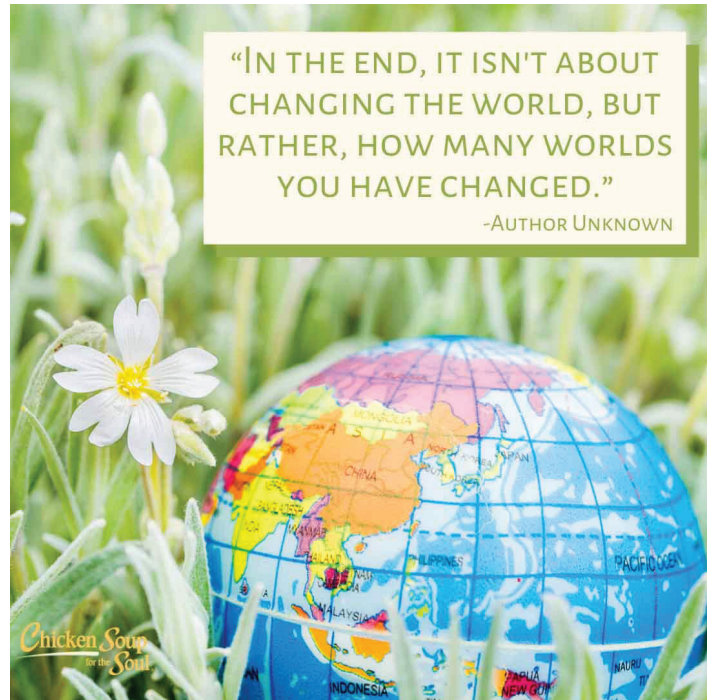


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From Governor Noem on Facebook

NEWS: We received applications for over 125 THOUSAND tickets in the lottery for #RushmoreFireworks!

What a great opportunity to showcase South Dakota, and we're very glad President Trump will be part of it!

(Only 7,500 will be picked in the lottery)

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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The Life of Diane Johnson

Diane Johnson, 74, passed away very peacefully on June 7th, 2020, at her home in Groton surrounded by her family after a strong fight with cancer.

Betty "Diane" Wolery was born on June 5, 1946, in Havre, Montana, to Wayne and Betty (LaValley) Wolery. She was the first of 4 children. She grew up with her loving family on a ranch near Joplin, Montana, and graduated from Joplin High School in 1964 as the Valedictorian of her class. After graduation, she continued her education at the Medical Institute of Minnesota where she received a degree as a laboratory technician. She was also the Valedictorian of her lab tech class. While living in Minnesota, Diane met her good friend, Barb Morris. The friendship proved to be quite fruitful as Diane married Barb's brother, Roger. Diane had been invited to the Johnson farm for the Easter holiday. Diane and Barb arrived via train in Aberdeen that year. Roger was given the job of picking them up at the station that evening and here the next chapter of her life began. Diane completed her internship in Rochester, MN. She married Roger on February 26th, 1967, in Joplin, Montana. They began their married life on the Johnson farm north of Groton, SD, and were blessed with 3 children: Shane, Darcy, and Matt. She worked at the Webster and Britton hospitals until the decision was made to stay home and raise the children. Over the years, she worked at Kolb Egg Company, Dakota Quilts, and also owned/ operated a ceramic shop in Claremont and Signs N More in Groton. Prior to her health declining, Diane was an associate at Wal-Mart. Through all the years on the farm, Diane was Roger's right-hand man- helping with the crops, cattle, custom crop spraying business, and gravel business.



Diane was a member of Augustana Lutheran Church, rural Claremont, before transferring to Emmanuel Lutheran in Groton. She was active in Bible study and the Women's Circle. Diane loved gardening and her flower beds, crafting of all kinds and was one of the founders of the Groton Booster Club. She loved traveling through the years with Roger, attending the grandchildren's events, spending any time with family. Diane was able to spend time with all her kids, grandkids and great grandchildren her last week of life. The babies could always put a smile on her face, even on the gloomiest of days.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the amazing staff of Prairie Heights (Manor Care) who always treated Diane as family during her numerous rehab stays through the years and the loving staff from Avera Hospice who were able to provide support to her and the family during her final days.

Celebrating her life is her husband, Roger, of Groton; children, Shane Johnson (Angie Sombke) of Claremont, Darcy Albrecht (Patrick Cavanaugh) of Aberdeen, Matt (Tanya) Johnson of Groton, her grandchildren: Samantha (Corey) Bachmeier, of Aberdeen, Shanine Anya (Jamie Morris) of Claremont, Marqelle Albrecht (Michael Reid) of Mapleton, ND, Jade (Mikia) Albrecht, of West Fargo, ND, Maycee (Tyler) Hatzenbeller, of Aberdeen, Jeric Albrecht (Hailey Elsen) of Rapid City, Peyton, Trey, Aeydon, and Deylon Johnson, of Groton. Diane is also survived by her great-grandchildren: Oliver Anya, Jace, Hudson & Taya Morris, Julian Bachmeier, Vaela Albrecht, and Regis Hatzenbeller, her siblings, Ken (Nyda) Wolery of Billings, Montana, Paul (Nancy) Wolery of Inverness, Montana, and Helen (Scott) Turner of Portland, Oregon, her sisters-in-law Diana Ehrenberg of Rapid City and Barb Morris of Britton, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Wayne and Betty, in-laws, Lambert and Florence Johnson, brother-in laws, Bill Ehrenberg and Dick Morris.

Services for Diane will be at 2 PM on Saturday, June 13th, at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. The message will be delivered by her granddaughter, Marqelle Albrecht. Burial will follow at a later date in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

With the concerns regarding Covid, the family is encouraging the public to attend visitation on Friday, June 12th, from 5 PM -7 PM at the chapel.

Casket Bearers will be her grandsons.

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#107 in a series

Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Some modest increases today, but I'm not worried yet unless it becomes a trend.

We're at 1,990,000 cases in the US. New case numbers increased slightly and slipped back above 20,000 today. NY leads with 384,281 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a second day. NJ has 164,976 cases, also holding below 500 for a second day. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 137,164, IL – 130,321, MA – 103,889, PA – 80,964, TX – 78,973, MI – 65,190, FL – 65,992 and MD – 59,543. These ten states account for 64% of US cases. We have 2 more states over 50,000. 2 more states have over 40,000 cases, 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 8 more states have over 20,000 cases, 11 more have over 10,000, 5 more + DC over 5000, 5 more + PR and GU over 1000, 4 more over 100, and VI + MP under 100.

Here's the latest on movement in new case reports. Those states with substantial numbers of cases which are not showing much change include VA, WI, GA, MS, LA, OK, IA, and GU. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, AZ, TX, TN, FL, WA, NC, and MO. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, PA, NJ, MI, IL, MD, MA, and CT. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

New York really seems to have turned a corner. Many areas of the state started carefully reopening over the past couple of weeks, but New York City, the major epicenter of the pandemic in the US, just started this week after a long, hard-fought battle against this virus. There are concerns about the effects of recent protests, so the governor is urging everyone who attended a protest to get tested so the state can continue to have a handle on the situation. Testing is widely available in New York and is free for all, so that should be a relatively easy thing for people to do. A telling number, in addition to the declining numbers of new case and decreasing numbers of daily deaths, is this: Nine weeks ago, of those tested, 59% tested positive, whereas today, 1.6% of those tested were positive. This is partially a function of increased availability of testing, but it is also definitely a function of decreased new cases. I don't know much about New York politics, so I have no idea whether this guy is a good governor or bad, but I think I'm going to allow him his moment of (cautious) celebration after what his state has been through. Here's his statement: "New Yorkers did what many experts told me wasn't possible in 100 days. I don't think I've had a good night's sleep in 100 days knowing some of the things they told me. New Yorkers bent the curve by being smart. We're celebrating, we're reopening, we're excited. Our mojo's back, our energy's back, stay smart." Note the word of caution at the end. He acknowledges things could still get worse, but these people deserve their moment of relief and celebration, so I'll just say, "Bravo" to them all and wish them well going forward.

California, on the other hand, is struggling at the moment. Much of the trouble centers in the southern part of the state around Los Angeles where cases seem to be spiking following Memorial Day gatherings and the early wave of protests. The percentage of tests coming back positive is rising. There is generally something like a two-week lag between events that increase transmission and new case reports, and the increase follows the easing of stay-at-home orders by just about two weeks. And because the short end of the incubation period is around four to five days, we are already seeing new cases related to protests. We should note that more testing is happening in the state too, and that will account for some of the increase rather than actual growth in case rates. The spikes in hospitalizations and ICU admissions, as well as deaths, would be expected to follow by another week or two as serious cases develop. People are being

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encouraged to exercise caution around attendance at protests. Fred Turner, CEO of Curative, a company which is handling much of the testing in southern California, mentions, "We need to be very cautious to not undo anything we've done over the last few months in being shut down. People's right to protest is very important. It's a very challenging balancing act." It will be important to be as safe as possible while exercising your right to free speech.

We're seeing trouble in Texas which is reporting a record number of hospitalizations. This tops the number seen at the last high point on May 5, so appears to be a new peak. Their stay-at-home order expired April 30, and the percentage of tests coming back positive has jumped since that time. They are not now in danger of exceeding capacity, but the number of hospitalizations is a useful tool to assess the status of a state since it does not depend on how much testing is being done.

I want to mention also that New Zealand has eliminated the virus entirely. It has been 17 days since a new case has been diagnosed, and the last known case has now recovered. 300,000 people out of this population of four and half million have been tested. The infection rate has been around 33 per 100,000 population, lower than 47 US states with almost no deaths. Society has pretty much fully reopened, with one exception—strict restrictions on who enters the country. Those who enter are still subject to a 14-day quarantine. Since their economy depends heavily on tourism, no one thinks this can continue indefinitely and no one thinks they can completely prevent the virus from making its way back into New Zealand, but this is a stunning achievement and a testament to what strong leadership and decisive action can accomplish.

For the record, case counts topped 7 million worldwide yesterday with a death toll over 400,000. The US, with just over 4% of the world's population, accounts for well over a quarter of those deaths.

There have been 112,173 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths is pretty steady, well under 1000. NY has 30,309, NJ has 12,303, MA has 7408, IL has 6237, PA has 6070, MI has 5946, CA has 4775, and CT has 4097. All of these states but one are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; MA is over 200. There are 6 more states over 2000 deaths, 7 more states over 1000 deaths, 7 more over 500, 13 more + DC and PR over 100, and 9 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

Nearly 600 of these deaths were health care workers, doctors, nurses, and paramedics, as well as support staff like janitors and administrators, also those who work in settings other than hospitals, workers in nursing homes and home health care. Most of those were people of color. The utter failure of the government to assure supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) like face masks and gowns, as well as employers' failure to communicate risks and inform workers about exposures from coworkers and patients surely contributed to these losses. This is a number which is expected to grow.

Something else in health care workers I've been worrying about since my sister, a veteran health care professional, mentioned it to me is the psychological and emotional effect of this pandemic on these workers. While health care professionals all have some experience losing patients, the scale of loss in today's setting was unimaginable just a few months ago. These folks are accustomed to employing their technological wizardry to save lives, not to watching life ebb away time after time after time, especially as their patients lie alone, deprived of the comfort of friends and family. I suspect it's worse when everyone is cheering you on as some sort of hero while you feel helpless and ineffectual watching your patients die day after day.

And these workers do, indeed, report significant trauma. They are feeling alone, unable to sleep, second-guessing decisions, having panic attacks, worrying, and feeling anxious. Seeing death on this scale while you are pretty much unable to do anything to stop it is going to have a profound effect on a person. I have read reports of two workers who took their lives in April; I'm guessing there are more. Many report

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thoughts of suicide. A medical resident in New York City said, "A lot of people were angry at the whole situation and the system. How it all happened, How we weren't prepared, The lack of support." Yes. All of this.

People are working long hours for days on end. They describe symptoms of burnout, PTSD, and something called "moral injury," caused by decisions made in emergency situations that create conflict between personal beliefs and the available options. One described a situation where she sent patients home with blood oxygen levels that would normally result in admission because there wasn't going to be room for them, a problem worsened when the same person would show up a few days later, sicker than before. And there are the conversations with patients about whether they want to stay home to die with family around them or to go to the hospital where they will also likely die, only alone. And there was the guy who came in with chest pain and the physician who had to decide whether to admit him (in normal times a given) and risk his exposure to the virus or send him home, hoping for the best.

There are the patients who die: 9 dead to 1 recovered among the most critically ill. There are the colleagues, family members, and friends who get sick and die. There is the stress of going into patient care areas knowing you are not adequately protected from infection. And the people who live in their cars or stay in motels, the ones who send their families to stay with others so they don't get infected. There's the insomnia and depression.

A paramedic reports, "It's complete war out here. People just dying in front of us, one minute talking, the next they aren't. In 3 weeks I've had 32 people either dead or dying in front of me, I never in my life would have ever thought this could be happening!"

And there's getting sick yourself—or waiting for it to happen. Lots of them do get sick. Some die.

Decisions about whether to resuscitate someone knowing they're probably going to die anyway and the effort will expose everyone in the room to huge doses of virus. How do you balance that? The inability to establish any sort of normal carer-patient relationship. A resident in New York said, "Everything was happening so quickly. Everyone was dying so quickly We had to go from one death to another and the next. I was imagining it happening to my family and being in a situation like that."

I suspect we're going to be dealing with these effects for years to come. Remember that medical schools released their students early to help; when you don't have much experience dealing with death, the effects are more likely to be profound. And they endure long after the crisis is over, maybe throughout an entire career.

I've seen another excellent round-up of the state of vaccine development. I'll share here what's news after last night's round-up. Most of what I have for you tonight is on the general state of developments worldwide.

There are currently more than 120 vaccine candidates, and ten are in clinical trials, four in the US, five in China, and one in the UK. Moderna, as we know, was the first company to begin clinical trials, but the Chinese company, CanSino Bio, was only a week behind them. And about two weeks after that, Inovio came along. About three weeks later, the University of Oxford in partnership with AstraZenica started theirs. A couple of weeks after that, Pfizer and BioNTech were in trials followed about three weeks later by Novavax. This was all between March 16 and May 25. Johnson & Johnson expects to begin trials by September, and Merck, Sanofi, and GlaxoSmithKline are preparing as well. So there is a ton of activity on this front, which is all to the good.

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While this looks like a horse race, first out of the gate doesn't necessarily mean first to the finish. Because vaccine development is such a complex process and the physiologic details of an immune response are still not fully understood, pretty much anything can happen. There will be surprises, set-backs, and disappointments.

Our federal government is not the only one funding vaccine initiatives. The Chinese government is funding trials there. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) a nonprofit that involves the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the governments of India and Norway, the Wellcome Trust, and the World Economic Forum, as well as other governments and private sector companies, is dumping money into projects too. They are backing several candidates. As we've discussed before, there will probably end up being multiple vaccines to emerge from trials which are both safe and effective; and this is a very good thing. Consider that no one company is likely to be able to supply the worldwide demand for its product, and it becomes clear that, if we have three or four or five companies all making vaccine as fast as they can, there will still be plenty of market to go around and far better public health outcomes as a result. I wish them all—and by extension us all—the best.

One question that arises as we contemplate the likelihood that there will be at least one successful candidate in the relatively near future is cost. A vaccine that is priced above what many parts of the world can afford to pay will not help to bring this pandemic under control, no matter how effective it turns out to be. There has been public pressure for pharmaceutical companies to sell their vaccines at cost. Karen Elder, Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) senior vaccines policy adviser, says, "Everyone seems to agree that we can't apply business-as-usual principle here, where the highest bidders get to protect their people from this disease first while the rest of the world is left behind." It would also be important to note that governments and philanthropic organizations have handed well over \$4 billion to these companies for research and development; it doesn't seem reasonable that they should profit to the detriment of humankind from work arising out of all of that funding.

So, what do we think will happen? There's no way to know for sure. Maybe a successful vaccine will require more than one dose to be effective; we won't know that until we're finished with Phase 3 trials. You will recall those are the last phase where thousands and thousands of people are vaccinated. That is also when we'll know for sure whether we have a vaccine that is protective, although we should have a clue sooner. And we also won't know for sure how long any resulting immunity lasts until we wait that long after people are vaccinated. But there is a lot of optimism among vaccine researchers, so we can all remain hopeful along with them for now.

I read about an approach to identifying antigens in a virus that may make good vaccine targets. You will want to remember from our earlier discussions that even a simple virus has many different proteins, any of which might stimulate an antibody response in a host. Some proteins will do this more efficiently than others, and some of the resulting antibodies will be more effective in eliminating the virus than others. What that means in practical terms is that you make a bunch of antibodies in response to a single pathogen and some of them won't be particularly protective, that is, they won't neutralize the virus. So when we're planning a vaccine, we need to figure out which of those viral proteins make the most sense to include in the vaccine, that is, which of them will elicit the kind of response we're looking for.

That's what this article was about. It described work done by cancer researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, applying to Covid-19 the tools they developed to study cancer therapies. They looked for "viral targets based on their ability to stimulate a lasting immune response, predicted to be in the vast majority of the human population." They looked for regions of the virus that would stimulate the desired kind of response that would neutralize the virus and provide lasting immunity in people with varying genetic

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profiles; they also prioritized regions that are present across many related coronaviruses in the hope that whatever we come up with now will have at least marginal utility against the next emerging coronavirus too—because we know for sure there will be another one after this. After identifying 65 such sequences, they are testing various combinations of these in mouse models for safety and effectiveness. This will be something to watch as we go along.

In case you've been wondering—and who hasn't?—I've seen some work from a team at the Global Policy Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, published today in *Nature* showing just how much effect the shutdown orders had on the spread of Covid-19. It looks like some 62 million test-confirmed (and 530 million in all) cases were prevented in the six countries under study, China, the US, France, Italy, Iran, and South Korea. In the US, the number prevented is 4.8 million diagnosed and 60 million total infections. Their estimate is that before the shutdowns, the number of infections was doubling every two days. They used an econometric model to look at how well 1700 interventions in various localities worked. I think it's important to keep this in mind because, while the economic harms of shutdowns are all too apparent, the people who didn't get sick and the deaths that didn't occur are sort of invisible. But the odds are that, without these interventions, there'd be several people you know who got sick and at least one or two who died. Look around at your friends and family, and think about that.

Of course, it's always hard to know how accurate any attempt at modeling is, but one way to check is to see how well the model "predicts" something that has already happened; if it's pretty good at that, then it's reasonable to assume it will also be pretty good at predicting things we can't verify in the same way. This work was used to project the number of people infected so far in the US, and that figure was checked against antibody surveys done in the US to calculate the attack rate of the virus. The model's projections were, indeed, consistent with the actual attack rate, so it does check out. This gives us confidence in the figures they've generated.

As we transition to a strategy focused around testing, contact tracing, and isolation, it gives us confidence to know that our previous public health efforts did, indeed, pay off. That should make it easier to be patient as we work through next steps. Solomon Hsiang, director of the Global Policy Laboratory likened the early signs of community spread to cracks in the ceiling as you realize the roof is collapsing. He acknowledged the hardships of shutting down, adding, "nevertheless everyone caught the roof and held it up before it crashed down on everyone." I hope we can keep it up there until we're all out the other side of this thing.

We currently have just one drug proven to be effective in Covid-19 patients. It's not a cure, but does shorten the course of infection in seriously ill, hospitalized patients. Now, we are hearing the government's supply of remdesivir will run out at the end of this month. The manufacturer has been ramping up production, but that sort of thing takes time, and the full effect of supply expansion will not be seen until fall. As it is, we've never had more than enough to treat about half of the patients who could benefit from it, all of it so far from a supply donated by the manufacturer; starting in July, that is going to be more limited. The government is working with the manufacturer to resolve some supply chain issues, but it is still unknown just how much will be available over the summer. There have also been concerns about what the price will be, once the donated drug runs out; since only one company makes it, price could be a significant issue going forward. Again, I expect some pressure on the company to limit profits during this crisis, but who knows how that will work?

Today, I read a review of a book that examines human longevity with surprising results. Bottom line: If you've been devoting hours to staying fit and eating right and all of that in pursuit of a long life, you might want to consider spending less time at the gym and more time with your friends. Not that all of that healthy stuff is a bad idea, but it turns out the real killers are loneliness, anxiety, lack of social networks,

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and a lack of purpose. Pessimism and mistrust are associated with coronary heart disease and premature death; optimistic people live 11-15% longer. So what supports optimism? Meditation, volunteering, and spiritual practice. Social contacts. Support from others. From the book, "Growing Young," "It's time we recognize that improving our social lives and cultivating our minds can be at least as important for health and longevity as are diet and exercise. When you grow as a person, chances are, you will also grow young."

So all the things I've been urging you to do during this pandemic turn out to be good for you too, not just good for the rest of the world. Do yourself a favor: Reach out, make a connection, see where you're needed, and do something about that. Use some of your precious time to buy yourself more of it. And if it turns out this is all wrong and you don't live a day longer because you've helped someone, you will certainly still live more richly and fully. You will also leave a fairer, more decent world behind when you do go. That's probably better anyhow. We so seriously need folks to dish out the kindness and caring these days. Hard to find a reason not to, now that you know you're helping yourself out too. Please go there.

And keep safe. We'll talk again.

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Area COVID-19 Cases

	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9
Minnesota	25,508	25,870	26,273	26,980	27,501	27,886	28,224
Nebraska	14,611	14,866	15,117	15,379	15,543	15,634	15,752
Montana	523	525	539	541	540	545	548
Colorado	26,788	27,060	27,360	27,615	27,848	28,001	28,183
Wyoming	701	703	709	721	726	734	748
North Dakota	2646	2679	2706	2745	2816	2861	2880
South Dakota	5067	5162	5247	5277	5367	5438	5471
United States	1,831,821	1,851,520	1,872,660	1,898,401	1,920,061	1,938,931	1,961,185
US Deaths	106,181	107,175	108,211	109,137	109,802	110,481	111,007
Minnesota	+300	+362	+403	+707	+521	+385	+338
Nebraska	+266	+255	+251	+262	+164	+91	+118
Montana	+4	+2	+14	+2	-1	+5	+3
Colorado	+211	+272	+300	+255	+233	+153	+182
Wyoming	+1	+2	+6	+12	+5	+8	+14
North Dakota	+21	+33	+27	+39	+71	+45	+19
South Dakota	+33	+95	+85	+30	+90	+71	+33
United States	+20,451	+19,699	+21,140	+25,741	21,660	+18,870	+22,254
US Deaths	+1,016	+994	+1,036	+926	+665	+679	+526
	June 10						
Minnesota	28,523						
Nebraska	15,883						
Montana	554						
Colorado	28,347						
Wyoming	760						
North Dakota	2901						
South Dakota	5523						
United States	1,979,971						
US Deaths	112,006						
Minnesota	+299						
Nebraska	+131						
Montana	+6						
Colorado	+164						
Wyoming	+12						
North Dakota	+21						
South Dakota	+52						
United States	+19,786						
US Deaths	+999						

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June 9th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent
from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota recorded three deaths: One in the 50-59 age group and two in the 80 and over age group. They were two females and one male, one in Minnehaha County, one in Pennington County, and Lake County recorded its first death.

Our fully recovered list of counties is down to six with Clark gaining a positive case to fall off that list. Nine counties in South Dakota have not had a positive case. Butte County had 91 tests recorded to bring their total negatives to 324 which is the highest number of negatives without a positive case.

Brown County had four new cases. Faulk County also had four cases recorded in the last 24 hours, to bring their total number of positives to six.

Our county list makes up 19 with positive cases and six with recovered cases and no positive ones.

The active cases in South Dakota has dropped to under 1,000 as 80 more are fully recovered. South Dakota now has 972 active cases. Brown County has 45 active cases, an increase of one since yesterday. Minnehaha County had nine new cases and Pennington County had seven..

South Dakota has 81.2 percent of its positive cases fully recovered while that number in North Dakota is 84.5 percent.

Brown County:

Active Cases: +1 (45)

Recovered: +3 (257)

Total Positive: +4 (303)

Ever Hospitalized: 0 (15)

Deaths: 1

Negative Tests: +46 (1894)

Percent Recovered: 84.8% (0.1 decrease)

South Dakota:

Positive: +47 (5523 total)

Negative: +1288 (52348 total)

Hospitalized: +5 (487 total) - 90 currently hospitalized (2 less than yesterday)

Deaths: +3 (68 total)

Recovered: +80 (4483 total)

Active Cases: -31 (972)

Percent Recovered: 81.2% up 0.7

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +2 (136), Butte +91 (324), Campbell 42, Haakon +28 (159), Harding +3 (33), Jones 17, Mellette +8 (85), Perkins +42 (66), Potter +1 (141), unassigned -2560 (5957).

