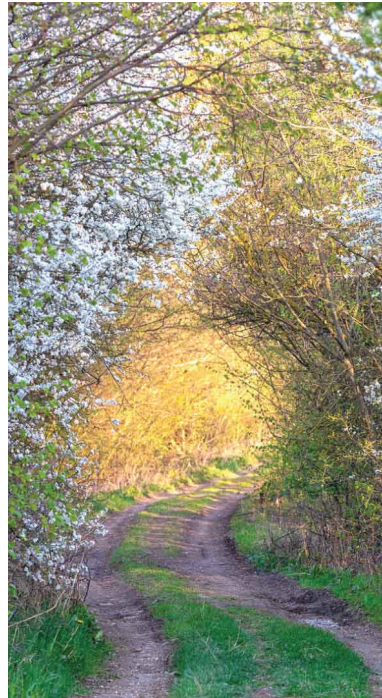


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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

"YOUR POWER TO  
CHOOSE YOUR  
DIRECTION OF  
YOUR LIFE ALLOWS  
YOU TO REINVENT  
YOURSELF, TO  
CHANGE YOUR  
FUTURE, AND TO  
POWERFULLY  
INFLUENCE  
THE REST OF  
CREATION."

-STEPHEN COVEY

## Hanson, Lewandowski on LATI President's List

WATERTOWN, SD... Michael Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute President, announces the current President's List. The President's List is a list of outstanding students who, through their initiative and ability, have indicated a seriousness of purpose in their educational program. The President's List is limited to full-time students who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0. Students with a 4.0 and on the President's List are Miranda Hanson of Bristol and Hannah Lewandowski of Groton.

## Death Notice: Gregory Clocksene

Gregory Clocksene, 67, of Groton passed away June 10, 2020 at his home. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## **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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## #108 in a series Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

The new case and death numbers are not showing much change today.

One more unhappy milestone; we've hit the 2 million case mark with 2,010,600 cases in the US. New case numbers increased slightly, still above 20,000 today. NY leads with 384,281 cases, holding below 1000 new cases for a second day. NJ has 165,346 cases, also steady. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: CA – 140,040, IL – 130,889, MA – 104,156, TX – 81,765, PA – 81,410, FL – 67,363, MI – 65,377, and MD – 60,114. 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 MI, MS, GA, OK, LA, GU, and WI. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, AZ, TX, TN, FL, WA, NC, and SC. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, PA, NJ, MD, IL, VA, MA, and CT. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

What happens as soon as we relax our guard was illustrated this week in Pennsylvania when twelve cases of Covid-19 turned up in a suburb after Memorial Day gatherings at the Jersey Shore. A gathering of college-age students at the beach which included one infected person has resulted in cases among those in attendance as well as in family members. More infections among family members are expected.

Hospitalizations have been increasing in many states and Puerto Rico in the past couple of weeks since Memorial Day. The states are Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, California, Oregon, Arkansas, Mississippi, Utah, and Arizona. Some are reporting their highest seven-day averages of new cases. This is not due solely to increased testing; we can tell because of the increase in hospitalizations. Some states are nearing capacity. It is important to note that some states don't even report hospitalizations, so the magnitude of the problem is not entirely apparent from the data currently available.

We talked about a group that is particularly vulnerable some weeks back; I believe it was with respect to people in New York. We have better data now on the intellectually disabled and people with autism now than we did then, and the news is not good at all. These people are being infected and dying at rates exceeding the rest of the population, getting infected at some four times and dying at two to two and a half times the rate in the general population. These numbers are worse than the abysmal numbers for black and Latino people.

There are several reasons for this. One is that these folks are more likely to have a preexisting health condition. They are also more likely to live in a group home or with roommates and frequently interact with support staff. Those who are employed tend to have jobs that expose them to risk and to be low-paid so that they are using public transit. It has been difficult or impossible for staff in these settings to access PPE, and there is no hazard pay, as there sometimes is in health care. Staff, too, are low-paid and more likely to use public transit. Provider agencies say that they've had high unexpected costs from the pandemic eating into their operating budget and they're low on cash reserves. These are people who don't get much attention or funding in normal times; we are really failing them during this crisis.

There have been 113,088 deaths in the US. Today the number of new deaths is pretty steady, still under 1000. NY has 30,376, NJ has 12,377, MA has 7454, IL has 6302, PA has 6143, MI has 5958, CA has 4869,

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and CT has 4120. We should note that 1 in 400 residents of New York City has died from this virus. All of these states are reporting fewer than 100 new deaths today; 3 of them are under 50. 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.

There is an interesting study by the Harvard Medical School which is available in preprint (which means it has not yet been peer-reviewed) which suggests SARS-CoV-2 may have been circulating in China as soon as early last fall. In looking for patterns of behavior that would indicate unusual activity at hospitals, the research team used satellite images of parking lots around these facilities in the general area of Wuhan. They began with images from the past two years taken every week or two and counted cars, which showed from a 67% up to a 90% increase compared with the fall of 2018. This method for spotting a disease outbreak has been employed in the past and seems to have some association with outbreaks. They accounted for other events that might have caused an unusual surge in traffic, for example, major construction projects or major public events and still saw a surge that began as early as mid-September, nearly two months before the outbreak has been believed to have begun. They also noted an increase in online traffic in the Wuhan area about the same time with users requesting information about "cough" and "diarrhea." There are previous studies which indicate that online searches can be indicative of the emergence of a disease in a population; the combination of the two symptoms seen here matches Covid-19 better than known diseases.

While the Chinese government reports that the first case can be traced back to November 17 and officials have acknowledged that the virus was likely to have been spreading before that, even earlier spread is certainly possible. We really don't know how likely it would be. It should be noted that there have been criticisms of this study as "overinterpreted," so we shouldn't get too excited yet. I will say, however, the possibility is interesting.

One of the country's largest Covid-19 outbreaks was the one aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier which was on Guam when the extent of the outbreak became known. A joint study by the US Navy and the CDC was just published which looks at the effect of the virus on young adults, since most of the 5000 sailors aboard the ship are in that category. Nearly 1200 tested positive; most were mildly ill or entirely asymptomatic. Only 10 required hospitalization, and one died. Of 400 sailors tested for antibodies to the virus, more than 60% tested positive, a testament to how efficiently a respiratory virus spreads within the confines of a ship—a lesson we started to learn with the data from various cruise liners early in the pandemic.

The results of this work has informed the Navy's changes to practices on ships, among those the requirement that everyone quarantine for two weeks prior to boarding a ship and restricting ports of call to certain bases to with limited access. It will also provide information applicable to the general public about how this virus acts in young adults.

Now here's a topic I never thought I'd need to address, yet here we are. A recent survey of US households done by the CDC suggests that, since this pandemic has hit, 39% of us have misused household cleaners and disinfectants in a way that could endanger health. People are cleaning foods with bleach, using disinfectants meant for surfaces on our skin, misting ourselves with disinfectant sprays, inhaling vapors from disinfectants, and drinking or gargling with cleaning solutions. And yes, calls to poison control centers have spiked.

Just to be sure we're all clear, here's a rundown of the rules: Do not apply household cleaners, disinfectants, or bleach to your body—inside or out. This stuff is toxic when you do that. Do not wash your food

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with household cleaners, disinfectants, or bleach. This stuff is toxic when you do that too. None of these things is intended for inhalation, ingestion, or gargling. There is no substance you can put inside yourself that will help to avert infection with this virus. The only things you should be applying to the outside of yourself are soap and water or hand sanitizer. And don't inhale anything other than air and the aroma of well-prepared food and drink. Also flowers: You may sniff those.

511 epidemiologists were surveyed about how long it will be before they are comfortable engaging in a number of everyday sorts of activities. Here are the results:

Things they'll be OK with this summer: bringing in the mail without precautions, seeing a doctor for a nonurgent appointment, vacationing overnight within driving distance, getting a haircut.

Things they'll be OK with within 3-12 months: attending a small dinner party, hiking or picnicking outdoors with friends, sending kids to school, camp, or day care, working in a shared office, sending children on play dates, riding a bus or subway, visiting elderly relatives or friends in their homes, traveling by airplane, eating at a dine-in restaurant, exercising at a gym.

Things they'll consider only after a year or more: attending a wedding or funeral, hugging or shaking hands, going out with someone you don't know well, attending a religious service, stopping wearing a face covering, attending a sporting event, concert, or play.

Of course, some of these answers depend on where the person lives and infection rates there, on their own risk profile, and on their tolerance for risk. The experts are also factoring in expectations about how soon testing and contact tracing will be widely available, what treatments will be available, and how soon a vaccine is ready to go.

I read a story yesterday about a man named Paul Amadeus Lane, a 49-year-old black man who has suffered from discrimination and racism, as well as from the effects of a car accident nearly 30 years ago which left him without the use of his legs and his arms. By sheer force of will, he has managed to regain enough arm movement to, with the help of assistive devices, use a computer mouse. And so now he can use a computer to write, edit videos, code, play games online, and use virtual reality software for physical therapy.

Mr. Lane is now stuck at home like so many of us; his medical condition places him at high risk for serious Covid-19. What he has that most of us don't is a lot of experience being stuck at home; he knows how to channel all that isolation and boredom the same way he did when he convinced his arm to move after months of frustration with his inability to do things for himself. He says he believes that he can do remarkable things if he just doesn't give up, and one of the remarkable things he is doing is helping able-bodied people to deal with their frustration and loss in these challenging times. He says, "I've been there before," and adds, "The more we keep our minds off ourselves and put it on others, then that's when the transformation starts within us. And we're not perfect—there are good days and bad days. But when we feel down, look for ways we can help others." He adds that he is grateful every day to be alive.

