

# Groton Daily Independent

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“JUST BEING THERE  
FOR SOMEONE CAN  
SOMETIMES  
BRING HOPE  
WHEN ALL SEEMS  
HOPELESS.”  
-DAVE G. LLEWELLYN



**Pumpkins are appearing in Groton's Pumpkin Patch. The Pumpkin Fest is set for October 10, 2020.**

(Groton Daily Independent photo by Paul Kosel)

**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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Before we dive into the final Minnesota Vikings roster breakdown, we need to cover some news and notes that have come up as players are beginning to report for training camp. Perhaps the most important news, and certainly the biggest (literally and figuratively) news, newly acquired defensive tackle Michael Pierce has elected to sit this season out because he is at a higher risk of having serious health issues were he to contract Covid-19. This leaves the Vikings with a big hole in the middle of the defensive line, and as of yet, the team has not signed a free agent to replace Pierce.



By Jordan Wright

The Vikings, along with every other NFL team, have put systems in place to test players and staff daily. Any players or coaches who show symptoms or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive will be placed into quarantine. There have been eight players placed on the reserve/Covid-19 list so far, including Anthony Barr, Justin Jefferson, and Ifeadi Odenigbo. The Head athletic trainer and person overseeing the team's virus response, Eric Sugerman, has also tested positive and has been quarantined.

Dalvin Cook has reported to training camp. He originally said he wouldn't report to camp without a new deal, so it remains to be seen if he has changed his mind or if the Vikings are close to signing him to an extension.

Head coach Mike Zimmer, who was on the last year of his contract, has been given a three-year extension. General Manager Rick Spielman is also on the last year of his contract and has yet to receive an extension.

Now on to the final roster breakdown: special teams

Dan Bailey had a rocky start to his Vikings career, hitting 21 of 28 field goals (75%) in 2018. Last year, however, Bailey was much better, connecting on 27 of 29 field goals (93.1%, fourth best in the league). He also made all three attempts from 50-yards and beyond. Bailey also handled kickoff duties last season where he got a touchback on 75.9% of his kickoffs, eighth best in the league. He signed a three-year, \$10 million deal back in March.

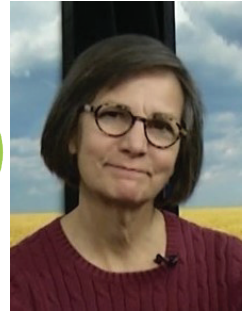
Britton Colquitt will be back as the Vikings' punter this season. He was signed to a one-year deal in 2019, and his 45.2 yards per punt average wasn't great (19th in the NFL), but the Vikings liked what they saw enough to sign him to a three-year, \$9 million deal this offseason.

Austin Cutting is entering his second year in the NFL. He was the first long snapper ever drafted by the Vikings, and he's under contract through the 2022 season. As a rookie, Cutting didn't have any bad snaps, which is about all you can say about a long snapper.

Next week I'll be answering your questions, so reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) and get your questions in. Skol!

## Kindness is the Best Medicine

My name is Joanie Holm. I am a certified nurse practitioner in Brookings, South Dakota and I am the person fortunate to have been the life partner of the original Prairie Doc®, Richard P. Holm, M.D. Rick and I were married for 40 years before his passing in March of 2020.



**By Joanie S. Holm, CNP ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives**

During those wonderful decades together, if I could point to one powerful action that strengthened our relationship with each other, with our family, our community and with our patients, it would be the act of kindness.

Thankfully, Rick was alive to see the recognition and formalization of kindness as an essential element of medical education. Medical schools across the country have started to offer courses on compassion and caring. One of the first to do so was the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

Dr. Mary Nettleman, dean of the USD medical school, explained why the school embraced kindness as part of its core curriculum. "People want a physician who is not only competent, but also kind, so we will work to elevate this value throughout the school. By approaching this intentionally, we hope that students will learn how important kindness is in medicine and how they can incorporate it into their everyday practice. A culture of kindness can make us exceptional," said Nettleman.

I celebrate this awareness and elevation of kindness in medical education and I salute educators for enriching their medical students in this way.

Since Rick's death, I have received many wonderful notes of condolence that have been very meaningful to me and my family. With permission from the author of one such letter, I share the following message which further illustrates kindness.

Dear Mrs. Holm,

I'm one of the people who knew your husband through his TV show, and I learned from him. I have cerebral palsy and sometimes it's hard for people to understand me. One day, my mom and I were having dinner in Sioux Falls and you were seated close to us. When Dr. Holm walked by my table, I put my hand out and he stopped and talked to me. I wanted to tell him that we were praying for him and I will never forget how he made me feel. I have worked with many doctors and he was one of the best!

My dear husband practiced kindness in all he did. Regardless of our profession, may we all embrace acts of kindness and stop to hold the outreached hand of a fellow human being.

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**#161 in a series**

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

I have the usual Sunday two-week report, hoping to provide a longer view of trends that smooths out the day-to-day reporting fluctuations that can make it difficult to see where we're headed. It appears we may, at least at the moment, be slowing somewhat in overall growth.

Today's numbers are considerably better than we've been seeing, and it appears to be part of a trend. I'm a little worried about getting too optimistic too soon because these drops are pretty dramatic, we're on a weekend, and there doesn't appear to have been much reporting in the second half of today. But we can hope this is, indeed, indicative of a developing trend while remaining well-grounded until we see what happens between now and Tuesday. Here's what I have for the day:

We are now at 4,675,900 cases in the US, 1.1% or 48,900 more than yesterday. The last time this number was below 50,000 is nearly a month ago on July 6; so we can really hope this is an actual thing. This does not break our streak, however; we need a much lower number for that, so we're up to 34 days on that.

The increases continue, but the pace is slowing for a second week. One week increase in total cases was 467,000 (12.4%) last week and is 432,300 (10.2%) this week. Two-week increase was 928,300 (28.0%) last week and is 899,500 (23.8%) this week. I'm hoping this continues.

I track 55 states and US territories, including the District of Columbia; and 24 of these showed two-week rates of increase greater than 30%. Here are the states with the greatest rate of growth in cases over 14 days with their percentage increase in that time: Alaska (75.03%), Montana (65.53% - decrease for second week), Hawaii (63.28 - big increase), Puerto Rico (52.62%), Oklahoma (51.20%), Missouri (45.41%), Idaho (43.48% - decrease for second week), Mississippi (42.02%), US Virgin Islands (41.75% - decrease for second week), Nevada (40.33% - decrease), Florida (39.16 - decrease for second week), Tennessee (38.89% - decrease), Alabama (36.46% - decrease), West Virginia (35.94%), Georgia (35.75% - decrease), Texas (35.67% - decrease for second week), Kentucky (35.55% - decrease), Arkansas (32.71%), California (32.70% - decrease), North Dakota (32.67%), Wyoming (32.08%), South Carolina (31.15% - decrease for second week), Oregon (30.93% - decrease), Louisiana (30.54% - decrease). Coming off this list are Wisconsin, Kansas, North Carolina, Arizona, and Washington. There were no additions.

I am showing 24 states with 14-day trends that are increasing: Hawaii, Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. I have 22 showing not much change: Guam, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. And I have eight declining: Utah, Arizona, Kansas, Texas, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida, and US Virgin Islands. These lists are quite fluid with a handful of states moving back and forth between them from day to day; but the overall trend for the past week has been downward with fewer states on the increasing list and more in the declining one.

New deaths today are down from yesterday at 448, a 0.3% increase to 146,747. Although today is a substantial decrease from the trends of the past few days, I am not so sure this is a meaningful change, given the weekend and the overall trend. Total weekly deaths are still significantly higher than they were last week. The past four weeks have showed a steady increase in deaths with 4104, 5035, 5389, and 6415.

Rising test positivity is a phenomenon we're watching carefully these days, despite recent trends. We talked last night about how this can be considered an early-warning system, so it bears watching. And what we're seeing is scary: More than two-thirds of states have higher than recommended positivity rates now, which we know is a sign the underlying level of infection in those states is rising. An additional concern is that in 18 to 20 states, the numbers of tests being done are actually falling—not because no one's trying, but because of backlogs and availability problems. This is why I am cautious about overinterpreting the apparent decreases in growth in new case reporting. I know I bring up our testing failures often, but they're an enormous problem, and six months in, we still don't have a handle on that problem. Dr. Ash-

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ish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, says, "when cases are rising and your number of tests are falling, that's a recipe for disaster." As far as I can see, we're already in disaster territory; I'm not sure what the word is for a disaster within a disaster. I suppose I'd better look that up; it appears I'm going to need it.

I watched an interview with a health care worker last night. His name is Islam Elnagar, and he is a critical care physician and anesthesiologist in a rural community hospital in the Tampa Bay area. It's become fashionable to refer to these folks as heroes and to applaud them for putting themselves on the front lines and to speak admiringly of their "service;" but I think sometimes we do that sort of pro forma to absolve ourselves of any responsibility for their risk and service—or for doing what we can to lighten their burdens, things like following guidelines, avoiding crowds, distancing, wearing a damned mask. Things like that.

What we don't do is consider the ongoing strains and stresses of this kind of work aside of the risk of acquiring a deadly disease, the strains and stresses of working in a hopeless situation when it feels as though you're the only one doing anything about it. I'm going to provide an extended quote from Dr. Elnagar here:

"It's pretty shocking and surprising, when I meet people outside the hospital, when they find out I'm a doctor, who ask me, 'Is this real?' . . . Just before I got here to speak to you, one of our patients with coronavirus just expired. She had a cardiac arrest. So I just called her son to inform him, and the other difficult part of this whole equation for this particular patient is that, right next door in the ICU, is her husband who's also fighting for his life, and I have been speaking to her son to keep him up-to-date, and I've been letting him know about her deteriorating condition, but haven't had the heart to tell her husband that she has been suffering and has just died. My fear is that, you know, if I tell him now and his spirits drop, that might be enough to push him over the edge, and so he's fighting for his life and I'm struggling with how I'm gonna tell him that his wife just died.

"We're reaching our limits here. Our ICU has been full to capacity for the last week so I don't know how much more we can manage. The fact that we're still having to address this issue of PPE supply, supplies of remdesivir are hit or miss, day to day we [don't] know if a patient's going to have their dose, their treatment. Plasma, convalescent plasma. There's no consistency.

"Testing: Our turnaround time on our tests are about two days. Some of the bigger hospitals have an immediate turnaround time. So, the fact that we're still dealing with these logistical issues—these technical issues are some things that we foresaw months ago—is a little concerning. Especially in the most powerful country in the world. . . . we can't take care of sick and dying people here. You know, it's hard to be in this position with our hands tied and little to do. You know, we do what we can, we use the technology and medications that we have at our disposal, but ultimately this is a—I'm trying to deal with the downstream effects of a much greater problem. This is a public health issue. . . . It's very disheartening."

I taught students in health careers for decades, so I know a fair number of health care workers myself. One who works in a big hospital in a hard-hit city recently said to me, "The hospital is in huge trouble; we lost so much money over this. My entire unit has been converted into a COVID unit. We have WAY more cases than we had before. I'm terrified to go in tomorrow."

Then there was this: "It's the strain on our health care system. We can't keep doing this. . . . I would hate to have some type of medical issue not Covid-related."

Also: "Just so you know how bad things are here at the hospital. We have put regular hospital admissions/patients in OB and post-op because we are out of room."

And I'll let this, after working 14-hour shifts five days a week, take us home: "These stupid people carrying on their lives are really starting to piss me off. I know we're all tired of being locked up or inconvenienced by wearing a mask, but there is no 'normal lives' right now. No parties, traveling, vacationing. Our health care system cannot keep doing this."

Here's something that hadn't occurred to me: What if people can transmit Covid-19 to bats? Now, I personally (as I suspect is true for most folks) rarely handle bats—like once in my life when I carefully freed one from a fence it was stuck in; so that might seem like a big old "Who cares?" Turns out, though, that

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this matters. Here's why:

There are people who routinely handle bats: bat researchers, wildlife-control workers, and people who rehabilitate injured bats. So the opportunity exists for transmission if transmission is, indeed, possible.

There is new evidence based on genomic analysis that SARS-CoV-2 may well have come directly to humans from bats; even if there was an intermediate host, the virus likely developed the tools it needed to infect human cells while still in the bat. This means the virus in its current form is probably able to infect bats as readily as it does humans. (Auxiliary bad news: There are probably other coronaviruses in bats right now that are prepared to make the jump to humans, but we haven't identified them yet. That's part of what the bat researchers are working on, so we don't really want to slow them down.)

So at the moment, there's no SARS-CoV-2 in bats outside China; but that could change, for example, if people who happen to be infected with this virus were to transmit it to bats they are handling. We cannot rule out the possibility. This could be in any country or on any continent that has bats (which is most of them). And if that happens here, it would have real consequence for the population of bats in the wild. Bats are valuable creatures in the ecosystem: They eat a lot of mosquitoes, for example; I've been trying for years to figure out how to encourage a colony to move in on our farm. Another consequence is that this would provide a ready reservoir of infection to start new human outbreaks in the future, even if we manage to contain this cycle of infection. Bad outcome. There is much left to learn, but the current recommendation is to use proper protective equipment when handling bats. No need to find new kinds of trouble; we have more than we can handle now.

This new virus has been giving us trouble from the beginning, mostly because we knew nothing at first and then later not enough about it. We stumbled and bumbled some on treatments, for example, because it takes time to run randomized, double-blind, controlled trials for treatments; but we're getting those done as quickly as possible and learning as we go. We've been here and there on transmission and prevention too, recommending things that turned out not to be as helpful and failing to recommend other things that we probably should have been doing all along, then changing the recommendations as we go along. That's what happens when we're finding our way as we go. But we're learning there too.

There are still undoubtedly some things we're getting wrong; problem is we don't know yet which things those are. So we're in a position where on some issues we're focused on doing least harm, which leads to asking yourself, "What if we're wrong?"

For example, on the subject of face masks, what if we're wrong? What if face masks don't help a bit? What's the harm done? Well, one thing is folks spend some money on masks that were unnecessary—although there have been plenty of sources for free/low-cost ones, so if the cost would place a burden on you, there are ways to avoid that burden. For those who can afford masks, it's a couple of fancy coffees foregone. There's also the matter of looking silly or feeling silly, even uncomfortable. If it turns out masks are useless, then some of us have been going around with stupid pieces of cloth on our faces for no apparent reason—along with a zillion other silly-looking people, so at least we're in good company. What else do we have? We don't like them. (Me neither, honestly.) And that's pretty much it.

We know for sure that masks are not harmful to the average person. They do not interfere with your health or your social networks or your family life. So we're at a fairly reasonable and, if necessary, completely avoidable cost, a small dent in our dignity, and having to do something we don't like—as if that's never happened before.

On the other hand, what if the anti-maskers are wrong? What if face masks prevent a fair amount of transmission to others? What does it hurt to avoid them? Well, people get sick and suffer while their families worry and maybe sink without their paychecks. Some of them require tens of thousands of dollars-worth of care. They strain our health care system to the breaking point. Their care deprives people having heart attacks and strokes and car accidents and cancer from getting the best of care from overwhelmed health care workers. Some of them die alone without their families and friends around them, and their bodies pile up waiting until someone can tend to them, and their funerals can't be attended by many of those who loved them. Also, this virus continues to circulate widely in our communities so that any meaningful

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economic recovery is delayed because you can't fix the economy until you've fixed the thing that broke the economy. This seems like an easy call to me: do something that costs a little, that looks silly, and that I don't like, or let tens of thousands of my fellow Americans die.

When you think about a pandemic and the resulting economic shutdown, here's something that isn't exactly the first thing to come to mind: cows. Not farmers' cows out grazing peaceably in their pastures, university cows used in teaching agricultural management. These cows at the University of Vermont are typically cared for by students as part of their education—feeding, cleaning up after, milking. Who was going to tend the cows when all of the students had gone home? The University put out a call for help so the herd would not need to be dispersed, and people answered that call, dozens of them, more than were needed.

This isn't a project for lightweights: You're getting up in the dark to help with milking at 3:30 am, mucking out barns in the heat of midday, feeding, and milking again in the evening. You come out and help with births any time of the day or night. And you don't get paid; many have other jobs too so they can pay their bills. And yet, "I would rather do nothing else than this over the summer," said a recent graduate who's helping.

The faculty adviser, Dr. Steve Wadsworth, said "These cows are as well cared for as any animals in Vermont, maybe any animals in the country." The volunteers report being glad to have meaningful chores and to spend time with the animals.

Herd manager, Matt Bodette, explained the volunteers "have really, really shined in every single way possible and I am, I will ever forget them. They've been like a little family for me and I'm truly grateful."