Beadle: +1 positive, +16 recovered (192 of 386 recovered)

Brookings: +1 positive (16 of 24 recovered)

Brown: +4 positive, +3 recovered (257 of 303 recovered)

Buffalo: +4 positive, +2 recovered (12 of 29 recovered)

Charles Mix: +1 recovered (12 of 20 recovered)

Clark: +1 positive (4 of 5 recovered)

Clay +4 positive (13 of 39 recovered)

Davison: +2 recovered (12 of 30 recovered)

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Edmunds: +1 recovered (3 of 4 recovered)
 Faulk: +4 positive (1 of 6 recovered)
 Grant: +1 recovered (12 of 13 recovered)
 Hamlin: +1 positive (4 of 8 recovered)
 Hand: +1 recovered (2 of 5 recovered)
 Hughes: +1 positive (17 of 21 recovered)
 Hyde: +1 positive (1 of 3 recovered)
 Jerauld: +3 recovered (31 of 40 recovered)
 Lincoln: +1 positive, +1 recovered (229 of 255 recovered)
 Lyman: +3 positive (11 of 27 recovered)
 McPherson: +1 positive (1 of 3 recovered)
 Minnehaha: +9 positive, +28 recovered (3097 of 3418 recovered)
 Oglala Lakota: +1 positive (19 of 40 recovered)
 Pennington: +7 positive, +17 recovered (145 of 321 recovered)
 Roberts: +1 positive, +1 recovered (32 of 39 recovered)
 Todd: +4 positive, +2 recovered (23 of 42 recovered)
 Union: +3 positive, +1 recovered (80 of 103 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Clark): Deuel 1-1, Hutchinson 6-6, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1, Tripp 6-6, Walworth 5-5.

The NDDoH & private labs report 1,624 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 22 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,901.

State & private labs have reported 116,878 total completed tests.

2,450 ND patients are recovered. (84.5% have recovered)

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	639	12%
Black, Non-Hispanic	929	17%
Hispanic	949	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	628	11%
Other	633	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	1745	32%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	5
Brown	1
Jerauld	1
Lake	1
McCook	1
Meade	1
Minnehaha	51
Pennington	6
Todd	1

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
▲			
Aurora	29	22	186
Beadle	386	192	940
Bennett	0	0	136
Bon Homme	8	7	433
Brookings	24	16	1113
Brown	303	257	1894
Brule	2	1	311
Buffalo	29	12	272
Butte	0	0	324
Campbell	0	0	42
Charles Mix	20	12	356
Clark	5	4	203
Clay	39	13	655
Codington	43	32	1337
Corson	4	3	79
Custer	1	0	233
Davison	30	12	1227
Day	13	12	279
Deuel	1	1	232
Dewey	1	0	528
Douglas	4	3	231
Edmunds	4	3	192
Fall River	6	3	351
Faulk	6	1	60
Grant	13	12	341
Gregory	1	0	185
Haakon	0	0	159
Hamlin	8	4	209
Hand	5	2	146
Hanson	3	0	92
Harding	0	0	33
Hughes	21	17	774
Hutchinson	6	6	524

Hyde	3	1	63
Jackson	4	1	58
Jerauld	40	31	206
Jones	0	0	17
Kingsbury	5	2	300
Lake	13	9	424
Lawrence	12	10	903
Lincoln	255	229	3082
Lyman	27	11	363
Marshall	4	3	154
McCook	6	4	368
McPherson	3	1	112
Meade	26	15	783
Mellette	0	0	85
Miner	3	1	135
Minnehaha	3418	3097	15207
Moody	19	16	265
Oglala Lakota	40	19	1071
Pennington	321	145	4316
Perkins	0	0	66
Potter	0	0	141
Roberts	39	32	723
Sanborn	13	12	158
Spink	5	5	428
Stanley	10	8	98
Sully	1	1	36
Todd	42	23	547
Tripp	6	6	214
Turner	25	22	436
Union	103	80	843
Walworth	5	5	255
Yankton	58	46	1664
Ziebach	2	1	81
Unassigned****	0	0	5957

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

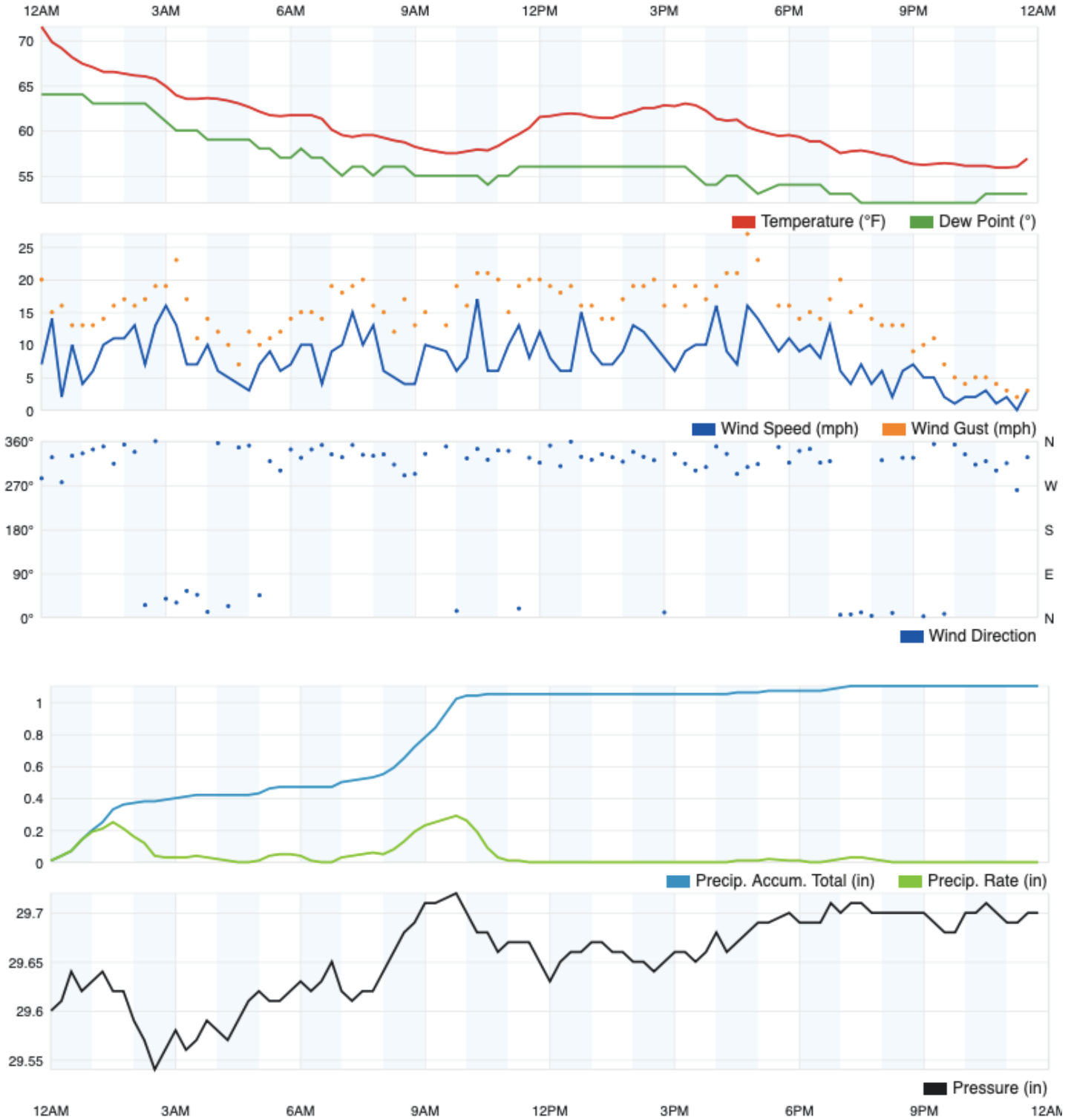
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
▲		
Female	2626	38
Male	2897	30

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
▲		
0-19 years	555	0
20-29 years	1096	1
30-39 years	1231	3
40-49 years	934	4
50-59 years	887	10
60-69 years	500	11
70-79 years	165	6
80+ years	155	33

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny then
Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 75 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Mostly Clear

Low: 49 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 83 °F

Thursday
Night



Mostly Clear

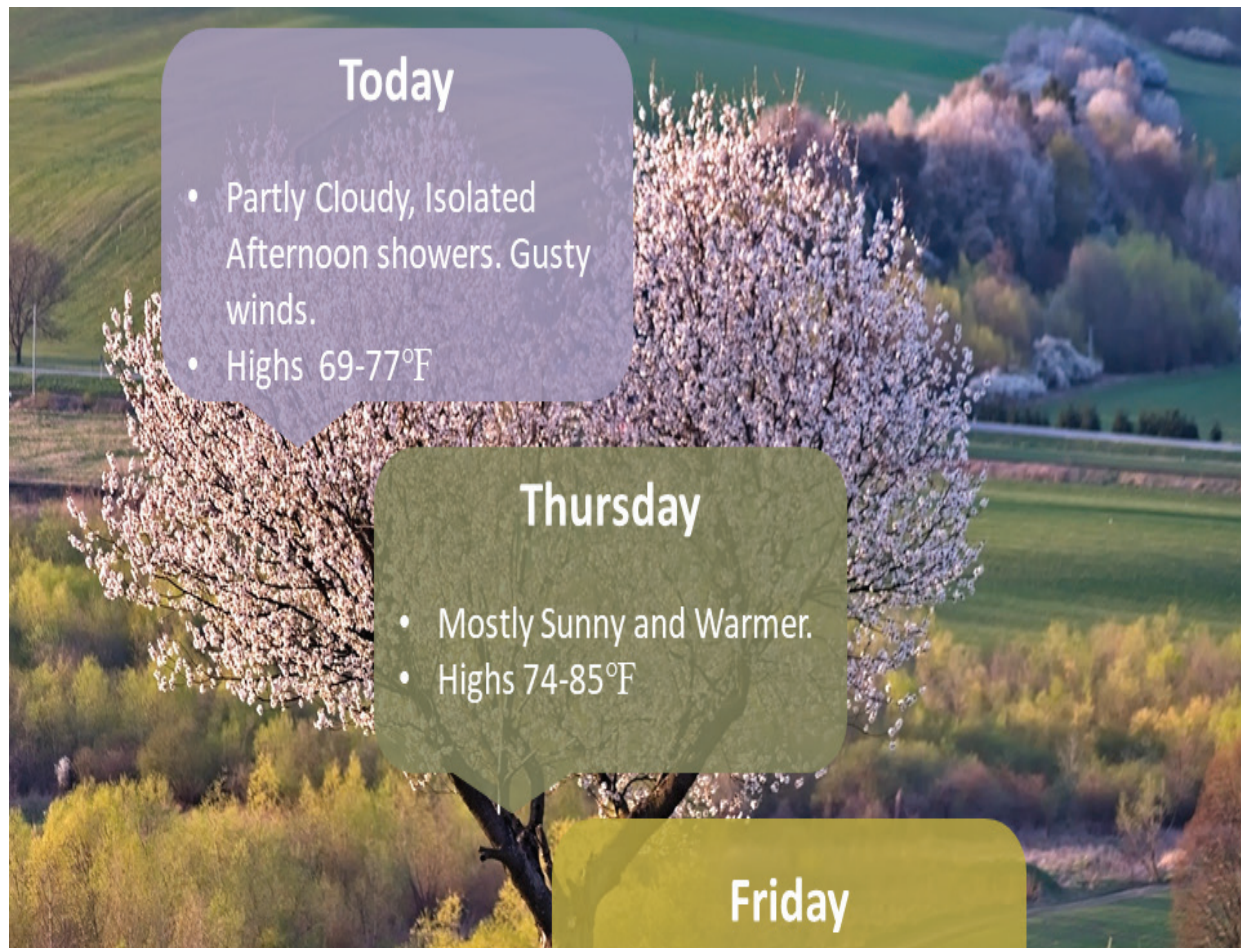
Low: 54 °F

Friday



Sunny

High: 80 °F



Today

- Partly Cloudy, Isolated Afternoon showers. Gusty winds.
- Highs 69-77°F

Thursday

- Mostly Sunny and Warmer.
- Highs 74-85°F

Friday

Other than isolated showers this afternoon, it should be dry through Friday, with a warming trend. The wind will turn a bit gusty today. #sdwx #mn

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Today in Weather History

June 10, 1998: Torrential rains of two to three inches in a short period caused flash flooding on the Crow Creek, near Gann Valley. As a result, some dams and roads were washed out.

June 10, 2004: An F1 tornado damaged 3 barns and numerous other buildings on a farm located 22 miles west of Ft. Pierre. This tornado also downed power lines and broke windows out of a home. There were no injuries reported.

June 10, 2008: A strong low-level jet impinging on a frontal surface boundary extending across southern South Dakota brought many severe thunderstorms to central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail and high winds brought some tree damage, trees down, along with some structural damage. Eighty mph winds blew down a 46 by 100 foot Quonset with tin strewn over a quarter-mile. Several trees were also uprooted in Hosmer in Edmunds County. An EF1 tornado touched down briefly and downed a power pole, snapped off a road sign, and blew a metal shed 100 yards destroying it. The tornado also broke off several large tree branches. This tornado occurred eight miles east-northeast of Eden in Marshall County.

1752: It is believed that this was the day Benjamin Franklin narrowly missed electrocution while flying a kite during a thunderstorm to determine if lightning is related to electricity. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1957 - A dust devil at North Yarmouth, ME, lifted a 600 to 1000 pound chicken shelter into the air and carried it 25 feet. It landed upright with only slight damage. It is unknown whether any eggs were scrambled. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A woman was sucked through the window of her home in El Dorado, KS, by a powerful tornado, and was carried sixty feet away. Beside her was found a broken phonograph record entitled Stormy Weather . (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced 2 to 4 inch rains in southern Texas. Two and a half inches of rain at Juno TX caused flooding and closed a nearby highway. Flooding on the northwest side of San Antonio claimed one life as a boy was swept into a culvert. Thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced an inch and a half of small hail at Monida Pass MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Three dozen cities, mostly in the eastern U.S., reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins, WV, with a reading of 33 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather continued in the Northern High Plains Region. The record high of 105 degeees at Williston, ND, was their seventh in eight days. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather through the day and night across much of the southern half of the Great Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned 14 tornadoes, and there were 142 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three inches in diameter caused three millions dollars damage at Carlsbad, NM. Hail four inches in diameter was reported at Estelline TX and Stinnett, TX. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Odessa TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1997: Flash Flooding occurred in many locations in Mississippi. Highway 80 and many other streets were flooded in and around Vicksburg. Water engulfed one person's car, but the person was rescued. This event caused \$300,000 in property damages. Over 6 inches of rain fell in Lexington in a little over 3 hours. The torrential rains caused Bear Creek to overflow and flood much of the town of Lexington. 45 businesses were affected by the flooding and 30 of these suffered major losses. As many as 300 homes had water damage. This event caused 10 million dollars in property damages. Portions of Jones County experienced flash flooding as 3 inches of rain fell in just 1.5 hours over saturated ground.

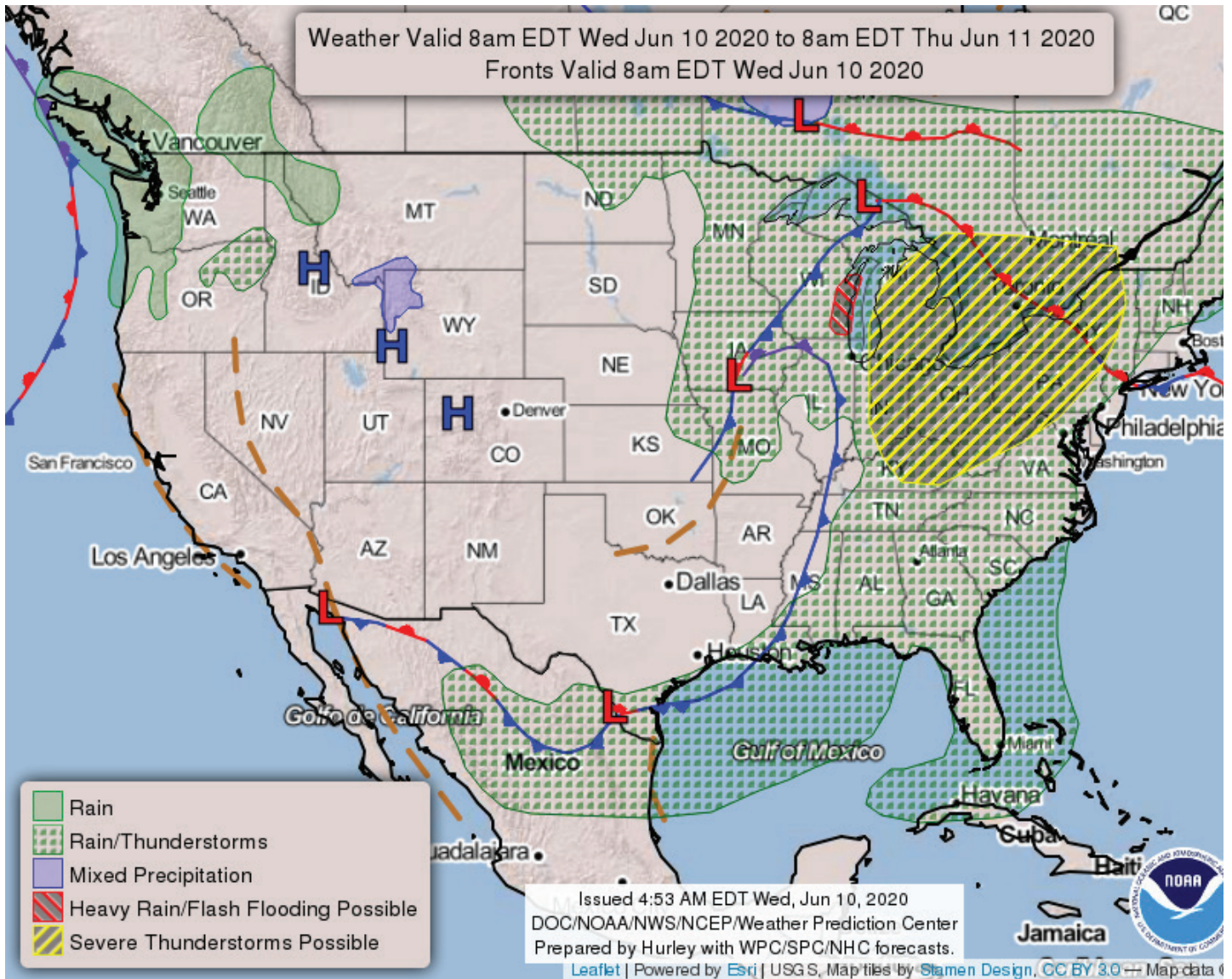
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 72 °F at 12:00 AM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 11:04 PM
Wind: 27 mph at 5:00 PM
Precip: Total: 1.13

Record High: 100° in 1956, 1933
Record Low: 37° in 1964, 1936
Average High: 75°F
Average Low: 52°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.05
Precip to date in June.: 1.75
Average Precip to date: 8.19
Precip Year to Date: 6.38
Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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“ MAKE YOUR PLANS LARGE!”

One of my most prized possessions is my mother’s Bible. Shortly after she went to be with the Lord, I was leafing through the well-worn and tear-stained pages. In the margin next to Ephesians 3:20 she wrote in red letters: “If God is your partner, make your plans large.”

In that passage of Scripture, Paul wrote, “Now unto Him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” What power, Paul?

Here Paul is speaking about the mighty power – the very same power - that raised Christ from the dead: the power that is available to Christians that comes from the living God – Creator and Sustainer of the universe. This power from God enables us to accomplish not only more than we can imagine and is possible for us to do on our own - but we are empowered by God Himself to accomplish exceedingly abundantly more than we might even be able to ask or think!

God wants to work in and through the lives of His children - you and me. He wants to make His mighty power that raised His Son, Jesus Christ, from the death and the grave available to each of us. So we must expand how we think – and that comes from studying His word.

“ Exceedingly” in this verse suggests excessiveness and “abundantly” means overflowing, or an overabundance of something. But he does not end with those words. He continues by adding: more than we can ask or think! And, that’s difficult for anyone to imagine! But...

If we sincerely take God at His Word, the only limitations on Christians are the ones we place on God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is beyond our abilities to truly understand the “mighty power” that is available to us. Increase our faith so we, in turn, can do more for You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Now unto Him, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. Ephesians 3:20

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2020 Groton Baseball Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
June 13	Jr. Legion	Northville	Groton	4:00 (2)
June 14	Jr. Legion	Lake Norden	Groton	3:00 (1)
June 14	Legion	Lake Norden	Groton	5:00 (1)
June 15	Jr. Teener	Fredrick	Groton	5:30 (2)
June 15	Jr. Legion	Claremont	Claremont	5:00 (1)
June 15	Legion	Claremont	Claremont	6:30 (1)
June 17	Legion	Redfield	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 18	Jr. Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
June 19	Jr. Teener	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 22	Jr. Teener	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
June 23	Jr. Legion	Claremont	Groton	6:00 (1)
June 23	Legion	Claremont	Groton	8:00 (1)
June 24	Jr. Legion	Faulkton	Faulkton	6:00 (2)
June 25	Jr. Teener	Webster	Webster	6:00 (2)
June 26	Legion	Clark	Groton	5:30 (2)
June 27	Jr. Teener	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	2:00 (2)
June 27	Legion	Redfield	Redfield	2:00 (1)
June 28	Jr. Teener	Northville	Groton	4:00 (2)
June 29	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Groton	6:00 (2)
June 29	Legion	Webster	Webster	6:00 (2)
June 30	Jr. Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
July 1	Jr. Teener	Lake Norden	Groton	5:30 (2)
July 1	Legion	Northville	Northville	6:00 (2)
July 2	Jr. Teener	Clark	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 6	Jr. Legion	Clark	Groton	5:30 (2)
July 7	Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 10	Jr. Legion	Faulkton	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 14	Jr. Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	5:30 (1)
July 14	Legion	Lake Norden	Lake Norden	7:00 (1)
July 15	Jr. Legion	Redfield	Redfield	6:00 (2)
July 15	Legion	Webster	Groton	6:00 (2)
July 20	Jr. Legion	Clark	Clark	6:00 (2)
July 20	Legion	Northville	Groton	6:00 (2)

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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
 - 06/05/2020 Athletic Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
 - 06/19/2020 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/20/2020 Shriner's Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 06/22/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ladies Invitational
 - 06/26/2020 Groton Businesses Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
 - 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
 - **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
 - 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates
-
- Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm at the American Legion Post #39
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Meat, American Legion Post #39 7pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
 - Groton Lions Club Wheel of Pizza, Jungle Lanes 8pm (Saturday nights November 30th thru April 11th)
-
- All dates are subject to change, check for updates here

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News from the Associated Press

The Latest: Ga. Democratic Senate primary too early to call

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the 2020 primary elections (all times EDT):

1:45 a.m.

The Democratic Senate primary in Georgia is too early to call.

In Georgia, candidates must win more than 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff.

With more than half of the expected vote counted at 1:30 a.m. EDT, Jon Ossoff has approximately 48% of the counted vote. He leads Teresa Tomlinson, who has roughly 16% of the counted vote, and Sarah Riggs Amico, with about 13%.

The Associated Press will continue to monitor the race as election officials in Georgia continue to report results.

Georgia Democrats fielded seven contenders in their effort to choose a challenger for Republican Sen. David Perdue in November, who had no Republican opponent.

12:40 a.m.

The Democratic Senate primary in Georgia is too early to call.

In Georgia, candidates must win more than 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff.

With more than half of the expected vote counted just after midnight, Jon Ossoff has approximately 49% of the counted vote. He leads Sarah Riggs Amico and Teresa Tomlinson, who each have roughly 13% of the counted vote.

One of the state's largest counties, De Kalb in the metro Atlanta area, has yet to report any results.

The Associated Press will continue to monitor the race as election officials in Georgia continue to report results.

Georgia Democrats fielded seven contenders in their effort to choose a challenger for Republican Sen. David Perdue in November, who had no Republican opponent.

11:50 p.m.

Kanawha County Commissioner Ben Salango has won the Democratic nomination for governor of West Virginia.

Salango's victory in Tuesday's primary sets him up for a November showdown with coal billionaire and incumbent Republican Gov. Jim Justice.

Salango narrowly defeated progressive community organizer Stephen Smith to win the Democratic nomination. As a commissioner of the state's most populated county, Salango had emphasized his experience in government throughout his campaign.

Justice trounced Woody Thrasher, former state lawmaker Mike Folk and others to win the GOP nomination.

11:40 p.m.

A progressive candidate featured in a Netflix documentary on politics has won the Democratic Senate primary in West Virginia to face Republican Sen. Shelly Moore Capito in November.