Now, that should make your problems look puny. If that guy can do this, then surely we all can do something in the world. No excuses. It's time to go out looking for trouble, then figure out a way to fix it—or at least to help. You won't have to do it from a wheelchair, so it shouldn't be all that tough. When you start feeling pitiful, just stop. Remember all the ways your life is rich, and pass a little bit of that along. It is so sorely needed, and you're well able.

Keep yourself healthy, and hang in there. We'll talk again.



## Game, Fish and Parks Offices Set to Re-open

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) offices are set to re-open June 15, statewide. While the state parks were able to remain open to camping and day-use, administrative offices and the outdoor campuses in Sioux Falls and Rapid City have been closed since mid-March.

“Offering opportunities for people to recreate is a priority for Governor Noem,” said GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler. “Fishing and camping and spending time outdoors is so important to people’s health, especially during these isolating times.”

Offices will open with extra precautions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Markers on office floors are in place to keep patrons six feet apart, sneeze guards have been placed at all reception areas, and staff are wearing masks when they must interact with the public closer than 6 feet.

### The Outdoor Campuses

The Outdoor Campus-East in Sioux Falls and the Outdoor Campus-West in Rapid City will resume limited in-person classes with the following guidelines:

Class size is limited to 10, including instructors.

All participants and staff are expected to wash hands or hand sanitize at the beginning of class.

Participants are required to social distance during classes.

Staff are required to wear a mask during encounters with students at closer than 6 feet.

Participants are asked to acknowledge that they are symptom free to the best of their knowledge on the sign-in sheet.

All equipment must be sterilized between uses and at the end of each class.

Class registration will be available online.

Indoor areas at the Outdoor Campus-West remain closed at this time, but visitors are welcome to use the archery range and other outdoor facilities.

### State Parks

State park visitor centers are now open, and all parks continue to be open to camping and day-use. Park visitors are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and purchase park entrance licenses online at [campsd.com](http://campsd.com). To limit interaction, park offices are using drive-up windows and keeping lobbies closed. Many parks are offering online programming. Follow GFP or your local park on Facebook for activities, challenges, and virtual programs.

Always follow current COVID-19 CDC guidelines, including social distancing, group limitations and stay-at-home orders enacted where you live. Taking responsibility for your own health is imperative.

## Anglers, Boaters Can Expect to See Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Stations This Year

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department (GFP) will begin operating mobile watercraft inspection and decontamination stations across the state to help combat the spread of zebra mussels.

GFP staff has been trained to inspect boats for zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Inspection and decontamination stations will be placed at boat landings and on highways frequently used by boaters. Due to a new law passed during the 2020 Legislative Session, boaters are required to stop and have their boats inspected.

“This will be a pretty quick process for boaters who clean, drain, and dry their boat, trailer and equipment,” said GFP fisheries chief, John Lott. “For most people it is just a quick look at the boat and a short series of questions.”

If the boat is determined to be high-risk, trained staff will give the boat a more thorough inspection. A decontamination would only take place if the boat has plants or zebra mussels on it, has standing water in it, or if water cannot be completely drained from the boat or equipment. Boats that have been in infested waters continually for three or more days must be decontaminated.

The decontamination process can include use of a high pressure washer, using 140 degree water on the outside of the boat and trailer and low pressure, 120 degree water for the engine and internal compartments.

"We want this process to be as quick as possible," Lott said. "We also want to use the process as a learning tool for boaters. Our staff can show boaters how to look for AIS on their watercraft and answer questions. These mandatory inspections are new to all of us, but they are important in slowing the spread of AIS and protecting our waters."

For more information on the new regulations regarding AIS, visit [sdeastwanted.sd.gov/laws](http://sdeastwanted.sd.gov/laws).

## **GFP Challenges Nature Watchers to Join BioBlitz**

PIERRE, S.D. – With group activities limited during the COVID-19 pandemic, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) invites nature lovers to participate in a virtual BioBlitz June 13-28.

"A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many birds, insects and animal species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time," said GFP education coordinator Taniya Bethke. "We are asking everyone to join the BioBlitz project and contribute to our knowledge of biodiversity across the state."

Anyone can observe and identify species statewide during the BioBlitz. Participants post their observations using the iNaturalist app under the project name #SDintheField.

iNaturalist helps identify plants and animals and connects over 400,000 scientists and naturalists to help users learn more about nature. Since user observations can be accessed by the greater scientific community, the app allows anyone to become a citizen scientist.

Participation in the BioBlitz is free to everyone, and prizes will be awarded to top observers. Learn more at [gfp.sd.gov/bio-blitz](http://gfp.sd.gov/bio-blitz).

## **GFP Asks Public to Leave Wild Animals Alone**

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is reminding the public to leave baby animals where you find them.

This is an active time of year for animals which increases the chances of human-wildlife interactions, says South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks wildlife biologist, Silka Kempema.

"In some situations it may seem like human intervention is needed, but most often, it is not. If you find wildlife, take the opportunity to observe from a safe distance for both you and the animal."

If you care, leave it there.

## Gov. Noem Recognizes Move Over Awareness Month

PIERRE, S.D. – June is Move Over Awareness Month in South Dakota, and today Governor Kristi Noem reminded all South Dakotans to drive safely and move over when passing stopped vehicles, especially emergency vehicles.

The South Dakota Legislature designated June as Move Over Awareness Month in memory of Dale Jones, a South Dakota tow operator who was killed by a passing vehicle this past January.

“Dale Jones’ birthday would have been today,” said Governor Kristi Noem. “We recognize June as Move Over Awareness Month in the hope that what happened to Dale will never happen again in our state. I want to thank Senator John Wiik and all the other legislators that brought this important issue to the forefront.”

The South Dakota Legislature also passed and Governor Noem signed two laws designed to protect stopped emergency vehicles. Senate Bill 164 revised the penalties and provisions regarding approaching stopped vehicles. House Bill 1170 revised provisions regarding the use of certain lights by tow truck vehicles and Department of Transportation authorized vehicles.

## Mowing Regulations For The State Right of Way

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation would like to remind landowners of mowing regulations for the state right of way.

Administrative Rule 70:04:06:06 states: No mowing of the right of way may begin in the west river counties of Gregory, Lyman or Tripp before June 15 and east of the Missouri River before July 10. All mowing by permit must be completed by Sept. 1 each year.

In accordance with the administrative rule, abutting landowners on state highways are given preference to mow right-of-way ditches. Other persons wishing to mow must obtain a waiver from the abutting landowner.

Any person wanting to mow Interstate right-of-way ditches must apply for a permit, with preference being given to abutting landowners. Other persons wishing to mow must also obtain a waiver from the abutting landowner.

The application/permits needed for mowing the right of way for interstate, state-owned railroad right of way and the abutting landowner waiver are located on the DOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/forms-publications/forms>.

The department may mow medians and areas within the rights of way prior to June 15 to control noxious weeds and provide increased safety to the traveling public

For questions, please contact the appropriate area engineer, contact information is available here: <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot> or call the office of Operations Support at 605.773.3571.

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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	June 11					
Minnesota	28,523	28,869					
Nebraska	15,883	16,025					
Montana	554	561					
Colorado	28,347	28,499					
Wyoming	760	768					
North Dakota	2901	2941					
South Dakota	5523	5604					
United States	1,979,971	2,000,464					
US Deaths	112,006	112,924					
Minnesota	+299	+346					
Nebraska	+131	+142					
Montana	+6	+7					
Colorado	+164	+152					
Wyoming	+12	+8					
North Dakota	+21	+40					
South Dakota	+52	+81					
United States	+19,786	+20,493					
US Deaths	+999	+918					



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## June 10th COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

An 80+ year old male from Beadle County is the latest casualty from the COVID-19 virus in South Dakota. That brings the state's total of deaths to 69.

Faulk County continues with its outbreak as nine more cases have been registered. Pennington had 14 cases and Minnehaha had a dozen today. Brown County is down to 44 active cases with two more positive cases and three more recovered.

Active cases in South Dakota continues to decline with 10 fewer, now at 962.

There were 20 counties in South Dakota that recorded positive cases while seven have recoveries and no positive cases.

#### **Brown County:**

Active Cases: -1 (44)

Recovered: +3 (260)

Total Positive: +2 (305)

Ever Hospitalized: +1 (16)

Deaths: 1

Negative Tests: +25 (1919)

Percent Recovered: 84.8% 85.2% (0.4 increase)

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +81 (5604 total)

Negative: +2733 (55081 total)

Hospitalized: +16 (503 total) - 101 currently hospitalized (11 more than yesterday)

Deaths: +1 (69 total)

Recovered: +90 (4573 total)

Active Cases: -10 (962)

Percent Recovered: 81.6% up 0.4

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett +86 (222), Butte +3 (327), Campbell +1 (43), Haakon +1 (160), Harding 33, Jones +1 (18), Mellette +2 (87), Perkins +8 (74), Potter +1 (142), unassigned -7- (5887).

