forgettable in their schedule. **C8**

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