Paula Jean Swearengin was featured in the 2019 Netflix political documentary "Knock Down the House." She accepted only individual donations during her campaign and outraised one of her two opponents, former state Sen. Richard Ojeda, by a more than 10-to-1 margin. Also seeking the Democratic nomination was former South Charleston Mayor Richie Robb.

The Senate race wasn't Swearengin's first bid for public office. She received 30% of the vote in the 2018 primary against Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin.

In the Republican primary, Capito easily defeated Family Policy Council of West Virginia President Allen Whitt and former craftsman Larry Butcher.

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10:10 p.m.

Primary polls are closing across Nevada and elections officials are cutting off any voters from joining long lines at polling places. Election officials say any voter in line before the 7 p.m. cutoff will get to cast a ballot. The secretary of state's office says no election results will be released in Nevada until every one of those voters has been able to vote.

Voters were waiting in lines for three hours and more Tuesday at limited polling places in Las Vegas despite Nevada officials encouraging people to cast their primary election ballots by mail because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Nevada Deputy Secretary of State for Elections Wayne Thorley said his office had received a report of a three-hour wait at one Clark County polling place.

Voters waiting to cast ballots at the Clark County Election Department office told The Associated Press they had been waiting in line for four and five hours.

9:45 p.m.

Two incumbents have won the Republican nominations for governor in West Virginia and North Dakota. Gov. Jim Justice was declared the primary winner in West Virginia on Tuesday, while Gov. Doug Burgum captured the GOP nomination in North Dakota.

Justice, a billionaire coal and agricultural businessman, defeated Woody Thrasher, Mike Folk and others to win the GOP nomination. This week, President Donald Trump tweeted a message of support for the governor: "Big Jim is doing a tremendous job for West Virginia. Vote for Big Jim!"

Burgum, a former software executive, defeated Michael Coachman in the election, which was conducted exclusively by mail. He's expected to be a heavy favorite in November over Democratic political newcomer Shelley Lenz, a veterinarian and small-business owner.

Two Republican incumbent senators also won their primaries on Tuesday: Shelley Moore Capito in West Virginia and Lindsey Graham in South Carolina.

7:45 p.m.

Joe Biden has won the Democratic presidential primaries in Georgia and West Virginia.

The former vice president was declared the winner Tuesday, after a day of voting problems plagued Georgia. Voters reported long lines, equipment not working and absentee ballots not received. Polling places in at least nine counties extended voting hours because of the problems.

Biden had already amassed enough delegates to be Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee. His status will be formalized at the party's convention in August.

Georgia is considered a potential battleground state in November's election. It hasn't gone for a Democratic presidential contender since 1992.

West Virginia is a reliably Republican state.

7 p.m.

Polling places in at least nine Georgia counties will remain open later than expected because of voting problems.

Voters reported long lines Tuesday, voting equipment not working and absentee ballots not received, among other complaints. The extensions span the northwest corner of the state to the southeast coastline.

In Bartow County, a heavily Republican county on the suburban fringe of Atlanta, county officials extended the hours at one polling place by half an hour, saying the polling place was unable to open on time because of "unforeseen circumstances."

A judge in DeKalb County signed an order approving extended voting hours for seven polling places. The extensions, ranging from 15 minutes to three hours and 10 minutes, were the result of delays in voting because of "technical and logistical issues."

Laurens County Probate Judge Helen Harper says hours were extended at one of the rural middle Geor-

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gia county's 16 polling places by an hour after workers couldn't get the computerized devices using for signing in voters to work on Tuesday morning.

6:05 p.m.

Georgia's House speaker is directing leaders of the House Governmental Affairs Committee to investigate the voting problems in Tuesday's primaries.

Republican House Speaker David Ralston said in a statement that the move was prompted by anecdotes of "unacceptable deficiencies" from around the state: poll workers lacking proper training, voting equipment not working, absentee ballots not received, among other problems.

"The legislative branch of government has an obligation to go beyond the mutual finger-pointing and get to the truth and the real reasons underlying these frustrations and concerns," Ralston said.

Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger told The Associated Press in an interview that county election directors are responsible for the voting problems.

"It falls back on the management team to make sure the poll workers are trained properly," he said. "The machines are operating fine when the operator knows what they are doing."

But voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams, who lost the 2018 governor's race to Republican Brian Kemp, tweeted that Raffensperger "owns this disaster."

"He must stop finger-pointing and fix it," the Democrat wrote.

5:35 p.m.

Georgia's secretary of state is blaming county election directors for voting problems in Tuesday's state-wide primary elections.

Republican Brad Raffensperger said in an interview with The Associated Press that voting was running smoothly across much of the state, except for two metro Atlanta counties.

"When these things arise, and it's really specifically in one or two counties, in Fulton and Dekalb counties that had these issues today, it leads us back to the failure of the management of the county election directors," Raffensperger said. "It has nothing to do with what we're doing in the rest of Georgia."

But the problems weren't exclusive to Fulton and Dekalb counties. Voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams' group Fair Fight Action said voters had reported that at least 21 polling locations in at least eight counties did not open as scheduled at 7 a.m.

In Chatham County, which includes Savannah, voting hours were being extended two hours because of problems and delays.

It was Georgia's first time using its new voting system, which combined touchscreens with scanned paper ballots in races for president, U.S. Senate and dozens of other contests.

5:05 p.m.

The Biden campaign is denouncing the voting problems in Georgia and calling on the state to make improvements before the November general election.

Rachana Desai Martin, the campaign's national director for voter protection and senior counsel, said Tuesday that the long lines, undelivered absentee ballots and voting machine malfunctions were "completely unacceptable" and a threat to American values of free and fair elections.

"We only have a few months left until voters around the nation head to the polls again, and efforts should begin immediately to ensure that every Georgian -- and every American -- is able to safely exercise their right to vote. Our campaign will remain fully engaged in defending that right," she said.

It was Georgia's first time using its new voting system, which combined touchscreens with scanned paper ballots in races for president, U.S. Senate and dozens of other contests.

3:20 p.m.

The president of a group that advocates for fair elections is calling on Georgia to extend its voting hours

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following widespread reports of voting machine malfunctions and long lines in its twice-delayed primary election.

"This election has been a catastrophe," said Kristen Clarke, president of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "If we view the primary election as a dry run for November, Georgia gets an F."

Clarke said her group has filed notices with Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties asking them to extend voting hours Tuesday because of the widespread reports of problems. People have reported waiting in line for up to five hours.

"I place the indictment on the secretary of state and the governor for not doing all they can to ensure, in the middle of a pandemic, that counties would have the support, resources and training necessary to administer an election in which they were using new machines," Clarke said. "They could have anticipated every problem we are seeing across the state today."

Georgia's Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, has opened an investigation of voting problems in Fulton and Dekalb counties and said "every other county" was significantly better prepared. But voting delays haven't been limited to those two counties.

2:30 p.m.

Georgia's secretary of state has opened an investigation into voting problems in two counties in metro Atlanta amid reports of voting machine malfunctions in its twice-delayed primary election.

Republican Brad Raffensperger on Tuesday announced investigations into Fulton and Dekalb counties' election process. He called what was happening there "unacceptable" and said his office was investigating how to resolve the issues before the November general election.

It's the first time Georgia is using its new voting system, which combined touchscreens with scanned paper ballots in races for president, U.S. Senate and dozens of other contests. But Raffensperger said "every other county" was significantly better prepared.

However, voting delays weren't limited to Atlanta. In Savannah, Mayor Van Johnson said he was "inundated" with calls Tuesday morning from voters reporting "extensive delays."

Technical problems caused at least one polling place in the Augusta area to open more than 90 minutes late, Richmond County elections supervisor Lynn Bailey told WRDW-TV. News outlets also reported problems with poll workers operating voting equipment in Macon and a long line stretching through the parking lot of polling site at a church in Columbus.

This story has been corrected to show Gov. Doug Burgum captured the GOP nomination in North Dakota, not South Dakota.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

01-05-09-10-23, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 2

(one, five, nine, ten, twenty-three; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$410 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Remnants of Cristobal move into Midwest after lashing South

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — The remnants of Tropical Storm Cristobal moved across parts of the Midwest on Tuesday after lashing the South, unleashing downpours and bringing gusty winds as more high winds, heavy rain and thunderstorms were forecast.

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Heavy rain hit Missouri on Tuesday morning and Cristobal was expected to intensify later in the day as another "energetic" weather system approaches from the west and begins to interact with it, the National Weather Service said.

Cristobal may produce flash flooding and isolated river flooding, as rain continues overnight Tuesday and into Wednesday, the weather service said.

By mid-afternoon, the wind had picked up considerably, with a gust of 62 mph recorded at Midway International Airport, on Chicago's Southwest Side, according to the weather service. There were reports of downed trees in and around the city, with electricity provider Commonwealth Edison reporting about 19,000 without power in northeastern Illinois late Tuesday.

Weather service meteorologist Rafal Ogorek said that winds of 50 mph were expected from late afternoon until about midnight.

Boaters were being warned of gale-force winds on Lake Michigan on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Ogorek said as much as an inch of rain could fall on the region before the storm cleared out.

A tornado, unconfirmed by the weather service, was reported in Iroquois County late Tuesday, south of Chicago. However the Iroquois County Sheriff's Department said it didn't receive reports of damage or injuries.

High winds could be felt from Nebraska to Wisconsin, forecasters said. In parts of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, the gusty winds and low humidity will bring the threat of wildfires in areas with dry grass, forecasters warned.

Heavy rain was reported in northeastern Iowa, with Waterloo reporting 2.12 inches of rain, filling creeks and causing puddling in the streets, according to National Weather Service Meteorologist Kenny Podrazik. Forecasts call for scattered showers and thunderstorms overnight Tuesday and into Wednesday, prompting a flash flood watch for the area.

In Nebraska, the weather service was warning residents of much of the state to prepare Tuesday and Wednesday for rough weather that could include winds exceeding 65 mph (105 kph) in places, as well as heavy rain, and the possibility of hail and tornadoes in the central and eastern parts of the state.

Cristobal weakened into a depression early Monday after inundating coastal Louisiana and ginning up dangerous weather along most of the U.S. Gulf Coast, sending waves crashing over Mississippi beaches, swamping parts of an Alabama island town and spawning a tornado in Florida.

South Dakota reports 3 COVID-19 deaths, 52 more cases

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota reported three new deaths from COVID-19 on Tuesday, along with 52 new cases, according to the Department of Health.

The state has tallied 68 deaths from COVID-19. The deaths reported Tuesday came from residents of Minnehaha, Lake and Pennington counties. One person in their 50s and two people over 80 died.

The state has confirmed 5,523 cases of the virus, but over 81% of those have recovered. Health authorities reported there are currently 972 people with active cases, including 90 who are hospitalized.

There were 96 new cases per 100,000 people in South Dakota over the past two weeks.

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, and death.

\$1 million cash bond in fatal Rapid City apartment beating

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$1 million cash for a man accused in a fatal beating at an apartment in Rapid City.

Lawrence Mexican, 29, is charged with second-degree murder in the brutal beating of Harry Black Bear Saturday.

Mexican appeared in Pennington County Court Monday by video from the jail. The prosecution has not

commented on a motive for the slaying or if the two knew each other.

Magistrate Judge Scott Bogue said Mexican left the 48-year-old victim in a pool of blood and covered in blood at the Palms Apartments.

The Rapid City Journal reports Bogue rejected the defense request for a \$100,000 cash or surety bond, citing Mexican's young age, his daughter and the fact that he had a relative with whom he could live.

For George Floyd, a complicated life and a notorious death

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO, NOMAAN MERCHANT, JUAN LOZANO and ADAM GELLER** Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Years before a bystander's video of George Floyd's last moments turned his name into a global cry for justice, Floyd trained a camera on himself.

"I just want to speak to you all real quick," Floyd says in one video, addressing the young men in his neighborhood who looked up to him. His 6-foot-7 frame crowds the picture.

"I've got my shortcomings and my flaws and I ain't better than nobody else," he says. "But, man, the shootings that's going on, I don't care what 'hood you're from, where you're at, man. I love you and God loves you. Put them guns down."

At the time, Floyd was respected as a man who spoke from hard, but hardly extraordinary, experience. He had nothing remotely like the stature he has gained in death, embraced as a universal symbol of the need to overhaul policing and held up as a heroic everyman.

But the reality of his 46 years on Earth, including sharp edges and setbacks Floyd himself acknowledged, was both much fuller and more complicated.

Once a star athlete with dreams of turning pro and enough talent to win a partial scholarship, Floyd returned home only to bounce between jobs before serving nearly five years in prison. Intensely proud of his roots in Houston's Third Ward and admired as a mentor in a public housing project beset by poverty, he decided the only way forward was to leave it behind.

"He had made some mistakes that cost him some years of his life," said Ronnie Lillard, a friend and rapper who performs under the name Reconcile. "And when he got out of that, I think the Lord greatly impacted his heart."

Floyd was born in North Carolina. But his mother, a single parent, moved the family to Houston when he was 2, so she could search for work. They settled in the Cuney Homes, a low-slung warren of more than 500 apartments south of downtown nicknamed "The Bricks."

The neighborhood, for decades a cornerstone of Houston's black community, has gentrified in recent years. Texas Southern University, a historically black campus directly across the street from the projects, has long held itself out as launchpad for those willing to strive. But many residents struggle, with incomes about half the city average and unemployment nearly four times higher, even before the recent economic collapse.

Yeura Hall, who grew up next door to Floyd, said even in the Third Ward other kids looked down on those who lived in public housing. To deflect the teasing, he, Floyd and other boys made up a song about themselves: "I don't want to grow up, I'm a Cuney Homes kid. They got so many rats and roaches I can play with."

Larcenia Floyd invested her hopes in her son, who as a second-grader wrote that he dreamed of being a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

"She thought that he would be the one that would bring them out of poverty and struggle," said Travis Cains, a longtime friend.

Floyd was a star tight end for the football team at Jack Yates High School, playing for the losing side in the 1992 state championship game at the Houston Astrodome.

He was an atypical football player. "We used to call him 'Big Friendly,'" said Cervaanz Williams, a former teammate.

"If you said something to him, his head would drop," said Maurice McGowan, his football coach. "He just

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wasn't going to ball up and act like he wanted to fight you."

On the basketball court, Floyd's height and strength won attention from George Walker, a former assistant coach at the University of Houston hired for the head job at what is now South Florida State College. The school was a 17-hour drive away, in a small town, but high school administrators and Floyd's mother urged him to go, Walker said.

"They wanted George to really get out of the neighborhood, to do something, be something," Walker said.

In Avon Park, Florida, Floyd and a few other players from Houston stood out for their size, accents and city cool. They lived in the Jacaranda Hotel, a historic lodge used as a dormitory, and were known as the "Jac Boys."

"He was always telling me about the Third Ward of Houston, how rough it was, but how much he loved it," said Robert Caldwell, a friend and fellow student who frequently traveled with the basketball team. "He said people know how to grind, as hard as it is, people know how to love."

After two years in Avon Park, Floyd spent a year at Texas A&M University in Kingsville before returning to Houston and his mother's apartment to find jobs in construction and security.

Larcenia Floyd, known throughout the neighborhood as Ms. Cissy, welcomed her son's friends from childhood, offering their apartment as refuge when their lives grew stressful. When a neighbor went to prison on drug charges, Ms. Cissy took in the woman's pre-teen son, Cal Wayne, deputizing George to play older brother for the next 2½ years.

"We would steal his jerseys and put his jerseys on and run around the house, go outside, jerseys all the way down to our ankles because he was so big and we were little," said Wayne, now a well-known rapper who credits Floyd with encouraging him to pursue music.

George Floyd, he said, "was like a superhero."

Floyd, too, dabbled in music, occasionally invited to rap with Robert Earl Davis Jr. -- better known as DJ Screw, whose mixtapes have since been recognized as influential in charting Houston's place as a hotbed of hip-hop.

But then, the man known throughout Cuney as "Big Floyd," started finding trouble.

Between 1997 and 2005, Floyd was arrested several times on drug and theft charges, spending months in jail. Around that time, Wayne's mother, Sheila Masters, recalled running into Floyd in the street and learning he was homeless.

"He's so tall he'd pat me on my head ... and say, 'Mama you know it's going to be all right,'" Masters said.

In August 2007, Floyd was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon. Investigators said he and five other men barged into a woman's apartment, and Floyd pushed a pistol into her abdomen before searching for items to steal. Floyd pleaded guilty in 2009 and was sentenced to five years in prison. By the time he was paroled, in January 2013, he was nearing 40.

"He came home with his head on right," said friend Travis Cains.

At a Christian rap concert in the Third Ward, Floyd met Lillard and pastor Patrick "PT" Ngwolo, whose ministry was looking for ways to reach residents in Cuney Homes. Floyd, who seemed to know everyone in the project, volunteered to be their guide.

Soon Floyd was setting up a washtub on the Cuney basketball courts for baptisms by Ngwolo's newly formed Resurrection Houston congregation. He joined three-on-three basketball tournaments and barbecues, organized by the ministry. He knocked on doors with Ngwolo, introducing residents as candidates for grocery deliveries or Bible study.

Another pastor, Christopher Johnson, recalled Floyd stopping by his office while Johnson's mother was visiting. Decades had passed since Johnson's mother had been a teacher at Floyd's high school. It didn't matter. He wrapped her in a bear hug.

"I don't think he ever thought of himself as being big," Johnson said. "There's a lot of big dudes here, but he was a gentleman and a diplomat and I'm not putting any sauce on it."

On the streets of Cuney, Floyd was increasingly embraced as an O.G. -- literally "original gangster," but

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bestowed as a title of respect for a mentor who'd learned from life experience.

In Tiffany Cofield's classroom at a neighborhood charter school, some of her male students -- many of whom had already had brushes with the law -- told her to talk to "Big Floyd" if she wanted to understand.

Floyd would listen patiently as she voiced her frustrations with students' bad behavior, she said. And he would try to explain the life of a young man in the projects.

After school, Floyd often met up with her students outside a corner store.

"How's school going?" he'd ask. "Are you being respectful? How's your mom? How's your grandma?"

In 2014, Floyd began exploring the possibility of leaving the neighborhood.

As the father of five children from several relationships, he had bills to pay. And despite his stature in Cuney, everyday life could be trying. More than once, Floyd ended up in handcuffs when police came through the projects and detained a large number of men, Cofield said.

"He would show by example: 'Yes, officer. No, officer.' Very respectful. Very calm tone," she said.

A friend of Floyd's had already moved to the Twin Cities as part of a church discipleship program that offered men a route to self-sufficiency by changing their environment and helping them find jobs.

"He was looking to start over fresh, a new beginning," said Christopher Harris, who preceded Floyd to Minneapolis. Friends provided Floyd with money and clothing to ease the transition.

In Minneapolis, Floyd found a job as a security guard at the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Center -- the city's largest homeless shelter.

"He would regularly walk a couple of female co-workers out ... at night and make sure they got to their cars safely and securely," said Brian Molohon, director of development for the Army's Minnesota office. "Just a big strong guy, but with a very tender side."

Floyd left after a little over a year, training to drive trucks while working as a bouncer at a club called Conga Latin Bistro.

"He would dance badly to make people laugh," said the owner, Jovanni Thunstrom. "I tried to teach him how to dance because he loved Latin music, but I couldn't because he was too tall for me."

Floyd kept his connection to Houston, regularly returning to Cuney.

When Houston hosted the Super Bowl in 2017, Floyd was back in town, hosting a party at the church with music and free AIDS testing. He came back again for his mother's funeral the next year. And when Cains spoke with him last, a few weeks ago, Floyd was planning another trip for this summer.

By then, Floyd was out of work. Early this spring, Thunstrom cut Floyd's job when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the club to close.

On the evening of Memorial Day, Floyd was with two others when convenience store employees accused him of paying for cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill, then called the police. Less than an hour later, Floyd breathed his last.

Those who knew him search for meaning in his death.

"I've come to the belief that he was chosen," said Cofield, the teacher. "Only this could have happened to him because of who he was and the amount of love that he had for people, people had for him."

It's a small comfort, she admits. But, then, in Big Floyd's neighborhood, people have long made do with less.

Merchant and Lozano reported from Houston, Henao from Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Geller from New York. Associated Press writer Aaron Morrison in Minneapolis and videographer John Mone in Houston contributed to this report.

The Latest: UK to reopen zoos, safari parks, but no schools

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — Britain is planning to reopen zoos, safari parks and drive-in theaters as part of the easing of lockdown measures from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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But the move by Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing criticism amid the failure to reopen schools for all primary school students before summer, as had been planned.

Although many English primary schools have been open for children of key workers, the Conservative government had wanted to give all pupils the chance to return following months of home learning. But schools didn't have enough space to address social distancing requirements.

Johnson is expected to make the announcement later Wednesday.

His Downing Street Office says it hopes that reopening of safari parks and zoos will help families spend time outdoors, where the chance of catching the virus is much lower.

London Zoo and other attractions across the country had warned they faced permanent closure if something weren't done soon.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY ABOUT THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:

- Virus pummels global economy, jobs - even without 2nd wave
- In Pakistan, COVID-19 is just the latest epidemic in areas struck by chronic poverty, malnutrition and violence
- Easing restrictions in Indonesia's capital triggers concerns
- It's an issue that's been argued about for months, both by experts and by people strolling through parks all over the world: Can people who don't feel sick spread the coronavirus, and if so should we all be wearing masks to stop it? Even the World Health Organization can't seem to get it straight. On Tuesday the U.N. health agency scrambled to explain seemingly contradictory comments it has made in recent days about the two related issues.
- Moscow emerged from a strict lockdown with the city government citing a slowdown in the coronavirus outbreak and critics expressing concerns over the potential for a new wave of infections in the Russian capital. It comes weeks before a nationwide vote on the constitutional reform that would allow President Vladimir Putin to stay in power until 2036 and was condemned by Kremlin opponents as politically motivated.
- Experts worry that a further surge of the coronavirus in under-developed regions with shaky health systems could undermine efforts to halt the pandemic. Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan are among the countries easing lockdown restrictions before their outbreaks have peaked and without detailed surveillance and testing systems in place.

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

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:

BERLIN — Germany is prolonging its travel warning for more than 160 countries outside Europe until the end of August.

The government agreed Wednesday to extend the guidance introduced on March 17 due to the coronavirus pandemic to almost all non-EU countries, with the exception of some that have successfully contained the outbreak.

Last week, Germany downgraded its travel warning for the rest of the 27-nation EU, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland and Britain.

Also Wednesday, the government announced the end of border controls for EU citizens coming to Germany. Almost all German states require travelers arriving from countries that have 50 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the past seven days to quarantine for two weeks. This is currently the case for fellow EU member state Sweden.

JOHANNESBURG — Africa's confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 200,000.

That's according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The 54-nation continent has 202,782 cases and 5,516 deaths.

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While Africa still represents a tiny percentage of the world's total COVID-19 cases, well under 5%, officials in South Africa and elsewhere have expressed concern because the number of infections continues to climb.

South Africa leads the continent with 52,991 cases, with almost two-thirds of them in the Western Cape province centered on the city of Cape Town.

Egypt has 36,829 cases and Nigeria has 13,464.

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's coronavirus infections soared past 5,000 as the World Health Organization urged the government to impose a two-week lockdown to stem the relentless spike in new cases.

Pakistan has recorded 113,702 confirmed cases and 2,255 deaths.

Until now, Pakistan's daily testing rate has hovered around 25,000, but the WHO says it should be double that.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has come under criticism from political opponents and health professionals for easing lockdowns despite soaring numbers and no progress in tracking COVID-19 outbreaks.

Khan, who has reprimanded Pakistanis for not wearing masks and keeping social distance, says the economy cannot survive a total lockdown and the poorest in Pakistan would be the hardest hit.

Pakistan was slow to rein in radical religious leaders who were initially allowed to invite Islamic missionaries to attend a massive gathering in mid-March, which was blamed for spreading infection as far as the Gaza Strip.

Khan also refused to shut down mosques during Ramadan and eased restrictions ahead of the Eid-al-Fitr holiday. Since then the number of cases has continued to rise and medical workers worry the weak health system that has barely 3,000 ICU beds for a population of 220 million will be overwhelmed.

MOSCOW — It will take the Russian capital about two months to lift all coronavirus restrictions, Moscow's mayor said Wednesday.

The situation in Moscow is improving, but the outbreak hasn't been completely eradicated, Sergei Sobyenin said at a government meeting. "We still have restrictions related to mass events — attending theaters, cinemas, concert halls and sporting events. Decisions (to lift these restrictions) will mostly likely be made in the beginning of July," Sobyenin said.