Aurora: +1 recovered (23 of 29 recovered)

Beadle: +2 positive, +27 recovered (219 of 398 recovered)

Brookings: +2 positive, +2 recovered (18 of 26 recovered)

Brown: +2 positive, +3 recovered (260 of 305 recovered)

Buffalo: +1 positive (12 of 30 recovered)

Clark: +1 positive (4 of 6 recovered)

Clay: +4 positive, +1 recovered (14 of 43 recovered)

Codington: +1 positive, +2 recovered (34 of 44 recovered)

Corson: +2 positive (3 of 6 recovered)

Davison: +3 recovered (15 of 30 recovered)

Faulk: +9 positive (3 of 15 recovered)

Grant: +1 recovered (13 of 13 recovered)

Gregory: +1 recovered (1 of 1 recovered)

Hamlin: +1 positive, +1 recovered (5 of 9 recovered)

Hutchinson: +2 positive (6 of 8 recovered)

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Jerauld: +1 recovered (32 of 40 recovered)  
Lincoln: +3 positive (229 of 258 recovered)  
Lyman: +3 positive, +1 recovered (12 of 30 recovered)  
McCook: +1 positive, +1 recovered (5 of 7 recovered)  
Meade: +2 positive, +2 recovered (17 of 28 recovered)  
Miner: +1 recovered (2 of 3 recovered)  
Minnehaha: +12 positive, +17 recovered (3114 of 3430 recovered)  
Oglala Lakota: +5 positive, +2 recovered (21 of 45 recovered)  
Pennington: +14 positive, +17 recovered (162 of 335 recovered)  
Todd: +2 positive, +1 recovered (34 of 44 recovered)  
Union: +2 positive, +2 recovered (82 of 105 recovered)  
Yankton: +1 recovered (47 of 58 recovered)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Added Grant, Gregory, Lost Hutchinson): Deuel 1-1, Grant 13-13, Gregory 1-1, Spink 5-5, Sully 1-1, Tripp 6-6, Walworth 5-5.

The NDDoH & private labs report 2,845 completed tests today for COVID-19 with 40 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 2,941.

State & private labs have reported 119,728 total completed tests.  
2,482 ND patients are recovered.

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

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	% of Cases
Asian, Non-Hispanic	642	11%
Black, Non-Hispanic	931	17%
Hispanic	956	17%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	657	12%
Other	643	11%
White, Non-Hispanic	1775	32%

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	6
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	23	192
Beadle	398	219	975
Bennett	0	0	222
Bon Homme	8	7	463
Brookings	26	18	1133
Brown	305	260	1919
Brule	2	1	333
Buffalo	30	12	279
Butte	0	0	327
Campbell	0	0	43
Charles Mix	20	12	372
Clark	6	4	242
Clay	43	14	660
Codington	44	34	1424
Corson	6	3	93
Custer	1	0	242
Davison	30	15	1250
Day	13	12	282
Deuel	1	1	234
Dewey	1	0	570
Douglas	4	3	239
Edmunds	4	3	204
Fall River	6	3	358
Faulk	15	3	64
Grant	13	13	348
Gregory	1	1	188
Haakon	0	0	160
Hamlin	9	5	233
Hand	5	2	153
Hanson	3	0	92
Harding	0	0	33
Hughes	21	17	784
Hutchinson	8	6	532

Hyde	3	1	64
Jackson	4	1	62
Jerauld	40	32	206
Jones	0	0	18
Kingsbury	5	2	309
Lake	13	9	432
Lawrence	12	10	945
Lincoln	258	229	3267
Lyman	30	12	383
Marshall	4	3	157
McCook	7	5	371
McPherson	3	1	113
Meade	28	17	808
Mellette	0	0	87
Miner	3	2	136
Minnehaha	3430	3114	15425
Moody	19	16	367
Oglala Lakota	45	21	1174
Pennington	335	162	4398
Perkins	0	0	74
Potter	0	0	142
Roberts	39	32	731
Sanborn	13	12	159
Spink	5	5	433
Stanley	10	8	99
Sully	1	1	36
Todd	44	24	591
Tripp	6	6	221
Turner	25	22	444
Union	105	82	862
Walworth	5	5	269
Yankton	58	47	1684
Ziebach	2	1	84
Unassigned****	0	0	5887

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

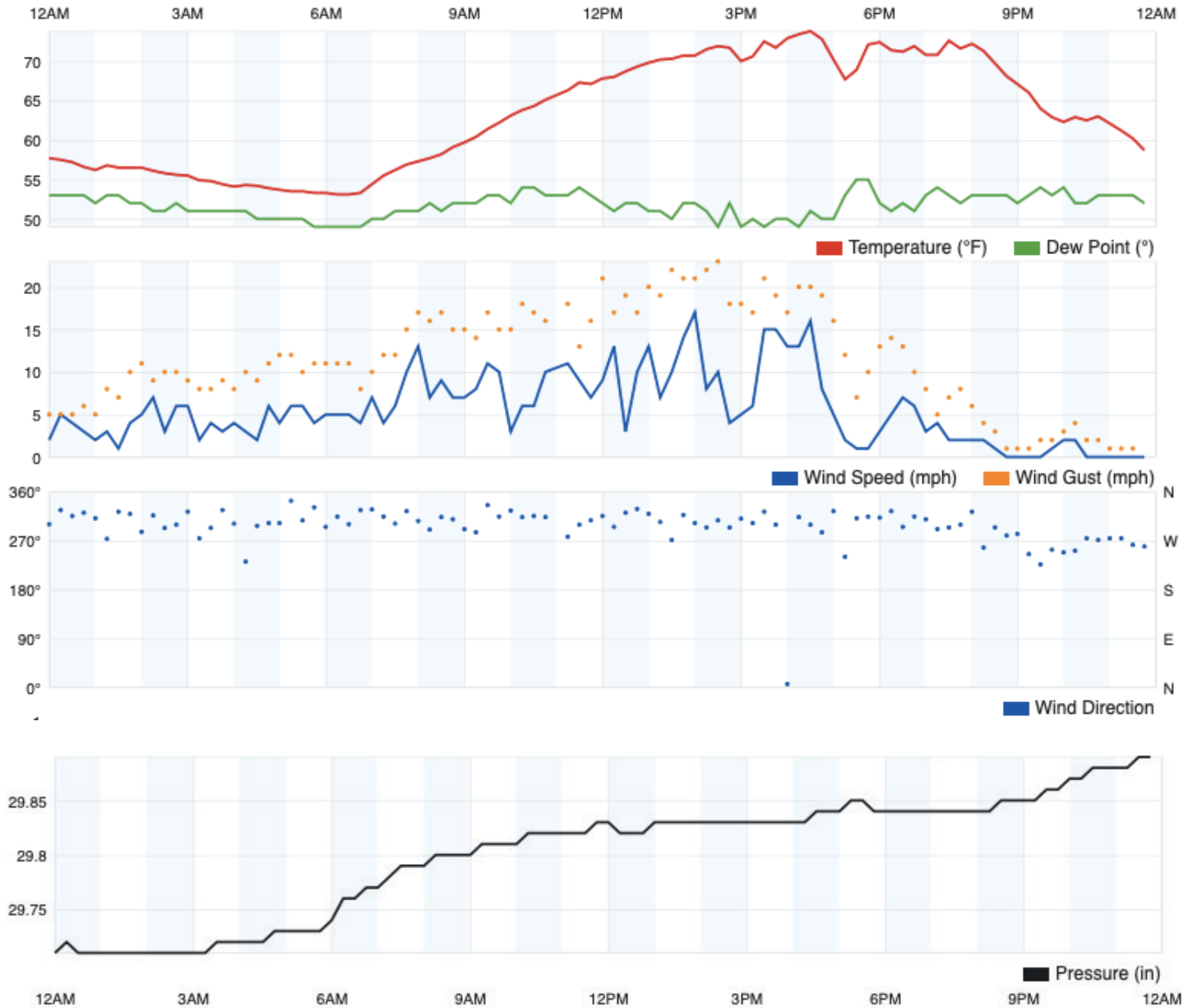
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	2669	38
Male	2935	31

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-19 years	563	0
20-29 years	1123	1
30-39 years	1247	3
40-49 years	944	4
50-59 years	900	10
60-69 years	503	11
70-79 years	164	6
80+ years	160	34

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 82 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 53 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 81 °F