Wouldn't it be great to have someone thinking of you that way? Find a way to make that happen, and there will be two people better off for it.

And take care of yourself; we're plunging on into another week. We'll talk tomorrow.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	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

	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug. 01	Aug. 2	Aug. 3
Minnesota	52,281	52,947	53,692	54,463	55,188	55,947
Nebraska	25,157	25,422	25,766	26,211	26,391	26,702
Montana	3,475	3,676	3,814	3,965	4,081	4,193
Colorado	45,314	45,796	46,204	46,809	47,267	47,727
Wyoming	2,136	2,172	2,217	2,259	2,297	2,333
North Dakota	6141	6227	6301	6468	6602	6660
South Dakota	8492	8641*	8685	8764	8867	8955
United States	4,352,304	4,427,493	4,495,224	4,566,275	4,620,502	4,667,957
US Deaths	149,260	150,716	152,075	153,391	154,449	154,860

Minnesota	+478	+666	+745	+771	+725	+759
Nebraska	+258	+265	+344	+445	+458	+311
Montana	+94	+201	+138	+151	+116	+112
Colorado	+749	+482	+408	+605	+458	+460
Wyoming	+64	+36	+45	+42	+38	+36
North Dakota	+155	+86	+74	+167	+134	+58
South Dakota	48	+149	+44	+80	+103	+88
United States	+57,534	+75,189	+67,731	+71,051	+54,227	+47,455
US Deaths	+1,204	+1,456	+1,359	+1,316	+1,058	+411

\* The July 29, 2020, daily update includes cases reported to the South Dakota Department between Monday, July 27 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. due to a delay in the daily data extraction.



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## August 2nd COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

A Minnehaha resident, a male in the 80+ age group is the latest death from COVID-19. That makes the 64th death in that county and the 135th death in the state. Bennett and Jerauld each registered a new case so they are being dropped from the fully recovered list. Deuel, McPherson and Tripp are now fully recovered.

Overall, the numbers in South Dakota are better. Brown County had just one positive case and four were recovered. The state positivity rate dropped to 8.6 percent and Brown County down to 4.9 percent.

#### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: -3 (37)  
Recovered: +4 (367)  
Total Positive: +1 (407) 4.9%  
Ever Hospitalized: 0 (20)  
Deaths: 0 (3)  
Negative Tests: +41 (4152)  
Percent Recovered: 90.2% (+0.8)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +88 (8955 total) 8.6%  
Negative: +933 (104,998 total)  
Hospitalized: +3 (835 total). 35 currently hospitalized (down 1 from yesterday)  
Deaths: +1 (135 total)  
Recovered: +59 (7820 total)  
Active Cases: -2 (911)  
Percent Recovered: 88.3 +.1  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 1% Covid, 46% Non-Covid, 53% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 3% Covid, 64% Non-Covid, 33% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 5% Covid, 11% Non-Covid, 84% Available

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Harding (50)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Bennett and Jerauld. Gained Deuel, McPherson and Tripp.):  
Bon Homme 13-13, Day 21-21, Deuel 8-8, Haakon 1-1, Hamlin 14-14, Hand 7-7, Hyde 3-3, McPherson 6-6,  
Perkins 4-4, Stanley 14-14, Sully 1-1, Tripp 20-20.

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: +1 positive (2 active cases)  
Beadle (9): 22 active cases  
Bennett: +1 positive (1 active case)  
Bon Homme: Fully Recovered  
Brookings (1): +1 positive (11 active cases)  
Brown (3): +1 positive, +4 recovered (36 active cases)  
Brule: 3 active cases  
Buffalo (3): 8 active cases  
Butte: +1 positive (4 active cases)  
Campbell: 1 active case  
Charles Mix: 7 active cases

Clark: 2 active cases  
Clay: +3 positive, +2 recovered (13 active cases)  
Codington: +1 recovered (18 active cases)  
Corson: 6 active cases  
Custer: +4 positive, +2 recovered (9 active cases)  
Davison: +1 positive, +2 recovered (8 active cases)  
Day: Fully Recovered  
Deuel: +1 recovered FULLY RECOVERED  
Dewey: +1 recovered (29 active cases)  
Douglas: 2 active cases  
Edmunds: 3 active cases  
Fall River: +1 positive, +1 recovered (1 active case)

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Faulk (1): +1 recovered (3 active cases)  
 Grant: +4 positive (5 active case)  
 Gregory: 1 active case  
 Haakon: 1 active case  
 Hamlin: Fully Recovered  
 Hand: Fully Recovered  
 Hanson: +1 positive (7 active cases)  
 Harding: No infections reported  
 Hughes (3): +1 positive (6 active cases)  
 Hutchinson: 4 active cases  
 Hyde: Fully Recovered  
 Jackson (1): +1 positive (2 active case)  
 Jerauld (1): +1 positive (1 active case)  
 Jones: 1 active case  
 Kingsbury: +1 recovered (2 active cases)  
 Lake (2): +2 positive, +8 recovered (16 active cases)  
 Lawrence: +3 positive (5 active cases)  
 Lincoln (2): +10 positive, +16 recovered, 1 death (94 active cases)  
 Lyman (2): 10 active cases  
 Marshall: 1 active case)  
 McCook (1): 1 active case  
 McPherson: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED)  
 Meade (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (13 active cases)  
 Mellette: +4 recovered (4 active cases)  
 Miner: +1 positive (5 active cases)  
 Minnehaha (64): +34 positive, +29 recovered, 1 death (335 active cases)  
 Moody: 4 active cases  
 Oglala Lakota +2 positive, +1 recovered (24 active cases)  
 Pennington (26): +8 positive, +5 recovered, 1 death (115 active cases)

Perkins: 1 active case  
 Potter: 1 active case  
 Roberts (1): 8 active cases  
 Sanborn: Fully Recovered  
 Spink: +1 positive (3 active cases)  
 Stanley: Fully Recovered  
 Sully: Fully Recovered  
 Todd (4): 4 active cases  
 Tripp: +1 recovered (FULLY RECOVERED)  
 Turner: +2 recovered (6 active cases)  
 Union (3): +1 positive, +2 recovered (32 active cases)  
 Walworth: 1 active case  
 Yankton (2): +1 positive, +3 recovered (8 active cases)  
 Ziebach: 6 active cases

## North Dakota Dept. of Health Report COVID-19 Daily Report, August 2:

- 3,965 tests (838)
- 6,660 positives (+58)
- 5,477 recovered (+ 81)
- 105 deaths (+2)
- 1,078 active cases (- 26)

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	9
Brookings	1
Brown	3
Buffalo	3
Butte	1
Faulk	1
Hughes	2
Jackson	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	2
Lincoln	2
Lyman	2
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	64
Oglala Lakota	1
Pennington	29
Roberts	1
Todd	4
Union	4
Yankton	2

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	725	8%
Black, Non-Hispanic	1028	11%
Hispanic	1206	13%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	1424	16%
Other	861	10%
White, Non-Hispanic	3711	41%

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons
Aurora	38	36	362
Beadle	587	556	1809
Bennett	6	5	527
Bon Homme	13	13	721
Brookings	119	107	2523
Brown	407	367	4152
Brule	40	37	705
Buffalo	107	96	617
Butte	11	7	748
Campbell	2	1	86
Charles Mix	99	92	1186
Clark	16	14	369
Clay	117	104	1253
Codington	118	100	2649
Corson	28	22	436
Custer	23	14	757
Davison	88	80	2209
Day	21	21	599
Deuel	8	8	374
Dewey	59	30	1987
Douglas	16	14	382
Edmunds	13	10	389
Fall River	16	15	910
Faulk	26	22	176
Grant	23	18	671
Gregory	7	6	365
Haakon	2	1	281
Hamlin	14	14	596
Hand	7	7	268
Hanson	21	13	185
Harding	0	0	50
Hughes	84	75	1640
Hutchinson	26	22	866

Hyde	3	3	122
Jackson	9	6	424
Jerauld	40	38	264
Jones	2	1	53
Kingsbury	12	10	530
Lake	81	63	880
Lawrence	30	25	2008
Lincoln	571	475	6301
Lyman	88	77	903
Marshall	8	7	435
McCook	24	22	609
McPherson	6	6	205
Meade	74	60	1858
Mellette	24	20	367
Miner	15	10	243
Minnehaha	4223	3824	25862
Moody	30	26	598
Oglala Lakota	148	124	2870
Pennington	826	685	10343
Perkins	6	5	146
Potter	1	0	278
Roberts	70	61	1637
Sanborn	13	13	212
Spink	20	17	1098
Stanley	14	14	234
Sully	1	1	66
Todd	66	59	1941
Tripp	20	20	589
Turner	44	38	856
Union	196	161	1802
Walworth	18	17	659
Yankton	102	92	2915
Ziebach	8	2	282
Unassigned****	0	0	6561

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

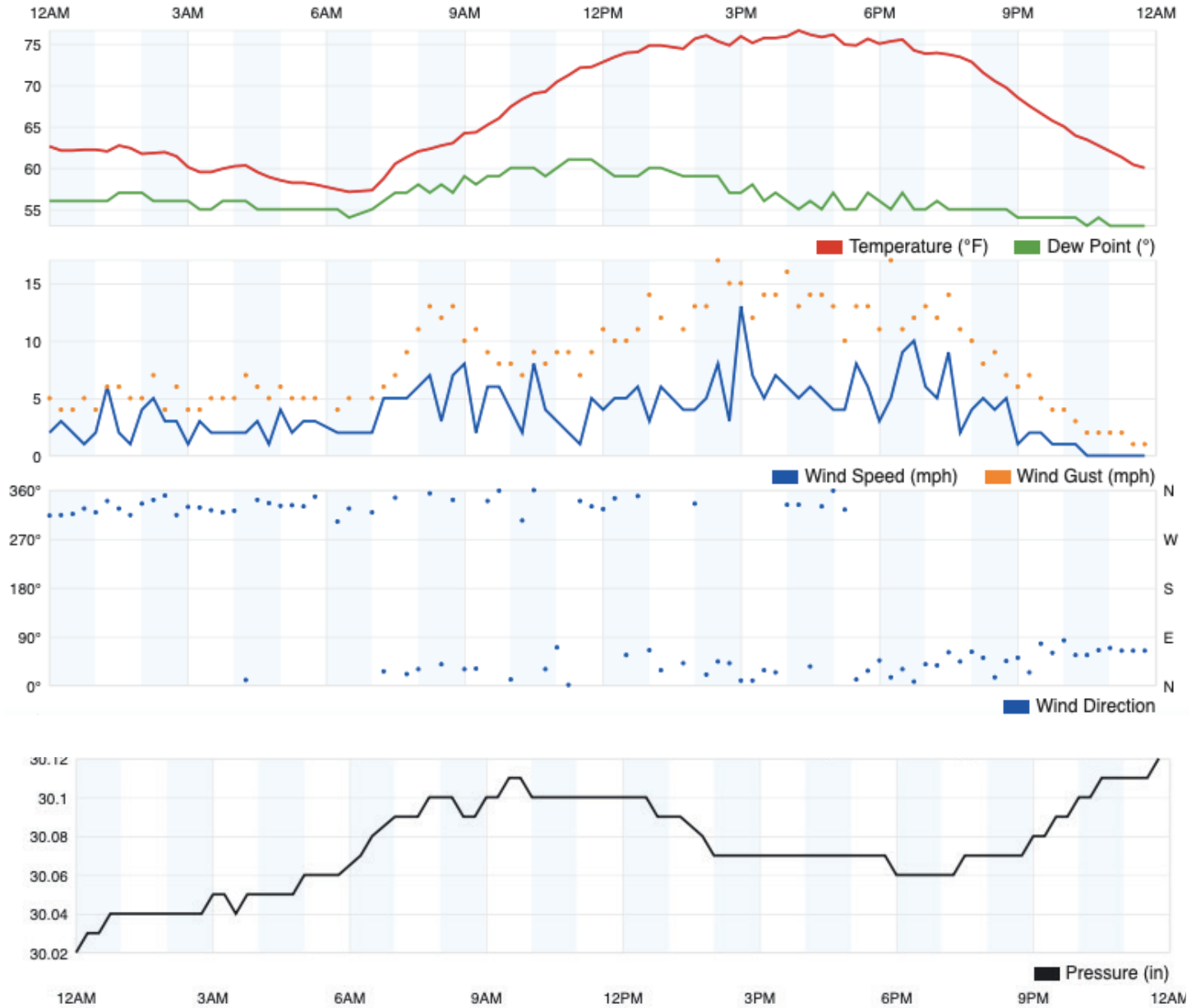
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	4387	68
Male	4568	67

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	1136	0
20-29 years	1921	1
30-39 years	1773	6
40-49 years	1368	7
50-59 years	1331	17
60-69 years	801	25
70-79 years	331	20
80+ years	294	59

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 78 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 52 °F

Tuesday



Increasing  
Clouds

High: 81 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Chance  
T-storms

Low: 60 °F

Wednesday



Chance  
T-storms

High: 82 °F

Dry Today  
Showers and Storms Return Late  
Tuesday  
Highs Today: 74 to 82

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD  
Created: 8/3/2020 4:22 AM  
www.weather.gov/abr  
@NWSAberdeen

High pressure dominates again today with dry and mild conditions. Showers and thunderstorms will move back in Tuesday afternoon as the high exits to the east.

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## Today in Weather History

August 3, 1984: During the morning hours, estimated four to six inches of rain fell from west of Garden City in Clark County to north of Henry in Codington County. Low lying areas were flooded, and a potato field west of Garden City was washed out.

August 3, 1989: Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph, driving golf ball size hail through most the windows on the west side of buildings in Amherst, Marshall County. Corn crops were stripped off their leaves with an estimated 1800 acres being severely damaged.

August 3, 1996: High winds up to 90 mph uprooted and damaged many trees in Mobridge. The roofs of two buildings were blown off while other roofs received some damage. Windows were broken out in eight vehicles at the South Dakota Winds up to 90 mph also caused damage in Herreid where doors on a concrete elevator were blown out.

August 3, 2008: Severe thunderstorms moved across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours bringing large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds to the area. Isabel, Timber Lake, and Selby were among the hardest hit locations. Isabel in Dewey County saw eighty mph winds which damaged or downed several trees, damaged carnival equipment, destroyed some sheds, and rolled some large hay bales. High winds up to 80 mph severely damaged a barn, downed some power poles along with many trees and branches in and around Timber Lake. Also, several vehicles and many acres of crops were damaged by the hail and high winds. The Little Moreau Elk Lodge roof was destroyed, and some windows were broken. One-hundred mph winds downed six power poles and caused considerable damage to sunflowers, corn, wheat, and beans in and around Selby in Walworth County. Also, an empty grain bin was blown over and damaged. Numerous trees were snapped off. The coop seed building in Selby sustained considerable damage with many trees uprooted or damaged throughout town.

August 3, 2009: A cold front moving southeast across the area brought many severe thunderstorms to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to golf ball size along with wind gusts nearing 80 mph occurred across the area. Brown, Hyde, Lyman, and Gregory Counties were among the hardest hit locations. Hail and sixty mph winds significantly damaged many acres of soybeans and corn near Putney in Brown County. Seventy to 80 mph winds brought down several large trees along with many large tree branches in and around Highmore in Hyde County. The high winds also tipped over a semi, a gravity wagon, and a grain auger along with damaging several fences. There were also power outages in Highmore. Golf ball size hail combined with strong winds broke many windows in the house and dented several vehicles south of Kennebec in Lyman County. The house pet was also injured. Large hail, up to two inches in diameter, fell in a swath a few miles wide from northwestern to south-central Gregory County. The hail broke numerous windows, severely damaged siding and roofs of homes and other buildings, and severely damaged vehicles, while covering the ground in several places. Property damage has been particularly severe in the town of Gregory. Crop damage was also severe along the swath, with corn crops in some areas destroyed to the point of only small stubble left.

1970: Hurricane Celia was the costliest tropical cyclone in Texas history until Hurricane Alicia in 1983. Hurricane Celia made landfall near Port Aransas as a major Hurricane, Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale with sustained winds of 130 mph.