This week the mayor announced the ending of the strict lockdown in the city that has been in place since late March. Starting from Tuesday, Moscow residents are no longer required to stay at home or obtain electronic passes for traveling around the city. All restrictions on taking walks, using public transportation or driving have been lifted as well. Beauty parlors also reopened Tuesday. Outdoor terraces of cafes and restaurants, as well as museums and dental clinics, are to open on June 16. Kindergartens, gyms and indoor spaces at cafes and restaurants will be allowed to operate starting June 23.

In recent weeks, the officially reported daily number of new coronavirus infections in Moscow has dropped from over 6,000 to under 2,000. On Wednesday, health officials in the city reported a record low of 1,195 new infections. In total, Moscow has registered 199,785 confirmed cases, 40% of Russia's caseload of over 493,000 contagions.

TIRANA, Albania — Albanian authorities on Wednesday reported 42 new coronavirus cases, the highest number ever, more than two weeks after the country relaxed its total lockdown.

Authorities called on the people to avoid mass gatherings, but a new virus cluster reported Wednesday involved people participating in a funeral ceremony.

Health Minister Ogerta Manastirliu said the number of cases has increased due to "community transmission" of the virus.

Very few people continue to wear masks in the streets. Sports are being held without fans and no concerts or other cultural activities are allowed. Public transportation will resume on Monday.

As of Wednesday, Albania has had 34 confirmed deaths and 1,341 confirmed cases.

VIENNA — Austria on Wednesday announced the opening of its borders to all European neighbors from

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June 16 with the exceptions of Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Britain.

Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg also said that the border with Italy to the south would be open without conditions but that a travel warning for Austrian citizens is in place for Lombardy.

The northern Italian region is the epicenter of Italy's epidemic which has been showing triple-digit growth in daily infections while much of the rest of the country counts a handful or fewer.

While Italy opened its borders on June 3, Austria's reluctance to open their shared border has been a sore spot between the neighbors, especially as the tourism season gets under way. Austria's opening means that visitors from a total of 31 countries no longer are required to undergo a two-week quarantine.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- Sri Lanka's health officials say places of worship that have remained closed for the past three months can reopen starting Friday subject to social distancing guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Director General of Health Services Anil Jasinghe said Wednesday that up to 50 people can congregate at any place of worship but must keep their distance from others both indoors and outdoors.

If there is no space to accommodate 50 people, such places of worship can admit half their normal capacity, he said.

Sri Lanka has reported not cases outside known clusters for the past month. The country has confirmed 1,859 patients with 11 deaths.

NEW DELHI — India reported a new rise of nearly 10,000 coronavirus infections Wednesday, with a total caseload of 276,583, the fifth highest in the world.

The Health Ministry confirmed 9,985 new cases and 274 deaths in the last 24 hours. Total fatalities have reached 7,745.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and New Delhi are the worst-hit states.

The spike comes as the government reopened restaurants, shopping malls and places of worship in most of India after a more than 2-month-old lockdown. Subways, hotels and schools remain closed.

India has so far tested more than 4.9 million people with a daily capacity crossing 140,000.

The number of new cases has soared since the government began relaxing restrictions. There has also been a surge in infections in rural India following the return of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who lost their jobs during the lockdown.

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea has reported 50 new cases of COVID-19 as officials begin requiring nightclubs, karaoke rooms and gyms to register their customers with smartphone QR codes so they could be easily located when needed.

The figures from the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday brought national totals to 11,902 cases and 276 deaths. At least 41 of the cases were reported from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where officials have struggled to trace transmissions linked to entertainment venues, church gatherings and low-income workers who couldn't afford to stay home.

Since late May, the country has been reporting around 30 to 50 new cases per day, a resurgence that has threatened to erase some of the hard-won gains against the virus as people begin to ease on distancing.

The nationwide requirement of QR codes at "high-risk" venues come after a trial run in the cities of Seoul, Incheon and Daejeon, where some 300 businesses used an app developed by internet company Naver to collect the information of some 6,000 customers. The government is also encouraging churches, libraries, hospitals and movie theaters to voluntarily adopt the technology.

South Korea has aggressively mobilized technological tools to trace contacts and enforce quarantines.

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

Surviving in America's Black Belt amid pandemic and job loss

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — Life can be tough even on a good day in the Black Belt, where some of the poorest people in America are, as usual, depending on each other to survive. Their struggle has become even more difficult with unemployment intensifying and coronavirus infections raging.

Both the need and the relief have been on display in the historic civil rights city of Selma, where volunteers distributed free food to scores of people, many of whom shared rides from isolated communities just to get to the school where boxes of fruit and vegetables were available.

"When the rest of the country catches a cold, a place like the Black Belt catches the flu," said Lydia Chatmon, who works with the Selma Center for Non-Violence and helped coordinate with the Black Belt Community Foundation on last week's donations.

Stretching from Louisiana to Virginia, the Black Belt is a crescent-shaped agricultural region first known for the color of its soil and then for its mostly black population. It provided for much of the antebellum South's cotton economy, and remains home to many descendants of slaves. With relatively little industry and a declining population, poverty remains a constant problem.

Now the virus that causes COVID-19, which is killing U.S. blacks in disproportionately large numbers, has taken hold as well.

Black Belt counties have eight of the nine worst infection rates in Alabama, where more than 20,500 have tested positive for the virus, and more than 710 have died. The area also took the hardest hit from unemployment during the economic shutdown, with eight Black Belt counties having jobless rates near or above 20%.

And now that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has allowed businesses and many entertainment venues to reopen in a bid to stimulate the economy, worrying public health officials, cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations have held steady or increased in the state.

It's not that government isn't helping: The food at the giveaway was donated through a federal program. And more than \$4 million in pandemic assistance grants announced last week will go to agencies that serve Black Belt counties in Alabama. The money will help provide food, rent and medicine. Small-town coronavirus testing stations also have opened, so residents don't have to travel to bigger cities to learn if they may be spreading the virus.

But the region also has mobilized to help itself. Clementine Blythe-Ellis, a high school teacher who is off for the summer, put on a protective mask to guard against the new virus and a hat to ward off the sun before showing to distribute food. The need, she said, never goes away.

"It's every day, all day," she said. "That's why I am here."

The Black Belt Community Foundation also is giving away 100,000 face masks, and people are using social media to share tips and resources, trying to reach residents who lack any internet at home. While broadband access is spotty across much of rural Alabama, some entire counties lack service in the Black Belt.

Dorothy Hall, a retired hospital worker who lives with her husband on disability, said that along with causing illness and death, the pandemic has dried up jobs, increased grocery prices and made it more difficult to do little things like get food and household supplies.

"You're sort of like locked in every which way you turn," said Hall, who arrived at the food distribution at Selma High School hours early to get the first spot in line. The school is less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where state troopers beat voting rights marchers 55 years ago.

Nearly 50 miles (80 kilometers) away in Hale County, Pastor James Franks' Pine Grove Baptist Church is coordinating a weekly distribution of milk donated by Borden Dairy.

"Not just during this time, but at all times we should be assisting," he said. "We're trying to help so it won't get to that bad."

At the West Alabama Food Bank, which distributes food in half of Alabama's 10 poorest counties, director Jean Rykaczewski said workers have distributed 1.4 million pounds of food since mid-March, or about

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40% more than during a normal quarter.

But in far-flung areas where around a third of families either lack a vehicle or share just one, simply getting food to people has been a problem, since normal distribution channels through churches and assistance groups broke down during the virus shutdown, she said. People without transportation are having to pay as much as \$20 for rides to the store or distribution sites, she said.

"You can set up trucks in parks all day long, but if you don't have a way to get there it doesn't help," she said.

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

'Chaos in Georgia': Is messy primary a November harbinger?

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The long-standing wrangle over voting rights and election security came to a head in Georgia, where a messy primary and partisan finger-pointing offered an unsettling preview of a November contest when battleground states could face potentially record turnout.

Many Democrats blamed the Republican secretary of state for hourslong lines, voting machine malfunctions, provisional ballot shortages and absentee ballots failing to arrive in time for Tuesday's elections. Democrat Joe Biden's presidential campaign called it "completely unacceptable." Georgia Republicans deflected responsibility to metro Atlanta's heavily minority and Democratic-controlled counties, while President Donald Trump's top campaign attorney decried "the chaos in Georgia."

It raised the specter of a worst-case November scenario: a decisive state, like Florida and its "hanging chads" and "butterfly ballots" in 2000, remaining in dispute long after polls close. Meanwhile, Trump, Biden and their supporters could offer competing claims of victory or question the election's legitimacy, inflaming an already boiling electorate.

Adia Josephson, a 38-year-old black voter in the Brookhaven area just outside Atlanta, waited more than two hours to vote but wasn't about to let the long lines stop her. Problems with voting machines and long lines must be corrected before the next election, she said. "There's no room for error," she said. "There's a lot to gain and a lot to lose."

At Trump's campaign headquarters, senior counsel Justin Clark blamed Georgia's vote-by-mail push amid the COVID-19 pandemic, alluding to the president's unfounded claims that absentee voting yields widespread fraud.

"The American people want to know that the results of an election accurately reflect the will of the voters," Clark said. "The only way to make sure that the American people will have faith in the results is if people who can, show up and vote in person."

Rachana Desai Martin, a Biden campaign attorney, called the scenes in Georgia a "threat" to democracy. "We only have a few months left until voters around the nation head to the polls again, and efforts should begin immediately to ensure that every Georgian — and every American — is able to safely exercise their right to vote," she said.

Martin stopped short of assigning blame, but two Georgia Democrats on Biden's list of potential running mates pointed at Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who led the selection of Georgia's new voting machine system and invited every active voter to request an absentee ballot.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms tweeted at Raffensperger about problems in pockets of metro Atlanta. "Is this happening across the county or just on the south end," the Democrat asked, referring to an area with a heavily black population.

Stacey Abrams, the 2018 Democratic nominee for governor and an Atlanta resident, tweeted that "Georgians deserve better" and that Raffensperger "owns this disaster." Abrams established herself as a voting rights advocate after she refused to concede her 2018 race because of voting irregularities when her Republican opponent, now-Gov. Brian Kemp, was secretary of state.

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Voting rights groups, including Abrams' Fair Fight Action, said Georgia's experiences justify their efforts to combat what they describe as a coordinated GOP push to restrict ballot access. Fair Fight, Priorities USA and American Bridge this week announced a "Voter Suppression Watch" partnership.

"Trump is already trying to extend this culture war by creating fear around vote-by-mail," said Aneesa McMillan of the Priorities political action committee. She noted the Republican National Committee's plans to recruit thousands of poll watchers now that the GOP is no longer under a court order banning the practice that Democrats equate to voter intimidation.

"We have to learn our lessons, not just from Georgia, and protect the entire process," McMillan said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Raffensperger laid blame elsewhere, noting state law charges counties with on-ground operation of elections.

"It's really specifically in one or two counties, in Fulton and DeKalb counties, that had these issues today," Raffensperger said. "It has nothing to do with what we're doing in the rest of Georgia."

Raffensperger, minimizing problems that were documented in other counties, promised investigations of Fulton's and DeKalb's handling of the primary. The Republican speaker of Georgia's state legislature, meanwhile, called for an investigation of the entire primary process, singling out Fulton County as "particularly" troubling.

That kind of back-and-forth, with white Republicans and black Democrats from big cities trading barbs over voting issues, isn't new. And it's one that could easily repeat in November in battleground states where Democrats and minorities figure prominently in the most populous cities and counties: Broward County (Fort Lauderdale), Florida; Wayne County (Detroit), Michigan; Charlotte, North Carolina; Philadelphia; Milwaukee.

Fulton County, which includes most of Atlanta, has a history of slow vote tabulation. Its local elections chief, Richard Barron, called Tuesday a "learning experience" while alluding to the state's role in the primary process.

The finger-pointing goes beyond details of the law. Raffensperger correctly noted that county officials train poll workers, including on the use of the new voting machines. But Raffensperger is the state's chief elections official who decides how many machines to send to each county, and his office provides training curriculum for local officials.

On absentee ballots, the Republican secretary of state pushed unprecedented no-fault absentee access, paying to send an application to every Georgian on the active voter rolls. But, as Barron noted, neither the secretary of state nor the legislature provided additional money for local officials to hire staff to process the influx, which dwarfed the typical primary.

History suggests that both local and state officials, whether in Georgia or elsewhere, could find themselves in the national crosshairs if their election tallies leave the presidency in flux.

"I know that in these hyperpartisan times, half the people will be happy, and the other half will be sad," Raffensperger said. "But we want to make sure that 100% of people know ... the election was done fairly and we got the accurate count."

Associated Press writers Christina A. Cassidy and Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

Virus pummels global economy, jobs - even without 2nd wave

PARIS (AP) — The virus crisis has triggered the worst global recession in nearly a century -- and the pain is not over yet even if there is no second wave of infections, an international economic report warned Wednesday.

Hundreds of millions of people have lost their jobs, and the crisis is hitting the poor and young people the hardest, worsening inequalities, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in its latest analysis of global economic data.

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"It is probably the most uncertain and dramatic outlook since the creation of the OECD," Secretary General Angel Gurría said. "We cannot make projections as we normally do."

In the best-case scenario, if there is no second wave of infections, the agency forecast a global drop in economic output of 6% this year, and a rise of 2.8% next year.

If the coronavirus re-emerges later in the year, however, the global economy could shrink 7.6%, the OECD said.

"With or without a second outbreak, the consequences will be severe and long-lasting," the report says.

Global stock markets dropped after the release of the report, which is more downbeat than other forecasts from the likes of the World Bank.

Gurría argued that "presenting the problem as the choice between lives and livelihoods, meaning a choice between health and the economy, is a false dilemma. If the pandemic is not brought under control, there will be no robust economic recovery."

In case of a second wave of contagions, the OECD forecast that the average unemployment rate across the 37 developed countries that it represents would double this year to 10% and see "little recovery" in 2021. In the more optimistic scenario, the figure would be 9.2%. In poorer countries, the numbers are often higher, and informal workers are especially vulnerable.

The agency urged governments to tackle inequalities by investing in health care systems, global cooperation on medical supplies, vaccine and treatments and retraining people whose sectors are the hardest-hit.

The virus has infected 7.2 million people worldwide and killed at least 411,000, according to official figures tallied by Johns Hopkins University. The true toll is believed to be much higher.

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

5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. FOR MANY, COVID-19 JUST THE LATEST EPIDEMIC For millions of destitute people, the coronavirus only adds to a list of diseases made worse by chronic poverty that leads to malnutrition and violence that disrupts vaccination campaigns.

2. 'CHAOS IN GEORGIA' Many Democrats blamed the Republican secretary of state for hourslong lines, voting machine malfunctions, provisional ballot shortages and absentee ballots failing to arrive in time.

3. POPE SENDS STRONG MESSAGE Francis backs the demonstrations against racism and police brutality, a move that reminds Catholic U.S. voters there are other issues besides abortion ahead of November's election.

4. TRUMP BRINGS BACK 2016 TEAM The U.S. president is trying to recreate the magic of his original team five months before he faces voters again, but his advisers are increasingly worried about the state of the campaign.

5. NCAA FINALIZING FOOTBALL PRACTICE PLAN Schools would be allowed up to 12 unpadding, slow-speed practices — or walk-throughs — during the 14 days before the typical preseason begins in early August.

Sweden halts probe into 1986 murder of PM Olof Palme

By DAVID KEYTON and JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden on Wednesday dropped its investigation into the unsolved murder of former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who was shot dead 34 years ago in downtown Stockholm, saying that decision was made because the main suspect died in 2000.

Palme was gunned down on Feb. 28, 1986, after he and his wife Lisbet Palme left a movie theater in

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the Swedish capital. The murder shocked the nation and shook the Scandinavian country's image as being so safe and peaceful that politicians could wander around in public without protection.

More than 100 people have been suspected in the crime and the unsolved case has generated scores of conspiracy theories, with possible villains ranging from foreign governments or rogue Swedish police with right-wing sympathies to an act by a lone shooter.

The investigation was being closed because the main suspect, Stig Engstrom, died in 2000, the case's chief prosecutor, Krister Petersson, told a news conference in Stockholm on Wednesday.

"Stig Engstrom is deceased, and therefore I am not able to start proceedings or even interview him, that is why I decided to discontinue the investigation," Petersson told reporters. "Since he has died, I cannot indict him."

Hans Melander, head of the investigation, told the news conference that 134 people had confessed the murder — 29 directly to the police — and some 10,000 people had been questioned during the 34-year probe.

"I am completely convinced that there are other people who believe in other solutions, but as Krister (Petersson) says, this is what we came up with and believe in," Melander said.

Marten Palme, the son of Olof and Lisbet Palme, told Swedish radio that "I also think Engstrom is the perpetrator."

Swedish PM Stefan Lofven, a Social Democrat like Palme, was holding a news conference later Wednesday on the murder.

Palme, who cut a flamboyant, even boyish figure, had sought to live as ordinary a life as possible and would often go out without bodyguards. The night of the murder he had no protection.

The prime minister had an aristocratic background but was known for his left-leaning views and was eyed with suspicion in conservative circles and by the United States. Among Swedes and in the Nordic region, Palme was a divisive figure, much loved but also despised.

At the time of the slaying, the 52-year-old Engstrom was reportedly one of the first people at the murder scene and was briefly considered a possible suspect. He had a military background, was member of a shooting club, often worked late and had drinking problems, Petersson said. Also known as the Skandia-mannen because he worked in the nearby Skandia insurance company, Engstrom had a strong dislike of Palme and his policies.

Yet Engstrom's actions on the night of the murder are unclear. Several witnesses gave descriptions of the fleeing killer that matched Engstrom, while others said he wasn't even at the scene. Engstrom himself claimed to have been present from the beginning, said he spoke to Lisbet Palme and police and attempted to resuscitate the victim.

Soon after the murder, Engstrom appeared in Swedish media and developed an increasingly detailed story of his involvement in the events that night, even criticizing the police investigation. He claimed witnesses who had described the killer had in fact been describing him as he was running to catch up with police officers in pursuit of the assassin.

The police then labelled Engstrom as a unreliable and inconsistent witness and classified him as a person of no interest.

Lisbet Palme was injured in the attack and later identified the shooter as Christer Pettersson, an alcoholic and drug addict who was convicted of Palme's murder. The sentence was later overturned after police failed to produce any technical evidence against him, leaving the murder an unsolved mystery. Pettersson died in 2004.

Immediately after Palme was killed, thousands of Swedes flooded the scene of his death with red roses, a symbol of his Social Democratic Party, building a meter-high wall of flowers.

In Sweden, the Palme murder has been an open wound for decades.

Another later painful reminder of Sweden's lost innocence came in 2003, when Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was stabbed to death in a Stockholm department store, also not protected by bodyguards. In 2004, Mijailo Mijailovic, who confessed to the fatal stabbing, was convicted of murder and sentenced to

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be confined in psychiatric care.

The unsolved Palme slaying also evoked another Swedish mystery: the disappearance of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who vanished in 1945 after helping at least 20,000 Hungarian Jews escape the Holocaust by giving them Swedish passports. In 2016, the diplomat, who is believed to have died in Soviet captivity, was pronounced dead by Swedish authorities, 71 years after he disappeared under unclear circumstances.

This story corrects the spelling of the prime minister's wife to Lisbet, not Lisbeth.

Olsen reported from Copenhagen.

CrossFit CEO resigns over insensitive George Floyd tweet

The CEO of CrossFit is stepping down after his tweet about George Floyd sparked a social media backlash and led to affiliated gyms and Reebok cutting ties with the exercise brand.

Greg Glassman said in a statement posted on CrossFit Inc.'s website late Tuesday that he decided to retire. Glassman had apologized earlier for tweets that sparked online outrage by connecting Floyd, a black man who died at the hands of Minneapolis police, and the coronavirus pandemic. He said he had made a mistake and should have been more sensitive, but denied being racist.

"On Saturday I created a rift in the CrossFit community and unintentionally hurt many of its members," he said. "I cannot let my behavior stand in the way of HQ's or affiliates' missions."

Glassman had angered many with his glib response to a tweet by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, a health research group, which said, "Racism is a public health issue."

"It's FLOYD-19," he replied on Saturday, and in a second tweet criticized the group's "failed" quarantine model and accused it of attempting to "model a solution to racism."

Some 1,250 gyms have now severed links with CrossFit, according to industry blog Morning Chalk Up.

Floyd died while handcuffed after a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes. His death set off protests around the U.S. and the globe.

Facing electoral headwinds, Trump brings back his 2016 team

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As anyone who has ever heard him speak knows, President Donald Trump loves to relive 2016.

He recycles old attack lines once aimed at Hillary Clinton. He recounts the drama of election night, complete with impersonations of stunned news anchors putting state after state (Pennsylvania! Wisconsin!) in the Republican's column.

And at other times, in private calls from the White House residence, he reminisces about the camaraderie of those days, turning nostalgic as he remembers being surrounded by a rag-tag team of campaign staffers as his private plane flew from one distant city to another.

Now, Trump is getting the band back together again.

The president in recent days has signed off on hiring a number of his 2016 veterans for his 2020 campaign, a reenlistment of loyalists that follows the return of other members of his original team to the West Wing. A creature of habit who demands loyalty and trusts few, Trump has moved to recreate the magic of his original team five months before he faces voters again.

But 2020 is not 2016. And Trump's advisers are increasingly worried about the state of the campaign as the president faces multiple crises, from the health and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic to the mass protests that have swept across the nation.

"It's fantastic to have the 2016 group back together, but the facts are the facts. He barely won and he has done nothing at all to grow out his support," said Sam Nunberg, who advised Trump early in his first campaign.

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"He can't win on nostalgia. It's not the same race. This is not going to be about slogans or themes, it's going to be about what you did for me and why I should reelect you based on your record," said Nunberg, an informal adviser who will not be rejoining the campaign. "He can't just fight the last war. It's time to adapt or die."

The reinforcements are arriving as Trump comes to terms with the idea that he can't run the type of campaign he had planned for years — one that looked feasible as recently as January, according to three campaign and White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Trump had expected to run on the back of a strong economy before the pandemic crippled it. And he had hoped to revive a number of culture war and "deep state" accusations while facing a Democrat from the liberal wing of the party whom he could paint as socialist. He wasn't expecting the more moderate Joe Biden.

Though outwardly confident, Trump has privately told advisers he cannot believe polls that show him trailing and he has angrily snapped at campaign manager Brad Parscale over the state of the race, according to the officials.

The campaign, which has far greater infrastructure and staffing than the slipshod operation of four years ago, played down the idea that the return of the 2016 veterans was influenced by the state of the race or reflected a lack of confidence in Parscale.

"For over three years now, Brad has been building the biggest and best political campaign in history," said Tim Murtagh, the campaign's communications director. "Our latest staff additions are making Team Trump even stronger and solidify Brad's leadership."

In the last week, the Trump campaign hired Jason Miller, communications director in 2016, to focus on strategy and coordinate between the campaign and the White House. Miller has co-hosted a pro-Trump podcast with the president's former campaign chief executive, Steve Bannon.

Boris Epshteyn, who after 2016 became a commentator for the conservative Sinclair Broadcast network, came back to be a strategic adviser for coalitions. Bill Stepien, a top adviser in 2016, was recently promoted to deputy campaign manager. And Justin Clark, another longtime aide, has led the Republican Party's legal fight over voting rules.

"Every president who has successfully run a first go-around looks to add on people who were in that effort to the reelect," said Miller, before touting the resources of the 2020 bid. "But this is the Starship Enterprise as opposed to a rusted fishing boat we used in the first campaign."

Familiar faces have also returned to the White House.

Hope Hicks was Trump's original campaign spokeswoman before becoming one of his most trusted West Wing aides. She left the White House in 2018 only to return two years later and was one of the driving forces behind the president's controversial photo op with a Bible after he walked through Lafayette Square last week to a nearby church once the area was cleared of protesters.

Johnny McEntee, who served as Trump's personal aide before being fired by then-chief of staff John Kelly in 2018, returned in January and has been focusing on staffing the administration with loyalists.

While Corey Lewandowski, Trump's first campaign manager, and David Bossie, a trusted aide, have both remained officially outside the campaign, they have attended several recent strategy sessions and have been spotted on Air Force One and at the president's golf clubs.

And some of Trump's 2016 team never left: Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, the president's daughter and son-in-law, are senior advisers. Kellyanne Conway, the president's final 2016 campaign manager, remains a senior White House counselor. Dan Scavino runs the president's social media presence from inside the West Wing. And the president's two adult sons, Donald Jr. and Eric Trump, and Eric's wife, Lara, remain popular campaign surrogates.

But a few of the old gang have not returned. That includes Bannon, who remains supportive of Trump after a messy exit from the White House, and Keith Schiller, Trump's longtime security man.

"He will always default to a group of people he trusts and who will advocate for him until hell freezes over," said Timothy O'Brien, a Trump biographer who later worked for Michael Bloomberg's presidential

campaign. "But there's a difference between trusting people and being a good judge of ability."
"He tends to hire people who agree with him," O'Brien said. "He lives in a bubble."