Friday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 60 °F

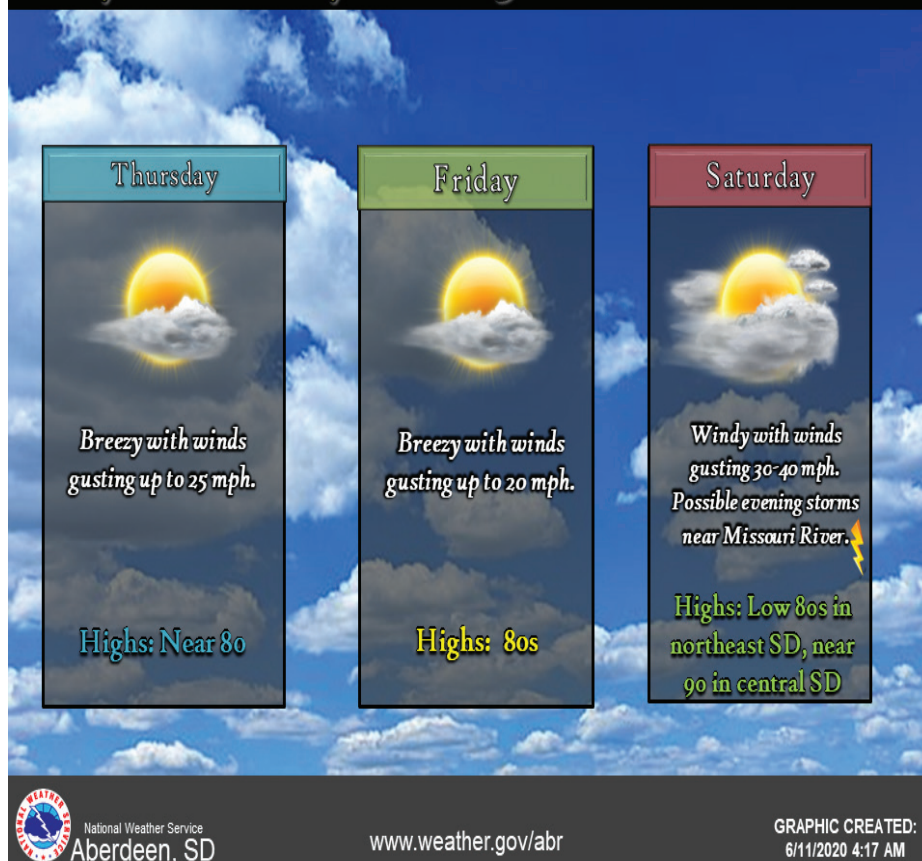
Saturday



Mostly Sunny  
then Mostly  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 84 °F

## Dry But Breezy Moving Into The Weekend



Breezy but dry conditions are expected as we move into the weekend with winds expected 20-25 mph today and Friday. Saturday may see wind gusts in the 30-40 mph range, with possible evening storms in the Missouri River Valley region.



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## Today in Weather History

June 11, 1982: Golf ball size hail fell in Hayti, in Hamlin County, creating three-foot drifts of hail.

June 11, 1990: Hail, up to golf ball size, cut a swath 1.5 miles wide and 50 miles in length from the Missouri River east of the Hyde County line. Thunderstorm winds destroyed a granary roof and downed numerous trees. Damage from large hail was considerable to crops with entire fields being wiped out. The County Agent placed crop damage estimates at 1.8 million dollars in Sully County. Hail also produced window damage to cars and homes.

June 11, 2008: A strong inflow of moist and unstable air into and over a warm surface front resulted in training thunderstorms and very heavy rain across parts of northeast South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 6 inches occurred across much of the area resulting in widespread flash flooding. The flooding damaged many roads, bridges, and cropland. In Milbank, many basements were flooded and received sewer backup.

June 11, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds over a large part of southeast South Dakota beginning just before midnight on June 10th and continuing well into the predawn hours of June 11th. The storms also produced heavy rain, which caused flash flooding at several locations. Heavy rainfall of at least 3 inches caused Enemy Creek to overflow and flood nearby roads. The expensive also caused flooding of roads and basements in Mitchell. A motorcycle business was flooded, resulting in damage to merchandise, although little damage to the motorcycles was reported. Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in the Sioux Falls area. Wood and siding were blown off a new house, and a nearby fence was blown over. The winds caused tree damage, including 2 to 3-foot diameter trees blown down. Debris from the tree damage blocked several roads. Garages were blown off three homes which were next to each other, and other nearby homes suffered significant damage in an area on West Eli Court which was subjected to the strongest winds, estimated at 100 mph. Windows were blown out in several of these homes, and a large camper was overturned in the same area. A wind gust of 74 mph was measured elsewhere in the city. The winds blew down out power lines in parts of the city. Heavy rain caused flash flooding of several streets in the southern part of Sioux Falls, with water up to two feet deep. Basement flooding was also reported.

1842: A late-season snowstorm struck New England. Snow fell during the morning and early afternoon, accumulating to a depth of ten to twelve inches at Irasburg, Vermont. Berlin, New Hampshire was blanketed with eleven inches of snow during the day. Snow whitened the higher peaks of the Appalachians as far south as Maryland. The latest date for the occurrence of a general snowstorm in our period over northern New England and northern New York came in 1842 on the morning of 11 June. Zadock Thompson, a professor of natural history and the Queen City's longtime weatherman, commented: "Snow during the forenoon's boards whitened and the mountains as white as in winter."

1990: One of the most expensive hailstorms in U.S. history occurred as \$625 million of damage was caused along the Colorado Front Range from Colorado Springs to Estes Park. Golf to baseball sized hail fell along with heavy rain. 60 people were injured in the storm.

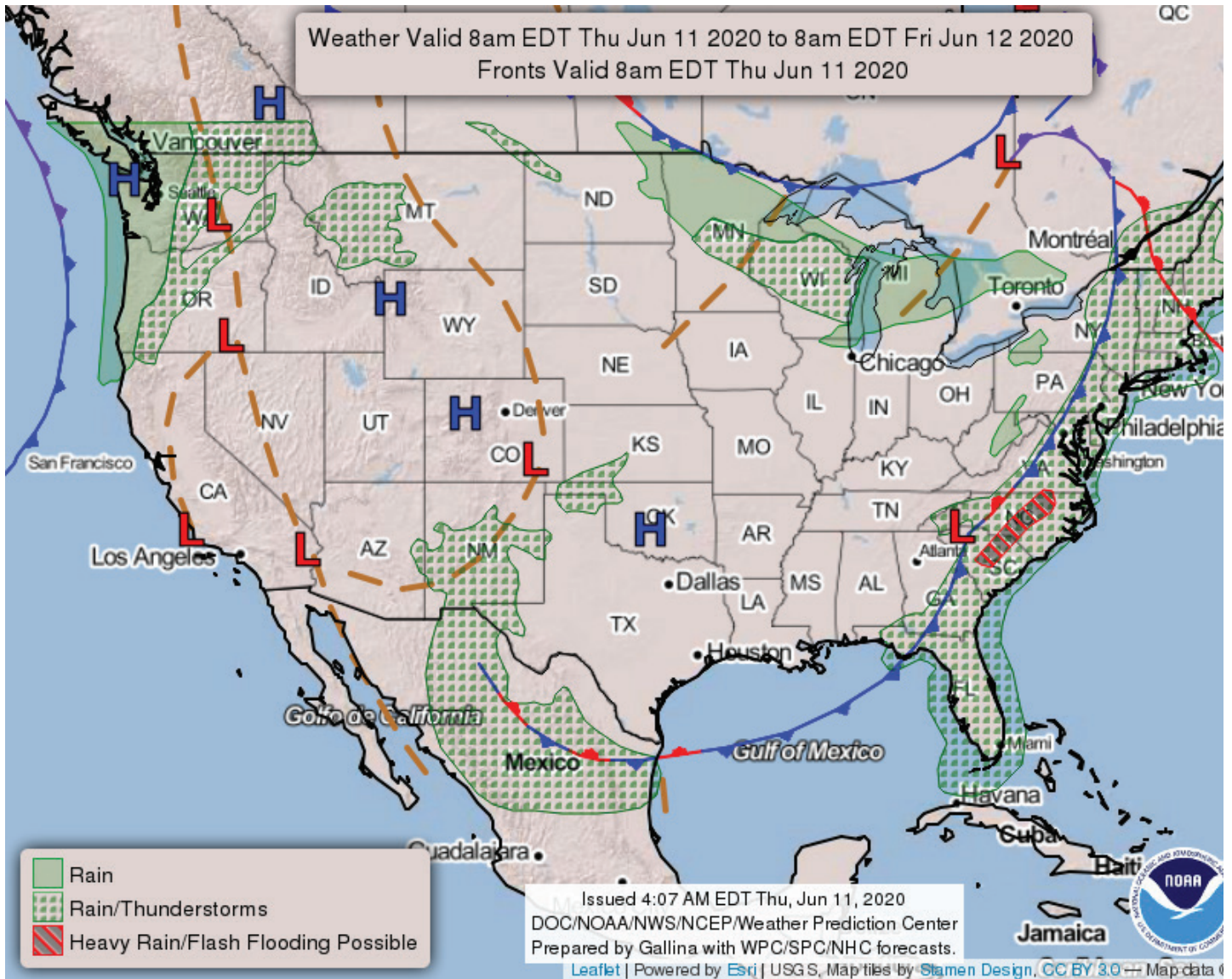
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 74 °F at 4:29 PM**  
**Low Temp: 53 °F at 6:18 AM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 2:04 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

**Record High: 104° in 1893**  
**Record Low: 31° in 1938**  
**Average High: 76°F**  
**Average Low: 53°F**  
**Average Precip in June.: 1.18**  
**Precip to date in June.: 1.75**  
**Average Precip to date: 8.32**  
**Precip Year to Date: 6.38**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.**



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## HE'S NEVER THERE

The family was enjoying a meal together after the morning worship service. Grandmother, always interested in her granddaughter, Sara, turned to her and asked, "What did you learn in church today?"

"Well," she said after thinking a moment, "I learned that the church is God's house. But you know, Grandma, I never see Him when I go."

That makes me wonder what Sara might have been looking for. Surely there were songs and the reading of Scripture, perhaps the people greeted one another and exchanged smiles and handshakes. There certainly must have been sermons about the church being "God's house" that she had listened to in the past. But Sara was not able to "see" God in what is called His home. Perhaps no one ever explained to her how one might recognize God.

Paul, in describing how Christians ought to "fellowship" said, "Try to understand what the Lord wants you to do." The problem is not that we do not understand what we are to do, for there are many examples in Scripture about how Christians are to behave. In all honesty, the problem has never been how but actually doing what we understand what God wants us to do.