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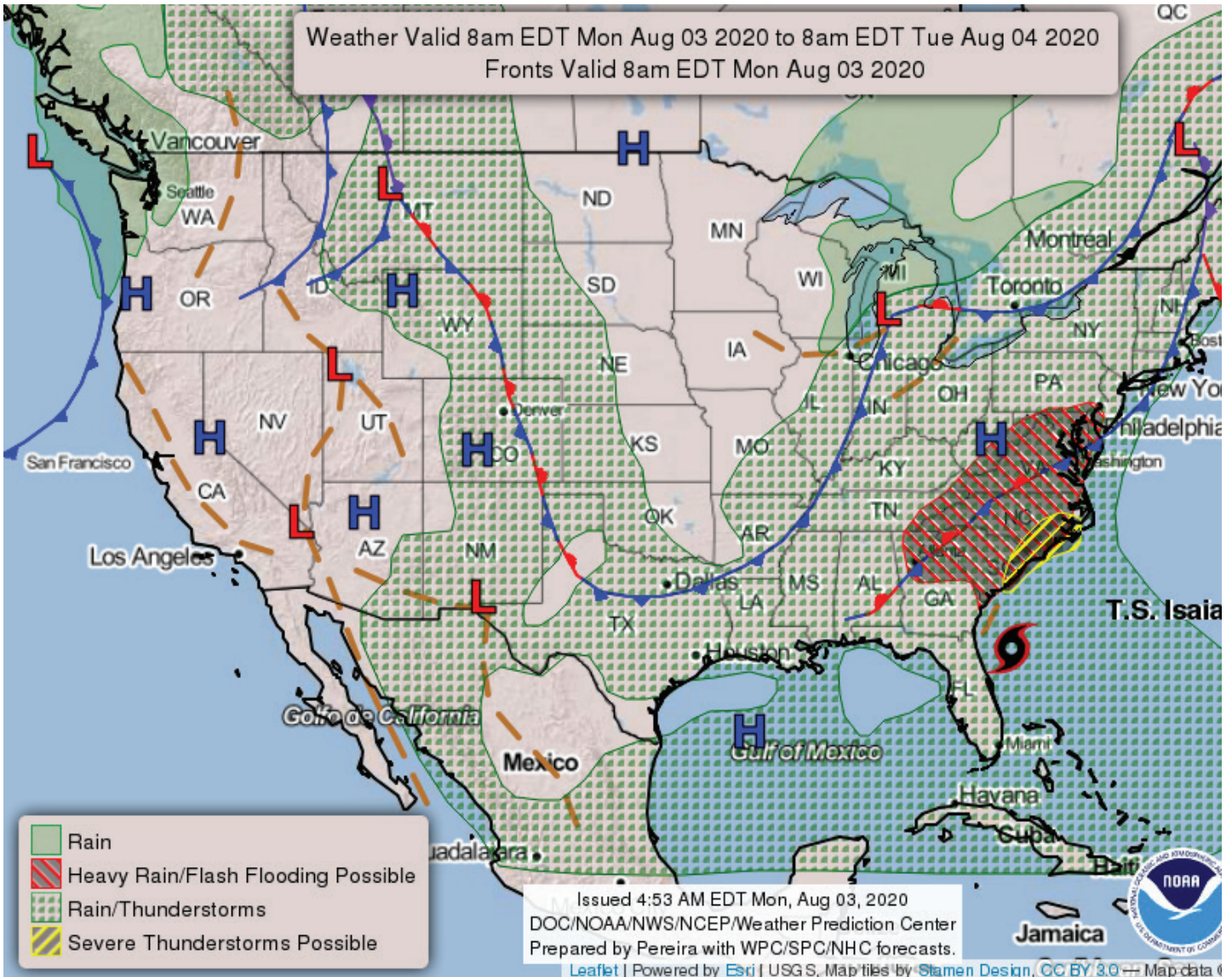
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 77 °F at 4:14 PM**  
**Low Temp: 57 °F at 6:44 AM**  
**Wind: 17 mph at 2:22 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 107° in 1947**  
**Record Low: 39° in 1971**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug.: 0.16**  
**Precip to date in Aug.: 0.45**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.02**  
**Precip Year to Date: 10.96**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:58 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:22 a.m.**



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## **DON'T FORGET WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!**

Little Danny was proud of his newborn brother. Every now and then, he would quietly and carefully approach his crib, look down at him, and smile.

On one occasion, his mother stood watching him from a corner in the nursery while she was folding the baby's clothes. After a few moments, Little Danny said, "Little Brother, before you get too big and forget, please remember what God looked like when you last saw Him in heaven, cause I want you to tell me when you learn to talk."

Little Danny is not the only one who wants to know what God looks like. Hidden in the heart of everyone, everywhere is the same question. It was planted there by God Himself!

John wrote that "No one has ever seen God." If this is true, Little Danny is in serious trouble.

However, John also wrote that "His only Son, Jesus, who is Himself God, is near to the Father's heart, and He has revealed God (which means 'made Him available') to us."

Jesus was, and still is, the complete expression of God in human form. Through His life and teachings, He revealed God to us, so we do, indeed, know what He looked like, acted like, and thought like.

Remember this critical fact, Jesus passed on that "picture" of God to His disciples, and they in turn passed it on to their disciples. So, today, we - as His disciples - have the same responsibility that Jesus had: to reveal God to the world through the way we live. What a great privilege!

Prayer: Lord, You have given us the responsibility to make Your Son known to the world. Empower us with Your Spirit to live God-like lives that represent You well. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side - he has revealed him. John 1:18



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## 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
- 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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Black Hills Physical Therapy celebrates silver anniversary**

By ALEX PORTAL Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — For 25 years, the staff at Black Hills Physical Therapy have been helping folks in the Black Hills heal both physically and mentally.

"It's the best profession. There's nothing better than helping to make someone else's life better by what you can do," said Cathy Sulentic-Morcom, owner of Black Hills Physical Therapy.

Sulentic-Morcom said she didn't start out wanting to run her own business. After graduating from the University of North Dakota with a bachelor's degree in physical therapy, she spent some time working at a hospital.

"I'd been at the hospital about nine years and left and did a little home health and decided no, I didn't really want to do that. Private practice seemed to be the right choice for me," she told the Black Hills Pioneer.

Sulentic-Morcom opened Black Hills Physical Therapy in May 1995 and has been in the same location at 520 N. Canyon St., in Spearfish for most of that time. She recalled her early days when the business was just starting out, looking at her case file shelf.

"I remember saying, 'gosh, I wonder if I'll ever fill that shelf,'" she said with a laugh.

Now, Sulentic-Morcom said she has an entire file room dedicated to the records of past and current clients.

Through the years, Sulentic-Morcom said she's remained passionate about her profession by keeping current with the changing industry.

"The therapy world is always changing, there's always new things to learn," she said. "I could see 10 knee patients in a day and every single one of them would have a different problem, at a different stage, requiring a different approach."

Sulentic-Morcom continued her higher education while on the job and got a master's degree from the University of North Dakota and a doctorate from Evidence in Motion in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Now everybody graduates with a doctorate degree in physical therapy, so I completed that about five years ago," she said.

Over the years, with more and more research being done into the practices of physical therapy, Sulentic-Morcom said the profession has become much more focused on personalized care, which she calls evidence based practice.

"Now, with evidence based practice, we know which tests are more reliable than other tests to guide good practice and treatment," she explained.

Sulentic-Morcom said most people don't realize that her business is a private practice and doesn't require a referral from a doctor to be seen.

"Direct access is the law in South Dakota," she said. "We can evaluate and treat without a referral. So you can just call us up and say, 'Hey would you look at my shoulder, my neck, my low back, whatever your pain issue is, and we can evaluate and treat that problem.'"

Sulentic-Morcom said she and the two other therapists who work at the practice take pride in catering exercise programs to help their clients.

"I work with two other therapists with very advanced skills, who are really talented," she said. "We don't go to the internet and say, 'here's shoulder exercises, here's ankle exercises,' no. We look at what's specifically going on for the person and give them the right exercises specific to their need and ability."

Just as important as physical therapy is to recovery, Sulentic-Morcom said she and her practitioners focus on maintaining a positive healing environment for their clients.

"With some injury, it can be very depressing for people, it can be life changing for people, and so the psyche comes into that," she said. "Always getting somebody back to, 'that pain is gone, I feel great, I'm back to doing what I love,' that's what makes us happy."

Born and raised in Deadwood, Sulentic-Morcom said she's equally as happy and proud to continue bring-

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ing her passion and knowledge of physical therapy to the community she's called home her whole life.

"I just always wanted rural America to have good physical therapy," she said.

Sulentic-Morcom has remained an active in the community as well as in the physical therapy state and national associations of which she's a part, even being recognized as Physical Therapist of the Year by the South Dakota Physical Therapist State Association in 2006.

"That was very much a highlight for me," she said.

Even with the recent threat of the COVID pandemic, Sulentic-Morcom said she'd been able to adapt her business and continue providing service.

"We've been able to keep it going. I've got a big space here that we can keep people socially distance, and we're all in masks (and gloves)," she said.

Sulentic-Morcom said she and her entire staff take pride in what they do, and look forward to continuing to serve the Black Hills for 25 more years.

"We all just really love what we do," she said. "It's been really great, all these years, I wouldn't change it. I've been very blessed to work in this field."

## Wadsworth sisters become cross-town rivals in Aberdeen

By JACQUE NILES Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The Wadsworth children aren't necessarily keen on forcing their parents into making difficult decisions. But neither are they apologizing for it, particularly the two eldest sisters Lexi and Kylee.

Lexi Wadsworth will be a junior on the Northern State women's basketball team next season. Kylee Wadsworth will join her older sister in Aberdeen, but will play across town at Presentation College. Kylee recently inked her letter of intent to join the Saints.

"It's nice being right next to her and to have someone there when I branch out," Kylee said of having Lexi nearby as she begins the next chapter in her basketball career. "But I'm excited to be in a different conference. I'm forging my own path."

Kylee, who averaged 12.2 points, 5.3 rebounds and three assists a game last season on her way to First Team All-Northeast Conference honors, said the ability to play basketball and major in nursing were a big draw in her choosing to play at Presentation.

"I really enjoyed Coach (Nicole) Bullock and Coach Aimee (Burmester)," she told the Aberdeen American News. "They really reached out to me. I've enjoyed every visit."

Lexi, who averaged about a dozen points a game and was a Second Team All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference selection, was excited for her sister — and excited she wouldn't have to play against her.

"I'm super proud of her," Lexi said. "I think it's going to be awesome. I'm really excited she chose PC so we can still be together, but she's coming here to forge her own path. ... I don't want to play against her, but she needs to do her own thing and be Kylee. She'll be great."

Still, Presentation and Northern have similar scheduling structures, where both team will play back-to-back nights on the weekends, occasionally both in Aberdeen, but sometimes in opposite directions, as well. And with two younger siblings still at home, decisions will have to be made.

"It'll be crazy when Jackson and Kami have games, too," Lexi said. "Two people, four directions. You do what you've got to do."

It's doable, of course, on the days when both the Saints and the Wolves are at home on the same weekend. On Saturdays, the two teams have tipoff times that allow for a quick trip across town to catch the second sister in action.

"It'll work out," Kylee said.

There will be at least one time, however, when the two sisters will play at the same time in the same place. Northern and Presentation have tentatively scheduled an exhibition contest.

"I don't know what to expect," Lexi said. "It'll be competitive, but after the game, we'll be sisters."

## Annual Sturgis rally expecting 250K, stirring virus concerns

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sturgis is on. The message has been broadcast across social media as South Dakota, which has seen an uptick in coronavirus infections in recent weeks, braces to host hundreds of thousands of bikers for the 80th edition of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

More than 250,000 people are expected to rumble through western South Dakota, seeking the freedom of cruising the boundless landscapes in a state that has skipped lockdowns. The Aug. 7 to 16 event, which could be the biggest anywhere so far during the pandemic, will offer businesses that depend on the rally a chance to make up for losses caused by the coronavirus. But for many in Sturgis, a city of about 7,000, the brimming bars and bacchanalia will not be welcome during a pandemic.

Though only about half the usual number of people are expected at this year's event, residents were split as the city weighed its options. Many worried that the rally would cause an unmanageable outbreak of COVID-19.

"This is a huge, foolish mistake to make to host the rally this year," Sturgis resident Lynelle Chapman told city counselors at a June meeting. "The government of Sturgis needs to care most for its citizens."

In a survey of residents conducted by the city, more than 60% said the rally should be postponed. But businesses pressured the City Council to proceed.

Rallygoers have spent about \$800 million in past years, according to the state Department of Tourism. Though the rally has an ignominious history of biker gangs and lawlessness, bikers of a different sort have shown up in recent years — affluent professionals who ride for recreation and come flush with cash. Though the rally still features libertine displays, it also offers charity events and tributes to the military and veterans.

The attorney for a tourism souvenir wholesaler in Rapid City wrote to the City Council reminding that a judge found the city does not solely own rights to the rally and threatening to sue if the city tried to postpone it. Meanwhile, the Buffalo Chip, which is the largest campground and concert venue that lies outside the bounds of the city, made clear that it would hold some version of the rally.

Rod Woodruff, who operates the Buffalo Chip, said he felt he had little choice but to proceed with the rally. He employs hundreds of people in August and a smaller full-time staff.

"We spend money for 355 days of the year without any return on it, hoping people show up for nine days," he said. "We're a nine-day business."

Woodruff felt he could pull off a safe event, allowing people to keep their distance from one another at the outdoor concerts at his campground. He said he was emboldened by the July 3 fireworks celebration at Mount Rushmore, where 7,500 people gathered without any reported outbreaks after the event, according to health officials.

In the end, Sturgis officials realized the rally would happen whether they wanted it or not. They decided to try to scale it back, canceling city-hosted events and slashing advertising for the rally.

Jerry Cole, who directs the rally for the city, said organizers are not sure how many people will show up, but that they're expecting at least 250,000. Travel restrictions from Canada and other countries have cut out a sizeable portion of potential visitors, he said.

Others think the rally could be the biggest yet.

"It's the biggest single event that's going on in the United States that didn't get canceled," Woodruff said. "A lot of people think it's going to be bigger than ever."

When the rally is over, every year the city weighs all the trash generated to estimate how many people showed up. This year, they will also conduct mass coronavirus testing to see if all those people brought the pandemic to Sturgis.

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## Rentals remain available for last-minute Sturgis rally-goers

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The COVID-19 pandemic apparently is not discouraging as many visitors as previously expected, but home rentals, campground spaces and hotel rooms remain available for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally that starts Aug. 7.

"It's the 80th rally, so people are coming," said Kimberly Roberts, owner of Kickstands Campground and Venue outside Sturgis.

Roberts said some primitive tent camping and self-contained RV spaces are still open because of cancellations, but full-service RV spots are full.

"This is our fourth rally. What's different I'm noticing is people are trickling in. People are showing up," she told the Rapid City Journal.

Gina Huiet, manager of Sturgis RV Park in Sturgis, said that park is usually fully booked by October for the following summer's rally. The park rents sites for five or 10 days at a time. As of Friday, July 24, the park had some openings because Canadian travelers were forced to cancel due to COVID-19 border closures.

"Yes, I have had some people cancel because of COVID-19, but all those spots, we've booked them," Huiet said. "People are coming anyway."

"We do have an overflow camping lot. We do allow one- and two-night stays for motorcycles and tents. We've never filled it up before but it could happen this year," she said. "All those people that waited until the last minute, the only good thing about COVID-19 is it opened a rally spot for you."

As of Friday, July 24, sturgis.com still listed a variety of rentals open throughout the Black Hills. Options ranged from high-end luxury homes to rustic cabins and campsites.

Meanwhile this week, Airbnb.com shows its rentals throughout the Black Hills are 81% booked during the rally. Several entire houses for rent during the rally have not yet been reserved.

Julie Schmitz Jensen, executive director of Visit Rapid City, said she's optimistic about visitor numbers this summer.

"Nothing about this year is normal, but I think there are some that had already made reservations, and some are still contemplating reservations," Jensen said. "We all know things could change overnight; we're keeping our fingers crossed."

By mid-July, she said Rapid City area hotels, motels and campgrounds were reporting between 65% and 85% reservation rates during the rally, with the two weekends being more booked than midweek.

"There have been some cancellations recently because some states are implementing stay-at-home rules. ... I'm not seeing that as a huge trend yet," Jensen said. "Canadians have always been a really big part of the rally market so (with the border closure) Canadian numbers are either nonexistent or way down.

"We're all dipping our toes into regional marketing. We're not telling the world to come visit this summer. We are telling (those who are within driving distance) we are open, we are safe, we are following all the Centers for Disease Control regulations," Jensen said. "We are coming back up. We're aren't out of the hole yet, but we are getting back. ... We're getting a lot of interest."

Meanwhile, at the Sturgis Buffalo Chip, last-minute guests are always invited.

"We always have room at the Chip for more people and this year is no different," said Buffalo Chip founder and President Rod Woodruff. "We'd welcome anybody that makes up their mind at the last minute. We always have a lot of people who make up their minds at the last minute."

The Buffalo Chip has RV sites and primitive camping sites available. Cabins there are fully booked. The Buffalo Chip also rents campers and if it runs out will work with a camper company to bring in more from out of state. The Buffalo Chip also has added a new garage and will have mechanics on site to help visitors whose motorcycles break down.