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/@JonLemire>.

Pope sends strong message to US Catholics after Floyd death

By NICOLE WINFIELD and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis called George Floyd by name, twice, and offered support to an American bishop who knelt in prayer during a Black Lives Matter protest.

Cardinals black and white have spoken out about Floyd's death, and the Vatican's communications juggernaut has shifted into overdrive to draw attention to the cause he now represents.

Under normal circumstances, Floyd's killing at the hands of a white police officer and the global protests denouncing racism and police brutality might have drawn a muted diplomatic response from the Holy See. But in a U.S. election year, the intensity and consistency of the Vatican's reaction suggests that, from the pope on down, it is seeking to encourage anti-racism protesters while making a clear statement about where American Catholics should stand ahead of President Donald Trump's bid for a second term in November.

Francis "wants to send a very clear message to these conservative Catholics here who are pro-Trumpers that, 'Listen, this is just as much of an issue as abortion is,'" said Anthea Butler, a presidential visiting fellow at Yale Divinity School.

Butler, who is African American, said the Vatican is telling Catholics "to pay attention to the racism that is happening and the racism that is in your own church in America."

The Vatican has long spoken out about racial injustice, and popes dating to Paul VI have voiced support for the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of nonviolent protest. History's first pope from the global south is no different. He quoted King at length during his historic speech to the U.S. Congress in 2015 and met with King's daughter, as his predecessor had done.

But the degree to which Francis and the Vatican have seized on Floyd's killing is unusual and suggests a coordinated messaging strategy aimed at a national church that Francis has long criticized for its political and ideological partisanship, said Alberto Melloni, a church historian and secretary of the John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies in Bologna, Italy.

"It's not like seven people had the same type of reaction" by chance, Melloni said.

Last week, Francis denounced the "sin of racism" and twice identified Floyd as the victim of a "tragic" killing. In a message read in Italian and English during his general audience, Francis expressed concerns about violence during the protests, saying it was self-destructive.

He also said, "We cannot close our eyes to any form of racism or exclusion, while pretending to defend the sacredness of every human life."

It was a clear effort to call out some conservative Catholics for whom the abortion issue is paramount, while other "life" issues dear to Francis — racism, immigration, the death penalty and poverty — play second fiddle at the ballot box.

Francis has firmly upheld the church's opposition to abortion. And polls show a plurality of American Catholics support significant restrictions on legal abortion.

But Francis has also lamented that the U.S. church is "obsessed" with abortion, contraception and gay marriage to the detriment of its other teachings. Trump is staking his outreach to Catholic voters largely on his anti-abortion platform.

Francis spoke out June 3 after Trump posed in front of an Episcopal church near the White House, Bible in hand, after law enforcement aggressively forced protesters away from a nearby park.

A day later, Trump visited the St. John Paul II shrine, a visit denounced by the highest-ranking African American prelate in the U.S., Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington, D.C., whom Francis appointed to the politically important position last year. Gregory said he found it "baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated."

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In that vein, the pope's phone call to Texas Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso last week appeared quietly significant. Seitz has taken a leading role in demanding fair treatment for migrants attempting to cross the southern U.S. border, a cause Francis has championed in ways that have fueled tensions with Trump.

Francis called Seitz unexpectedly after he was photographed kneeling in prayer at a Black Lives Matter protest. Seitz said the pope thanked him without mentioning the demonstration, but the context was clear: "My recent words and actions on the events that are taking place in the country now" after Floyd's killing.

Francis was not alone in making the Vatican's views known.

While the Holy See would be loath to be seen as picking sides prior to the U.S. election, its media operation has made clear its backing for peaceful protests, denouncing injustices suffered by black Americans and underlining its longtime support of King's message.

Sunday's L'Osservatore Romano newspaper featured three Floyd-related stories on its front page. The first was that 1 million people were expected to protest that day in Washington.

A second story was about a video showing two U.S. police officers shoving 75-year-old Martin Gugino, a white Catholic protester, to the ground in Buffalo. "Go watch it, please," the article said.

Its third story was about a prayer service presided over by the highest-ranking American at the Vatican, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who decried how America's constitutional ideals were failing its black citizens.

In an interview, Farrell said he has spoken to Francis in the past about America's race problems, which he saw up close as an auxiliary bishop in Washington. Farrell said Francis is well versed in King and American history.

Francis "knows what the principle was and he knows what the struggle was," Farrell said.

Natalia Imperatori-Lee, a professor of religious studies at Manhattan College, said the Vatican's message is having an effect on American Catholics.

"We are starting to see a kind of fissure emerge," she said. "Whether that's going to be long lasting or whether it is a sign of a paradigm shift, I think it's too early to tell."

A poll from the nonprofit Public Religion Research Institute last week found that the share of white Catholics holding favorable views of Trump had dropped by double digits since last year, registering 37% in the last week of May compared with 49% across 2019.

The test, Imperatori-Lee said, will be if priests are still preaching about racism in six months. And beyond that: "I guess we'll know if this works when Catholics go to the polls in November."

Schor contributed from New York.

Follow all AP coverage of the U.S. and global protests against racism and police brutality at <https://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>.

Unemployed Filipina feeds other jobless migrants in Dubai

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Feby Dela Peña saw her fellow Filipinos standing in line outside her building in Dubai, waiting for free food. And she was stricken — what if her family, too, had lost their income amid the COVID-19 outbreak? How would she have fed her three children?

Dela Peña is unemployed. "We're poor, to be honest," she said. "But it's not a reason for me not to help, you know?"

So the next day, she pulled out the money that was supposed to feed her family of five for a month. When their 11 housemates got wind of her plan — like most migrant workers in Dubai, the family lives in a shared apartment — those who could chipped in as well.

She was able to buy about 500 dirhams, or \$136, worth of groceries, including 30 frozen chickens and sacks of rice. And she began to cook.

That is how Dela Peña launched the project she calls Ayuda — help, in Filipino, a language heavily in-

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fluenced by Spanish colonial rule. Each day, she offers 200 free meals to the hungry of Dubai, all of them foreigners, like her own family.

Migrants account for 90% of the workforce in the United Arab Emirates. The economic shutdown that came with COVID-19 has hit their communities hard.

Despite promises by the Philippine government to help overseas workers with a one-time cash assistance, and despite a nationwide "10 million meals" initiative by the government of the United Arab Emirates to feed the poor, many are struggling to secure their next meal.

"Life is so hard and they don't have anyone to depend on," said Dela Peña, 34.

Dela Peña's a confident cook who used to sell home-made meals to friends as a way to earn extra money. She said she also has a license in food safety.

But cooking 200 meals a day is a massive undertaking, especially with a 6-year-old, a toddler and a baby at home.

The finances are dicey; Dela Peña relies on her husband's modest income from a sales job. But when word of her efforts spread on social media, people began reaching out, dropping off cartons of eggs and bags of rice. An influential Emirati blogger gave her 10,000 dirhams (\$2,700).

She leans on her housemates, husband and her brother-in-law, who was let go from his job in a tea shop amid the pandemic, to help with buying the groceries, thawing the meats, chopping the food and cooking. Ultimately, though, she's in charge.

"It's a big thing if you can help like 10 people not to sleep hungry," she said, as she scooped up cooked rice, fried fish and boiled eggs into containers to distribute.

Her children's wagon is used to deliver the meals each day. It is 3 p.m., and sweltering. A sign on a cardboard box announces: "FREE!!! FOOD FOR EVERYONE."

Some people walk 45 minutes for one of Dela Peña's meals. While most hail from the Philippines, there are also Africans, South Asians and others.

Six Filipino women, who come every day, said they haven't worked or been paid since March when they lost their sales jobs. One of the women, Emma Moraga, said she heard about the meals on social media.

"It's good, because they can help a lot of people," Moraga said. "One meal a day, it's big help."

The crowd lines up. "Social distancing!" Dela Peña says, repeatedly. Mostly, though, people are standing apart and everyone is wearing masks, as is required by law.

She's nervous that authorities in Dubai could stop or fine her for violating laws on public gatherings or the distribution of food. But she intends to feed Dubai's hungry as long as she can.

"If I will stop this," Dela Peña said, "many people will stop eating."

While nonstop news about the effects of the coronavirus has become commonplace, so, too, have tales of kindness. "One Good Thing" is a series of AP stories focusing on glimmers of joy and benevolence in a dark time. Read the series here: <https://apnews.com/OneGoodThing>.

COVID-19 just the latest epidemic in areas struck by disease

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

SULEIMAN KHEL, Pakistan (AP) — When Tariq Nawaz's daughter was born a year ago, he borrowed money to pay for his wife's cesarean delivery. Seven months later, they learned their baby had polio and sold the little bit of jewelry his wife had received for her wedding to pay mounting medical bills.

Then the new coronavirus pandemic struck Pakistan, prompting a countrywide lockdown that closed even their village of Suleiman Khel, at the edge of a tribal region plagued by militants. Still in debt, Nawaz lost his job, his monthly paycheck of \$95 and the means to provide treatment for the baby's polio.

"It's all I can think of. I feel like my head is going crazy," he said.

For millions of people like Nawaz who live in poor and troubled regions of the world, the novel coronavirus is only the latest epidemic. They already face a plethora of fatal and crippling infectious diseases: polio, Ebola, cholera, dengue, tuberculosis and malaria, to name a few.

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The onslaught of infectious diseases is made worse by the many other threats in lives already overwhelmed by adversity. Crushing poverty leads to malnutrition and lack of medical care, making people more susceptible to illness. In many places, they must also navigate the violence of militants, gangs and government soldiers, which can make campaigns to fight disease more difficult.

This story was produced with the support of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Just when the Democratic Republic of Congo appeared to be nearing the end of its deadly Ebola epidemic this year, the first COVID-19 cases appeared, devastating residents. Militants also terrorize the region.

"People here have been victims of attacks by Ugandan ... rebels, Ebola and now COVID-19," said 46-year-old Philémon Tsongo, a physician who survived Ebola at the epicenter of the outbreak in Beni. "They are traumatized."

In war-torn Yemen, the cholera epidemic peaked with more than a million infections in 2017. Health officials have seen a dramatic drop in cholera, but there is growing concern that the fight against the recently arrived coronavirus will undercut the anti-cholera campaign.

Officials from the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, say stocks of hygiene kits and chlorine tablets for water purification in Yemen will last only until the end of June. The agency needs at least \$18 million through the end of the year to buy more supplies for water, sanitation and hygiene services, but it appears the money will go to fight COVID-19.

"We think that the risk remains high and that cholera and acute watery diarrhea cases could easily make a strong, strong comeback," said Bismarck Swangin, a UNICEF spokesman in Yemen.

Across the world in Central America, Honduras has seen a steep climb in COVID-19 cases in the midst of a dengue fever outbreak. San Pedro Sula, the business capital where gang violence makes Honduras one of the deadliest countries in the world, is also now the epicenter of a COVID-19 outbreak. The city and surrounding area have about two-thirds of Honduras' approximately 3,000 confirmed cases.

"We have a full-blown dengue epidemic, meaning we have two illnesses circulating in the country," said Dr. Carlos Umaña, president of the Social Security Doctors' Association for northwest Honduras, who is based in San Pedro Sula.

The simultaneous epidemics are overwhelming a public health system that had few resources to begin with. For a population of about 10 million people, Honduras only has 350 intensive care beds and about 6,000 hospital beds overall — compared to some 23,000 in New York City.

"The collapse of the health systems are imminent if these two illnesses continue rising," Umaña said.

In Pakistan, where Nawaz lives, coronavirus cases are going up sharply. The country's toll of above 113,000 coronavirus cases surpasses that of neighboring China, and 2,255 people in Pakistan have already died.

Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to suffer some of the world's worst outbreaks of infectious diseases. It has 4.3 million cases of malaria annually, and is one of the top 10 countries for new cases of tuberculosis each year. It is also one of only three countries, including Afghanistan and Nigeria, where polio is still endemic.

The fight against disease is made harder by militants who oppose vaccination. The militants in Pakistan have multiple and sometimes overlapping motives, focusing on the government, religious minorities, connections with anti-U.S. organizations in neighboring Afghanistan and attacks on Pakistan's historic rival, India.

Militants have spread rumors that the polio vaccine is a Western conspiracy to make the next generation of Muslims infertile. Dozens of vaccinators, with heavily armed security at their side, have been targeted and killed in recent years. Just last month, a half-hour drive from Nawaz's home, masked gunmen shot and killed 40-year-old Abdul Wahab, a well-known vaccinator in the tribal regions.

Nawaz's daughter, Tuba, was vaccinated against polio at four months, but before she could receive her second of three doses, she contracted the disease.

Dr. Rana Mohammad Safdar, the country's leading immunologist and front-line warrior in Pakistan's COVID-19 battle, said that last year's testing revealed the polio virus was everywhere in the country. Now, the arrival of the coronavirus means 40 million children won't get their polio vaccination this month, Safdar said, leaving them without protection.

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Late last year, Safdar had begun to hope polio could be beaten in Pakistan. He had a battle plan and everyone on board, even reluctant religious leaders. But when the coronavirus struck, Safdar ordered his army of more than 250,000 vaccinators to shelter in their homes for their own safety and to prevent a COVID-19-infected vaccinator from spreading the virus to an entire village. He worried that just one COVID-19 infection would be grist for the militant clerics' rumor mills.

The virus already has devoured most of Pakistan's budget to fight the other diseases. There's no money left to disinfect the countless fertile grounds for mosquitoes that carry crippling diseases such as dengue or malaria.

"COVID has been a devastating blow to our efforts ... We are now in a position where we can't do much," said Safdar, who went into self-imposed quarantine after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

So far this year, 40 children have tested positive for polio, including Nawaz's daughter Tuba. Safdar fears new infections this year could surpass 150, a startling figure for a disease the WHO had hoped would have been eradicated by now.

The coronavirus and the lockdown to fight it are also making worse endemic poverty. Nearly 30% of Pakistanis live below the poverty line, earning less than \$2 a day.

Nawaz's debts have been piling up. He already had sold his share of the family plot to his elder brother for money to cover his wedding and construction of his family's one-room house.

He and three of his brothers also carry the burden of another brother who spends most of his days and nights in a drug-induced stupor. That brother, Gul, couldn't get work and found an escape in opium, and now the extended family must care for his five children. Another brother also is broke, after losing his job as a security guard to the virus lockdown, and is trying unsuccessfully to migrate to Malaysia for work.

Sitting in the brutal heat on a steel-framed bed made of knotted rope, Nawaz held his daughter close. He thinks she feels protected in his arms.

She is his joy and his greatest worry. Tuba doesn't talk yet. That afternoon, her round brown eyes were outlined with a thick coal and her tattered shirt was caked with dirt. Tuba can't stand, and when Nawaz touched her right leg she pulled away. Polio has left her leg and foot lifeless, but also painful.

Tuba's 3-year-old sister Ilana snuggled up against her father, shoving and poking at her many barefoot cousins who crowded the dirt courtyard. Social distancing has no place in their crowded world, nor in the dusty streets where women in burqas sell second-hand goods and small shops remain open despite the lockdown.

When Tuba became sick, Nawaz took her to the village clinic, but they couldn't help and sent her home. After two visits to government hospitals, he took her to a private clinic where finally she was diagnosed with polio.

"We didn't know what to do. They gave her medicine, but there was no therapy, just medicines," he said.

Since being laid off there's no money to buy Tuba medicine or even the milk she needs to keep her other limbs strong. Instead, Nawaz says, he gives her tea with a little milk.

In late February she fell ill, but the virus had shut the government hospitals and Nawaz had to take her to a private hospital again that cost 8,800 (\$50) a night. Tuba was there for four nights.

"We had no choice, she needed treatment," he said. "There was everything for her there. ... She was doing so well."

They were told to return after three months but he knew they wouldn't. There is no money to treat the polio.

Now they can all just pray that the family is not struck with the coronavirus. A COVID-19 patient is more likely to die in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, where Nawaz lives, than anywhere else in Pakistan, with a death rate of 4.6%, compared to 2.3% nationwide.

"It's a scary place to be," he said.

Associated Press writers Haruna Umar in Maiduguri, Nigeria; Al-Hadji Kudra Maliro in Beni, Congo; Christopher Sherman in Mexico City and Riaz Khan in Peshawar, Pakistan, contributed to this report.

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2 kids vanished, and it just got stranger. Now, a grim turn

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — It was the extended family who grew suspicious first, and then at their urging, local police: Seven-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and his 17-year-old sister Tylee Ryan hadn't been seen in far too long, and their mother wouldn't give a straight answer about where they were.

Soon strangers around the world were following the case, transfixed by the increasingly strange circumstances surrounding Lori Vallow Daybell and her new husband, Chad Daybell. The investigation grew to include the mysterious deaths of their former spouses, rumors of doomsday cult-like beliefs and their sudden move to Hawaii.

The case took a grim turn Tuesday when investigators announced they found human remains while searching Chad Daybell's rural Idaho home. In a field near his house, the FBI and local authorities erected canopies, draped blue tarps on the ground and brought in heavy equipment to help dig. Victim advocates began calling family members, telling them about the remains.

Chad Daybell was arrested on suspicion of concealing or destructing evidence and has been booked into jail. He hasn't been formally charged yet.

"Throughout the investigation, detectives and investigators have recovered what's believed to be human remains that have not been identified at this time," Rexburg Assistant Police Chief Gary Hagan said at a news conference.

Daybell's attorney didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

Daybell's wife, Lori Vallow Daybell, has already been charged with child abandonment, obstructing an investigation, contempt of court and soliciting a crime. She has pleaded not guilty and is in jail on \$1 million bond.

Court documents suggest that things began to unravel for the family early last year, when Lori was still married to Charles Vallow. The couple were estranged, and Vallow had filed for divorce, saying he feared she would kill him and that she had developed cult-like beliefs. He said she claimed to be "a god assigned to carry out the work of the 144,000 at Christ's second coming in July 2020."

The family was living in a Phoenix suburb in July when Lori's brother, Alex Cox, shot and killed Vallow. He asserted that the shooting was in self-defense after Vallow came at him with a baseball bat. Police investigated, but the case didn't go far before Cox died of a blood clot in his lung in December.

Lori Vallow moved to Idaho with the kids, getting an apartment in the small town of Rexburg and spending time with Chad Daybell. The couple had known each other for a while, sometimes participating in podcasts about preparing for the biblical end times for an online organization aimed at members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At the time, he was married to Tammy Daybell, a fit 49-year-old school librarian who helped him run a small publishing company. Chad Daybell also had written several books, largely focused on doomsday scenarios and loosely based on church theology.

Tammy Daybell died in October, her obituary saying she passed away in her sleep of natural causes. The family declined an autopsy before she was buried in Utah.

About two weeks later, Chad Daybell married Lori Vallow.

The quick marriage drew the suspicion of officers, who had Tammy Daybell's body exhumed for an investigation. The results of that autopsy have not yet been released.

Meanwhile, JJ's grandparents, Larry and Kay Woodcock of Louisiana, were growing increasingly worried about the kids. They said once-regular phone calls with JJ had grown infrequent and then stopped altogether. They said Lori Daybell wouldn't tell them why the boy was always unavailable.

Tylee was last seen in September headed into Yellowstone National Park with her mom and other family for a day trip, and JJ was last seen by school officials several days later.

The Woodcocks asked Rexburg police to check on the kids. When officers stopped by to question Lori Daybell, they said she and Chad Daybell lied about the children's whereabouts. When investigators returned the next day to follow up, the Daybells were gone.

The couple had moved to Hawaii, and the investigation pushed forward in Idaho, Arizona and Utah, where

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Tammy Daybell was buried. Eventually, a judge ordered Lori Daybell to prove the children were safe by bringing them to officials. She refused and was charged with child abandonment and other crimes, then extradited to Idaho.

In the weeks since, the Idaho attorney general's office took over the investigation into Tammy Daybell's death, while Lori Daybell has tried and failed to get her bond lowered.

And Tylee's and JJ's relatives are still waiting for answers. They watched JJ's birthday arrive in late May. "Our feelings of extreme anguish and despondency were prevalent throughout the period approaching JJ's 8th birthday," Kay Woodcock wrote in a Facebook post. "Our Rexburg family hosted a poignant vigil on Monday 5/25 in honor of our little man ... We are comforted knowing their commitment is as strong as ours."

Were they worth it?: Key protest movements over the decades

By TAMER FAKAHANY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The protests that left much of the world in a haze of tear gas last year were slowed by a pandemic — until the death of George Floyd sparked a global uprising against police brutality and racial inequality.

From Hong Kong to Khartoum, Baghdad to Beirut, Gaza to Paris and Caracas to Santiago, people took to the streets in 2019 for the pursuits of freedom, sovereignty or simply a life less shackled by hardship while few prospered. It seemed as if the streets were agitated everywhere but the United States.

Now, after the death of Floyd, a black man in Minneapolis who died in police custody when a white officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes, protests rage around the globe.

Police or military brutality and racism are universal dynamics that are experienced in many societies.

The very nature of a protest suggests a fervent desire for change, the need to right a perceived historic injustice. It's a means to an end. But to what end? Depending on the government the activists are demanding change from, the results can be varied.

Demonstrations were held last week in solidarity with American protesters, but Floyd's death also had resonance and reverberations far beyond U.S. shores because of those lives lost closer to home in similar circumstances.

As the coronavirus crisis eased in China, protesters in Hong Kong, the semi-autonomous territory, began to emerge again. And Beijing moved swiftly to quash the movement that caused unrest for months last year, enacting a national security law that would effectively end the existence of one country, two systems.

A democratic government that is amenable to the changes may enact legislation, or a change of leadership can be forced at the ballot box.

An authoritarian regime, however, does not often bend. Protesting against a dictatorship can be a life-or-death struggle which may even require activists to make a deal with the country's military. Confronting tyranny can also backfire, the result a more dictatorial leader or a ruinous civil war.

Here's a look at some of the key protests of recent decades and what they achieved or failed.

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS

The protests that erupted across a scarred U.S. landscape last week had the unusual characteristic of being largely leaderless and are still evolving, though the Black Lives Matter movement was focal. During the critical era of the 1950s and '60s, Martin Luther King Jr., who led the 250,000 strong March on Washington in 1963, and Malcolm X were colossal 20th century figures, representing two different tracks: mass non-violent protest and getting favorable outcomes "by any means necessary." The Civil Rights Acts, initiated by the Kennedy administration, and Voting Rights Act were passed by the Johnson administration, which was sympathetic to tackling endemic racism in the nation. These were key inflection points. But social injustice and the Vietnam War continued to dominate the American decade and beyond, reaching a crescendo of civil unrest in 1968 which has been echoed in 2020.

Democrats in Congress are proposing an overhaul of police procedures and accountability, but like so much in Washington this has been snagged by partisanship. Key Democrats, including presumptive

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presidential nominee Joe Biden, are also distancing themselves from liberal calls to “defund the police” as President Donald Trump and his Republican allies blast the proposal.

THE IRON CURTAIN FALLS

Revolution was in the air in Eastern Europe in 1989, powered by a flowering of civil resistance to overthrow Communist rule. One-by-one, countries fell in a reverse-domino effect — Washington had always been concerned about the dominoes falling in the Soviet Union’s favor. The final Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, laid the groundwork for this tectonic shift. The Berlin Wall fell and one-party rule was swept aside in East Germany, Poland and other states once cast as being behind the Iron Curtain, mostly bloodlessly — the exception being in Romania where the tyranny of Nicolae Ceausescu and his family was ended by a firing squad on Christmas Day. This period also included a “Velvet Revolution” in Czechoslovakia, which was the historical antidote to the Prague Spring, a period of liberalization in embracing “communism with a human face” that was ruthlessly crushed by more than half a million Soviet-led Warsaw Pact troops in 1968.

THE ARAB SPRING AND THE CURRENT REDUX

It was two decades before the world witnessed another wave of protests consume an entire region. This one was the first to be captured on a new digital platform, social media. After decades of dictatorship and kleptocracy, the Arab World became intoxicated by the heady mix of possibility and immediacy. And rulers did fall: in Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia in 2011. But only the latter transitioned to a democratic next chapter.

Egypt now lives under even more authoritarian rule, where all dissent is extinguished and thousands languish in prison. Yemen and Libya have been torn to shreds by conflict and humanitarian catastrophe. Syria exploded quickly from an uprising against the Assad dynasty to ruinous civil war which still continues with more than half million dead and millions displaced.

In neighboring Lebanon and in Iraq, civil protests erupted last October against ruling elites. Lebanon is suffering a confluence of crises as it lurches on the cusp of national bankruptcy. In Iraq, too, where protesters had been killed in scores, the health care system is not equipped to deal with COVID-19 and the loss of oil revenue is hitting hard. Protests seem likely to reignite in both places.