The early church was known for the loving and protecting, sharing and caring way Christians honored and respected each other. This came from their reverence for Christ and their desire to live lives that pleased Him. Could it be that people looking for God in our churches cannot see Him "in His home" because we lack His compassion and care for one another?

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to reflect Your presence in our lives by the care and concern we have for one another. May everyone who knows us see Your love in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians 5:15-21

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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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

04-05-21-26-30

(four, five, twenty-one, twenty-six, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

13-16-33-38-52, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 4

(thirteen, sixteen, thirty-three, thirty-eight, fifty-two; Star Ball: seven; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.95 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

10-33-41-52-54, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 5

(ten, thirty-three, forty-one, fifty-two, fifty-four; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

### Marijuana advocates launch campaign for November election

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Marijuana legalization advocates kicked off their campaign on Wednesday to convince South Dakota voters to vote to legalize both medical and recreational marijuana in the November general election.

South Dakota, where marijuana is currently illegal, would be the first state to approve both medical and recreational marijuana at the same time, if voters pass a pair of initiatives on the November ballot. In a solidly-conservative state, the proposals may serve as an indicator of how much opinions on marijuana have changed as states across the nation move to legalize a drug that is still technically outlawed by the federal government.

Marijuana advocates started their campaign by touting the support of a former U.S. attorney for South Dakota and a former staffer for a Republican president and senator. But they will have to overcome the opposition of Republican Gov. Kristi Noem.

The current movement to reform policing and criminal justice laws after the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer may lend momentum to the campaign to legalize, said supporter Brendan Johnson, a former U.S. attorney who was appointed under President Barack Obama.

"People are more conscious than ever about the concern of over-criminalization," he said. "Law enforcement priorities should be focused on significant crimes."

The campaign is casting itself as a bipartisan effort, recruiting an initial list of 50 South Dakotans to endorse the initiatives, including Chuck Parkinson who worked under Republican President Ronald Reagan and U.S. Senator Jim Abdnor.

Drey Samuelson, the group's political director, said it planned to run a "grassroots campaign," working to convince people of the benefits of marijuana, including its potential for new business and tax revenue. The group also plans to encourage people to vote absentee, hoping that an increased voter turnout will push the initiatives to get the majority of votes they need to pass.

Legalizing recreational marijuana would be a large jump for a state where lawmakers recently battled for nearly a year to get industrial hemp legalized. When marijuana was last on the ballot in 2010, 63% of

voters decided against medical pot. And Noem vetoed a bill to create an industrial hemp program last year, arguing that it would be a gateway to legalizing pot. This year, she struck a compromise with legislators to approve hemp if they funded beefed up drug law enforcement.

Ian Fury, a spokesman for the governor, said, "The governor has always opposed legalizing marijuana and therefore opposes these measures."

She has said that marijuana is a gateway to more addictive and harmful drugs and that people who work in law enforcement and addiction counseling have asked her to oppose it.

A couple Native American tribes in the state have also eyed the economic benefits of marijuana, with the Oglala Sioux Tribe voting to legalize both medical and recreational pot in March.

On the November ballot, voters will decide on two separate initiatives. One would create an amendment to the South Dakota constitution to allow people 21 years and older to possess up to an ounce of marijuana. The other initiative would create a law allowing medical marijuana and setting up a system for it to be distributed.

## **Arrest made in death of woman found in Faith, South Dakota**

FAITH, S.D. (AP) — Police say they've arrested a man for the killing of a North Dakota woman whose body was found at a residence in Faith, South Dakota.

The victim has been identified as Alytreus Clifton, 22, of Minot.

Minot Central Dispatch in North Dakota received a request for a welfare check of a woman in that city late Monday afternoon, according to officials.

Investigative work led authorities to Faith, about 280 miles (450 kilometers) south of Minot. Law enforcement officers from South Dakota found the woman dead about 11:30 p.m.

A 25-year-old man was arrested for murder and will be transported to Ward County, North Dakota, officials said.

## **Assault victim was leader in Rapid City's homeless community**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man who was found beaten to death at a Rapid City apartment building was known to be huge leader among the Native American homeless community.

Harry "Packy" Black Bear was assaulted Saturday night, according to the Rapid City Journal.

"I don't know why someone would do this to him," Cesca Black Bear said of her uncle. He wouldn't bother anybody. He did not deserve to die the way he did."

Black Bear used to help out at the RV Ministry, an organization that fed the homeless. President Holy Soper said his killing leaves a "void with his homeless friends on the street."

Cesca said she and her family would try to get him off the street, but he would refuse. Cathie Harris, former president of the RV Ministry, said she thinks Black Bear didn't accept the offer of a permanent home because he didn't want to leave his Rapid City community behind.

Harris says she wants justice to be served but knows that Black Bear wouldn't want anyone from his community to take revenge or continue fighting.

## **South Dakota reports one death from COVID-19, 81 new cases**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One more person has died from COVID-19 in South Dakota, and 81 more people have confirmed cases, state health officials reported Wednesday.

The state has seen a total of 69 people die from COVID-19. The most recent death reported is a man over the age of 80 from Beadle County.

The total number of COVID-19 cases in the state stands at 5,604. There are currently 101 people who are hospitalized. Over 81% of people who confirmed cases have recovered, but health officials reported that 962 people statewide still have active infections.

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.

## Teen driver facing homicide charge in fatal pickup crash

TEA, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the teenager driving a pickup truck that crashed last weekend, killing a passenger is facing criminal charges.

Corey Hofer, 19, is being held in the Minnehaha County Jail on a \$7,500 cash bond. The patrol says Hofer lost control of the pickup near Tea Saturday night.

A 19-year-old passenger was thrown from the truck and pronounced dead at the scene. The victim has not been identified. Hofer and another passenger were injured.

Patrol spokesman Tony Mangan tells the Argus Leader Hofer is charged with vehicular homicide, reckless driving, driving under the influence, simple assault and underage purchase or possession of alcohol.

It's not clear if Hofer has an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

## Norwegian man gets 21 years for slaying, mosque attack

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A white nationalist Norwegian who killed his stepsister and then stormed an Oslo mosque and opened fire, hitting no one, was found guilty Thursday and sentenced to 21 years in prison, the longest jail term under Norwegian law.

Philip Manshaus, who had said in court that he regretted not having caused more damage, "has proven to be an extremely dangerous person," prosecutor Johan Oeverberg said as he demanded the maximum penalty.

On Aug. 10, 2019, Manshaus, 22, killed his 17-year-old stepsister, Johanne Zhangjia Ihle-Hansen, by shooting her four times with a hunting rifle at their home in the Oslo suburb of Baerum. Ihle-Hansen was adopted from China as a 2-year-old and her mother later married Manshaus' father.

Then he drove to a nearby mosque where three men were preparing for Eid al-Adha celebrations. Manshaus fired four shots from a rifle at the mosque's glass door before he was overpowered by one of the men, Muhammad Rafiq. Manshaus wore a bulletproof vest and a helmet with a video camera in the attack and was armed with a hunting rifle and a shotgun.

Judge Annika Lindstroem of the Oslo District Court said Manshaus had plans to kill as many people as possible and set the mosque on fire.

He believed that "Europe is under attack from people of ethnic origin other than his own" and that "the white race is on the brink of extinction," said Lindstroem, adding that Manshaus claimed he was acting "in self-defense against the enemy."

In court, Manshaus confessed to the acts but called them "emergency justice." Investigators found a photo of Adolf Hitler on his cell phone.

The judge said the sentence was a "preventive detention," a special prison term in Norway for criminals considered dangerous to society.

"The killing and the attack show what extremely violent and cynical actions Manshaus has the ability and willingness to carry out," she said during the detailed reading of the verdict online.

Lindstroem added that Manshaus was deemed mentally sane at the time.

In a final comment after the sentencing, Manshaus said "I don't confess my guilt, so I can't accept the judgment. That would be contradictory." He and his defense lawyer Unni Fries said they would consider whether to appeal.

The judge said Manshaus was inspired by shootings in March 2019 in New Zealand, where a gunman targeted two mosques, killing 51 people, and in August 2019 in El Paso, Texas, where an assailant targeted Hispanics and left at least 22 dead.

His plans and his reference to national socialism also recall the views of Norwegian right-wing extrem-

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ist Anders Behring Breivik, who in 2011 killed 77 people in a bombing and shooting rampage in Norway. Breivik, who gave a Nazi salute in the courtroom, is serving a 21-year prison sentence for carrying out a terror attack.

## Many more likely sought US jobless aid even as layoffs slow

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is set to issue its latest report Thursday on the layoffs that have left millions unemployed but that have markedly slowed as many businesses have partially reopened and rehired some laid-off workers.

The pace of job cuts has declined in the nearly three months since the coronavirus struck hard, forcing business closures and sending the economy into recession. The dwindling pace of jobless claims suggests that the devastation in the job market has bottomed out. Still, by historical standards the number of weekly applications remains high.

On Friday, the government surprisingly reported that the economy gained 2.5 million jobs in May and that the unemployment rate unexpectedly declined from 14.7% to a still-high 13.3%. Reopened businesses appeared to have recalled some laid-off workers faster than predicted.

But many analysts expect hiring to slow with much of the economy still shut down and consumers still wary of traveling, shopping, eating out or attending large events.