"We always have room for another million," Woodruff said. "We're conscious of COVID-19 so we're changing the amphitheaters (for the concerts) to accommodate for COVID, but we still have room for people."

Reservations have been increasing for the past couple of months, he said.

"South Dakota has fresh air, lots of space, beautiful roads, nice little mountains and wide open prairies"

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that visitors love, Woodruff said. "People are wanting to get back to living a normal life and we're sitting pretty well out here. ... It's good to see people getting out and goofing off."

Woodruff said he'll encourage people to "goof off responsibly" and take precautions, but at the Buffalo Chip everyone's going to focus on fun.

"We call it partying like it's 1982. The folks that are worried about COVID-19 aren't going to come. The people that are coming are coming to have a good time, see other people and socialize," he said.

## South Dakota reports 88 new coronavirus cases, 1 new death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials reported 88 newly conformed cases of the coronavirus and one new death on Sunday.

The death toll from COVID-19 in South Dakota rose to 135 with the newly reported death. The new death was a Minnehaha County man in his 80s, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The South Dakota Department of Health on Sunday reported the number of confirmed covornavirus infections has risen to 8,955. South Dakota has 911 active infections, down two from Saturday.

Officials say 7,909 patients have recovered from the disease, and 35 are currently hospitalized. The number of people currently hospitalized is down one from 36 on Saturday.

Minnehaha County reported 34 new cases Sunday, bringing its total to 4,223. Pennington County had eight new cases, for a total of 826.

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

## Outbreak hits Norway cruise ship, could spread along coast

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A Norwegian cruise ship line halted all trips and apologized Monday for procedural errors after an outbreak of coronavirus on one ship infected at least 5 passengers and 36 crew. Health authorities fear the ship could have infected dozens of towns and villages along Norway's western coast.

The 41 people on the MS Roald Amundsen who tested positive have been admitted to the University Hospital of North Norway in Tromsø, north of the Arctic Circle, where the ship currently is docked.

"A preliminary evaluation shows that there has been a failure in several of our internal procedures," Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam said in a statement. He added the company that sails along Norway's picturesque coast between Bergen in the south and Kirkenes in the north is "now in the process of a full review of all procedures, and all aspects of our own handling."

The cruise line has contacted passengers who had been on the MS Roald Amundsen for its July 17-24 and July 25-31 trips from Bergen to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, which is known for its polar bears. There were 209 guests on the first voyage and 178 guests on the second voyage.

All 158 crew members on MS Roald Amundsen have been tested and 122 were negative.

But since the cruise ship line often acts like a local ferry, traveling from port to port along Norway's western coast, the virus may not have been contained onboard. Some passengers disembarked along the route and may have spread the virus to their local communities.

The municipality of Tromsø is urging anyone who traveled on the ship or had any contact with the ship to get in touch with health authorities. A total of 69 municipalities in Norway have been affected, Norwegian news agency NTB reported.

Its not known how the outbreak began since guests come from all over the world. NTB said 33 of the 36 crew members that have tested positive came from the Philippines and the others came from Norway, France and Germany.

Over the weekend, Skjeldam said cruise ship officials did not know that they should have notified the pas-

sengers after the first case was reported Friday, adding that they followed the advice of the ship's doctors.

But Line Vold of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health said its advice was to inform passengers and crew as soon as possible so they could monitor their health and go into quarantine if needed.

"We have made mistakes. On behalf of all of us in Hurtigruten, I am sorry for what has happened. We take full responsibility," Skjeldam said.

The Hurtigruten line says the operations of three ships — MS Roald Amundsen, MS Fridtjof Nansen and MS Spitsbergen — have been halted for an indefinite period.

The Tromsø-based Hurtigruten was one of the first companies to resume sailing after the pandemic hit and started cruises to Norway out of Hamburg, northern Germany, in June with a single ship. It added cruises to Svalbard in July, Norwegian media reported.

In Italy, the Costa Crociere cruise ship line said Sunday three crew members from two ships in Civita-vecchia, near Rome, have tested positive for the coronavirus. The cruise company said two assigned to the Costa Deliziosa were hospitalized in good condition, and a third, assigned to the Costa Favolosa, was in isolation on the ship.

The Italian cruise company, which is part of Carnival Corp. said the crews of both ships were being screened "in view of the possible relaunch of our cruises, as soon as the government gives the authorization." The Cabinet is meeting on the matter next Sunday.

Costa Crociere said that all crew members were tested for the virus before leaving their countries, then undergo a second test once they arrive in Italy, after which they are put under a two-week monitoring period.

Cruise lines stopped sailing in mid-March after several high-profile coronavirus outbreaks at sea. More than 710 people fell ill aboard Carnival's Diamond Princess cruise ship while it was quarantined off Japan and 13 people died.

A German cruise ship last week set sail from Hamburg, testing procedures for how cruise ships can operate safely during the pandemic. The ship sailed with less than 50% capacity and only went on a four-day trip at sea with no stops at other ports.

Colleen Barry in Milan contributed to this report.

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

## Islamic State targets Afghan prison in attack killing 29

By RAHMAT GUL and RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — The Islamic State group attacked a prison in eastern Afghanistan holding hundreds of its members, leading to an hourslong battle Monday that saw the military retake control of the facility even as militants continued to fire on them from a nearby neighborhood. The fighting killed at least 29 people and wounded 50, authorities said.

Security forces seized the prison Monday afternoon in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, some 115 kilometers (70 miles) east of Kabul, Defense Ministry spokesman Fawad Aman said.

Sporadic gunfire rang out from nearby residential buildings in central Jalalabad, an area of high security near the provincial governor's office.

The attack highlighted the challenges ahead for Afghanistan, even as U.S. and NATO forces begin to withdraw following America striking a peace deal with the Taliban.

As security forces swept through the prison, they found the bodies of two Taliban prisoners apparently killed by the Islamic State group, showing the tensions between the two militant factions battling each other in eastern Afghanistan.

The 29 dead included civilians, prisoners, guards and Afghan security forces, said Attaullah Khogyani, the provincial governor's spokesman.

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The attack began Sunday, when an Islamic State suicide bomber drove a car laden with explosives up to the prison's main gate, detonating the bomb. Islamic State militants opened fire on the prison's guards and poured through the breach.

The Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan, known as IS in Khorasan province, later claimed responsibility for the attack. The affiliate is headquartered in Nangarhar province.

The motive of the attack wasn't immediately clear. However, some of the 1,500 prisoners there escaped during the fighting. Khyogyani said about 1,000 prisoners who earlier escaped had been found by security forces across the city. It wasn't immediately clear if any prisoners were still at large.

Several hundred prisoners in Jalalabad are believed to be Islamic State members.

The attack came a day after authorities said Afghan special forces killed a senior Islamic State commander near Jalalabad.

While the Islamic State group has seen its so-called caliphate stretching across Iraq and Syria eliminated after a yearslong campaign, the group has continued fighting in Afghanistan. The extremists also have battled the Taliban in the country, whom the U.S. overthrew following the 2001 American-led invasion after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Taliban's political spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, told The Associated Press that his group was not involved in the Jalalabad attack. The U.S. struck a peace deal with the Taliban in February. A second, crucial round of negotiations between the Taliban and the political leadership in Kabul has yet to start.

The Taliban declared a three-day cease-fire starting Friday for the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. The cease-fire expired at 12 a.m. Monday though it wasn't immediately clear if it would be extended as the U.S. pushes for an early start to intra-Afghan negotiations that have repeatedly been delayed since Washington signed the peace deal with the Taliban.

"We have a cease-fire and are not involved in any of these attacks anywhere in the country," Shaheen said.

The Taliban also had denied being involved in a suicide bombing in eastern Logar province late Thursday that killed at least nine people and wounded 40.

Afghanistan has seen a recent spike in violence, with most attacks claimed by the local Islamic State group affiliate.

Faiez reported from Kabul, Afghanistan. Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## 5 things to know today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **BLACK WOMEN MOBILIZE, SEIZE POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT** They have long been the Democratic Party's most reliable and loyal voters, but for generations that allegiance didn't translate to their own political rise.

2. **PREPARING FOR BACK TO SCHOOL AMID PANDEMIC** Parents in some states are getting their first look at a new school year as the coronavirus continues to cause upheaval in school systems around the country.

3. **HEARING COULD OFFER NEW DETAILS IN CHILDREN'S DEATHS** Prosecutors plan to begin sketching out their evidence against a couple at the center of a bizarre case of two missing children whose bodies were later unearthed in rural Idaho.

4. **ISAIAS CRAWLS TOWARD THE CAROLINAS** The storm is near hurricane strength just a day after bands of heavy rain lashed Florida's east coast as state officials dealt with surging cases of the coronavirus.

5. **HSBC SAYS NET PROFITS PLUNGED 96%** Europe's biggest bank reports its net profit plummeted in the second quarter of this year as lower interest rates combined with the downturn due to the coronavirus pandemic stunted business activity.



## 'If not now, when?': Black women seize political spotlight

By CLAIRE GALOFARO and KAT STAFFORD Associated Press

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — The little girl ran up to her, wide-eyed and giddy.

"Are you Charisse Davis?" the fourth grader asked.

Davis was stunned. A former kindergarten teacher and librarian, she was more accustomed to shuttling her two sons to basketball practice than being seen as a local celebrity. But now she had been elected the only Black woman on the Cobb County School Board, gaining office in a once conservative suburban community where people who look like her rarely held positions of power.

Something had changed in this place, and something had changed in her.

"I love your hair — your hair looks like my hair," the girl squealed, calling friends over.

It was a moment both innocent and revealing: Not just a child seeing herself in an elected leader, but also a reflection of the rapidly building power of Black women. It's a momentous change that could make history on a national ticket and determine the outcome of the presidential race.

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EDITOR'S NOTE — Americans are preparing to choose a leader and a path through a time of extraordinary division and turmoil. Associated Press journalists tell their stories in the series "America Disrupted."

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Black women have long been the heart of the Democratic Party — among the party's most reliable and loyal voters — but for decades that allegiance didn't translate to their own political rise. There have been zero Black female governors, just two senators, several dozen congresswomen.

And the people representing them instead have not met their needs: Disparities in education and opportunity resulted in Black women making on average 64 cents for every dollar a white man makes. Long-standing health inequities have caused Black people to die disproportionately from COVID-19.

And countless cases of police brutality have left many Black women terrified every time their children pulled out of the driveway, fearing that they might not make it home alive.

Now Black women are mobilized and demanding an overdue return on their investment. Over the last several years and across America, Black women ran and won elections in historic numbers, from Congress to county school boards.

This transformation is taking place in once unlikely places, suburban counties in the South. Places like Cobb, a rambling expanse of strip malls and subdivisions just north of Atlanta that doubled in population midway through the last century as white people fled the city. Then, slowly, families of color followed, also seeking bigger yards and better schools.

The year Charisse Davis was born, 1980, Cobb County was 4.5% African American. Now it's more than 27% Black and 13% Hispanic. Its politics caught up with its demographics: In 2016 Hillary Clinton was the first Democratic presidential candidate to eke out a win in Cobb County since Jimmy Carter, a Georgian, in 1976.

President Donald Trump's presidency, which has fueled racial divisions and appealed to white grievance, unleashed for some here an overwhelming urgency. They added their names to down-ticket ballots; they canvassed; they knocked on doors.

When Stacey Abrams, a Black progressive Democrat, ran for governor in 2018, she focused her campaign on women of color. In that election, more than 51,000 Black women in Cobb County cast ballots — 20,000 more than voted in midterm elections four years earlier.

Although Abrams lost narrowly statewide, she won Cobb County handily. Meanwhile, Lucy McBath, a Black mother whose 17-year-old son was killed by a white man who thought his music was too loud, won a congressional seat that includes part of the county, a district once held by conservative firebrand Newt Gingrich.

Charisse Davis looked at the school board members and saw no Black women, so she ran and won. Another Black woman became the chair of the county's young Republicans. Two joined the Superior Court bench. A teenager ran for class president, and she won, too.

"We've been watching from the sidelines and allowing other people to take their turns, and take these

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positions of power," Davis said. "Now here we are to essentially fix it."

The first county Democratic Party meeting after Trump's election was standing room only.

"It was almost like a support group. We had to be together, we had to grieve and yell," Davis said. "What happened?"

Across the county, there was soul searching over how Clinton lost white, working-class voters, but much less on why Democrats also lost some of the support of this core constituency.

Historically Black women vote in extraordinary numbers, and they don't vote alone: They usher their families, their churches, their neighbors to the polls.

But in 2016, African Americans did not turn out in the numbers the party had come to expect. For the first time in 20 years, their turnout declined in a presidential election. About 70% of eligible Black women voted in 2012 when President Barack Obama, the first Black president, secured a second term. But in 2016 that number slipped to 64%, its pre-Obama level.

While there were multiple reasons for Clinton's loss, including a large defection of white voters, some saw the drop-off as a sign that Black voters had been taken for granted. Organizations sprang up across the country to motivate Black women to organize, run and win.

"We have never been at this moment," said Aimee Allison, who in 2018 founded the network She the People, which is working to turn out a million women of color across seven battleground states. "For us as a group to recognize our own political power means that we also are demanding to govern."

The power of Black voters was demonstrated when they overwhelmingly backed Joe Biden in the South Carolina primary, giving him a staggering victory that rescued his campaign and set him on a path to the nomination. Black women made up about one-third of the Democratic voters in the state and roughly two-thirds voted for Biden, according to the AP VoteCast survey.

Biden has pledged to pick a woman as his running mate, and at least six of the contenders are Black — including California Rep. Karen Bass, who said, "I think what we're looking for is representation, acknowledgement, inclusion."

Those who advocate for Black women in politics say the stakes have never been higher.

They emphasize that Trump's administration has failed to contain the coronavirus that has killed more than 154,000 Americans, a disproportionate share of them African Americans. He has responded to mass demonstrations over police violence by calling protesters thugs and encouraging law enforcement to beat them back with force.

"Given how directly Black women have been impacted by the incompetence and the malfeasance of the Trump administration, Black women are going to be at the forefront, not only giving rise to voter turnout, but also shaping the conversations that we will be having in this election season," said Abrams, whose name has also been widely circulated as a possible Biden running mate. "It has been a sea change in how vital our voices have been."

Black women can meet this moment in a way no one else can, they say: The world watched the video of George Floyd begging for his mother as he was dying under a police officer's knee.

Charisse Davis' sons, 10 and 14 years old, asked her: Why won't the officer just let him get up?

When she looks at her own sons, she sees her babies. But the older boy is now taller than she is. He likes hoodies. She worries a stranger might see him as a menace, not a boy whose mother still has to remind him to floss his teeth.

"That is the reality of being a Black mother in this country," she said.

She gets messages after school board meetings: "People like you are the problem," one said. "She's a racist," a man wrote. Another described her as "defiant," and said he had his son watch school board meetings "to see how he shouldn't behave."

She hears: You don't belong there.

"You are dismantling the machine, rocking the boat, and all of those things are the way that they are by design," she said, and added that one of the high schools in the district she represents is named after

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a Confederate officer.

"That is what the county is built on, that is racism, that is systemic racism, that is white supremacy. It's all these things we don't talk about. But if not now, when?"

When Chinita Allen's 20-year-old son was home from college earlier this year, he and a friend went to work out at their old high school in the affluent, predominantly white part of the county where they live. He had been a football star there. But someone saw two Black men and called the police to report suspicion.

She posted her son's story on Facebook, and it rocketed around this community.

In the not-so-distant past, she might not have spoken up. A soccer mom and educator, she had long avoided talking about race, rocking the boat — until Trump won. Now she's the president of Cobb Democratic Women and leading the charge to try to turn the county totally blue.

"It's all about knowing your worth," she said. "We've always been here, like the Underground Railroad. But it's surfaced now. In a big way. It's a rail train."

Black women powered the civil rights movement, but rarely became its stars. Women like Fannie Lou Hamer, Diane Nash, Myrlie Evers, Ella Baker and Dorothy Height never held political office, but they played a critical role, said Nadia Brown, a Purdue University political science professor.

Only occasionally did their work lead to elective office, as it did when Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress, in 1968, and a candidate for president in 1972.

But the landscape changed dramatically over the last several cycles. Just two years ago, five Black women were elected to Congress, four of them in majority-white districts, according to the Higher Heights Black Women in American Politics 2019 survey. Congress now has more Black women than ever before: 22 congresswomen and one senator, Kamala Harris, who is just the second to serve in that chamber and a prominent contender to be Biden's running mate.

The change has extended to state and local offices. Two black women are running for governor in Virginia, and if either of them win, she would become the nation's first Black female governor.