THE SPIRIT OF 2019 AND 2020

Sudan captured much of what civil disobedience and protest can achieve — as well its painful cost with many killed and systemic rapes — as the fragile transition to a new era continues. The protest movement succeeded in ousting a longtime military strongman who faces genocide and war crimes charges. President Omar al-Bashir was toppled in April 2019, forcing the creation of a joint civilian-military ruling “sovereign council.” But the civilians are struggling to assert authority in the face of the military’s power.

Hong Kong’s protests, which began one year ago this week, seemed to embody all the facets of democratic aspiration: But the clear intent of President of Xi Jinping and the overwhelming might of China’s People’s Liberation Army makes it ever more likely that the territory will be under Beijing rule much sooner than 2047 as agreed upon. The landmark 1997 agreement in which the British colony was formally handed over to China, had stipulated things would remain unchanged for 50 years.

Tamer Fakahany is AP’s deputy director for global news coordination and has helped direct international coverage for the AP for 17 years. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/tamerfakahany>.

Heat, rain, long lines: Georgia election plagued by problems

By STEVE PEOPLES, BEN NADLER and SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Voters endured heat, pouring rain and waits as long as five hours on Tuesday to cast ballots in Georgia, demonstrating a fierce desire to participate in the democratic process while raising questions about the emerging battleground state’s ability to manage elections in November when the White House is at stake.

“It’s really disheartening to see a line like this in an area with predominantly black residents,” said Be-nayah Shaw, a 25-year-old African American, as he cast a ballot in Atlanta.

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A confluence of events disrupted primary elections for president, U.S. Senate and dozens of other contests. There were problems with Georgia's new voting machines, which combine touchscreens with scanned paper ballots. The polls were staffed by fewer workers because of coronavirus concerns. A reduced workforce contributed to officials consolidating polling places, which disproportionately affected neighborhoods with high concentrations of people of color. Long lines were also reported in whiter suburban areas.

Some voters said they requested mail-in ballots that never arrived, forcing them to go to polling places and adding to the lines. Turnout, meanwhile, may be higher than expected as voters said they were determined to exercise their constitutional right after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the ensuing demonstrations that swept cities including Atlanta.

"Too many people died for me to have this opportunity," said Stephanie Bush, a 49-year-old black independent voter in Atlanta. "So for me not to stick it out would be a dishonor to them."

Former Vice President Joe Biden easily won the state's Democratic presidential primary. He was facing no real opposition but hoped to post a strong showing among Georgia's diverse electorate to show his strength heading into the general election.

But the developments were troubling heading into the fall presidential campaign, which will attract even more voters. Biden and President Donald Trump are expected to fiercely compete in this rapidly changing state. That leaves officials, who have already been criticized for attempting to suppress the vote, with less than five months to turn things around.

Republican leaders blamed the meltdowns on officials in Fulton and DeKalb counties, which are Democratic strongholds with significant black populations.

"When these things arise, and it's really specifically in one or two counties ... it leads us back to the failure of the management of the county election directors in those counties," Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger told The Associated Press. "It has nothing to do with what we're doing in the rest of Georgia."

Republican House Speaker David Ralston directed leaders of the House Governmental Affairs Committee to investigate the "unacceptable deficiencies" across the state, particularly in Fulton County.

Voters leaving one Fulton County polling place offered words of encouragement to the many people waiting in line well past the already-extended poll closing time of 9 p.m. "Let's vote this guy out of office," one said, a reference to Trump.

Volunteers handed out bags of popcorn, chips and candy. People in line smoked cigarettes and cursed the wait. Some said they'd tried to vote earlier in the day but left because the line wrapped around the block.

Democrats insisted the issues were more widespread. About 250 miles (400 kilometers) from Atlanta, Savannah Mayor Van Johnson said he was "inundated" with phone calls from voters reporting "extensive delays."

The Trump campaign seized on the problems to amplify the president's broader opposition to expanded mail voting this fall.

"The chaos in Georgia is a direct result of the reduction in the number of in-person polling places and over reliance on mail-in voting," said Trump campaign senior counsel Justin Clark. "We have a duty to protect the constitutional rights of all of our citizens to vote in person and to have their votes counted."

The Biden campaign called the voting problems in Georgia "completely unacceptable" and a threat to free and fair elections.

"We only have a few months left until voters around the nation head to the polls again, and efforts should begin immediately to ensure that every Georgian -- and every American -- is able to safely exercise their right to vote," said Rachana Desai Martin, the campaign's national director for voter protection and senior counsel.

Americans also voted in primaries in West Virginia, South Carolina and Nevada. Long lines also plagued voting in Las Vegas, where voters told the AP that they been waiting four and five hours in some cases even as state election officials suggested wait times reached three hours only in one location.

But the tumult in Georgia garnered much of the attention, reinforcing concerns about managing elec-

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tions amid the coronavirus.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said voters in line at one of Atlanta's largest precincts reported all the machines were down. She encouraged voters not to give up.

"If you are in line, PLEASE do not allow your vote to be suppressed," the Democratic mayor tweeted.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said he wasn't surprised that Georgia had voting problems given that the state's elections chief is a Republican. He noted that GOP Gov. Brian Kemp faced allegations of suppressing votes when he oversaw the 2018 elections as secretary of state.

"Republicans want to ensure that it is as hard as possible for people to vote," Perez said.

Kemp was largely silent about the voting problems on Tuesday, aside from retweeting a message from his wife urging people to vote.

Georgia hasn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since 1992, but the state is being closely watched by Trump and Biden. The former vice president, in particular, hopes to emerge as the prime beneficiary of energy from the African American community and its white allies, who have held massive protests for more than a week.

His path to the presidency was already focused on maximizing black turnout and expanding his alliance with white suburbanites and city dwellers, young voters, Asian Americans and Latinos. Trump, meanwhile, hoped to demonstrate strength among his base of white voters in small towns while holding his own in metro areas.

Trump, meanwhile, has virtually no path to reelection without victory in Georgia.

A nearly four-hour wait outside an Atlanta polling site shook Ross Wakefield's faith in the upcoming elections and people's ability to participate.

"It doesn't give me a lot of confidence in the future," said Wakefield, a 28-year-old white software engineer. "Personally, I feel like we're struggling as a country right now to hear people who really need to be heard, and this does not give me a lot of confidence that we're doing that."

Peoples reported from Montclair, N.J. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow, Janelle Cogan and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta and Michelle Price in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

Human remains found at property of man tied to missing kids

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Authorities said they uncovered human remains at an Idaho man's home Tuesday as they investigated the disappearance of his new wife's two children — a case that's drawn global attention for its ties to two other mysterious deaths and the couple's doomsday beliefs.

Chad Daybell, who married the children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, was arrested on suspicion of concealing or destroying evidence after local and federal investigators searched his property, according to the Fremont County Sheriff's Office. He has not yet been formally charged, and his attorney, Mark Means, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Joshua "JJ" Vallow, who was 7 when he vanished, and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan haven't been seen since September, and police say Chad and Lori Daybell lied to investigators about the children's whereabouts before quietly leaving Idaho. They were found in Hawaii months later. Besides the missing children, the couple has been under scrutiny following the deaths of both of their former spouses.

Police from the small town of Rexburg, the FBI and sheriff's investigators searched Chad Daybell's home in the eastern Idaho town of Salem for the second time, bringing in backhoes and setting up tents in a nearby field. The search warrant is sealed, and Rexburg Assistant Police Chief Gary Hagan said he couldn't reveal details other than the search is linked to the children's disappearance.

"Throughout the investigation, detectives and investigators have recovered what's believed to be human remains that have not been identified at this time," Hagan said in a news conference.

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Lori Daybell has been charged with child abandonment and obstructing the investigation and is in jail on \$1 million bond. She's pleaded not guilty. The Idaho attorney general's office has said it was investigating Chad Daybell in the death of his first wife, Tammy Daybell.

The complicated case began last summer, when Lori Daybell's brother shot and killed her estranged husband, Charles Vallow, in Phoenix. Her brother, Alex Cox, said the shooting was in self-defense. Charles Vallow had filed for divorce, claiming Lori believed she had become a god-like figure who was responsible for ushering in the biblical end times. Cox died in December of an apparent blood clot in his lung.

Shortly after Charles Vallow's death, Lori and her children moved to Idaho, where Chad Daybell lived. He ran a small publishing company, where he published many of his own fiction books that centered on apocalyptic scenarios loosely based on Mormon theology. He also participated in podcasts about preparing for biblical end times, and friends said he claimed to be able to receive visions from "beyond the veil."

Tylee was last seen in September headed into Yellowstone National Park with her mom and other family for a day trip, and JJ was last seen by school officials several days later.

Police began investigating the children's whereabouts after relatives raised concerns. Investigators have said both Chad and Lori Daybell claimed the children were staying with friends.

Tammy Daybell died in her sleep last October of what her obituary said were natural causes. Authorities grew suspicious when Chad Daybell married Lori just two weeks later, and they had Tammy Daybell's body exhumed in December. The results of that autopsy have not been released.

Law enforcement officers searched Chad Daybell's home initially on Jan. 3 in connection with his first wife's death, removing more than 40 items including several pieces of computer equipment.

A few days later, JJ's grandparents, Larry and Kay Woodcock, announced a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the kids. They later asked a judge to give them custody of JJ, who was still missing. And they have pushed to keep a spotlight on the search, posting billboards and updating social media on the case.

The children were still nowhere to be found when JJ's birthday arrived in late May.

"Our feelings of extreme anguish and despondency were prevalent throughout the period approaching JJ's 8th birthday," Kay Woodcock wrote in a Facebook post. "Our Rexburg family hosted a poignant vigil on Monday 5/25 in honor of our little man. ... We are comforted knowing their commitment is as strong as ours."

Their attorney in the custody case didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

4 'Vanderpump' regulars ousted over slurs, racial profiling

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Four cast members are not returning for another season of Bravo's "Vanderpump Rules" — two over their racist social media posts, and the others after they racially profiled a coworker.

Bravo released a statement Tuesday confirming that Stassi Schroeder, Kristen Doute, Max Boyens and Brett Caprioni would not return to the reality series, which will air its final episode of season eight next week.

The show follows the personal lives of current and former employees of former "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star Lisa Vanderpump's Los Angeles restaurants.

It was revealed last week on a podcast that Schroeder and Doute had reported a former African American coworker, Faith Stowers, for a crime she had nothing to do with. Stowers appeared on two seasons of "Vanderpump."

Boyens and Caprioni were let go over past tweets that contained racial slurs.

Schroeder and Doute, who have been main cast members on the show since its 2013 debut, have apologized on social media. Boyens and Caprioni, who are new to the series, apologized on last week's reunion episode of "Vanderpump Rules."

Vanderpump appeared on nine seasons of "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" and left that series last year.

'He is going to change the world': Funeral held for Floyd

By **JUAN A. LOZANO, NOMAAN MERCHANT and ADAM GELLER Associated Press**

HOUSTON (AP) — George Floyd was fondly remembered Tuesday as "Big Floyd" — a father and brother, athlete and neighborhood mentor, and now a catalyst for change — at a funeral for the black man whose death has sparked a global reckoning over police brutality and racial prejudice.

More than 500 mourners wearing masks against the coronavirus packed a Houston church a little more than two weeks after Floyd was pinned to the pavement by a white Minneapolis police officer who put a knee on his neck for what prosecutors said was 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

Cellphone video of the encounter, including Floyd's pleas of "I can't breathe," ignited protests and scattered violence across the U.S. and around the world, turning the 46-year-old Floyd — a man who in life was little known beyond the public housing project where he was raised in Houston's Third Ward — into a worldwide symbol of injustice.

"Third Ward, Cuney Homes, that's where he was born at," Floyd's brother, Rodney, told mourners at the Fountain of Praise church. "But everybody is going to remember him around the world. He is going to change the world."

The funeral capped six days of mourning for Floyd in three cities: Raeford, North Carolina, near where he was born; Houston, where he grew up; and Minneapolis, where he died. The memorials have drawn the families of other black victims whose names have become familiar in the debate over race and justice — among them, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

After the service, Floyd's golden casket was taken by hearse to the cemetery in the Houston suburb of Pearland to be entombed next to his mother, for whom he cried out as he lay dying. A mile from the graveyard, the casket was transferred to a glass-sided carriage drawn by a pair of white horses. A brass band played as his casket was taken inside the mausoleum.

Hundreds of people, some chanting, "Say his name, George Floyd," gathered along the procession route and outside the cemetery entrance in the mid-90s heat.

"I don't want to see any black man, any man, but most definitely not a black man sitting on the ground in the hands of bad police," said Marcus Brooks, 47, who set up a tent with other graduates of Jack Yates High School, Floyd's alma mater.

In the past two weeks, amid the furor over Floyd's death, sweeping and previously unthinkable things have taken place: Confederate statues have been toppled, and many cities are debating overhauling, dismantling or cutting funding for police departments. Authorities in some places have barred police from using chokeholds or are otherwise rethinking policies on the use of force.

Dozens of Floyd's family members, most dressed in white, took part in the four-hour service. Grammy-winning singer Ne-Yo was among those who sang.

The mourners included actors Jamie Foxx and Channing Tatum, J.J. Watt of the NFL's Houston Texans, rapper Trae tha Truth, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who brought the crowd to its feet when he announced he will sign an executive order banning chokeholds in the city.

"I know you have a lot of questions that no child should have to ask, questions that too many black children have had to ask for generations: Why? Why is Daddy gone?" former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, said, addressing Floyd's 6-year-old daughter in a video eulogy played at the service. "Now is the time for racial justice. That's the answer we must give to our children when they ask why."

Biden made no mention of his opponent in November. But other speakers took swipes at President Donald Trump, who has ignored demands to address racial bias and has called on authorities to crack down hard on lawlessness.

"The president talks about bringing in the military, but he did not say one word about 8 minutes and 46 seconds of police murder of George Floyd," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, the civil rights activist. "He challenged China on human rights. But what about the human right of George Floyd?"

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Most of the pews were full, with relatively little space between people.

"So much for social distancing today," the Rev. Remus Wright told mourners, gently but firmly instructing those attending to wear face masks.

Texas has no limit on how many people can gather in places of worship during the pandemic, though Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has encouraged churches to follow federal health guidelines.

Although the church service was private, at least 50 people gathered outside to pay their respects.

"There's a real big change going on, and everybody, especially black, right now should be a part of that," said Kersey Biagase, who traveled more than three hours from Port Barre, Louisiana, with his girlfriend, Brandy Pickney. They wore T-shirts printed with Floyd's name and "I Can't Breathe."

Floyd served nearly five years in prison for robbery with a deadly weapon before becoming a mentor and a church outreach volunteer in Houston. He moved to Minnesota several years ago through a program that tried to change men's lives by helping them find work in new settings.

At the time of his death, Floyd was out of work as a bouncer at a Minneapolis club that had closed because of the coronavirus outbreak. He was seized by police after being accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store.

Four Minneapolis officers were arrested in his death: Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with second-degree murder. J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao were charged with aiding and abetting. All four could get up to 40 years in prison.

Some of the mostly peaceful demonstrations that erupted after Floyd's death were marked by bursts of arson, assaults, vandalism and smash-and-grab raids on businesses, with more than 10,000 people arrested. But protests in recent days have been overwhelmingly peaceful.

The spelling of Brandy Pickney's first name has been corrected.

Feds seek \$225M fine for pair who made a billion robocalls

By TALI ARBEL AP Technology Writer

The U.S. communications regulator on Tuesday proposed a \$225 million fine, its largest ever, against two health insurance telemarketers for spamming people with 1 billion robocalls using fake phone numbers.

The Federal Communications Commission said John Spiller and Jakob Mears made the calls through two businesses. State attorneys general of Arkansas, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas also sued the two men and their companies, Rising Eagle and JSquared Telecom, in federal court in Texas, where both men live, for violating the federal law governing telemarketing, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

The FCC said the robocalls offered plans from major insurers like Aetna and UnitedHealth with an automated message. If consumers pressed a button for more information, however, they were transferred to a call center that sold plans not connected to those companies. The FCC said the Missouri attorney general sued Rising Eagle's largest client, Health Advisors of America, for telemarketing violations last year.

Over more than four months in early 2019, the FCC said, these telemarketers faked the number their calls displayed in caller ID with intent to deceive consumers; purposefully called people who are on the Do Not Call list; and called people's mobile phones without getting permission first.

Consumers weren't the only ones bothered. The telemarketers faked their calls to make them appear they came from other companies, which then received angry calls and were named in lawsuits from consumers. The FCC didn't name these companies, but said one got so many calls that its phone network "became unusable."

The fine is not a final decision. Spiller and Mears will have a chance to respond.

As robocalls became a pressing issue for consumers, both as an annoyance and as a vehicle for fraud, the FCC has pushed carriers to do more to stop them. A new law beefs up enforcement and mandates that the phone industry not charge for call-blocking tools and put in place a system designed to weed out "spoofed" calls made using fake numbers.

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Reached by phone at the number listed for JSquared, Spiller declined to comment. He declined to provide contact information for Mears and said neither would speak before talking to an attorney.

'Cops,' on air for 33 seasons, dropped by Paramount Network

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After 33 seasons on the air, "Cops" has been dropped by the Paramount Network as protests against police proliferate around the world.

"Cops is not on the Paramount Network and we don't have any current or future plans for it to return," a spokesperson for the cable channel said in a statement Tuesday.

The show had been pulled temporarily from the air in late May, when protests aimed at police over the death of George Floyd began to gain momentum. That move was made permanent Tuesday.

It's not clear whether the company that makes the show, Langley Productions, would try to find a new home for it. A voicemail at a company phone number was not accepting messages.

The reality show, with its widely known reggae theme song "Bad Boys," allowed viewers to ride along with police officers on patrol in various cities.

It ran on the Fox network for 25 years until 2013, when Viacom-owned Spike TV picked it up. The show remained on the air after Spike was re-branded as the Paramount Network in 2018.

New York passes bill to unveil police discipline records

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE, MICHAEL R. SISAK and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York state lawmakers repealed a decades-old law Tuesday that has kept law enforcement officers' disciplinary records secret, spurred by the national uproar over the death of George Floyd.

The measure to make officers' records and misconduct complaints public is among several police accountability bills racing through the state legislature. Lawmakers passed other bills that would provide all state troopers with body cameras and ensure that police officers provide medical and mental health attention to people in custody.

Many of those bills were first proposed years ago, but got new momentum after huge protests nationwide condemned police brutality.

The passage came as criminal charges were brought Tuesday against an NYPD officer over his rough treatment of a protester during demonstrations following the death of Floyd, who pleaded he couldn't breathe as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck May 25.

Eliminating the law, known as Section 50-a, would make complaints against officers, as well as transcripts and final dispositions of disciplinary proceedings, public for the first time in decades.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has recently supported reforming the law, has said in the wake of the protests that he will sign the repeal. Only Delaware has a similar law.

Momentum for ending the secrecy law reached a crescendo in recent days as marchers filled streets in Brooklyn, Manhattan and elsewhere to rally against police abuses — amplifying the calls of reform advocates who spent years pushing for change in the wake of other high-profile police killings, including that of Eric Garner in 2014.

"This is no time for rejoicing," said State Senator Kevin Parker, a Democrat representing parts of Brooklyn. "This bill has been around for over a decade ... And the only reason why we're bringing it to the floor now because the nation is burning."

Several family members of New Yorkers killed by police officers gathered at New York City Hall Tuesday to call for the defunding of police and repealing 50-a, which state courts have cited in decisions to withhold officers' personnel records.

"We are tearing down the wall of secrecy that has been shielding officers across the state," said Constance Malcolm, mother of the late Ramarley Graham, who was unarmed when he was shot to death by a white NYPD officer in the bathroom of his apartment in 2012.

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The state Senate and Assembly passed the 50-a repeal largely along party lines, as Republicans argued the law would allow the release of unsubstantiated or false complaints against officers.

But one of the bill's sponsors, Sen. Jamaal Bailey, a Bronx Democrat, said the public has a right to view complaints: "Sometimes unsubstantiated complaints happen because people don't want to follow up."

The legislature on Monday passed other police accountability measures, banning police from using chokeholds, guaranteeing the right to record police activity and making it easier to file lawsuits against people making race-based 911 calls.

As lawmakers acted on accountability legislation, NYPD Officer Vincent D'Andraia was being arraigned on assault and other charges days after a bystander recorded him pushing protester Dounya Zayer, causing her to hit her head on the pavement.

D'Andraia was released after his lawyer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf. The officer was ordered to stay away from Zayer who was hospitalized after the May 29 altercation with what she said were a concussion and a seizure.

"Dounya was assaulted for the very reason she was protesting, and that's police brutality," said Zayer's attorney, Tahanie Aboushi, adding that D'Andraia's supervisor should face punishment beyond an announced reassignment.

"If not for this being on video it would have been business as usual for the NYPD," Aboushi said.

In a statement announcing the charges, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said he was "deeply troubled by this unnecessary assault." Zayer, 20, called D'Andraia a coward and suggested the assault would only deepen mistrust of law enforcement.

"I was protesting for a reason," Zayer said in a video tweeted from her hospital bed. The officer, she added, "should have had the self restraint to not hurt the people he's supposed to be protecting."

The police department suspended D'Andraia, 28, last week without pay. His lawyer, Stephen Worth, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. If convicted, he could face a year behind bars, but first-time offenders rarely see any jail time.

D'Andraia is the first New York City police officer to face criminal charges over alleged misconduct exhibited during days of unrest that roiled the city in the wake of Floyd's death in Minneapolis. Two Buffalo officers were charged with assault last week after they were seen on video shoving a 75-year-old protester to the ground.

D'Andraia's union said de Blasio and police leaders were "sacrificing cops to save their own skin" by sending officers out to protests with "no support and no clear plan."

"They should be the ones facing this mob-rule justice," Police Benevolent Association president Pat Lynch said. "We will say it again: New York City police officers have been abandoned by our leadership. We are utterly alone in our efforts to protect our city."

This story has been corrected to show the bill was passed Tuesday, not Monday.

Movie theaters, shuttered for months, plan July reopening

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After three months of near total blackout of cinemas nationwide, movie theaters are preparing to reopen — even if it means only a few titles on the marquee and showings limited to as little as 25% capacity.

AMC Theaters, the world's largest theater operator, said Tuesday that it expects to have 97-98% of its theaters worldwide reopened by mid-July. The National Association of Theater Owners, the trade group that represents exhibitors, expects some 90-95% of cinemas around the world will be opened by mid-July.

A lot is still "fluid," as AMC Entertainment's chief executive, Adam Aron, said in a call Tuesday with investors. But provided flare ups of the coronavirus don't unmake plans, the industry is gearing up for a dramatic resumption of widespread business just in time for Christopher Nolan's "Tenet." The Warner Bros. thriller, the latest from arguably Hollywood's most passionate defender of the big-screen experience, is slated for

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release July 17.

Warner Bros. didn't comment late Tuesday, and the most recent trailer for "Tenet" was notably vague on its release date. But theater owners are cautiously optimistic that "Tenet" will hold where it is. Aron said that AMC's conversations as recent as Monday with Warner Bros. and Disney, which has "Mulan" slated for July 24, have been reassuring.

The larger question might be whether moviegoers feel safe returning to theaters. Health officials have warned that large indoor gatherings are risky. Broadway theaters will remain dark through at least early September. It will be up to movie theater operators to convince moviegoers that it's safe to once again sit in the dark among strangers.

Only recently have state guidelines allowed the reopening of theaters in California (including in the country's top market, Los Angeles, where local officials have yet to agree). In New York City, open cinemas come in phase four of its reopening schedule; it began phase one only on Monday. Aron granted New York theaters, which constitute the second largest market, may not open in time for "Tenet."

Theaters have slowly been reopening in other areas of the country, while a renaissance of drive-ins has flourished. Cinemark, which operates about 6,000 U.S. screens has said it will begin reopening in late June and fully reopen by July 10. Cineworld, which owns Regal Cinemas, the world's second-largest chain, is also tracking for a July reopening.

But AMC's announcement Tuesday signaled the most ambitious and widespread plan for a resumption of business.

"After a period of time where billions of people have endured confinement and limited social interaction, we believe that there will be a significant pent-up demand to get back out in the world," said Aron. "Having said that, we're under no illusions. The waters will be choppy. There may be unforeseen tosses and turns to be navigated through. And full recovery may take quite a while."

AMC, like other chains, expects to limit audience sizes to facilitate social distancing, including keeping cinemas 25-50% full and blocking out seats. Cinemas will be regularly cleaned. Ordering concessions will be possible from an app. As a kind of test case, AMC has already opened 10 theaters in Europe. Three theaters in Norway sold 83% of available tickets, said Aron.