## Thousands sick from COVID-19 in homes for the disabled

HOLBROOK MOHR, MITCH WEISS and REESE DUNKLIN Associated Press

Neil Sullivan was angry, frustrated and crushed with guilt. His brother Joe had been rushed by ambulance from his home for the developmentally disabled to the emergency room with a possible case of the coronavirus.

Neil had known the people at the Elisabeth Ludeman Developmental Center near Chicago were at risk. Regulators had flagged the facility over the years for violations such as neglect of residents and not keeping restrooms stocked with soap and paper towels. And now, in the middle of a pandemic, a staffer told Neil they were still short of life-saving equipment like surgical masks, gowns, hand sanitizers and even wipes.

He watched helplessly as COVID-19 tore through Ludeman, infecting 220 residents — more than half the people living there — and 125 workers. Six residents and four staff members would die. Neil was overcome with dread that his 52-year-old brother would be among them.

“You start thinking to yourself, is there something I should have done better?” he said.

The outbreak in Ludeman shows the threat of the pandemic to a highly vulnerable population that is flying almost completely under the radar: The developmentally and intellectually disabled. While nursing homes have come under the spotlight, little attention has gone toward facilities nationwide that experts have estimated house more than 275,000 people with conditions such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism. Many residents have severe underlying medical issues that leave them vulnerable to the coronavirus.

At least 5,800 residents in such facilities nationwide have already contracted COVID-19, and more than 680 have died, The Associated Press found in a survey of every state. The true number is almost certainly much higher because about a dozen states did not respond or disclose comprehensive information, including two of the biggest, California and Texas.

Many of these places have been at risk for infectious diseases for years, AP found.

Perhaps the best-known government-funded homes for the disabled are called Intermediate Care Facilities, which range from large state-run institutions to homes for a handful of people. Before the coronavirus hit, regulators concluded that about 40 percent of these facilities — at least 2,300 — had failed to meet safety standards for preventing and controlling the spread of infections and communicable diseases, according to inspection reports obtained by AP. The failures, from 2013 to early 2019, ranged from not



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taking precautionary steps to limit the spread of infections to unsanitary conditions and missed signs that illnesses were passing between residents and employees.

No such data exists for thousands of other group homes for the disabled because they are less regulated. But AP found those homes have also been hit hard by the virus.

"These people are marginalized across the spectrum," said Christopher Rodriguez, executive director at Disability Rights Louisiana, which monitors the state's homes for the disabled. "If you have developmental disabilities, you are seen as less than human. You can see it in education, civil rights, employment. And now, you can see it by how they are being treated during the pandemic."

Advocates are urging the federal government to do more to protect the disabled in congregate settings. They noted that as the virus spread, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ordered states to provide information to the federal government about COVID-19 infections and deaths in nursing homes. CMS also increased fines and made data about infections in nursing homes available to the public.

But the requirements did not extend to homes for the developmentally disabled, where the overall population is smaller but the virus is still taking a heavy toll.

"The lives of people with disabilities in these settings are equally as at risk — and equally as worth protecting — as people in nursing homes," the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities said in a May 5 letter to Alex Azar, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees CMS.

Some states had outdated plans and policies to face a pandemic, said Curt Decker, executive director of the National Disability Rights Network. In Georgia, for example, he said the state's policy provided for protective equipment for nursing homes, but not homes for the disabled. He said staffing levels and training were already "a crisis" across the country even before the coronavirus.

"It was clearly a disaster waiting to happen," he said.

CMS did not respond to the AP's questions within two weeks and did not say why requirements are different for nursing homes. For days, the agency said it was working on a statement, but did not provide one.

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As the outbreak spread through Ludeman, Neil felt as helpless as on the day his family dropped Joe off at the facility decades ago.

His parents believed they couldn't have children, so they adopted Joe. But shortly after, his mother discovered she was pregnant with Neil.

As children, Neil and Joe shared the same room. When Joe developed severe behavioral problems, their parents turned to Ludeman.

To this day, the images of leaving his brother behind at the institution are seared into Neil's memory. He looked back and glimpsed his brother, staring out a window, wailing.

"It was the most desperate cry you could ever imagine," he said. "It was a child that knows it's being left behind by its parents."

Over the years, Neil looked out for his brother. As his parents got older, he became Joe's legal guardian, driven by "survivor's guilt" from that day so long ago when they left Joe behind.

When COVID-19 began spreading across the country, Neil prayed it wouldn't hit Ludeman — where some 340 people live in 40 ranch-style homes spread across a campus that resembles an apartment complex.

About 66,000 people nationwide live in Intermediate Care Facilities like Ludeman. Even more people live in other types of group homes, which operate under less scrutiny. Nobody, not even the federal government, seems to know exactly how many people live in these homes, which advocates say is another sign of a highly marginalized population.

More than 2,100 homes for the disabled have seen COVID-19 infections among residents or staff, according to the AP survey — an undercount because not all states provided specific information.

The virus poses an especially big risk for the disabled. Some are bedridden or prone to seizures. Others have visual or hearing impairments and are non-verbal, so they can't articulate when they don't feel well. And social distancing — one of the key preventive measures for COVID-19 — is nearly impossible because many residents have roommates, share common living areas and need full-time assistance for basic tasks



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like brushing their teeth.

"You're dealing with a community that needs constant 24-hour, one-on-one supervision," said Joe Montemayor, whose union represents employees at homes for the disabled in Texas. "Their reasoning isn't quite there, so you do your best to teach them about the spread of germs and things like that."

It's gotten so bad that some staffers are afraid to report to work, Montemayor said.

Advocates also worry that the special needs and fragile medical condition of the developmentally and intellectually disabled will make them a low priority if hospitals — especially in rural areas — are overrun with COVID-19 patients. Disability rights groups have filed federal civil rights complaints against several states to stop ventilator-rationing proposals, fearing that the disabled will end up last in the line because they may not be able to adhere to protocols after an operation or procedure.

"People with disabilities have just the same right to extend their lives for as long as possible as any other human," said Elizabeth Priaux, a legal specialist with the National Disability Rights Network.

For the families, the fear of the virus is compounded by the fact that they can't visit their loved ones.

Stephanie Kirby's voice breaks when she talks about her son Petre, who has lived in the Denton State Supported Living Center in Texas for three years. More than 60 of the 443 residents at the large, state-run ICF contracted the virus, according to the local health department. AP found the facility has been flagged seven times for poor infection control practices since 2013.

Petre is 28, but functions on the level of a 4-year-old. Kirby hasn't seen him since March, when the governor banned visitors to prevent the spread of the disease. It's the longest they've been apart since she adopted Petre from a Romanian orphanage.

Now, Kirby worries not only about Petre's health, but about the emotional impact the separation might have on him. She doesn't want him to feel like she has abandoned him — like his family did in Romania. But she fears it's too late.

Kirby said she's asked Texas officials all the way up to the governor's office why they won't allow her to see her son, and she's gotten the runaround. On Mother's Day, Kirby drove to Denton, parked her car outside the front gate and sat there for three hours, crying.

"I didn't know what else to do," she said.

Christine Mann, a spokeswoman for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, said the agency is working closely with the facility to prevent the spread of disease. Mann said that infection control violations were "minor incidences" immediately corrected, and that the facility has increased video conferencing and added phone lines to help families.

But for Kirby, that's not enough. "When will a mom be considered an essential person in the life and health and well-being of her children?" she asked.

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For Neil, the coronavirus is only the latest of a string of challenges with Joe at Ludeman.

Many staff members have been kind, and Neil praised those who have worked with his brother in recent years. But some of Joe's teeth were knocked out in the 1990s with no good explanation, Neil said. At other times, Neil suspected Joe didn't receive the attention he needs.

"There were people there, especially in the past, that really treated them like zoo animals," Neil said.

Neil tried to move his brother into another institution with more activities, but Joe was turned down because that facility considered him too aggressive. For people like Joe, options are scarce.

Ludeman has been cited dozens of times since 2013, most often for safety violations but also for more serious issues, including mistreatment of residents. While Ludeman was not cited specifically in the infection control category, inspectors noted that staff didn't always encourage practices like proper hand washing.

Meghan Powers, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Human Services, which oversees the facility, said the high numbers are driven in part by the fact that all residents have been tested.

"It is also sometimes challenging for our residents to adhere to all of the protective measures we are taking," Powers said.

The agency implemented "many new protocols" at Ludeman and other facilities across the state on March 12 that included creating an infectious disease team, restricting visitors and checking the temperatures for

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all staff and residents at shift changes, Powers said. She acknowledged that Ludeman had challenges in the past with maintaining soap and paper towels, but she said that problem was solved by improving its supply distribution. And while shortages of personal protection equipment were an issue across the state, staff working directly with sick residents "have never run out or been severely short to date," Powers said.

Like Ludeman, many other homes for the disabled have struggled to contain outbreaks, AP found.

Nearly half of the 2,300 Intermediate Care Facilities with past problems controlling infections were cited multiple times — some chronically so, over the course of multiple inspections. In dozens of instances, the problems weren't corrected by the time regulators showed up for a follow-up visit. At least seven times, the safety lapses were so serious that they placed residents' health in "immediate jeopardy," a finding that requires make prompt corrections under the threat of a losing government funding.

Inspection reports show that regulators repeatedly found examples of:

\_Staff not washing hands while caring for multiple residents or re-using protective gear like gloves and masks.

\_Unclean environments, such as soiled diapers or linens left out, insect infestations, dried body fluids and feces on surfaces of common areas.