In Cobb County, Kellie Hill made history in June as one of two Black women elected to the Superior Court bench. When she first moved to Georgia 30 years ago, fellow lawyers assumed she was her secretary's assistant.

"I said for years, 'Maybe one day they'll be ready for me,'" Hill said. "And as exciting as it is to be the first, it's a little unbelievable that we're having a conversation about being the first in the year 2020."

Although they make up about 7.5% of the electorate, less than 2% of statewide elected executive offices were held by Black women as of November 2019. They account for less than 5% of officeholders elected to statewide executive offices, Congress and state legislatures, according to the Higher Heights survey.

"Black women have done everything that America told us was going to make us successful and we're still at the bottom in terms of our return," said LaTosha Brown, co-founder of Black Voters Matter.

Black women are posting faster educational gains than any other demographic group in the U.S. — seeing a 76% jump in the number of college degrees earned over the past 20 years, but they aren't reaping the promised economic benefits. On average, Black women made 64 cents for every dollar a white man makes. But that drops to 55 cents for Black women with a professional degree compared to white men with the same level of educational attainment.

"People told us that education is key to being successful," Brown said. "What did Black women do? Black women, out of any constituency group in this country, we enter college more than any other group in this country. Then why does the wealth not reflect that?"

As a result, said Bev Jackson, chair of the Democratic Party's Cobb County African American caucus, Black women have a special resiliency: They have no safety net, so Black women just learn to walk the tightrope better.

Jackson thought about how much she wished her parents had lived to see a Black woman come so close to the Governor's Mansion. Her family's roots in Cobb County go back more than 100 years. Her parents went to segregated schools and sipped out of separate water fountains.

Once, when Jackson was a little girl, she sat down at a lunch counter because she wanted a cherry

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Coke. The waitress just passed her by, refusing to serve her.

Now Black women around her are daring to run, to win and to demand their leaders fix the broken system that maintains disparities in policing, health care, education, economics.

"You have taken our votes for granted for years. But guess what?" she said. "It's payback time: What are you going to do for us?"

Republicans aren't immune to this awakening.

DeAnna Harris was recently elected chair of the Cobb County Young Republicans, the first Black person in the post. To highlight local Black Republicans — the district attorney, deputy sheriff, a former state representative — she held her inaugural event at the historic African American church she attends. The crowd was diverse, she said, and she was proud of that.

She tries to make a conservative pitch to other Black voters by touting the ideals she believes in: small government, gun rights, religious freedom, anti-abortion. The response is generally something along the lines of, "but I don't like Trump."

"He's never served the role of politician, who gets up there and smiles and says all the right things and winks at the camera, and then when you turn around they stab you in the back," Harris said. Though she doesn't like his tone or his tweets, she supports Trump because of his conservative policies.

But she also believes it's imperative that Republicans broaden their base. The party should look like America, she thinks, and right now it doesn't.

The Democratic Party of Georgia is confident that enthusiasm is on its side. Fair Fight Action, the organization Abrams founded, calculated that Georgia has more than 750,000 new voters who were not registered in 2018, 49% of them voters of color. And despite a pandemic and hourslong lines in some polling places, more Democrats voted in June's presidential primary than in 2008, when Obama was on the ticket.

That Democratic energy can be particularly seen in these northern Atlanta suburbs. McBath, the incumbent in the 6th Congressional District, ran unopposed and got 26,000 more primary votes than the five Republicans candidates combined. In Cobb County, almost 33,000 African Americans voted in the 2016 primary. In the 2020 primary: more than 52,000. Both of the state's Republican senators are up for election, putting Georgia on the front lines of the fight for control of the Senate.

"The 2020 election cycle is going to be key to changing the course of history in this country," said Nikema Williams, chair of the Democratic Party of Georgia, who was selected to replace Rep. John Lewis, the civil rights leader who died in July, on the November ballot. "We're a battleground in Georgia now, and Black women are leading the way."

In Cobb County, even some who can't vote themselves are determined to thwart Trump's chances of reelection. Gabby Bashizi was one of thousands of teenagers who plotted on the social media site TikTok to reserve tickets to Trump's rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in June, then not show up.

Trump said he expected a million fans to attend. There were about 6,000, and lots of empty seats.

"I think he's really dangerous," said Bashizi, 17. Her father is an immigrant from Congo, so it feels personal every time Trump calls immigrants criminals or Black Lives Matter protesters "thugs." "We all feel it. We all go home scared. Is it going to be me next?"

When she was younger she struggled to find self-worth. No Disney princesses looked like her. People touched her hair, like it was a strange curiosity. In the sixth grade, she buzzed it to the width of a bottle cap, and cried and cried.

Then she started seeing Black women ascend.

"Seeing them fight their fight on the national stage has led me to be able to fight my fight on a personal level," she said. She grew her hair out again.

Charisse Davis said that it is these young women who give her hope for a better day: They are idealistic, coming of age in a time when Black women are rising, and they can look around, see people like themselves and believe anything is possible.

She knows an 18-year-old named Audrey McNeal. McNeal ran to be the class president at her mostly

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white high school, and lost. She thought of a poem she once wrote about a princess envious of her brother because one day he would be king; she wanted to be powerful. She ran again, and won.

"It's about time we represent ourselves," McNeal said. Now she's a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She's heading to Barnard College to study politics.

She thinks she'll be secretary of state one day. And then, maybe, president.

Associated Press writers Angeliki Kastanis, Josh Boak, Emily Swanson and Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

## **Analysis: Often on brink, Lebanon headed toward collapse**

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Power cuts that last up to 20 hours a day. Mountains of trash spilling into streets. Long lines at gas stations.

It may seem like a standard summer in Lebanon, a country used to wrestling with crumbling infrastructure as it vaults from one disaster to another.

Only this time, it's different. Every day brings darker signs Lebanon has rarely seen in past crises: Mass layoffs, hospitals threatened with closure, shuttered shops and restaurants, crimes driven by desperation, a military that can no longer afford to feed its soldiers meat and warehouses that sell expired poultry.

Lebanon is hurtling toward a tipping point at an alarming speed, driven by financial ruin, collapsing institutions, hyperinflation and rapidly rising poverty — with a pandemic on top of that.

On Monday, the country's foreign minister resigned, warning that a lack of vision and a will to implement structural reforms risked turning the country into a "failed state."

The collapse threatens to break a nation seen as a model of diversity and resilience in the Arab world and potentially open the door to chaos. Lebanese worry about a decline so steep it would forever alter the small Mediterranean country's identity and entrepreneurial spirit, unparalleled in the Middle East.

In the past, Lebanon has been able to in part blame its turmoil on outsiders. With 18 religious sects, a weak central government and far more powerful neighbors, it has always been caught in regional rivalries leading to political paralysis, violence or both. Its 1975-90 civil war made the word "Beirut" synonymous with war's devastation and produced a generation of warlords-turned-politicians that Lebanon hasn't been able to shake off to this day.

Since the war ended, the country has suffered a Syrian occupation, repeated conflict with Israel, bouts of sectarian fighting, political assassinations and various economic crises, as well as an influx of more than a million refugees from neighboring Syria's civil war. The presence of the powerful Shiite group Hezbollah — a proxy army for Iran created in the 1980s to fight Israel's occupation — ensures the country is always caught up in the struggle for supremacy by regional superpowers Iran and Saudi Arabia.

But the current crisis is largely of Lebanon's own making; a culmination of decades of corruption and greed by a political class that pillaged nearly every sector of the economy.

For years, the country drifted along, miraculously avoiding collapse even as it accumulated one of the world's heaviest public debt burdens. The sectarian power-sharing system allotted top posts according to sect rather than qualifications, which in turn allowed politicians to survive by engaging in cronyism and patronage for their communities.

"One of the problems in Lebanon is that corruption has been democratized, it's not sitting centrally with one man. It's all over," says Marwan Muasher, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Every sect has a sector of the economy that it controls and draws money from, so that it can keep their sect happy," he said in a recent talk organized by the Center for Global Policy.

The troubles came to a head in late 2019, when nationwide protests erupted over the government's intention to levy a tax on the WhatsApp messaging app, seen as the final straw for people fed up with their politicians. The protests touched off a two-week bank closure followed by a run on the banks and

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then informal capital controls that limited dollar currency withdrawals or transfers.

Amid a shortage in foreign currency, the Lebanese pound has shed 80% of its value on the black market, and prices for basic food items and other goods have seen a meteoric rise. Savings have evaporated, plunging many into sudden poverty.

Lebanon's fall "represents an epic collapse with a generational impact," wrote Maha Yehia, director of the Carnegie Middle East Center.

The pillars that long sustained Lebanon are crumbling, including its trademark freedoms and role as a tourism and financial services hub, and wiping out its middle class, she wrote in a recent analysis.

Left on its own, Lebanon could within months reach a point where it can no longer secure needs for its citizens like fuel, electricity, internet or even basic food.

Already, there are signs of the country being pushed toward a hunger crisis. Fears of a breakdown in security are real. The purchasing power of an ordinary soldier's salary has declined in dollar terms from around \$900 to \$150 a month. Public sector employees have similarly seen their salaries wiped out.

Unlike in previous crises when oil-rich Arab nations and international donors came to the rescue, Lebanon this time stands very much alone.

Not only is the world preoccupied with their own economic crises, traditional friends of Lebanon are no longer willing to help a country so steeped in corruption, particularly after the state defaulted on its debt in April. Moreover, the country is led by a Hezbollah-supported government, making it even more unlikely that Gulf countries would come to the rescue.

Lebanon's only hope is an IMF bailout, but months of negotiations have led nowhere.

The French foreign minister, on a recent trip to Beirut, could not have been clearer that there would be no assistance for Lebanon before credible reform measures are taken. "Help us to help you!" he repeated.

The words appear to have fallen largely on deaf ears. Lebanese politicians can't agree on the size of the government's losses, much less carry out reforms to end the corruption from which they profit.

A complete breakdown of Lebanon threatens the wider region, potentially leading to security vacuums that could be exploited by extremists.

Writing in Washington-based The Hill newspaper, Mona Yaacoubian, senior adviser to the vice president for Middle East and Africa at the U.S. Institute of Peace, said a total meltdown in Lebanon could also provoke new refugee flows to Europe and add yet more turmoil to the arc of instability stretching from Syria through Iraq, with negative implications for U.S. allies in the region.

Given the stakes, the United States cannot afford to ignore Lebanon's impending collapse, she argues.

"Lebanon is rapidly spiraling toward the worst-case scenario: a failed state on the eastern Mediterranean."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Zeina Karam, the news director for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, has covered the Middle East since 1996. Follow her on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/zkaram](http://www.twitter.com/zkaram).

## Idaho hearing could offer new details in missing kids' case

By KEITH RIDLER and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Prosecutors on Monday plan to begin sketching out their evidence against a couple at the center of a bizarre case of two missing children whose bodies were later unearthed in rural Idaho, offering potential new details in an investigation with ties to doomsday beliefs and other mysterious deaths that captivated worldwide attention.

The preliminary hearing will help a judge decide if the charges against Chad Daybell will move forward in state court. Daybell, 52, is charged with concealing evidence by destroying or hiding the bodies of 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan at his eastern Idaho home. Investigators found their remains during a search in June, months after the kids were last seen in September.

Daybell late last year married the kids' mom, Lori Vallow Daybell, who's charged with conspiring to help him keep the bodies hidden and faces the same hearing next week. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Authorities haven't yet said how the children died or who caused their deaths. Court documents suggest

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JJ was buried in a pet cemetery on Chad Daybell's property and that Tylee's remains were dismembered and burned. Investigators found the bodies by tracking the movements of Lori's brother, Alex Cox, using cellphone data.

Cox is also dead, succumbing to an apparent blood clot in his lung at his Arizona home last December. Police Lt. Ron Ball in the small town of Rexburg, Idaho, wrote in court documents that Cox also was involved in the conspiracy to hide the kids' remains.

Court documents in Lori Daybell's criminal case include claims that the couple believed dark spirits, or "zombies," would possess people. Melanie Gibb said her friend Lori told her at different times last year that both children had become zombies and that the couple believed the only way to rid a person of a dark spirit was by killing them so the person could be at rest in the afterlife.

The strange case began last summer with Cox shooting and killing Lori's estranged husband, Charles Vallow, in suburban Phoenix in what he asserted was self-defense. Vallow had been seeking a divorce, saying Lori believed she had become a god-like figure who was responsible for ushering in the biblical end times.

A short time later, Lori and the kids moved to Idaho, where Chad Daybell lived. He ran a small publishing company and had written many fiction books about apocalyptic scenarios loosely based on the theology of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Friends said he claimed to be able to receive visions from "beyond the veil."

At the time, Chad Daybell was married to Tammy Daybell. She died in October of what her obituary said were natural causes. But authorities grew suspicious when Chad Daybell married Lori just two weeks later, ordering Tammy's body exhumed last December in Utah for further investigation. The results of that autopsy have not yet been released.

Police began searching for Tylee and JJ in November after relatives raised concerns, and they soon discovered that both children were last seen in September. Police say the Daybells lied to investigators about the children's whereabouts before quietly leaving Idaho. They were found in Hawaii months later.

The case has drawn so much attention that Madison County Prosecutor Rob Wood recently hired a public relations firm to handle the influx of media requests his office receives. But the investigation isn't over, so authorities have not given details on exactly what they believe happened.

At least some of those details will likely be discussed in court this week, with three FBI agents and an Idaho State Police forensic specialist subpoenaed to testify.

Chad Daybell's defense attorney, John Prior, also will get a chance to argue his side. Neither the couple nor their lawyers have spoken publicly about the case so far.

In most preliminary hearings, defense attorneys try to show the judge that prosecutors' evidence is not strong enough to justify sending the case to trial.

## Parents struggle as schools reopen amid coronavirus surge

By DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

Shannon Dunn has to report in person to her job this week as a cafeteria manager at an elementary school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but she has no idea what she'll do when her daughter starts kindergarten with online-only instruction.

As a new school year begins this week in some states, Dunn, like many working parents, is struggling to balance her job with her child's school work as the coronavirus pandemic continues to cause upheaval in school districts around the country.

Dunn's East Baton Rouge school district has asked school employees to begin work this week, while students are set to begin virtual classes next week. School officials have said they hope to begin in-person classes after Labor Day.

"My family works. I have no one I can take her to and say, okay, at 12 o'clock you are going to have to start working online with her for school," Dunn said.

Parents in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee are among those who will be the first to navigate the new academic year as schools open up in parts of those states this week.

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In Indiana, where schools reopened last week for the first time since a pandemic-driven nationwide shutdown in March, a student at Greenfield-Central Junior High School tested positive for the coronavirus on the first day back to class. School Superintendent Harold Olin told The Associated Press that the student was tested for the virus days earlier and attended school before receiving the results. The student was isolated in the school clinic, while school nurses worked to identify other students or staff who may have had close contact with the student.

"This really does not change our plans," Olin said. "We knew that we would have a positive case at some point in the fall. We simply did not think it would happen on Day One."

Schools in Hawaii were supposed to reopen Tuesday, but the teachers union led a move to delay that until Aug 17.

Most schools in the state are planning a hybrid approach, with students alternating between attending in-person classes and online instruction. Some schools will have full in-person instruction for younger grade levels, but only a handful of schools will offer a full-time, in-person return.

Many school districts around the country had offered parents a choice of at least some in-person classes or remote instruction. But an uptick in COVID-19 cases in many states has prompted school districts to scrap in-person classes at least for the start of the school year, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Washington.

Dunn said she hopes her daughter will be able to attend in-person classes at her school after Labor Day. But even if she does, that will not ease her mother's mind completely.

"I'm definitely going to worry," Dunn said.

"I will send her to in-person classes, but if I hear of the spread of COVID at the school, then I'd have to rethink it all over again."

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

## Isaias strengthens slightly as it crawls up Florida coast

By WILFREDO LEE and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Bands of heavy rain from Isaias lashed Florida's east coast Sunday, with the tropical storm strengthening slightly and forecast to be near hurricane strength by the time it reaches the Carolinas.

Officials dealing with surging cases of the coronavirus in Florida kept a close watch on the storm that was weakened from a hurricane to a tropical storm Saturday afternoon, but still brought heavy rain and flooding to Florida's Atlantic coast.

The National Hurricane Center advised at 11 p.m. EDT Sunday that the storm was centered about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Cape Canaveral, Florida, and about 365 miles (585 kilometers) south of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

It strengthened slightly earlier in the evening with maximum sustained winds just under a Category 1 hurricane, taking a north-northwest path, according to the center.

"Don't be fooled by the downgrade," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis warned at a news conference after the storm — pronounced ees-ah-EE-ahs — spent hours roughing up the Bahamas.