Although 25% capacity may sound like an untenable business model, Aron said movie theaters are usually part-empty, calling them — unlike typically sold-out Broadway theaters — "a church built for Easter Sunday." He was optimistic box-office returns wouldn't be badly jeopardized, especially since 12-20 screen multiplexes will likely be showing only a handful of films. With so many working from home due to the pandemic, moviegoing may also not be as focused on Friday and Saturday.

Before "Tenet" arrives, theaters will play — just as those that are currently open are showing — recent and classic catalog offerings. The Russell Crowe thriller "Unhinged," from Solstice Studios, is also set for July 1. Shortly after AMC's announcement, Sony Pictures said it will roll out the romantic comedy "The Broken Hearts Gallery" on July 10, only in theaters.

"We have faith in a theatrical rebound, and we look forward to being there right out of the gate with our exhibition partners' anticipated reemergence, as — and when — state-by-state safety guidelines are met," said Josh Greenstein, president of Sony's Motion Picture Group.

The prolonged closure has had a crushing effect on theater chains, forcing the furloughing and firing of tens of thousands of workers. Rumors of bankruptcy have swirled around AMC. On Tuesday, it said it lost \$2.18 billion in the second quarter. Ticket sales have overall been on a slow decline. Aron acknowledged some cinemas will stay shut.

Though a handful of movies have been steered to streaming or on-demand platforms during the pandemic, most studio films have been postponed until theaters reopen. Universal Pictures has moved more aggressively to put digitally distribute some of its films, drawing the fury of theater owners. AMC, which previously said it would cease playing Universal releases, said Tuesday that it remains in "active negotiations" with the studio but that no Universal movies "are currently on our docket."

Officials back off removing temporary fencing at White House

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

The Trump administration appears to be retreating from its commitment to quickly remove most of a new fence blocking demonstrators and other members of the public from in front of the White House.

Instead, National Park Service spokeswoman Katie Liming says only that her agency is in "continuing discussions" with the Secret Service about what Liming called the temporary security fencing at the front of the White House.

Officials abruptly erected the high, black metal fence last week to block demonstrators from Lafayette Square outside the White House. That was as massive crowds rallied in Washington and around the country to protest the killing of George Floyd in police custody, and other deaths of African Americans at the hands of police.

Members of the park service's U.S. Park Police and other security forces lobbed chemical agents and punched and clubbed demonstrators and journalists in clearing Lafayette Square near the White House on June 1, just before crews raised the new fence. Trump administration officials have denied federal forces at the time of the forceful removal of crowds were making way for President Donald Trump to stage photos nearby.

Lafayette Square has historically been one of the country's most prominent spots for demonstrations and other public advocacy,

Liming had said at the start of this week that officials would remove "most" of the fence at Lafayette Square on Wednesday.

Liming in her latest update, however, said only that fencing elsewhere, on the south side of the White House, would be removed "on or about" Wednesday.

She did not immediately respond to a question about why the Park Service now appeared to be moving away from its commitment to take down most of the Lafayette Square fence Wednesday.

Separately, three Democratic lawmakers asked federal watchdogs to investigate whether the Park Police broke any laws in routing demonstrators from the square.

The request was made in a letter, released Tuesday, to the Interior Department inspector general, Mark Lee Greenblatt, whose department oversees the National Park Service. Officials were in the early stages of reviewing the request, IG spokeswoman Nancy DiPaolo said.

The request for an investigation was made by Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raul Grijalva of Arizona, and Committee Vice Chair Rep. Debra Haaland of New Mexico.

"The First Amendment rights to free speech, peaceful assembly, and free press are the building blocks of all other rights," the three lawmakers said. "Any actions by the Park Police to muzzle these rights is an affront to all Americans and should be swiftly addressed."

A force of several hundred officers, the Park Police are charged with law enforcement at Lafayette Square, the Statue of Liberty in New York, and a small number of other heavily visited federal sites.

An Interior Department spokesman, Conner Swanson, called the lawmakers' accusations "an insult to the fine men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our citizens and defend America's national treasures."

"The suggestion that the United States Park Police would 'muzzle' Americans' rights is outrageous," Swanson said.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt told Grijalva in a letter last week that the Park Police had been in a "state of siege" from violent attacks in the square.

Democratic lawmakers say witness and journalist accounts and photos and videos made public so far don't support allegations of that scale of protester violence.

The three lawmakers' letter, sent Monday, asks Interior's internal watchdog whether the force used by Park Police was lawful and in line with rules, policies and training standards for the force.

Lawmakers also asked the investigators to determine who was giving orders to the Interior Department

in the square's clearing.

IBM quits facial recognition, joins call for police reforms

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

IBM is getting out of the facial recognition business, saying it's concerned about how the technology can be used for mass surveillance and racial profiling.

Ongoing protests responding to the death of George Floyd have sparked a broader reckoning over racial injustice and a closer look at the use of police technology to track demonstrators and monitor American neighborhoods.

IBM is one of several big tech firms that had earlier sought to improve the accuracy of their face-scanning software after research found racial and gender disparities. But its new CEO is now questioning whether it should be used by police at all.

"We believe now is the time to begin a national dialogue on whether and how facial recognition technology should be employed by domestic law enforcement agencies," wrote CEO Arvind Krishna in a letter sent Monday to U.S. lawmakers.

IBM's decision to stop building and selling facial recognition software is unlikely to affect its bottom line, since the tech giant is increasingly focused on cloud computing while an array of lesser-known firms have cornered the market for government facial recognition contracts.

"But the symbolic nature of this is important," said Mutale Nkonde, a research fellow at Harvard and Stanford universities who directs the nonprofit AI For the People.

Nkonde said IBM shutting down a business "under the guise of advancing anti-racist business practices" shows that it can be done and makes it "socially unacceptable for companies who tweet Black Lives Matter to do so while contracting with the police."

Krishna's letter was addressed to a group of Democrats who have been working on police reform legislation in Congress fueled by the mass protests over Floyd's death. The sweeping reform package could include restrictions on police use of facial recognition.

The practice of using a form of artificial intelligence to identify individuals in photo databases or video feeds has come under heightened scrutiny after researchers found racial and gender disparities in systems built by companies including IBM, Microsoft and Amazon.

IBM had previously tested its facial recognition software with the New York Police Department, although the department has more recently used other vendors. It's not clear if IBM has existing contracts with other government agencies.

Many U.S. law enforcement agencies rely on facial recognition software built by companies less well known to the public, such as Tokyo-based NEC or the European companies Idemia and Cognitec, according to Clare Garvie, a researcher at Georgetown University's Center on Privacy and Technology.

A smaller number have partnered with Amazon, which has attracted the most opposition from privacy advocates since it introduced its Rekognition software in 2016.

Krishna's letter called for police reforms and noted that "IBM firmly opposes and will not condone uses of any technology, including facial recognition technology offered by other vendors, for mass surveillance, racial profiling" and human rights violations.

Civil liberties advocates have raised concerns in recent weeks about the use of surveillance technology to monitor protesters or to enforce rules set to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

Even before the protests, U.S. senators this year had been scrutinizing New York facial recognition startup Clearview AI following investigative reports about its practice of harvesting billions of photos from social media and other internet services to identify people.

Joy Buolamwini, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology whose research on facial recognition bias helped spur IBM's re-examination of the technology, said Tuesday she commends the congressional police reform package for seeking restrictions on the use of police body cameras to scan people's faces in real time.

But she said lawmakers can go further to protect people from having governments scan their faces on social media posts or in public spaces without their knowledge.

"Regardless of the accuracy of these systems, mass surveillance enabled by facial recognition can lead to chilling effects and the silencing of dissent," Buolamwini wrote in an email sent from Boston's city hall, where she was testifying in support of a proposed ban on facial recognition use by municipal agencies. San Francisco and several other U.S. cities have enacted similar bans over the past year.

Video evidence increasingly disproves police narratives

By RYAN J. FOLEY Associated Press

Minneapolis police initially told the public that George Floyd died after a "medical incident during a police interaction." The Buffalo, New York, department said a protester "tripped and fell." Philadelphia police alleged that a college student who suffered a serious head wound had assaulted an officer.

All three claims were quickly disproved by videos seen widely on the internet and television, fueling mistrust and embarrassing agencies that made misleading or incomplete statements that painted their actions in a far more favorable light.

Police departments deny lying but acknowledge sometimes making mistakes when releasing information in fast-moving, complicated situations. The videos, they say, do not always capture officers' perspectives.

Defense lawyers say the inaccurate statements are encouraged by a culture of silence in which officers protect misbehaving colleagues, a court system that rarely holds officers accountable and a public that has given police the benefit of the doubt.

Floyd died after a white officer put his knee on his neck, even after Floyd stopped moving. Cellphone video showed him pleading for air as other officers stood by and bystanders urged the police to help him.

The department's initial news release claimed that Floyd "appeared to be suffering medical distress" after he resisted arrest and was handcuffed. The death set off nationwide protests against police brutality and racial injustice.

Minneapolis police spokesman John Elder said Tuesday that he missed initial notifications about Floyd and did not visit the scene, as he usually does after major events. He said he knew the arrest was on body camera video but that he would not be able to review it for several hours. Instead, he released the initial description after being briefed by supervisors, whom he learned later were also not at the scene.

The department realized the statement was inaccurate hours later when the bystander video surfaced, and immediately requested an FBI investigation, he said. By then, the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension had taken over the investigation of Floyd's death, and Elder said he was unable to send out a corrected statement.

"I will never lie to cover up the actions of somebody else," Elder said.

In Buffalo, authorities suspended and charged two officers who were seen last week shoving peace activist Martin Gugino, who fell backward and struck his head on the sidewalk. The charges came only after video captured by a television crew was broadcast. The shove was not mentioned in an initial statement saying that Gugino fell. Police later apologized and said they were "working with incomplete details during what was a very fast-moving and fluid situation."

On Friday, a prosecutor in Philadelphia charged an officer who was seen on video striking a Temple University student in the head and neck with a metal baton.

The 21-year-old protester needed several staples and stitches to close his wound. He was in custody for almost 40 hours on allegations that he assaulted and injured an officer, according to his attorney. The student was released after prosecutors saw the video and decided to pursue the officer who hit him instead.

Those are only the most recent examples. The same phenomenon has rocked other law enforcement agencies, particularly when minorities have been killed in police interactions that are captured by cellphones, surveillance systems or officers' cameras.

In Chicago, authorities initially said the 2014 shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald was justified because the teen was approaching officers with a knife. But more than a year later, video was released showing that McDonald was veering away when he was shot by officer Jason Van Dyke, who was later

convicted of second-degree murder.

When an officer in suburban Dallas shot 15-year-old Jordan Edwards in 2017, his department said Edwards was in a vehicle with other teenagers that backed up toward police "in an aggressive manner." The chief later acknowledged that police video showed the vehicle was moving away from, not toward, officers. The officer who fired into the car was later convicted in Edwards' death.

Civil rights lawyer Michael Avery, who is the board president of the National Police Accountability Project, said false claims by the police had long been known to inner-city communities.

"But what is happening now with video, this is getting out into the larger world, into the media, into white communities, suburban communities, and people outside the affected communities are becoming more aware of what's going on," he said. "It's a completely different situation."

When he started practicing law 50 years ago, Avery said, claims of misconduct were hard to prove because it was often one person's word against "an officer and the officer's buddies."

The habit of police giving false testimony is so widely known in New York that it has long been nicknamed "testilying." Officers are rarely held accountable because they enjoy broad legal protections, and prosecutors almost never charge them with perjury, Avery said.

False public statements made by police departments and their leaders are more of a "political issue" than a legal one, he said.

The availability of video and a fast-moving news cycle accelerated by social media have put extra pressure on police department public information officers.

Having to retract a statement is "very embarrassing to the agency" and causes the community to lose trust, said Leonard Sipes Jr., a retired law enforcement and government spokesman who has written and taught extensively about media relations.

Police representatives should try to watch any video before releasing information to the public and take steps to verify the statements of officers and administrators, he said.

"If they aren't sure as to what transpired, simply say it's under investigation and leave it alone," he said. "It makes no sense to be putting out a story today and two days later having to retract it."

Associated Press writers Amy Forliti in Minneapolis and Claudia Lauer in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

Senate confirms first black service chief in unanimous vote

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday unanimously confirmed Gen. Charles Brown Jr. as chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, making him the first black officer to lead one of the nation's military services.

Vice President Mike Pence took the unusual step of presiding over the vote, something he usually does to break ties. But Brown's confirmation, 98-0, was not close. Pence called the moment "historic."

The vote came as the Trump administration and the mostly white Senate Republican conference grapple with the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis. Protests have convulsed the nation alongside the coronavirus pandemic, with racial discrimination being the common thread between them. The vote in Washington overlapped with Floyd's funeral in Houston.

Brown most recently served as the commander of U.S. Pacific Air Forces. He is a fighter pilot, with more than 2,900 flying hours, including 130 in combat.

He posted a video on social media Friday describing a lifetime of dealing with racial bias and the struggle to fit in to a predominantly white society.

"I'm thinking about my Air Force career where I was often the only African American in my squadron or, as a senior officer, the only African American in the room," he said in a raw tone. "I'm thinking about wearing the same flight suit with the same wings on my chest as my peers and being questioned by another military member: 'Are you a pilot?'"

Brown was commissioned in 1984 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Texas Tech

University.

He has served in a variety of positions at the squadron and wing levels, and commanded a fighter squadron and two fighter wings. He also was an F-16 instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School.

The military, with African Americans making up a little over 17% of its active-duty ranks, is more racially diverse than the country, which is 13% African American, according to 2019 Census estimates. The Army is the most diverse with more than 21% African Americans, while the Marine Corp is the least, with 10%. Blacks make up about 17% of the Navy and less than 15% of the Air Force.

But there is a much greater racial divide within the active-duty military based on rank.

Nineteen percent of active-duty enlisted troops are black, but they make up only 9% of the officer corps. Of those, there are just 71 who are general or flag officers, wearing one to four stars, including only two who have attained the top four-star rank.

Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

Confusion reigns as UN scrambles mask, virus spread advice

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — It's an issue that's been argued about for months, both by experts and by people strolling through parks all over the world: Can people who don't feel sick spread the coronavirus, and if so should we all be wearing masks to stop it?

Even the World Health Organization can't seem to get it straight. On Tuesday the U.N. health agency scrambled to explain seemingly contradictory comments it has made in recent days about the two related issues.

The confusion and mixed messages only makes controlling the pandemic that much more difficult, experts say.

"If you are giving them confusing messages or they're not convinced about why they should do something, like wear masks, they will just ignore you," said Ivo Vlaev, a professor of behavioral sciences at the University of Warwick.

The communications debacle highlighted WHO's change to its longstanding mask advice — a revision that was made months after many other organizations and countries already recommended people don masks.

On Friday, WHO changed its mask advice, recommending that people wear fabric masks if they could not maintain social distancing, if they were over age 60 or had underlying medical conditions. Part of the reasoning, WHO officials said, was to account for the possibility that transmission could occur from people who had the disease but weren't yet symptomatic.

But when Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead on COVID-19 was asked about the frequency of this kind of transmission this week, she said "It still appears to be rare that asymptomatic individuals actually transmit onward."

On Tuesday, Van Kerkhove said she was referring to a few studies, not the complete picture.

Still, many other scientists were stunned by the description of asymptomatic spread as "rare," saying plenty of evidence exists that people can spread the disease before suffering symptoms.

"I was surprised by the conviction of that statement because there have clearly been people who have transmitted the infection before they go on to develop symptoms," said Keith Neal, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Nottingham who has advised the U.K. government on outbreak control.

The details on how well the coronavirus spreads in different circumstances is not well understood, and is still being studied. But here's what scientists say and experts recommend based on what is known:

CAN PEOPLE WHO DON'T FEEL SICK SPREAD THE DISEASE?

We don't know. WHO has maintained for months that the vast majority of COVID-19 spread is from people with symptoms like a fever or cough, and that transmission from people who don't feel sick is not thought to be a major driver of the disease.

At a hastily arranged social media event Tuesday to try to clear up confusion, WHO's emergencies chief,

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Dr. Michael Ryan, said “both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals are part of the transmission cycle” but that it was unclear how much each contributed to disease spread.

DOES WEARING A MASK HELP?

Probably. Wearing a mask might not protect you from getting sick— your eyes are likely still exposed — but health experts think that it may prevent you from spreading the disease unknowingly by acting as a physical barrier.

COVID-19 is spread via respiratory droplets, so wearing a mask will stop those droplets from reaching others. While most spread is thought to happen by coughing and sneezing, Ryan said there is some suggestion that even acts like singing or shouting could spread the virus from people who don’t yet show symptoms.

WHY DON'T WE KNOW FOR SURE?

It’s complicated, especially since the virus was only identified in late December. Some scientists said WHO’s distinction between people who are truly asymptomatic — those who are infected by COVID-19 but never show symptoms — and those who are pre-symptomatic and develop symptoms later — is part of the problem.

While truly asymptomatic people are likely not responsible for significant virus spread, several studies have documented people spreading the disease before they get sick — and some experts say recognizing and stopping this kind of transmission is critical to controlling the pandemic.

Detailed studies and testing of people who test positive for the coronavirus but don’t show symptoms to determine if they spread the disease are needed — and few have been done so far.

WHY CAN'T THE SCIENTISTS AGREE?

Although numerous studies have suggested people can spread the virus before they show symptoms, WHO has largely dismissed those as anecdotal or pointed out that they were based on modelling.

Babak Javid, an infectious diseases doctor at Cambridge University Hospital, says many scientists are persuaded by the studies published so far and think WHO should publish the data it is citing to explain why it believes transmission of the disease in people without symptoms is “rare.”

“If you’re going to make a really important statement like that, it would be good to back it up,” Javid said. “I think WHO is an important organization, but they’ve made a lot of statements that have been misleading.”

WHO’s Ryan said the agency was committed to being honest and transparent and welcomed the scientific debate it has prompted.

Jamey Keaten in Geneva contributed to this report.

Fired Atlanta officers file suit against mayor, police chief

ATLANTA (AP) — Two Atlanta police officers who were fired after video showed them using stun guns on two college students pulled from a car in traffic during a large protest against police brutality are looking to get their jobs back.

Former Investigators Mark Gardner and Ivory Streeter sued Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and Police Chief Erika Shields on Monday.

The lawsuit alleges that the officers were fired in violation of the city’s code, without investigation, proper notice or a pre-disciplinary hearing.

Bottoms and Shields have said they reviewed body camera footage from the May 30 incident and decided to immediately fire the officers and place three others on desk duty. Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard brought criminal charges on June 2 against Gardner, Streeter and four other officers involved in the incident.

Gardner and Streeter are charged with aggravated assault — Gardner for using a Taser against 20-year-old Taniyah Pilgrim and Streeter for using a Taser against 22-year-old Messiah Young — according to warrants.

Pilgrim and Young, who are dating, are students at different historically black colleges near downtown

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Atlanta. Pilgrim was released the night of the incident with no charges. Young was arrested and charged with eluding police, but the mayor has said she ordered the charges dropped.

Shields has since questioned the timing and appropriateness of the charges against the officers.

In their lawsuit, the fired officers seek reinstatement to their jobs, as well as back pay and benefits. The suit states that the officers were denied due process, and that the other officers who "engaged in substantially similar conduct" were not dismissed.

Neither Bottoms nor the police department responded to a request for comment late Monday, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

Lawyers for the college students have said their clients were caught in traffic caused by a protest over the May 25 police custody death of George Floyd in Minnesota. Four Minneapolis officers were arrested in the death of the African American man.

This story has been corrected to show the filing was a lawsuit, not a court order.

What is herd immunity and could it work with COVID-19?

By The Associated Press undefined

What is herd immunity and could it work with COVID-19?

Herd immunity is when a virus can no longer spread easily because enough people are immune to it. That lowers the chances of the virus jumping from person to person and reaching those who haven't been infected yet.

People can become immune to certain viruses after surviving infection or being vaccinated. Typically, at least 70% of a population must be immune to achieve herd immunity. But how long immunity lasts varies depending on the virus, and it's not yet known how long COVID-19 survivors might have that protection.

How easily the virus spreads also plays a key role.

Say, for example, someone who's infected with a particular virus typically transmits it to two others. The chances of that person passing it on to others would be lower if half the population is already immune, said Dr. Walter Orenstein, a vaccine expert at Emory University.

The odds of transmission fall further if even more of the population is immune. That could cause new infections to die out.

But if a virus is more infectious, a higher percentage of people would need to have immunity to stop the spread and achieve herd immunity, Orenstein said.

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

Read previous Viral Questions:

- Will employee temperature checks make workplaces safe?
- How should I clean and store my face mask?

Masks reveal partisan split among lawmakers on coronavirus

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — To the issues creating a partisan divide in state legislatures across the U.S., add this one: masks.

Many Democratic lawmakers are wearing them amid the coronavirus outbreak while many Republicans refuse.

"Public health has become partisan," bemoaned South Carolina state Rep. Kambrell Garvin, a Democrat who recently became ill from COVID-19.

As legislatures around the country resume work following coronavirus suspensions, Democrats and Republicans also have split over social distancing, remote voting and the extension of emergency powers for governors who had ordered businesses to close and residents to remain home.

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Lawmakers have become ill from the coronavirus in nearly half the states, with Democrats accounting for about two-thirds of the 40 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to an Associated Press tally. Three lawmakers died of the virus — a Michigan Democrat in late March and Republicans in Louisiana and South Dakota in early April.

Partisan divisions appear to have grown since then, particularly in the South and Midwest, as some Republicans pushed to reopen the economy faster than some Democrats.

While there have been bipartisan exceptions, mask-wearing divisions among Democrats and Republicans have been evident during recent legislative sessions in Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee.

In Illinois, Republican Rep. Darren Bailey was removed from a convention center functioning as the House floor last month for refusing to wear a mask. His ejection came just moments after the Democratic-led chamber approved a mask mandate with support from some Republicans in a move Bailey considered “a show.”

“The mask is not about health. It’s about more bureaucracy and more government control, of which the liberal Democrat thrives on,” Bailey told the AP.

When Pennsylvania Republican Rep. Andrew Lewis announced through a news release that he had self-isolated and recovered from COVID-19, Democratic colleagues expressed outrage that his diagnosis had been kept secret from them for a week. Democrats demanded changes requiring lawmakers to wear masks in the Republican-controlled legislature, but GOP legislative leaders have not acted on the request.

In Ohio, a Democratic proposal to require masks at House sessions and committee meetings was defeated on a party-line vote last month in the Republican-led chamber. A Republican lawmaker then filed legislation to bar mask requirements statewide unless approved by two-thirds of lawmakers. That measure is pending.

Some trace the partisan divergence on coronavirus precautions to the very top of American politics. Republican President Donald Trump hasn’t publicly worn masks, not even while announcing federal recommendations that Americans wear face coverings in public to help fight the spread of the virus.

“I think that when our president, from a national standpoint, signals that masks aren’t politically expedient, then I think that trickles down to the local and state level,” said Garvin, the South Carolina Democrat who has worn masks both before and after his coronavirus illness.

Several recent studies using polling and smartphone GPS data have shown that Democrats are more apt than Republicans to embrace social distancing in public, wear masks and stay at home because of the coronavirus.

Virus precautions have started to become an ideological means of group identification, similar to partisan divisions over abortion or other hot-button issues, said psychology professor Hank Rothgerber of Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky.

“Democrats now have identified themselves as the party that’s taking this more seriously and is more concerned about public health,” Rothgerber said, “and Republicans are identifying themselves as a party that is focused on opening the economy back up and not overreacting to this crisis.”

When the Missouri House met in early April to pass a coronavirus budget bill, Republican leadership imposed strict social distancing. Lawmakers listened to proceedings over the internet in offices until summoned to the chamber in small groups to vote. Nearly everyone wore masks.

Yet those precautions were abandoned as the House finished its session in May. Lawmakers sat packed together at desks and few Republicans wore masks, though numerous Democrats still did.

Democratic Rep. Joe Runions, who had been out for six weeks with COVID-19, was aghast at what he described as “inconsiderate and selfish” behavior.

“To me, leadership starts with, you put that mask on. I don’t care who you are — the president, the governor, the pope, whoever,” Runions said.

Republican House Speaker Elijah Haahr noted that lawmakers’ temperatures were checked as they entered the Capitol.

Health screenings also were required of legislative staff and media at the Alaska Capitol, although lawmakers could skip it. Protocols said masks were required. But Republican state Sen. Lora Reinbold didn’t

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wear one.

"It didn't make sense to me," Reinbold said. "I saw no research on cloth, silk, cotton face coverings ... that they prevent COVID."

The coronavirus can be spread through respiratory droplets when people cough, sneeze or talk. The CDC says cloth masks can help prevent people, who may not realize they are infected, from spreading the virus to others.