\_Outbreaks of influenza, staph/MRSA and scabies in a small number of cases.

Other types of group homes aren't included in the data, but it's clear that many were also poorly prepared to stop the spread of the virus, the AP found. For example, hundreds of group homes in Massachusetts reported positive cases, as well as the state's two Intermediate Care Facilities, according to the AP and advocacy groups. Advocates say low pay and difficult working conditions have led to high staff turnover and inadequate training, exacerbated by the pandemic.

The outbreak at Ludeman was so bad that the National Guard was called in to help. A family association asking for supplies said Chicago's Major League Baseball teams donated 2,200 rain ponchos that the staff could use "until disposable gowns are available."

When Neil got the call that his brother was infected with COVID-19, all the years of frustration spilled over.

"It was just rage," he said. "I was so upset that I was afraid to talk because I didn't know what was going to come out of my mouth."

It didn't help that he was on his own. His father has Alzheimer's and is in a nursing home fighting its own outbreak; his mother has chronic lung disease.

After finding out his brother was being rushed to the emergency room. Neil called Ludeman's staff and talked to other families. He was told that the facility was running low on critical items like protective masks, gowns, disinfectant — even anti-bacterial soap.

So he began a drive to collect goods, calling friends and family and reaching out to people on social media. After he had enough supplies, he decided to make a trip to Ludeman. He didn't even know if they'd let him onto the campus — the facility was on lockdown. But he was going to try.

As he pulled up to the red and brown brick building with white trim, he didn't know what to expect.

No one stopped him. He jumped out of the car and began unloading the goods. And then he got a surprise. There he was, Joe, sitting in a room with a staff member. Sullivan's heart raced. He smiled, then waved to his brother through the window.

"I can tell you it made a world of difference because I really, genuinely believed he was going to die until I saw him," he said. "Once I put my eyes on him, he still didn't look good. But I believed he was going to pull through."

In the end, Joe would beat the virus. Others wouldn't be so fortunate.

Contact AP's Global Investigative Team at [Investigative@ap.org](mailto:Investigative@ap.org)

## 5 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. JEFFERSON DAVIS STATUE TORN DOWN IN VIRGINIA Protesters toppled a statue of the Confederate president along Richmond's famed Monument Avenue.

2. 'IT WAS CLEARLY A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN' Many homes for people with developmental disabilities were ill-equipped to protect the highly vulnerable population from the coronavirus pandemic, an AP investigation finds.

3. WORKFORCE SCRUTINY FOR COMPANIES TOUTING BLM An AP review of some of the biggest companies pledging solidarity with their black employees as well as the black community finds that their efforts to recruit, maintain and promote minorities have fallen short.

4. IRAN LOSING SWAY OVER IRAQ MILITIAS The deaths of Iranian Gen. Qassim Soleimani and an Iraqi militia leader robbed the militias of powerful patrons who could keep them unified and visionary.

5. WHY SOME SPORTS COULD BE IN PERIL Tennis and golf tournaments could be in real financial trouble because of the coronavirus pandemic because those two sports rely heavily on spectators and local sponsors.

## Analysis: As US reckons over race, Trump becomes a bystander

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — At a moment of national reckoning over racism in America, President Donald Trump is increasingly becoming a bystander.

He wasn't in the pews of churches in Minneapolis or Houston to memorialize George Floyd, the black man whose death sparked protests across the country. He hasn't spoken publicly about the ways Floyd's death during a police arrest has shaken the conscience of millions of Americans of all races. And he's dismissed the notion of systemic racism in law enforcement, repeatedly putting himself firmly on the side of the police over protesters.

In doing so, Trump is leaning into many of the same personal and policy instincts that helped him draw support from disaffected, largely white, Americans in the 2016 election. Yet he appears to be falling out of step with the growing majority of Americans, including some of his supporters in politics, sports and pop culture, who see Floyd's death as a searing inflection point in America's fraught racial history.

That not only raises questions about Trump's standing less than five months from Election Day but also defies expectations that American presidents in the modern era, regardless of their political party, will advocate for equality, particularly during moments of racial turmoil.

"What you have seen since Donald Trump has become president is a complete rejection of that norm and that remains true up until today," said Russell Riley, professor and co-chair of the Presidential Oral History Program at the University of Virginia's Miller Center.

To some of the president's critics, Trump's rhetoric, the policies he has sought to implement in office and the very fact of his election are central to the discussions over racism that are coursing through the country. Trump, who notably talked about there being "very fine people on both sides" of a clash between white supremacists and counter protesters during 2017 demonstrations in Charlottesville, Virginia, has indeed appeared to embolden racist elements in America, though he has said he disavows white supremacists.

Many Republicans and other entities with deep ties to Trump's most ardent supporters have spent the past three years grappling with how to account for that reality. Yet this week, some have taken steps forward without waiting for signals from the president.

On Wednesday, NASCAR, which has a fan base throughout Trump strongholds in the South, banned the Confederate flag from its races and venues. The announcement came shortly after the president said his administration would "not even consider" changing the name of 10 Army bases named for Confederate Army officers — a step Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he was open to discussing.

White House advisers have grappled with the president's role in this moment, particularly given that so

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many of the statements he has made following Floyd's death have only escalated tensions, including his threats to send the military into states to quell protests. Some aides contemplated a national address on race but felt there was little the president could say of consequence in this moment.

"An address that demonstrated empathy, compassion, listening, conciliation, a way forward ... that wouldn't be too late at all," said Meena Bose, a presidential historian at Hofstra University. "A speech that doesn't do that is maybe worse than no speech at all."

Some of the efforts Trump has made to wade into the conversation about racism and police brutality have been uneven at best.

Floyd's brother, Philonise Floyd, said a phone call from the president was "very brief" and the president "didn't give me an opportunity to even speak." Philonise Floyd praised a separate phone call he had with Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, who also met with the Floyd family in person and recorded a video message that played at Tuesday's funeral service.

On Wednesday, Trump held a roundtable with a handful of black supporters, including Housing Secretary Ben Carson. But rather than the president asking questions about their experience, those in the room largely just took turns heaping praise on Trump.

"Mr. President, you have been nothing short of historical for black America," said Kareem Lanier, co-chairman of Urban Revitalization Coalition Inc.

Trump will try again Thursday when he holds a meeting on race relations and policing in Dallas, where he's traveling for a fundraiser. However, the Dallas Morning News reported that the city's police chief, the county sheriff and the district attorney — all of whom are black — were not invited to attend.

Floyd died on Memorial Day after a white police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes and other officers did not intervene. The encounter was captured on video and prompted an outcry in the U.S., and around the world, over police brutality against minorities.

Floyd's death unleashed an outpouring of anger and frustration from black Americans and has also prompted many white Americans to confront the ways their own biases and privilege have contributed to persistent racism. The protests in many American cities have been notably diverse.

And less than three weeks after Floyd's death, there are some signs of a real societal shift.

A recent CNN poll shows 67% of Americans say the country's criminal justice system favors whites over blacks, up from 51% who said they held that view in 2016. The same survey shows that roughly two-thirds of Americans say racism is a "big problem" in society, up from about half in October 2016.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats quickly unveiled sweeping police reform legislation, including banning choke holds and limiting legal protections for police. Republicans say they are also open to some reforms, including a national registry of use-of-force incidents so police officers cannot transfer between departments without public awareness of their records.

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and senior adviser Jared Kushner have been discussing possible packages with GOP lawmakers, but it's unclear what the president himself would be willing to accept.

The shifting national mood also extends outside of Washington. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam ordered the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee in Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. And NFL Commissioner Robert Goodell apologized last week for not listening to players fighting for racial equality.

Yet the president has either stayed out of these public debates or come down on the opposite side of the matter. Trump, who has disparaged NFL players who protested police brutality against minorities by kneeling during the national anthem, appeared to criticize Goodell's turnabout in a tweet.

Trump has long had a strained relationship with African Americans. The Justice Department sued him and his father in the early 1970s for discriminating against black housing applicants, for years he pushed the false claim that President Barack Obama wasn't born in the United States, and in private discussions with White House aides he referred to Haiti and African nations as "shithole" countries.

That history, his critics say, means there should be little surprise in the way he has responded to a burgeoning national outcry over persistent racism in America.

"What we're seeing now is just an extension of what he's always felt," said Rep. Marcia Fudge, an Ohio



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Democrat. "He's showing all his prejudice and all of his bias at a time when a real leader would be trying to bring the nation together."

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Amer Madhani, Alan Fram and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for The Associated Press since 2007. Follow her at <https://twitter.com/jpaceDC>.

## Resurgence of virus threatens South Korea's success story

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Just weeks ago, South Korea was celebrating its hard-won gains against the coronavirus, easing social distancing, reopening schools and promoting a tech-driven anti-virus campaign. President Moon Jae-in has called "K-quarantine."

But a resurgence of infections in the Seoul region where half of South Korea's 51 million people live is threatening the country's success story and prompting health authorities to warn that action must be taken now to stop a second wave.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday reported 45 new cases, a daily rise that has been fairly consistent since late May. Most have been in the Seoul metropolitan area, where health authorities have struggled to trace transmissions.

"Considering the quick transmission of COVID-19, there's limits to what we can do with contact tracing alone to slow the spread," said Yoon Taeho, a senior Health Ministry official during a virus briefing on Thursday, where he repeated a plea for residents in the capital area to stay at home.