Upper-level winds took much of the strength out of Isaias, said Stacy Stewart, senior hurricane specialist at the hurricane center in Miami.

"We were expecting a hurricane to develop and it didn't," Stewart said Sunday. "It's a tale of two storms. If you live on the west side of the storm, you didn't get much. If you live east of the storm, there's a lot of nasty weather there."

Authorities closed beaches, parks and virus testing sites, lashing signs to palm trees so they wouldn't blow away. DeSantis said the state is anticipating power outages and asked residents to have a week's supply of water, food and medicine on hand. Officials wrestled with how to prepare shelters where people



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can seek refuge from the storm if necessary, while also safely social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus.

In Palm Beach County, about 150 people were in shelters, said emergency management spokeswoman Lisa De La Rionda. The county has a voluntary evacuation order for those living in mobile or manufactured homes, or those who feel their home can't withstand winds.

"We don't anticipate many more evacuations," she said, adding that the evacuees are physically distant from each other and are wearing masks, due to the virus.

In Indian River County, north of West Palm Beach, Florida, emergency shelters were clearing out Sunday after Isaias was downgraded to a tropical storm.

Officials told TCPalm newspapers that 38 people registered at three schools used as shelters. Those areas now must be cleaned to ensure no traces of the coronavirus remain as teachers and staff report Monday to prepare for the upcoming school year.

No one checked in with COVID-19 symptoms. Temperature checks were done at the door, officials said, and isolation rooms were designated in case anyone came in with symptoms.

The storm's maximum sustained winds declined steadily throughout Saturday, and were at 65 mph (100 kph) at 2 p.m. ET Sunday, before crawling back up to 70 mph (110 kph) a few hours later, the hurricane center said.

"The center of Isaias will move offshore of the coast of Georgia and southern South Carolina on Monday, move inland over eastern North Carolina Monday night and move along the coast of the mid-Atlantic states on Tuesday," according to the hurricane center.

A Tropical Storm Watch has been extended northward to Watch Hill, Rhode Island, including the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, Long Island and Long Island Sound.

The storm did not affect the successful return of two astronauts aboard the SpaceX Dragon capsule, which splashed down into calm waters in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola. Test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken rode the capsule back to Earth less than a day after departing the International Space Station and two months after blasting off from Florida.

Isaias already has caused destruction in the Caribbean: On Thursday, before it became a hurricane, it uprooted trees, destroyed crops and homes and caused widespread flooding and small landslides in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. One man died in the Dominican Republic. In Puerto Rico, the National Guard rescued at least 35 people from floods that swept away one woman, whose body was recovered Saturday.

Isaias snapped trees and knocked out power as it blew through the Bahamas on Saturday.

With coronavirus cases surging in Florida recently, the added menace of a storm ratcheted up the anxiety. State-run virus testing sites closed in areas where the storm might hit because the sites are outdoor tents, which could topple in high winds.

Natalie Betancur, stocking up at a grocery in Palm Beach Gardens, said that the storm itself doesn't cause her a great amount of concern.

"The hurricane is not that serious, but I feel that the public is really panicking because it's a hurricane and we're in the middle of a pandemic," she said.

Officials in the Bahamas opened shelters for people in Abaco island to help those who have been living in temporary structures since Dorian devastated the area, killing at least 70 people in September 2019.

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Coto reported from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Curt Anderson in St. Petersburg, Cody Jackson in Palm Beach County, Florida, and Julie Walker in New York contributed.

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## SpaceX capsule and NASA crew make 1st splashdown in 45 years

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Two NASA astronauts returned to Earth on Sunday in a dramatic, retro-style splashdown, their capsule parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico to close out an unprecedented test flight by Elon Musk's SpaceX company.

It was the first splashdown by U.S. astronauts in 45 years, with the first commercially built and operated spacecraft to carry people to and from orbit. The return clears the way for another SpaceX crew launch as early as next month and possible tourist flights next year.

Test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken arrived back on Earth in their SpaceX Dragon capsule named Endeavour, less than a day after departing the International Space Station and two months after blasting off from Florida. The capsule parachuted into the calm gulf waters about 40 miles off the coast of Pensacola, hundreds of miles from Tropical Storm Isaias pounding Florida's Atlantic coast.

"Welcome back to planet Earth and thanks for flying SpaceX," said Mission Control from SpaceX headquarters.

"It's a little bit overwhelming to see everybody here considering the things that have gone on the last few months since we've been off planet," Hurley said after arriving back home in Houston Sunday evening where they were greeted by a small masked-gathering of family and officials, including Musk.

Musk had rushed to Houston from SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California, to welcome them. He was clearly moved — and relieved — while addressing the group.

"I'm not very religious, but I prayed for this one," he said.

The astronauts' ride back to Earth was fast, bumpy and hot, at least on the outside.

The spacecraft went from a screaming orbital speed of 17,500 mph (28,000 kph) to 350 mph (560 kph) during atmospheric reentry, and finally to 15 mph (24 kph) at splashdown. Peak heating during descent was 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,900 degrees Celsius). The anticipated top G forces felt by the crew: four to five times the force of Earth's gravity.

Within a half-hour of splashdown, the scorched and blistered 16-foot capsule was hoisted aboard a SpaceX recovery ship with a staff of more than 40, including doctors and nurses. To keep the returning astronauts safe in the pandemic, the recovery crew quarantined for two weeks and were tested for the coronavirus.

The opening of the hatch was held up briefly by extra checks for toxic rocket fumes outside the capsule. After medical checkups, the astronauts were flown by helicopter to Pensacola and then to Houston.

There was one unexpected problem that could have endangered the operation: Once the capsule was in the water, private boats "just made a beeline for it," and got too close, said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, promising to do better next time at keeping sightseers on pleasure boats safely away. NASA video showed one vessel flying a large campaign flag for President Donald Trump.

The Coast Guard in Pensacola said it had deployed two vessels to keep the public at least 10 miles away from the capsule.

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, who both attended the launch, congratulated the SpaceX and NASA teams.

"Great to have NASA Astronauts return to Earth after very successful two month mission. Thank you to all!" Trump tweeted.

The last time NASA astronauts returned from space to water was on July 24, 1975, in the Pacific, the scene of most splashdowns, to end a joint U.S.-Soviet mission known as Apollo-Soyuz. The Mercury and Gemini crews in the early to mid-1960s parachuted into the Atlantic, while most of the later Apollo capsules hit the Pacific. The lone Russian "splashdown" was in 1976 on a partially frozen lake amid a blizzard following an aborted mission; the harrowing recovery took hours.

Gemini and Apollo astronaut Thomas Stafford — the commander of the last crew to splash down — watched the reentry on TV from his Florida home. While pleased with the crew's safe return, he wasn't overly impressed. "It's what we did over 50 years ago," he said.

Its throwback splashdown aside, SpaceX made history with the mission, which launched May 30 from

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NASA's Kennedy Space Center. It was the first time a private company launched people into orbit and also the first launch of NASA astronauts from home turf in nearly a decade. Hurley was the pilot of NASA's last space shuttle flight in 2011 and the commander of this SpaceX flight.

NASA turned to SpaceX and also Boeing to build capsules and ferry astronauts to and from the space station, following the retirement of the shuttles. Until Hurley and Behnken rocketed into orbit, NASA astronauts relied on Russian rockets. SpaceX already had experience hauling cargo to the space station, bringing those capsules back to a Pacific splashdown.

"We are entering a new era of human spaceflight where NASA is no longer the purchaser, owner and operator of all the hardware. We're going to be a customer, one customer of many," Bridenstine said from Johnson Space Center in Houston. "I would love to see a fleet of crew Dragons servicing not just the International Space Station but also commercial space stations."

SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell called the mission a springboard to "doing even harder things," like collaborating on astronaut flights to the moon and then Mars.

"There's no question, it was an enormous relief after months of anxiety making sure we could bring Bob and Doug back home safely," Shotwell said.

SpaceX needs six weeks to inspect the capsule before launching the next crew around the end of September. This next mission of four astronauts will spend a full six months aboard the space station. Hurley and Behnken's capsule will be refurbished for another flight next spring. A Houston company run by a former NASA official, meanwhile, has partnered with SpaceX to send three customers to the space station in fall 2021.

"It took years to get here, we brought the capability back to America, and we came home safely to our families, and it took a lot of people a lot of time to make that happen," Behnken said back in Houston.

Boeing doesn't expect to launch its first crew until next year. The company encountered significant software problems in the debut of its Starliner capsule, with no one aboard, last year. Its capsules will touch down in the U.S. Southwest desert.

By beating Boeing, SpaceX laid claim to a small U.S. flag left at the space station by Hurley and the rest of the last shuttle crew. Minutes after splashdown, Musk tweeted a flag emoji followed by "returned."

Also on board: a toy dinosaur named Tremor, sent into space by the astronauts' young sons. The two boys recorded a wake-up call for their fathers Sunday morning.

"Don't worry, you can sleep in tomorrow," said Behnken's 6-year-old son Theo, who was promised a puppy after the flight. "Hurry home so we can go get my dog."

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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.

## Microsoft confirms talks seeking to buy US arm of TikTok

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft confirmed Sunday it is in talks with Chinese company ByteDance to acquire the U.S. arm of its popular video app TikTok and has discussed with President Donald Trump his concerns about security and censorship surrounding such an acquisition.

In a statement, Microsoft said Microsoft and ByteDance have provided notice of their intent to explore a deal resulting in Microsoft owning and operating the TikTok service in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The company said it expects those talks to conclude by Sept. 15.

Trump said on Friday that he would soon ban TikTok in the United States. Trump and CEO Satya Nadella have spoken, the company said, and Microsoft was prepared to continue exploring the purchase of TikTok's U.S. operations after their conversation.

"Microsoft fully appreciates the importance of addressing the President's concerns. It is committed to acquiring TikTok subject to a complete security review and providing proper economic benefits to the United States, including the United States Treasury," the Microsoft statement said.

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The White House did not immediately comment on the Microsoft statement.

Previously, there were reports that Microsoft was in advanced talks to buy the U.S. operations of TikTok, which has been a source of national security and censorship concerns for the Trump administration. Earlier Sunday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo again raised the administration's warnings about social media platform.

"These Chinese software companies doing business in the United States, whether it's TikTok or WeChat — there are countless more ... are feeding data directly to the Chinese Communist Party, their national security apparatus," Pompeo said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

"Could be their facial recognition patterns. It could be information about their residence, their phone numbers, their friends, who they're connected to. Those — those are the issues that President Trump has made clear we're going to take care of," Pompeo said.

In its statement, Microsoft said it may invite other American investors to participate on a minority basis in the purchase of TikTok. Financial terms were undisclosed.

TikTok's U.S. user data is stored in the U.S., with strict controls on employee access, and its biggest investors come from the U.S., the company said earlier Sunday. "We are committed to protecting our users' privacy and safety as we continue working to bring joy to families and meaningful careers to those who create on our platform," a TikTok spokesperson said.

A federal committee has been reviewing whether Trump could ban TikTok in the U.S. Its members agree that TikTok cannot remain in the U.S. in its current form because it "risks sending back information on 100 million Americans," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

"We all agree there has to be a change ... everybody agrees it can't exist as it does," Mnuchin said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

As speculation grew over a ban or sale of the social media platform's U.S. business, TikTok posted a video on Saturday saying, "We're not planning on going anywhere."

TikTok's catchy videos and ease of use has made it popular, and it says it has tens of millions of users in the U.S. and hundreds of millions globally. Its parent company, Bytedance Ltd., launched TikTok in 2017. It bought Musical.ly, a video service popular with teens in the U.S. and Europe, and combined the two. It has a similar service, Douyin, for users in China.

But TikTok's Chinese ownership has raised concern about the potential for sharing user data with Chinese officials as well as censorship of videos critical of the Chinese government. TikTok says it does not censor videos and it would not give the Chinese government access to U.S. user data.

"The President, when he makes his decision, will make sure that everything we have done drives us as close to zero risk for the American people," Pompeo said. "That's the mission set that he laid out for all of us when we get — we began to evaluate this now several months back. We're closing in on a solution. And I think you will see the president's announcement shortly."

The debate over TikTok parallels a broader U.S. security crackdown on Chinese companies, including telecom providers Huawei and ZTE. The Trump administration has ordered that the U.S. stop buying equipment from those providers to be used in U.S. networks. Trump has also tried to steer allies away from Huawei over concerns that the Chinese government has access to its data, which Huawei denies.

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Follow Cathy Bussewitz on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/cbussewitz](http://www.twitter.com/cbussewitz)

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AP Business Writers Anne D'Innocenzio and Tali Arbel contributed to this report.

## Orphaned toddler grows up in shadow of massacre, coronavirus

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

An infant boy who survived a shooting last year that left his parents and 21 others dead now likes to thumb through picture books and dance to a Batman jingle with his grandmother, according to an uncle who helps care for the 1-year-old.

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It will be years before Paul Anchondo learns what happened to his parents in an event that many El Paso residents still struggle to comprehend, Tito Anchondo said. Anchondo's brother Andre and sister-in-law Jordan died in the shooting at a Walmart store.

"We've been putting collections together of my brother's photos, his accomplishments, basically trying to get as much information that we can and save it for" the boy, Tito Anchondo said. "When he does get to that age, we can tell him, 'You know what, like, this is what happened to your dad. ... Something horrible happened to your mom and dad. But, you know, we're still here.'"

Authorities say Jordan Anchondo shielded the baby from gunfire, while her husband shielded them both. Paul suffered broken fingers and became the focus of public adulation as a seemingly miraculous survivor of the horror.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump visited Paul in the hospital. His first birthday, during the coronavirus pandemic, was attended by a drive-by caravan of cars and motorcycles.

Tito Anchondo said "baby Paul" won't attend a series of events associated with the anniversary of the Aug. 3, 2019, shooting because of concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Paul's paternal grandmother has health conditions that could make her extra vulnerable to the virus.

A relative of the boy's deceased mother declined to offer thoughts on the anniversary of the shooting. Tito acknowledged that Paul has been the focus of court-supervised custody negotiations between his paternal and maternal families.

Tito Anchondo's parents grew up in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, adjacent to El Paso. He works with his father at their auto-body repair shop in El Paso and describes himself as a patriot who regards the United States as a land of opportunity. He supports the president without reservations.

Tito said the mass shooting opened his eyes to divisive political, racial and ethnic tensions beyond El Paso. Authorities say the gunman was targeting Latinos.

"The shooting was the biggest racist attack on Mexican Americans, and to me that was something that was, you know, nonexistent," he said. "Call it privilege (from) living in El Paso, one of the safest cities in the United States."

Lee reported from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## El Paso marks Walmart shooting anniversary amid pandemic

By JAMIE STENGLE and CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

When Stephanie Melendez, her husband and two young daughters tested positive for the coronavirus, the person she most wanted to call was her father.

"I'm married. I have my family. He was still the one I called when I got sick and he'd bring me Gatorade," said Melendez, 32. "So when we get this virus that's been all over the news — oh — my dad's not there for me to call. It just kind of hits home a little harder."

Her father, David Johnson, was shielding his wife and granddaughter when a gunman who authorities say was targeting Latinos at a crowded Walmart in the Texas border city of El Paso fatally shot him and 22 other people. It was a shockingly violent weekend in the U.S., with another shooter hours later killing nine people in a popular nightlife area in Dayton, Ohio.

Events to mark the anniversary of the Aug. 3, 2019, shooting in El Paso, a largely Hispanic city of 700,000, have taken on a new look amid the coronavirus pandemic: parks lit with lanterns that people can walk or drive through; private tours for victims' families at a museum exhibit of items preserved from a makeshift memorial; and residents being asked to show support with online posts.

When Guillermo "Memo" Garcia died in April, nine months after he was shot in the Walmart parking lot while fundraising for his daughter's soccer team, he became the shooting's 23rd victim. Masked mourners gathered in a hospital parking lot to mark his death.

"It shook me to remind me that we're in the middle of a healing process that we're now being overwhelmed by COVID," said El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, the county's top executive.

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A service for victims' relatives will be held Sunday in a sprawling park, allowing for social distancing. The service will be livestreamed. Afterward members of the public can drive through the park as music plays and lanterns float on the lake.

"It's going to be solemn, but it will also be a celebration of life," Samaniego said.

"We can't allow a shooter to define who we are, and we're not going to allow a virus to define who El Paso is," Samaniego said.

Melendez said her family will attend that ceremony and mark the anniversary with a dinner at her father's favorite steakhouse. Melendez said that as the anniversary of the shooting approaches, she feels the support of the city.

"Even if we can't all get together, they're still there, there are still ways," she said.