"The whole idea behind it is 'I wear my mask to protect you,' and it's not so much to protect me," said Kansas Democratic Rep. Barbara Ballard, who wore a mask festooned with the University of Kansas mascot during a legislative session last week.

Kansas House Majority Leader Dan Hawkins, who like many Republicans remained mask-less, said face coverings diminish personal communication because you can't see lips. Republicans, he said, are "a very independent lot" who "really don't like to be told what to do."

Some lawmakers have removed masks when talking into microphones during debates — the very time when they may be more likely to expel virus-carrying particles. Others have worn loose-fitting masks that slip off their faces.

Colorado state Sen. Jim Smallwood, a Republican who had recovered from a mild case of the coronavirus, wore a mask that repeatedly slipped off his nose as he argued unsuccessfully last month against a Democratic rule change allowing lawmakers to vote remotely without attending sessions.

"I feel like it sets a good example and it puts other people at ease," Smallwood told the AP.

Associated Press writers John Hanna and Andy Tsubasa Field contributed from Topeka, Kansas.

Amid US tension, Iran builds fake aircraft carrier to attack

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As tensions remain high between Iran and the U.S., the Islamic Republic appears to have constructed a new mock-up of an aircraft carrier off its southern coast for potential live-fire drills.

The faux foe, seen in satellite photographs obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the U.S. Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, its narrow mouth where 20% of all the world's oil passes through.

While not yet acknowledged by Iranian officials, the replica's appearance in the port city of Bandar Abbas suggests Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is preparing an encore of a similar mock-sinking it conducted in 2015. It also comes as Iran announced Tuesday it will execute a man it accused of sharing details on the movements of the Guard's Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whom the U.S. killed in a January drone strike in Baghdad.

The replica carries 16 mock-ups of fighter jets on its deck, according to satellite photos taken by Maxar Technologies. The vessel appears to be some 200 meters (650 feet) long and 50 meters (160 feet) wide. A real Nimitz is over 300 meters (980 feet) long and 75 meters (245 feet) wide.

The fake carrier sits just a short distance away from the parking lot in which the Guard unveiled over 100 new speedboats in May, the kind it routinely employs in tense encounters between Iranian sailors and the U.S. Navy. Those boats carry both mounted machine guns and missiles.

The mock-up, which first began to be noticed among defense and intelligence analysts in January, strongly resembles a similar one used in February 2015 during a military exercise called "Great Prophet 9." During that drill, Iran swarmed the fake aircraft carrier with speedboats firing machine guns and rockets. Surface-to-sea missiles later targeted and destroyed the fake carrier.

"American aircraft carriers are very big ammunition depots housing a lot of missiles, rockets, torpedoes and everything else," the Guard's then-navy chief, Adm. Ali Fadavi, said on state television at the time.

That drill, however, came as Iran and world powers remained locked in negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program. Today, the deal born of those negotiations is in tatters. President Donald Trump unilaterally

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withdrew America from the accord in May 2018. Iran later responded by slowly abandoning nearly every tenant of the agreement, though it still allows U.N. inspectors access to its nuclear sites.

Last summer saw a series of attacks and incidents further ramp up tensions between Iran and the U.S. They reached a crescendo with the Jan. 3 strike near Baghdad International Airport that killed Soleimani, head of the Guard's expeditionary Quds, or Jerusalem, Force.

Also on Tuesday, judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said Iranian citizen Mahmoud Mousavi Majd had been convicted in a Revolutionary Court, which handles security cases behind closed doors. Esmaili accused Majd of receiving money for allegedly sharing security information on the Guard and the Quds Force, as well as the "positions and movement routes" of Soleimani.

Majd was "linked to the CIA and the Mossad," the Israeli intelligence agency, Esmaili alleged, without providing evidence. Both the CIA and the Israeli prime minister's office, which oversees the Mossad, declined to comment. It wasn't immediately clear if Majd had an attorney.

Esmaili did not say when Majd would be executed, other than that it would be "soon." He also stopped short of directly linking the information allegedly offered by Majd to Soleimani's death. Later Tuesday, the judiciary said Majd was detained in October 2018 and sentenced to death in September 2019, before Soleimani's killing.

Esmaili's description also suggested Majd could be a member of Iran's military, paramilitary or intelligence apparatus, given his ability to access what would be the establishment's innermost secrets. It recalled the 1984 execution of Iranian navy chief Adm. Bahram Afzali, whom Iran killed along with nine others in the military over allegations they passed classified material onto the Communist Tudeh party, which then gave the material to the Soviet Union.

Iran retaliated for Soleimani's killing with a ballistic missile strike Jan. 8 targeting U.S. forces in Iraq, an assault that left over 100 American troops with serious brain injuries. That same day, the Guard accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner in Tehran, killing 176 people.

Iran's announcement of the looming execution shows how seriously they still take Soleimani's assassination. An exercise targeting a mock U.S. aircraft carrier could send that message as well, particularly if it involves a swarm attack of smaller vessels, which analysts believe Iran would employ if it did get into a shooting war with the U.S. Navy.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, which patrols Mideast waters, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Associated Press writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP.

VIRUS DIARY: The singing stopped, and the emptiness arrived

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

WORTHINGTON, Ohio (AP) — My mother taught me that the best place in the world is on the inside of a chord. If you've ever been there, you'll know what she meant. It's a bear hug of awe and wonder, a sublime sliver of beauty or dissonance or genius powered by the humble human voice. Or, more precisely, by many human voices.

How I miss that place.

When COVID-19 first descended, our church choir sang for one final Sunday. The cases in Ohio were still few and it seemed important to us to be present. As we elbow-bumped our goodbyes that day, one friend joked, "Will I ever see you again?"

None of us imagined the lockdown that would ensue, the months of isolation and separation. The masks, the fears, the divisions.

In my world, coping with such stuff is what singing is for. I was taught to harmonize at my mother's knee, and she at her mother's. We break into rounds on long car trips. We perform at weddings, birthdays

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and funerals. I've joined a choir wherever I've settled, making fast friends along the way.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown me how much I rely on these choral interludes for my spirituality, my community, my sanity.

Our wonderful choir director, Brandon Moss, has helped ease the emptiness with a weekly email: a virtual warm-up, sheet music and YouTube links for singing at home and often something purely inspirational to quench the choral thirst.

For the first couple weeks, I ignored the emails. I was busy learning the new rules for how to cover the Ohio Statehouse, navigate the grocery store and fill my now endless free time.

By Week Three, my soul was starved. I opened the email and began. I warmed up. Alone. I queued up the audio file and followed my alto line into the void. "Mother Mary, full of grace, awaken... all our homes are gone, our loved ones taken... Mother Mary, calm our fears, have mercy..."

It helped. So I opened another email, and another. "I've known rivers. Ancient, dusky rivers. My soul has grown deep like the rivers," I sang. "Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago?" I wept.

Easter Sunday arrived. I saw a silver lining. A dear friend directs a church choir in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I could sing hymns at my own virtual church service, then belt out a rousing "Hallelujah Chorus" rebroadcast a state away. I dressed up, I wore a flowery hat.

Yet even this music-filled day didn't put me inside a chord. Nor did the virtual choir project I participated in, recording myself via cellphone and emailing it to a distant curator. What I wanted was to be surrounded by friends of all vocal ranges, delivering a work of art we'd painstakingly worked on for months, artists and grateful audience in tune.

This story's ending isn't happy. Not yet. The hard truth is this highly infectious virus, spread through droplets from the mouth and nose, has blocked the road to my favorite place in the world, maybe for quite some time.

"There is no safe way for singers to rehearse together until there is a COVID-19 vaccine and a 95% effective treatment in place," Dr. Lucinda Halstead, president of the Performing Arts Medical Association, said in May during a YouTube conversation on singing's future.

On one hand, how devastating to think of a world without choral music, even for a single life-saving year. On the other, it confirms what I always knew: Singing is breathing is life.

Perhaps this moment calls for a state-of-mind adjustment, a shift from "Hallelujah Chorus" optimism to something closer to Mozart's Requiem. Supremely moving, in spots even uplifting, because the sorrow and grief show us just how deeply we loved.

Virus Diary, an occasional feature, showcases the coronavirus saga through the eyes of Associated Press journalists around the world. Follow Columbus, Ohio-based AP journalist Julie Carr Smyth on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jcarrsmyth>

Protesters heartened by swift reform, but vow broader change

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — In the two weeks since George Floyd's killing, police departments have banned chokeholds, Confederate monuments have fallen and officers have been arrested and charged amid large global protests against violence by police and racism.

The moves are far short of the overhaul of police, prosecutors' offices, courts and other institutions that protesters seek. But some advocates and demonstrators say they are encouraged by the swiftness of the response to Floyd's death — incremental as it may be.

"Everywhere you look, you see something that gives you hope," said Frank James Matthews, 64, an activist in Alabama. "But we have no illusions because something that's embedded like racism is hard to kill."

Matthews spent years pushing for the removal of a Confederate monument in Birmingham near the site where four black girls died in a racist church bombing in 1963. The city took down the obelisk last week

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after protesters tried to remove it themselves during one of the many nationwide demonstrations over Floyd's killing by police in Minneapolis.

In Virginia, Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam last week ordered the removal of an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy. A judge on Monday halted the move for 10 days, but a spokeswoman for the governor said he remained committed to removing the "divisive symbol."

At a memorial for Floyd on Monday in Houston, Bracy Burnett said it was hard to tell if the changes that have taken place since Floyd's death will last.

"It's a start, but you can't expect an oppression of 400 years to be eliminated in a few months, a few years," Burnett, 66, said.

Tancey Houston Rogers, 49, said she's seen more progress in addressing racism and police brutality in the last two weeks than she's seen in the past.

"Now, we've got to take it forward," she said.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped responding. Prosecutors have charged that officer, Derek Chauvin, with second-degree murder. Three other officers at the scene were charged with aiding and abetting.

Minneapolis has since banned chokeholds, and a majority of the City Council has vowed to dismantle the city's 800-member police agency. Police in Denver have also banned the use of chokeholds and required officers who intentionally point their gun at someone to notify a supervisor and file a report.

Police officers have also faced charges for violent conduct during protests.

Savano Wilkerson said he worries about a backslide on reform if national attention shifts away from Floyd's case. He's also concerned about convictions against the officers charged in Floyd's death.

"It's not really a win yet because they could easily get off," the 22-year-old resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, said during a phone interview on Monday.

The recent protests are the country's most significant demonstrations in a half-century — rivaling those during the civil rights and Vietnam War eras.

During the push for civil rights in the 1960s, activists also won some quick concessions from authorities, said Ashley Howard, an assistant professor of history and African American studies at the University of Iowa.

"If you want to take the cynical view, cities want to get back to business as usual," she said. "They don't want property defaced. They don't want to be on the front page of the newspaper."

But Howard said she sees perseverance and a long-term vision for a "radical alternative" among the marchers and is hopeful for more substantive changes.

Civil rights icons Xernona Clayton and Andrew Young also predicted a broader impact from the protests.

"There's going to be a new consensus emerging about how to maintain law and order in a civilized society," said Young, a confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who went on to become a congressman, United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor.

Young said organizing protests during the civil rights era was harder, so that delayed some of the movement's victories.

Clayton said another difference was how receptive people in power were to demonstrators.

"They're at least talking about making the change and wanting to make the change," said Clayton, who served as King's office manager in Atlanta and organized protest marches and fundraisers. "The people who have been the perpetrators — as I call them — are talking differently."

Associated Press writers Juan Lozano in Houston and Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: The Dalai Lama to release 1st album in July

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stressed out while working at a bank in New Zealand, Junelle Kunin began searching for music paired with teachings from the Dalai Lama to calm herself down and allow herself to focus. But she couldn't find it online.

That's when the musician and practicing Buddhist proposed an idea to The Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama: Let's make an album fusing music with mantras and chants from the Tibetan spiritual leader.

She was politely turned down.

But on a trip to India — where Kunin says she typically gets a chance to meet the Dalai Lama — she asked again, this time writing a letter and handing it to one of his assistants.

Five years later, "Inner World" is born. The album featuring teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music will be released on July 6, his 85th birthday.

"I'd never heard him speak like this. He really was so excited ... he actually proceeded to explain to me how important music is," Kunin said. "He leaned forward and his eyes were sparkling, and his fingers were rubbing together and he (talked) about how music can help people in a way that he can't; it can transcend differences and return us to our true nature and our good heartedness."

The 11-track project will be released in conjunction with a companion booklet.

On her trip to India in 2015, Kunin wrote down a list of topics and mantras she thought would be great for the album, and recorded the conversations with the Dalai Lama for "Inner World." The religious leader recites the mantras of seven Buddhas on the album, discussing topics like wisdom, courage, healing and children. The track "Compassion," one of the most famous Buddhist prayers, was released Tuesday.

When Kunin returned home, her husband, Abraham, who is also a musician and producer, helped her create music and sounds to enhance the Dalai Lama's messages and powerful words.

Kunin said that although they've worked on the album for the last five years, it feels extremely relevant releasing it now.

"The entire purpose of this project is to try to help people. It's not a Buddhist project, it's to help everyday people like myself, even though I am Buddhist," she said. "The messages couldn't be more poignant for our current social climate and needs as humanity."

Net proceeds from the sales of the album will benefit Mind & Life Institute as well as Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning (SEE Learning), an international education program developed by Emory University and the Dalai Lama.

Grammy-nominated sitar player Anoushka Shankar makes a guest appearance on the album, playing on "Ama La," a track honoring mothers. Shankar said being invited to perform on the album was "a huge honor."

She first met The Dalai Lama as a child with her father, the legendary musician Ravi Shankar.

For the new album, she said, "What I was given was a beautiful template of (the Dalai Lama's) voice speaking ... it was very evocative with his speaking. It's so clear what the mood is about ... that it kind of flowed quite simply to just play over that and try to add a musical enhancement to the words he's speaking."

Dozens of other musicians were invited to help on the project, while Kunin's husband had multiple roles, from playing guitar and percussion to drum and synth programming. Kunin co-produced the album and added vocals to three songs, including "Purification."

She wrote the piano part of that track with her hospitalized mother in mind, growing more nervous as the coronavirus rapidly spread.

"I really thought we were going to lose her. And so I wrote what I would want her to feel and hear at the time of her dying," Kunin said.

Her mother survived, but weeks later Kunin's nephew died. And because of COVID-19 restrictions, she and her family couldn't carry out the tradition of sleeping surrounding his body, which would typically lie on a marae for three days. On top of that, her husband was back home finishing the album to make its deadline.

"(My husband) was home weeping at this point, which is when the inspiration came to complete the

song 'Purification,'" Kunin said, adding that they dedicated the track to their nephew Izyah Micah Toli. "And he finished it."

In poor regions, easing virus lockdowns brings new risks

By **MARIA CHENG** and **MAURICIO SAVARESE** Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — As many countries gingerly start lifting their lockdown measures, experts worry that a further surge of the coronavirus in under-developed regions with shaky health systems could undermine efforts to halt the pandemic, and they say more realistic options are needed.

Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan are among countries easing tight restrictions, not only before their outbreaks have peaked but also before any detailed surveillance and testing system is in place to keep the virus under control. That could ultimately have devastating consequences, health experts warn.

"Politicians may be desperate to get their economies going again, but that could be at the expense of having huge numbers of people die," said Dr. Bharat Pankhania, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Exeter in Britain.

He said re-imposing recently lifted lockdown measures was equally dangerous.

"Doing that is extremely worrying because then you will build up a highly resentful and angry population, and it's unknown how they will react," Pankhania said. And as nearly every developed country struggles with its own outbreak, there may be fewer resources to help those with long overstretched capacities.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said Monday the pandemic was "worsening" globally, noting that countries on Sunday reported the biggest-ever one-day total: more than 136,000 cases. Among those, nearly 75% of the cases were from 10 countries in the Americas and South Asia.

Wealthy countries in Europe and North America hit first by the pandemic are training armies of contact tracers to hunt down cases, designing tracking apps and planning virus-free air travel corridors.

But in many poor regions where crowded slums and streets mean even basic measures like hand-washing and social distancing are difficult, the coronavirus is exploding now that restrictions are being removed. Last week, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan all saw one-day records of new infections or deaths as they reopened public spaces and businesses.

Clare Wenham of the London School of Economics described the situation in Brazil as "terrifying," noting the government's decision to stop publishing a running total of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

"We've seen problems with countries reporting data all over the world, but to not even report data at all is clearly a political decision," she said. That could complicate efforts to understand how the virus is spreading in the region and how it's affecting the Brazilian population, Wenham said.

Johns Hopkins University numbers showed Brazil recorded more than 36,000 coronavirus deaths Monday, the third-highest in the world, just ahead of Italy. There were nearly 692,000 cases, putting it second behind the U.S.

Rio de Janeiro allowed surfers and swimmers back in the water and small numbers of beach-goers were defying a still-active ban on gathering on the sand.

Relaxing restrictions "is dangerous because we're still at the peak, right? So it's a little dangerous," said Alessandra Barros, a 46-year-old cashier on the sidewalk next to Ipanema beach. "Today it's calm, but this weekend will be crowded."

Bolivia has authorized reopening most of the country, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro also recently unwound restrictions, Ecuador's airports have resumed flights and shoppers have returned to some of Colombia's malls.

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador urged the country to stay calm after officials last week reported escalating fatalities that rivaled those in Brazil or the U.S.

"Let there not be psychosis, let there not be fear," López Obrador said, while accusing the media of fanning concerns of an escalating crisis.

Across Latin America, countries that cracked down early and hard, like El Salvador and Panama, have

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done relatively well, although some of that has come at the expense of human rights and civil liberties, Wenham said.

"Countries willing to take the short-term hit are the ones coming out better," she said, adding that poor countries weren't entirely without options, noting early, pre-emptive actions by Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"They learned from the Ebola outbreak and moved quickly when they decided their economy couldn't cope with community transmission," she said. So far, numbers have been relatively low in both West African countries.

Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, a clinical lecturer at King's College London, warned that some countries might be lulled into a false sense of security, citing South Africa as an example.

"Their response looked quite promising initially, but it seems premature to release the lockdown without a better level of testing in place," she said.

South Africa's cases are "rising fast," according to President Cyril Ramaphosa. More than half of its approximately 48,000 confirmed cases have been recorded in the last two weeks, prompting concerns that Africa's most developed economy could see a steep rise in infections shortly after restrictions are relaxed.

MacDermott said the surge of COVID-19 in many developing countries suggests "we will potentially struggle more to get on top of it," and that the virus might persist long after developed countries bring it under control.

"That could result in very stringent travel measures on those parts of the world where the virus is still circulating," she said.

In Pakistan, the number of infections continued to rise as Prime Minister Imran Khan said the country's poorest cannot survive a strict lockdown after easing restrictions last month.

After refusing to close mosques and opening up the country even as medical experts pleaded for stricter measures, Pakistan's caseload soared Monday to 103,671, with 2,067 deaths. Still, authorities shut down thousands of shops and markets nationwide last week in raids of those violating social distancing regulations.

Some experts say lockdowns were always "panic measures" and not designed to be sustainable, particularly in developing countries.

"The strategy has its roots in China, in the desire to eliminate the disease, but that clearly went out the window a couple of months ago," said Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh.

"Many countries are now deciding that the cure could turn out to be worse than the disease," he said. Woolhouse suggested that countries unable to lock down their populations could focus instead on targeted interventions to protect those most at risk, such as people over 60 or those with underlying medical conditions.

"Countries are simply not following World Health Organization advice to lock down and are saying they need another strategy," Woolhouse said. He noted the relatively younger demographics of many developing countries might help them avoid the high death rates seen in Italy, Spain and Britain.

Even tiny Panama, once Latin America's fastest-growing economy, is struggling to maintain some of the region's tightest controls amid simultaneous economic slowdown and disease spread.

"It's impossible to maintain a quarantine for all of 2020," said Dr. Xavier Sáenz-Llorens, a government adviser on the disease response. "The country would sink."

Cheng reported from London. Contributing were David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, Cara Anna and Andrew Meldrum in Johannesburg, Munir Ahmed and Kathy Gannon in Islamabad, Christopher Sherman in Mexico City, David Biller in Rio de Janeiro and Juan Zamorano in Panama City.

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

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Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 10, the 162nd day of 2020. There are 204 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 10, 1971, President Richard M. Nixon lifted a two-decades-old trade embargo on China.

On this date:

In 1692, the first execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1942, during World War II, German forces massacred 173 male residents of Lidice (LIH'-dyiht-zeh), Czechoslovakia, in retaliation for the killing of Nazi official Reinhard Heydrich.

In 1944, German forces massacred 642 residents of the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane.

In 1957, in Canadian elections, John Diefenbaker (DEE'-fehn-BAY'-kur) led the Progressive Conservatives to an upset victory over the Liberal party of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent (LOO'-ee sant law-RAHNT').

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act of 1963, aimed at eliminating wage disparities based on gender.

In 1967, six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

In 1978, Affirmed, ridden by Steve Cauthen, won the 110th Belmont Stakes to claim horse racing's 11th Triple Crown. (Alydar was second while Darby Creek Road came in third in a five-horse field.)

In 1990, Alberto Fujimori (foo-jee-MOHR'-ee) was elected president of Peru by a narrow margin over novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. Two members of the rap group 2 Live Crew were arrested in Hollywood, Florida (they and a third band member were later acquitted of obscenity charges).

In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Dugard of South Lake Tahoe, California, was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido; Jaycee was held by the couple for 18 years before she was found by authorities.

In 2002, organized crime figure John Gotti died at a prison hospital in Springfield, Mo., at age 61.

In 2004, singer-musician Ray Charles died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 73.

Ten years ago: Army Secretary John McHugh announced that an investigation found that potentially hundreds of remains at Arlington National Cemetery were misidentified or misplaced. Nelson Mandela's 13-year-old great-granddaughter, Zenani Mandela, was killed in a car accident while on the way home from a concert in Soweto on the eve of the World Cup. The NCAA sanctioned the University of Southern California with a two-year bowl ban, four years' probation, loss of scholarships and forfeits of an entire year's games for improper benefits given to Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ordered the deployment of up to 450 more American troops to Iraq in an effort to reverse major battlefield losses to the Islamic State. Pope Francis took the biggest step yet in cracking down on bishops who covered up for priests who raped and molested children, creating a new tribunal inside the Vatican to hear cases of bishops accused of failing to protect their flocks.

One year ago: The Golden State Warriors remained alive in the NBA Finals with a Game 5 win over the Toronto Raptors, but lost star Kevin Durant, who ruptured his right Achilles tendon; Durant had returned to action after more than a month out with a strained right calf. (The Raptors would capture the championship by winning Game 6.) Former Red Sox star David Ortiz flew to Boston for medical care; he'd undergone surgery in his native Dominican Republic after an ambush by a gunman at a bar. A helicopter pilot died when the aircraft hit the roof of a New York skyscraper in rain and fog, sparking a fire and forcing office workers to flee; records showed that the pilot was not authorized to fly in limited visibility. The Vatican issued an official document rejecting the idea that people can choose or change their genders; the document was denounced by LGBT Catholics as contributing to bigotry and violence against transgender people.

Today's Birthdays: Britain's Prince Philip is 99. Attorney F. Lee Bailey is 87. Actress Alexandra Stewart is

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81. Singer Shirley Alston Reeves (The Shirelles) is 79. Actor Jurgen Prochnow is 79. Media commentator Jeff Greenfield is 77. Actor Frankie Faison is 71. Football Hall of Famer Dan Fouts is 69. Country singer-songwriter Thom Schuyler is 68. Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is 67. Actor Andrew Stevens is 65. Singer Barrington Henderson is 64. Former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer is 61. Rock musician Kim Deal is 59. Singer Maxi Priest is 59. Actress Gina Gershon is 58. Actress Jeanne Tripplehorn is 57. Rock musician Jimmy Chamberlin is 56. Actor Ben Daniels is 56. Actress Kate Flannery is 56. Model-actress Elizabeth Hurley is 55. Rock musician Joey Santiago is 55. Actor Doug McKeon is 54. Rock musician Emma Anderson is 53. Country musician Brian Hofeldt (The Derailers) is 53. Rapper The D.O.C. is 52. Rock singer Mike Doughty is 50. Rhythm and blues singer JoJo is 49. Former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is 49. Rhythm and blues singer Faith Evans is 47. Actor Hugh Dancy is 45. Rhythm and blues singer Lemisha Grinstead (702) is 42. Actor DJ Qualls is 42. Actor Shane West is 42. Country singer Lee Brice is 41. Singer Hoku is 39. Actress Leelee Sobieski is 38. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tara Lipinski is 38. Americana musician Bridget Kearney (Lake Street Drive) is 35. Actor Titus Makin is 31. Actress Tristin Mays is 30. Sasha Obama is 19. Actress Eden McCoy is 17.

Thought for Today: "Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." — Judy Garland, American singer-actress (born this date in 1922, died in 1969).

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