El Paso residents describe the friendliness of the city, which has one of the lowest crime rates in the U.S. Many people have roots in both the U.S. and Mexico, frequently crossing the border. Several of those killed at the Walmart had come from Mexico to shop.

Authorities say Patrick Crusius confessed to driving to El Paso from his home near Dallas to target Mexicans, and just before the attack posted a racist screed online. Crusius, 22, faces state capital murder charges, and a federal hate crime and gun case that could likewise bring a death sentence if he's convicted.

Dr. Jose Burgos, who was working as shooting victims arrived at University Medical Center and now helps coordinate care for COVID-19 patients, said his alarm that Hispanics were targeted lingers.

"The feeling is definitely still there, you're more aware of the fact that you may be looked at a bit differently, that you might be targeted. That's still there," he said.

The morning of the shooting, Melendez's parents took their granddaughter Kaitlyn to the Walmart to get new clothes and a basketball. They were at the checkout when the gunman fired, and David Johnson pushed his wife and granddaughter under the conveyor belt. Johnson was not Hispanic, but his wife and granddaughter are.

"That was always his priority, was his family, and he always put others first. That showed that day," Melendez said.

Struggling to deal with the aftermath, Kaitlyn, now 10, began to hit her stride again after switching to a smaller school. Then it closed because of the pandemic.

This summer, Kaitlyn was set to go to a camp for kids with post-traumatic stress disorder when she, her parents and her 3-year-old sister tested positive for COVID-19. They recovered in about a week and no one had severe symptoms. But, Melendez said, the worry that one of them might get worse was overwhelming.

"You're like, 'How can I do this again?'" Melendez said. "We survived one thing and then we get hit with something else and it's just — literally for me it's like, OK, get through one day, get to the next. And a lot of it is: What would my dad do right now?"

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Stengle contributed from Dallas, Attanasio from Santa Fe, N.M. Associated Press writers Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, N.M., Astrid Galvan in Phoenix, and Jake Bleiberg in Dallas contributed to this report.

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## Marines halt search for 8 missing troops, all presumed dead

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Eight troops missing after their landing craft sank off the Southern California coast during a training exercise are presumed dead, the Marine Corps announced Sunday.

The Marines said they had called off the search that started late Thursday afternoon when the amphibious assault vehicle sank with 15 Marines and one Navy sailor aboard. Eight Marines were rescued, but one later died and two are in critical condition.

The 26-ton, tank-like craft took on water and quickly sank in hundreds of feet of water — too deep for divers — making it difficult to reach.

“It is with as heavy heart that I decided to conclude the search and rescue effort,” said Col. Christopher Bronzi, commander of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

All of the Marines aboard were attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based at nearby Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego. They ranged in age from 19 to early 30s and all were wearing combat gear, including body armor and flotation vests, according to Lt. Gen. Joseph Osterman, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The craft was one of 13 amphibious assault vehicles that had just completed an exercise. It was heading back to a Navy ship when it began taking on water about a half-mile from the Navy-owned island off San Diego.

Troops on board two other amphibious assault vehicles responded quickly but couldn’t stop the sinking, Osterman said at a Friday news conference.

Over the course of the search, dozens of helicopters and ships searched more than 1,000 square nautical miles (2,590 square kilometers) of sea.

Efforts will now turn to finding and recovering the service members and investigating the circumstances surrounding the sinking, officials said.

The names of the victims will be released 24 hours after their families are notified.

The vehicle, nicknamed an “amtrac” -- short for “amphibious tractor” -- was designed to be buoyant and had three water-tight hatches and two large troop hatches. The Marines use the vehicles to transport troops and their equipment from Navy ships to land.

The vehicles have been used since 1972, and continually refurbished.

The Marine Corps commandant, Gen. David Berger, suspended waterborne operations of all of its more than 800 amphibious assault vehicles across the branch until the cause of the accident is determined. He said the move was out of “an abundance of caution.”

It was the deadliest of several accidents involving amtracs that have occurred during Camp Pendleton exercises in recent years.

In 2017, 14 Marines and one Navy sailor were hospitalized after their vehicle hit a natural gas line at the camp, igniting a fire that engulfed the landing craft.

And in 2011, a Marine died when an amphibious assault vehicle in a training exercise sank offshore of the camp.

## Protests in the long term: How is a lasting legacy cemented?

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — What sort of staying power does it take for a protest movement to be judged a success?

This year, without a centralized team of senior leaders, perhaps the largest protest movement in U.S. history has been unfolding nationwide since the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police. By some calculations, more than 15 million Americans have taken part — decrying racial injustice, reinforcing the message of Black Lives Matter.

There’s no way to know now what the movement’s legacy will be — whether it will wither or compel major breakthroughs in curbing racism and inequality. But at this moment, other major protest movements of the past — both in the United States and elsewhere — can offer clues about what endures or what, at



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least, leaves a tangible legacy.

"It's important to see the changes over time and not be discouraged," says Beth Robinson, a history professor at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

By some measures, it took the women's suffrage movement in the United States more than 70 years before it won voting rights for American women. In the late 1980s, HIV/AIDS activists motivated by anger and fear made huge advances in just a few years thanks to a confrontational protest campaign.

The U.S. civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s achieved monumental changes over a 15-year period, including landmark federal laws. Yet racism and discrimination remain pervasive problems today.

"After Martin Luther King was assassinated, the movement kind of fractured and lost momentum," says Tyler Parry, a professor of African American history at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. "After the major laws were passed, many white Americans felt that was adequate."

The civil rights movement had some fundamental assets that helped sustain it, according to James Ralph, a Middlebury College historian. It had multiple prominent leaders in addition to King, and multiple national organizations that generally agreed on key goals even as they sometimes differed on tactics. That approach produced such tangible successes as the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This year's protest movement has mobilized larger numbers of people and is more diverse. But it's too early to gauge what tangible results it will achieve. Parry advises the new wave of activists to maintain the multiracial nature of the movement and work doggedly at every level to address inequities.

"What the modern movement needs to do is not be complacent if one or two things change," says Parry, who advises both depth and endurance: "If you destroy a few Confederate monuments, don't stop there."

## SINCE THE BEGINNING

Protest movements have been at the core of U.S. history since before independence, and the American Revolution itself commenced after a more than decade of protests against British-imposed taxes. Over the ensuing decades, there was scarcely a lull.

The Revolutionary War had barely ended when, in 1791, the Whiskey Rebellion flared — a multistate protest against a liquor tax imposed by the new federal government. Anti-slavery protests hastened the outbreak of the Civil War. The Seneca Falls convention in 1848 is widely viewed as the launch of the women's suffrage movement, yet women didn't gain the right to vote until ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Compared to that long struggle, the protests of HIV/AIDS activists achieved tangible goals within a few years of organizing in the 1980s. Activists staged "die-in" demonstrations, provoked mass arrests, and in 1988 converged by the hundreds outside the Food and Drug Administration's headquarters for day-long acts of civil disobedience.

In response, the FDA agreed to speed testing and approval of new therapies — a key step in curbing the high death toll from AIDS. Activist Larry Kramer, who died in May, said the protesters' sense of rage made a difference.

"Until you have anger and fear, you don't have any kind of an activist movement," he told Metro Weekly, a Washington-based LGBT publication, in 2011.

The largest single-day protest in U.S. history — the Women's March — came on Jan. 21, 2017, the day after Donald Trump's inauguration. An estimated half million people marched in Washington, supporting women's rights and assailing Trump's misogynistic remarks. Millions more marched in several hundred other U.S. cities and scores of foreign countries.

Assessing the march's impact is difficult. With Trump in office and Republicans controlling the Senate, there's been no breakthrough legislation on reproductive rights, immigration or other issues. Yet the mobilization lent strength to the MeToo movement, which began nine months later and caused hundreds of prominent men facing sexual misconduct allegations to lose jobs and reputations.

Some protest movements are short-lived but leave enduring legacies. Consider the Occupy Wall Street movement that emerged in New York City in 2011. It was criticized for lacking racial diversity and a specific agenda yet helped change the discourse about economic inequality with its "We are the 99%" slogan and

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denunciations of the wealthy 1%.

Nelini Stamp, a director of strategy and partnerships for the Working Families Party, cites Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as politicians whose economic platforms reflect the spirit of the New York protest.

In 2006, millions turned out to protest legislation in Congress seeking to classify undocumented immigrants as felons, and penalizing anyone who assisted them. The bill passed the U.S. House but died in the Senate.

Chris Zepeda-Millán, a professor at UCLA in the departments of Chicana/o studies and public policy, credits the protests for stopping the bill and encouraging voter registration among Latinos. But he said the protests also intensified congressional polarization, dimming prospects for any immigration overhaul and citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Congress also failed to pass tough new gun-control measures in the aftermath of the massive March for Our Lives protests organized in 2018 by students from the Parkland, Florida, high school, where a gunman killed 17 people. Nonetheless, gun-control activists have taken credit for numerous election victories, notably helping Democrats take control of Virginia's legislature in 2019.

One advantage for U.S. protest movements: Government security forces generally permit them to mobilize. The recent deployment of federal tactical teams in Portland, Oregon, outraged protesters and Oregon officials but has been the exception, not the norm.

## BEYOND AMERICAN SHORES

Outcomes can be different in other parts of the world. Hong Kong has a long tradition of public demonstrations dating from its days as a British colony. Many of its people strongly supported the 1989 student-led pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Until this year, marches and candlelight vigils were held annually to commemorate victims of the military crackdown, and hundreds of thousands turned out to oppose moves by Beijing to impose its political will on the city. More recently, however, protest activity has been tamped down since Beijing enacted a sweeping security law banning speech seen as promoting secession.

In 2011, a fruit seller in Tunisia who died after setting himself afire to protest economic conditions touched off a mass uprising against autocrats in the Arab world — what became the Arab Spring.

There were inspirational moments, notably in Cairo's Tahrir Square, where hundreds of thousands of people converged in daily protests, televised globally, that eventually pressured strongman Hosni Mubarak into stepping down.

However, subsequent turmoil brought to power general-turned-politician Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, whose government has muffled dissent. Uprisings in Libya and Syria — once unthinkable street protests against dictators — turned violent. Hundreds of thousands have died in Syria, while Libya after the fall of Moammar Gadhafi is an ungovernable, dangerous mess.

Texas A&M's Robinson emphasizes that protest movements produced many of the freedoms and protections Americans treasure — including several Depression-era initiatives undertaken during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Yet, she says, those reforms didn't fully benefit women or people of color, setting the stage for the new wave of dissent from the 1950s through the 1970s.

"With protest movements, it's three steps forward, two steps back," Robinson says. "We all want this perfect victory, to close the book and say that oppression is over ... but it's unlikely that those are going to be achieved completely."

She adds: "It's always going to be a long march to justice."

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Associated Press reporters Deepti Hajela in New York and Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

## As school begins amid virus, parents see few good options

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (AP) — John Barrett plans to keep his daughter home from elementary school this year in suburban Atlanta, but he wishes she were going. Molly Ball is sending her teenage sons to school in the same district on Monday, but not without feelings of regret.

As the academic year begins in many places across the country this week, parents are faced with the difficult choice of whether to send their children to school or keep them home for remote learning because of the coronavirus pandemic. Many are unhappy with either option.

"I definitely think it's healthy for a child to go back to school," said Ball, who feels her sons, William and Henry, both at River Ridge High School in Georgia's Cherokee County district, suffered through enough instability in the spring. "At the same time, I wish they weren't going back to school right now. It's very scary."

Offering parents choices eases some of the problems facing schools. If some students stay home, that creates more space in buildings and on buses.

But the number of families with a choice has dwindled as the virus's spread has prompted school districts to scrap in-person classes — at least to start the academic year — in cities including Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Washington, as well as parts of the South and Midwest where school is starting this week.

Many districts that don't begin instruction until after Labor Day are warily tracking the virus — and weighing concerns of educators and parents — as they consider plans including hybrid approaches, with in-person learning at least a few days a week.

In Cherokee County, administrators have stuck with plans to offer in-person school five days a week despite pressure from some parents and teachers. The countywide district also rejected demands to require masks inside school buildings. The families of about 23% of Cherokee County's 43,000 students have opted for them to learn remotely from home.

Barrett said the mask decision contributed to his decision to keep Autumn, who is in a special education program, home to start third grade at Bascomb Elementary School.

"At a minimum, there ought to be a mask mandate, and maybe a staggered schedule. They're not interested in responding to the realities of the virus as it's happening in Georgia," Barrett said.

Barrett works from home and his wife, who has an educational background, isn't employed. He says that gives them "an ability to bridge the gap." But he worries that Autumn will still fall behind, especially on her individualized education program, the plan written for each special education student.

"She gives up a lot of the ability to make progress on her IEP," Barrett said. "It's a big decision, and it feels like a definite loss."

Parents are not the only ones who are struggling. Districts that offer two modes of instruction create new challenges for teachers as well, especially those in smaller districts who are being asked to educate students in person and online at the same time.

"The key is going to be the complexity, how they handle it," said Allen Pratt, executive director of the National Rural Education Association. "Is it going to be standards-driven, what students need to move to the next grade level? Is it going to be equal to face-to-face or better than face-to-face?"

Denise Dalrymple is reluctantly sending her two sons back to first and sixth grades in Cherokee County because she says it's impossible for her to work otherwise. Like many districts, the county says it will have increased academic expectations for online learning this fall, compared to the spring.

"You basically have to make the student's education time a priority over your own job," Dalrymple said.

Others are more enthusiastic about a return.

"It was automatic because my husband and I both work, because it would have upset both of our schedules," said Jackie Taylor, who has three school-aged children and lives in nearby Canton.

She said her children have been around other kids this summer, making the transition back to school less concerning.

"We use the neighborhood pool, we do the sports," Taylor said as she watched her son practice baseball.

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"Obviously they're in close proximity in the dugouts."

Siana Onanovic said her son Kelvin will be attending Woodstock High, also in the Cherokee district, in person as a freshman. That's in part because the special science and engineering curriculum that drew her family to the school's attendance zone isn't available online.

But, like many, she had her reservations.

"There are so many pros and cons on each side," she said.

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## Wilford Brimley, 'Cocoon' and 'Natural' actor, dies at 85

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wilford Brimley, who worked his way up from movie stunt rider to an indelible character actor who brought gruff charm, and sometimes menace, to a range of films that included "Cocoon," "The Natural" and "The Firm," has died. He was 85.

Brimley's manager Lynda Bensky said the actor died Saturday morning in a Utah hospital. He was on dialysis and had several medical ailments, she said.

The mustached Brimley was a familiar face for a number of roles, often playing characters like his grizzled baseball manager in "The Natural" opposite Robert Redford's bad-luck phenomenon. He also worked with Redford in "Brubaker" and "The Electric Horseman."

Brimley's best-known work was in "Cocoon," in which he was part of a group of seniors who discover an alien pod that rejuvenates them. The 1985 Ron Howard film won two Oscars, including a supporting actor honor for Don Ameche.

Brimley also starred in "Cocoon: The Return," a 1988 sequel.

For years he was pitchman for Quaker Oats and in recent years appeared in a series of diabetes spots that turned him at one point into a social media sensation.

"Wilford Brimley was a man you could trust," Bensky said in a statement. "He said what he meant and he meant what he said. He had a tough exterior and a tender heart. I'm sad that I will no longer get to hear my friend's wonderful stories. He was one of a kind."

Barbara Hershey, who met Brimley on 1995's "Last of the Dogmen," called him "a wonderful man and actor. ... He always made me laugh."

Though never nominated for an Oscar or Emmy Award, Brimley amassed an impressive list of credits. In 1993's John Grisham adaptation "The Firm," Brimley starred opposite Tom Cruise as a tough-nosed investigator who deployed ruthless tactics to keep his law firm's secrets safe.

John Woo, who directed Brimley as Uncle Douvee in 1993's "Hard Target," told The Hollywood Reporter in 2018 that the part was "the main great thing from the film. I was overjoyed making those scenes and especially working with Wilford Brimley."

A Utah native who grew up around horses, Brimley spent two decades traveling around the West and working at ranches and race tracks. He drifted into movie work during the 1960s, riding in such films as "True Grit," and appearing in TV series such as "Gunsmoke."

He forged a friendship with Robert Duvall, who encouraged him to seek more prominent acting roles, according to a biography prepared by Turner Classic Movies.

Brimley, who never trained as an actor, saw his career take off after he won an important role as a nuclear power plant engineer in "The China Syndrome."

"Training? I've never been to acting classes, but I've had 50 years of training," he said in a 1984 Associated Press interview. "My years as an extra were good background for learning about camera techniques and so forth. I was lucky to have had that experience; a lot of newcomers don't."

"Basically my method is to be honest," Brimley said told AP. "The camera photographs the truth — not what I want it to see, but what it sees. The truth."

Brimley had a recurring role as a blacksmith on "The Waltons" and the 1980s prime-time series "Our House."

Another side of the actor was his love of jazz. As a vocalist, he made albums including "This Time the Dream's On Me" and "Wilford Brimley with the Jeff Hamilton Trio."

In 1998, he opposed an Arizona referendum to ban cockfighting, saying that he was "trying to protect a lifestyle of freedom and choice for my grandchildren."

In recent years, Brimley's pitchwork for Liberty Medical had turned him into an internet sensation for his drawn out pronunciation of diabetes as "diabeetus." He owned the pronunciation in a tweet that drew hundreds of thousands of likes earlier this year.

Brimley is survived by his wife Beverly and three sons.

AP Entertainment Writer Anthony McCartney contributed to this report.

This story has corrected a reference to Liberty Medical.

## With loan money gone, restaurants are at mercy of coronavirus

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The check has arrived and beleaguered restaurant owners across America are looking down on their empty wallets.

Government coronavirus loans in the spring helped eating establishments rehire laid-off employees and ride out the pandemic's initial surge and wave of shutdown orders.

But that Paycheck Protection Program money has now been spent at many restaurants, leaving them in the same precarious position they were in during outbreak's early days: Thousands of restaurants are being forced to close down again on mandates from state and local officials combating the virus's resurgence, particularly in the South and West.

And even in parts of the country where the outbreak appears contained, restaurants' revenue is far below normal because social distancing requirements — and wary diners — mean fewer tables, fewer customers and limited hours.

John Pepper used a PPP loan to pay employees and reopen four of his eight Boloco restaurants when Massachusetts lifted its shutdown order in early May. But with the money spent and business at the restaurants down as much as 70%, Pepper had to again close two locations. The staff of 125 he had before the virus outbreak is down to 50.

"A lot of this is out of our hands at this point," Pepper says. "At this moment, I don't see getting my full payroll back."

Congress is debating another relief bill that potentially will have more help for small businesses, but even with more loan or grant money, restaurants will remain at the mercy of the virus that has decimated their business.

The virus's resurgence has prompted officials in California, Texas, Florida and other states to order restaurants shut again. In the Northeast and other parts of the country where infection rates appear more stable, no one expects limits on inside dining to be lifted anytime soon.

Restaurants generally have a low profit margin, between 5% and 6%, and they achieve that only if they have a full house virtually every day, says Sean Kennedy, executive vice president for the trade group National Restaurant Association. They also tend to have only about two weeks of cash on hand, making them highly vulnerable when their sales are down.

"They aren't designed to have an on-off switch. They're designed to be used seven days a week, 14 to 15 hours a day at 100% of capacity," Kennedy says.

Gerry Cea was forced to shut his Miami restaurant, Cafe Prima Pasta, from March into May when the outbreak first began. Now, he has again closed the dining room as local officials try to contain the virus; the Miami/Dade area is one of Florida's hit hardest by the virus.

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Cea is still able to serve customers outside, but the intense South Florida heat and frequent summer rains are limiting him to about 40 diners a night instead of the hundreds he served before the pandemic hit. And Cea is mindful that the peak hurricane season is still to come.

"With the PPP money we received, we were able to pay 48 employees but that has run out now, so we are left with very few alternatives" for funding, Cea says. He's hoping for more help from the government, even if it's a loan that must be repaid.

In the meantime, Cea says, "the only reason we are pretty much surviving is because we own the building," he says.

The pandemic has devastated an industry that expected to have nearly \$900 billion in sales this year. Before the outbreak, the Labor Department counted 12 million workers in restaurants and bars, and nearly two-thirds worked at small businesses with fewer than 500 workers. In April, employment in restaurants and bars of all sizes had been cut by nearly half as establishments across the country were closed.

Restaurants were among the small businesses the Paycheck Protection Program was intended to help, but some owners say it was of limited use.

The program so far has given about \$42 billion in loans to restaurants, bars and lodging companies. But many restaurants burned through loans quickly because the original terms of the program required them to use the money within eight weeks in order to get loan forgiveness. Many establishments couldn't reopen but paid staffers not to work anyway. Then when they reopened with revenue limited by social distancing, they couldn't afford their full payrolls. Congress changed the spending requirement to 24 weeks in early June, but that was too late for many restaurants.

It's not yet known what small business help will be in any upcoming relief package, although Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has mentioned the possibility that small businesses with big revenue declines could get a second PPP loan.

But restaurants need a long-term solution that addresses their particular needs, Kennedy says. For example, allowing families that get food stamp assistance to use their benefits in restaurants.

"We're going to be limping along or shutting down altogether" without long-term help, Kennedy says.

Stephanie Williams still hasn't fully reopened two of her Bennu Coffee shops in Austin, Texas, and continues to operate with curbside service and delivery only; a third location that opened over the weekend does have socially distanced seating. Williams has spent the PPP money she got in early May — she had recalled furloughed workers but with revenue at one store down by half and the other by nearly two-thirds, Williams had to let 20 staffers go again.

"We assumed at the end of eight weeks, this will be over. But here in Texas, things are drastically worse than when we shut down in March," Williams says. Like other states where the virus is resurgent, Texas saw cases increase after it ended shutdown orders in early May.

Even in areas where the virus appears stable and restaurants can have inside dining, they're struggling. Wolf's Ridge Brewing, a Columbus, Ohio, restaurant and brewery, has had to close its dining room and return to takeout and delivery, having used its PPP money and not having enough revenue due to social distancing.

"What the PPP did was put us in a position where we brought people back before we had enough business to support them," co-founder Bob Szuter says. He's trying to figure out new ways to bring in revenue, focusing more on the brewery side of the business until it's safe to have a full dining room.

Jason Brauner's restaurant, Bourbon Bistro, exhausted its PPP loan, is operating at 50% of capacity and not making enough to cover its expenses. Brauner is worried that the virus's resurgence will force the Louisville, Kentucky, establishment to close; he had shut completely for two weeks in March before switching to curbside service and then gradually reopened. He's paid his full staff throughout.

Brauner is hoping to get a grant from the city and he'd welcome another PPP loan. A separate economic injury disaster loan from the SBA give him some breathing room, but also presents a dilemma. Like many restaurant owners, Brauner worries about carrying long-term debt when the future is uncertain.

"I'm almost tempted to give it back," he says. "We just have to see how it all plays out."

## Scientists study coronavirus outbreaks among minks in Europe

By ARITZ PARRA and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Coronavirus outbreaks at mink farms in Spain and the Netherlands have scientists digging into how the animals got infected and if they can spread it to people.

In the meantime, authorities have killed more than 1 million minks at breeding farms in both countries as a precaution.

The virus that first infected people in China late last year came from an animal source, probably bats, and later spread from person to person, as other coronaviruses had done in the past. Some animals, including cats, tigers and dogs, have picked up the new coronavirus from people, but there hasn't been a documented case of animals spreading it back to humans.

The outbreaks among the minks on farms in the Netherlands and Spain likely started with infected workers, although officials aren't certain. But it also is "plausible" that some workers later caught the virus back from the minks, the Dutch government and a researcher said, and scientists are exploring whether that was the case and how much of a threat such a spread might be.

The outbreak at the Spanish mink farm near La Puebla de Valverde, a village of 500 people, was discovered after seven of the 14 employees, including the owner, tested positive in late May, said Joaquín Olona, regional chief of agriculture and environment. Two other employees got infected even after the operation was shut down.

More than 92,000 minks were ordered killed at the farm in the Aragon region of northeastern Spain, with nine out of 10 animals estimated to have contracted the virus.

After the Dutch outbreaks began in April, professor Wim van der Poel, a veterinarian who studies viruses at Wageningen University and Research, determined that the virus strain in the animals was similar to the one circulating among humans.

"We assumed it was possible that it would be transmitted back to people again," the virus expert said, and that's what appeared to have happened with at least two of the infected workers.

Richard Ostfeld, a researcher at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York, said that if confirmed, these would be the first known instances of animal-to-human transmission.

"With the evidence for farmed mink-to-human transmission, we definitely need to be concerned with the potential for domesticated animals that are infected to pass on their infection to us," Ostfeld said by email.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says some coronaviruses that infect animals can be spread to humans and then spread between people, but it adds that this is rare.

Both the World Health Organization and the Paris-based World Organisation for Animal Health are studying the transmission of the virus between animals and people. Several universities and research institutes also are examining the issue.

The WHO has noted that the transmission on the mink breeding farms could have happened both ways. But WHO's Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove said at a news conference last month that such transmission was "very limited."

"This gives us some clues about which animals may be susceptible to infection and this will help us as we learn more about the potential animal reservoir of (the virus)," she said, referring to cases in the Netherlands and Denmark, another major producer of mink fur.

While scientists think the virus originated in bats, it may have passed through another animal before infecting people. A WHO team is currently in China, planning to study the issue.

More than 1.1 million minks have been killed on 26 Dutch farms that recorded outbreaks, according to the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority. The government announced Thursday that minks at a 27th farm also were infected and would be killed.

The Netherlands, which has some 160 mink farms, is the world's fourth-biggest producer of the prized fur after Denmark, China and Poland, according to Wim Verhagen, director of the Dutch federation of fur farmers. Spain has 38 active mink breeding operations, most of them in northwestern Galicia.

Both Spain and the Netherlands have tightened hygiene protocols at mink farms and banned transporta-

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tion of the animals and visits to the buildings where they are kept.

China, which produces about a third of the mink fur market, and the United States have not reported any virus outbreaks in minks or in animals at other farms.

Corder reported from The Hague. Associated Press writers Maria Cheng in London and Ken Moritsugu in Beijing contributed.

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## Ginsburg waited 4 months to say her cancer had returned

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is perhaps the most forthcoming member of the Supreme Court when it comes to telling the public about her many health issues. But she waited more than four months to reveal that her cancer had returned and that she was undergoing chemotherapy.

One big difference from her past battles with cancer is that Ginsburg and the rest of the court have been out of the public eye since early March because of the coronavirus pandemic. That's when they decided to close the building except for official business, then later postponed arguments and agreed to meet by telephone.

In some ways, the court was more accessible to the public than ever with its decision to provide live audio of telephone arguments in May. But the inability to see the justices and, after arguments concluded on May 13, hear them, made what went on in the late spring and early summer even harder to read than usual.

In an institution that zealously guards the justices' privacy, only a justice can decide when an injury or illness should be made public. And because life tenure comes with the job, it's also up to them alone to decide when to retire.

Ginsburg, who was in and out of the hospital last week, said she intends to remain on the court, a decision that likely was influenced by the conservative nominee President Donald Trump would put up to replace her if she were to retire.

"If there is one iron rule that the court tries to follow more than any other, it is that the justices do all that they can to protect their institution from political attacks during presidential election years when public scrutiny of government is heightened. Ginsburg may simply be trying, to the extent she can, to protect the court and herself, from becoming a campaign issue in 2020," said Artemus Ward, a political scientist at Northern Illinois University who has written about the politics of court retirements.

Ginsburg started receiving chemotherapy in May, a time of year when the justices typically take the bench at least once a week to announce decisions, and when the public can observe them in the courtroom.

Similarly, Chief Justice John Roberts suffered a forehead injury that required stitches on Father's Day. In a normal year, the court would have met in public the next day and Roberts' wound would have been easy to see.

Instead, opinions were released electronically, as they were throughout the spring and early summer. Only after inquiries from The Washington Post did the court confirm that Roberts had taken a fall that kept him in the hospital overnight.

Ginsburg issued a statement on July 17 saying that a medical scan in February revealed lesions on her liver, which a subsequent biopsy determined were cancerous. She declined an interview request from The Associated Press.

The lesions are the fifth time Ginsburg has dealt with cancer since 1999, when she first underwent surgery for colorectal cancer. Surgeries for tumors on her pancreas and lung took place in 2009 and 2018, respectively, and Ginsburg underwent radiation therapy for a new growth on her pancreas last year.

By Supreme Court standards, Ginsburg was downright speedy in her most recent public announcement. Justice Anthony Kennedy, who retired in 2018, said nothing publicly when he had a stent inserted to restore



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blood flow in an artery after experiencing mild chest pain in 2005. The court revealed the procedure 10 months later, when Kennedy returned to the hospital to have the stent replaced.

In July 2007, Roberts suffered a seizure while on vacation in Maine. The court issued an initial statement little more than an hour after the incident, saying only that Roberts had fallen and was taken to a hospital. Several hours later, the court confirmed that he had suffered a seizure, but has never provided details of what tests Roberts underwent or whether he was prescribed medication. He had a similar episode in 1993, long before he was a justice. The court said doctors had ruled out a seizure in the June fall.

Only after Justice Antonin Scalia's death in 2016 did the public learn that he had coronary artery disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, sleep apnea, high blood pressure and several other ailments that probably contributed to the heart attack that killed him, according to his doctor.

"The lack of health information about individual justices is a glaring problem. Declining, even incapacitated, justices hold their offices until they die. And because justices play politics with their departure decisions, trying to retire under a politically favorable president and Senate if possible, the court's history has been filled with declining justices who compromised the court's work because they refused to depart for political or personal reasons," Ward said.

Like other Americans, Supreme Court justices live and work with a range of ailments. Justice Sonia Sotomayor has had diabetes since childhood. Also, both she and Justice Stephen Breyer injured their shoulders so badly they needed replacement surgery. Sotomayor had a fall at home and Breyer suffered a bicycle accident. Both made prompt announcements of those incidents.

Her frail appearance may fool people, but Ginsburg has been remarkably resilient through her many health crises, which also have included broken ribs, infections and her own artery-clearing stent.

She had no surgery to remove the latest cancerous growth, and her treatment is ongoing. She has said she will receive doses of the chemotherapy drug gemcitabine every two weeks.

Ginsburg's statement came 10 days after she said another medical scan "indicated significant reduction of the liver lesions and no new disease."

In that same period, the court also issued the last of its opinions and Ginsburg was in and out of the hospital for treatment of an infection that she said was unrelated to the cancer. She maintained that she kept up with opinion writing and all other court work throughout her treatment and hospital stays.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 3, the 216th day of 2020. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 3, 1993, the Senate voted 96-to-three to confirm Supreme Court nominee Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

On this date:

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1811, Elisha Otis, founder of the elevator company that still bears his name, was born in Halifax, Vt.

In 1863, the first thoroughbred horse races took place at the Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, New York.

In 1921, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis refused to reinstate the former Chicago White Sox players implicated in the "Black Sox" scandal, despite their acquittals in a jury trial.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

In 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

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In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

In 2014, Israel withdrew most of its ground troops from the Gaza Strip in an apparent winding down of a nearly monthlong operation against Hamas that had left more than 1,800 Palestinians and more than 60 Israelis dead.

In 2018, Las Vegas police said they were closing their investigation into the Oct. 1 shooting that left 58 people dead at a country music festival without a definitive answer for why Stephen Paddock unleashed gunfire from a hotel suite onto the concert crowd.

Ten years ago: Engineers began pumping heavy drilling mud into the blown-out Gulf of Mexico oil well in an attempt to permanently plug the leak. A warehouse driver killed eight co-workers and himself in a shooting rampage at a Manchester, Connecticut, beer distributorship.

Five years ago: Seeking to clamp down on power plant emissions, President Barack Obama unveiled a federal plan that would attempt to slow global warming by dramatically shifting the way Americans get and use electricity; opponents denounced the proposal as an egregious federal overreach that would send power prices surging, and vowed lawsuits and legislation to try to stop it.

One year ago: A gunman opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, leaving 22 people dead; prosecutors said Patrick Crusius targeted Mexicans in hopes of scaring Latinos into leaving the U.S., and that he had outlined the plot in a screed published online shortly before the attack. (Crusius has pleaded not guilty to state murder charges; he also faces federal hate crime and gun charges.)

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 95. Singer Tony Bennett is 94. Actor Martin Sheen is 80. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 80. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 79. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 79. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 71. Movie director John Landis is 70. Actor JoMarie Payton is 70. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 69. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 69. Actor Philip Casnoff is 66. Actor John C. McGinley is 61. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 59. Actor Lisa Ann Walter is 59. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 57. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 57. Actor Isaiah Washington is 57. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 54. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 50. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 49. Actor Brigid Brannagh is 48. Actor Michael Ealy is 47. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 44. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 43. Actor Evangeline (ee-VAN'-gel-eeen) Lilly is 41. Actor Mamie Gummer is 37. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ryan Lochte is 36. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 36. Actor Jon Foster is 36. Actor Georgina Haig is 35. Singer Holly Arnstein (Dream) is 35. Actor Tanya Fischer is 35. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzle (OneRepublic) is 35. Rapper D.R.A.M. is 32.