Despite the concerns over the spike in infections, government officials have so far resisted calls to re-impose stronger social distancing guidelines after they were relaxed in April, citing concerns over hurting a fragile economy.

Their stance seems in contrast with the urgency conveyed by health experts, including KCDC director Jung Eun-kyeong, who has warned that the country could be sleepwalking into another huge COVID-19 crisis, but this time in its most populous region.

She has said health workers are struggling more and more to track transmissions that are spreading quickly and unpredictably as people increase their activities and practice less social distancing.

Jung's concerns were echoed by Kwon Jun-wook, director of the National Institute of Health, who in a separate briefing on Thursday acknowledged that health authorities were only managing to "chase transmissions after belatedly discovering them."

While South Korea saw a much larger surge of infections in February and March, when hundreds of new cases were reported every day, those had been easier to track. The majority then were concentrated in a single church congregation in Daegu, South Korea's fourth-largest city with 2.5 million people.

The recent clusters have popped up just about everywhere around the capital.

At least 146 cases have been linked to workers at a large warehouse operated by local e-commerce giant Coupang, which has been accused of failing to implement preventive measures and having employees work even when sick.

Around 200 cases were linked to nightclubs and other entertainment venues, while more than 90 infections have been traced to church gatherings near Seoul.

At least 116 cases have been linked to door-to-door sellers hired by Richway, a health product provider. These cases are particularly worrisome because most of the sellers are in their 60s and 70s.

South Korea's total cases are now 11,947, including 276 deaths. Most people have recovered, but the number of active cases rose back above 1,000 this week after dropping below the mark in mid-May.

Health authorities and hospital officials last week participated in an exercise for sharing hospital capacities between Seoul and nearby cities and ensure swift transports of patients so that a spike of cases in



one area doesn't overwhelm its hospital system.

"At the least, we might have to invest as much effort as we did until now, or even more," to contain the new virus surge, Kwon said.

The spike of infections in the capital area has inspired second-guessing on whether officials were too quick to ease on social distancing.

The government in mid-April decided to lift administrative orders that advised entertainment and sports venues to close, allow professional sports to return to action without spectators and green-light a phased reopening of schools.

But Seoul and nearby cities restored some of the controls in recent weeks by shutting thousands of nightclubs, hostess bars and karaoke rooms. Resisting criticism from privacy advocates, officials have also started requiring entertainment venues, gyms and concert halls to register their customers with smart-phone QR codes so they could be easily located when needed.

Health authorities have aggressively mobilized technological tools to trace contacts and enforce quarantines, with an infectious disease law strengthened after a 2015 outbreak of a different coronavirus, MERS, allowing them quick access to cellphone data, credit-card records and surveillance camera footage.

But since the easing of distancing, there has been a clear erosion in citizen vigilance, which, along with the highly effective contact tracing, has been credited for allowing the country to weather the epidemic without lockdowns.

While the Health Ministry and KCDC have repeatedly urged residents in the capital area to refrain from unnecessary gatherings and other public activity, data provided by cellphone carriers, credit-card companies and mass-transport operators over the past weekend indicated that people were just as active as before.

Government officials have said enforcing stricter distancing rules would be a difficult decision, considering the huge blow it could deal to the country's weak economy, which the Bank of Korea says could shrink for the first time in 22 years.

It would also be hard to close schools again in a country where hyper-competitive schools and elite university degrees are seen as crucial to career prospects.

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun recently noted schools stayed open even during the 1950-53 Korean War and that it would be wrong to "fail the dreams and future of our children because of the current difficulties."

## **The Latest: English city hauls toppled statue out of harbor**

**By The Associated Press undefined**

TOP OF THE HOUR:

- English city hauls toppled slave trader statue out of the harbor
- Jefferson Davis statue torn down in Richmond
- Officer charged in George Floyd's death posts bail.
- George Floyd's brother gives emotional testimony on Capitol Hill.
- Museums interested in preserving artifacts from protests in nation's capital.

LONDON — A statue of a 17th-century slave trader that was toppled by anti-racism protesters in Bristol, England, has been fished out of the harbor by city authorities.

Bristol City Council says the bronze statue of Edward Colston was recovered early Thursday morning to avoid drawing a crowd. The council says it has been taken to a "secure location" and will end up in a museum.

Colston built a fortune transporting enslaved Africans across the Atlantic and left most of his money to charity. His name adorns streets and buildings in Bristol, which was once the U.K.'s biggest port for slave ships.

After years of debate about what should happen to his statue, Black Lives Matter protesters hauled it down on Sunday and dumped it into the harbor.

The act has reinvigorated calls for the removal of other statues from Britain's imperial past.

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Officials in Bournemouth, southern England, say they plan to remove a statue of Scouts founder Robert Baden-Powell because it might become a target. Like many Englishmen of his time, Baden-Powell held racist views and he also expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.

Council leader Vikki Slade said "we are removing the statue so that we can properly involve all relevant communities and groups in discussions about its future."

**RICHMOND, Va.** -- A statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis was torn down along Richmond's famed Monument Avenue on Wednesday night by protesters.

The statue in the former capital of the Confederacy was toppled shortly before 11 p.m. and was on the ground in the middle of an intersection, news outlets reported. Richmond police were on the scene.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam last week ordered the removal of an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which is four blocks away from where the Davis statue stood. A judge on Monday issued an injunction preventing officials from removing the monuments for the next 10 days.

About 80 miles (130 kilometers) away, protesters in Portsmouth beheaded and then pulled down four statues that were part of a Confederate monument on Wednesday, according to media outlets.

Efforts to tear one of the statues down began around 8:20 p.m., but the rope they were using snapped, The Virginian-Pilot reported.

The crowd was frustrated by the Portsmouth City Council's decision to put off moving the monument. They switched to throwing bricks from the post that held the plaque they had pulled down as they initially worked to bring down the statue.

The Pilot reports that they then started to dismantle the monument one piece at a time as a marching band played in the streets and other protesters danced.

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Protesters have pulled down a statute of Christopher Columbus outside the Minnesota State Capitol.

A rope was thrown around the 10-foot bronze statue Wednesday afternoon and they pulled it off its stone pedestal.

The protesters, including Dakota and Ojibwe Indians, said they consider Columbus as a symbol of genocide against Native Americans. They said they had tried many times to remove it through the political process, but without success.

State Patrol troopers in helmets, who provide security in the Capitol complex, stood by at a distance but did not try to stop the protesters, who celebrated afterward with Native American singing and drumming.

The troopers eventually formed a line to protect the toppled statue so it could be taken away.

The protest followed a similar incident Tuesday night in Richmond, Virginia, and another in Boston.

**SEATTLE** — Seattle Police say they're looking to reopen a precinct that was shuttered during ongoing George Floyd protests.

At a news conference Wednesday, Assistant Chief Deanna Nollette said barriers were removed from the front of the precinct after it became a flashpoint between officers and protesters.

Nollette said the precinct has been boarded up because of credible threats that it would be vandalized or burned. She said police want to discuss reopening the precinct and noted officers are responding to 911 calls in the area.

Nollette said protesters have set up their own barricades, which are intimidating to some residents.

**MINNEAPOLIS** — One of four police officers charged in the death of George Floyd has posted bail and is out of jail.

According to online records, Thomas Lane, 37, posted bail of \$750,000 and was released from the Hennepin County Jail, with conditions, shortly after 4 p.m. Wednesday. Records show the other officers remained in custody.

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Lane is charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter for his role in the arrest of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died Memorial Day after another officer, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee to Floyd's neck as Floyd cried out that he couldn't breathe and became motionless.

Lane's attorney Earl Gray did not immediately return a message seeking comment. But last week Gray said that Lane was a rookie, and that the only thing he did was hold Floyd's feet so he couldn't kick. The criminal complaint also says that Lane expressed concern about Floyd and asked Chauvin twice if they should roll Floyd to his side, but Chauvin said no. Gray said Lane also performed CPR in the ambulance.

Gray told the Star Tribune he plans to bring a motion to dismiss the charges.

**WASHINGTON** — Volunteers on the scene in the nation's capital are working to gather and preserve hundreds of items that were posted during days of protests over the death of George Floyd in police hands in Minnesota.

Hundreds of signs and posters that had been on the fence enclosing Lafayette Square near the White House have been moved across the street and taped to the walls of a construction site, or strung together and hung from trees lining the street.

At the volunteer medical tents on Wednesday, the call went out for more string to continue hanging up protest art.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Smithsonian have expressed an interest in preserving the artifacts. A spokesman for the National Museum of African American History and Culture says curators from three different parts of the Smithsonian network visited the scene Wednesday.

**TACOMA, Wash.** — Gov. Jay Inslee has ordered an independent investigation into the death of a man in the custody of Tacoma police.

The move comes after new information emerged this week that at least one sheriff's deputy and a state trooper were at the scene when the man, Manuel Ellis, was detained and died on March 3. The medical examiner ruled the death a homicide.

Inslee said Wednesday that officials are working to determine who will conduct the investigation and who will make charging decisions. He said the goal is to make sure that the work is "done free of conflicts of interest."

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department had been close to finishing an investigation, and a briefing with the prosecuting attorney was scheduled for Wednesday. It was canceled.

The police department has identified the four officers involved in restraining Ellis. They were put on administrative leave last week after the autopsy results were made public.

Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards and the victim's family have called for those officers to be fired and arrested.

**LOS ANGELES** — The Los Angeles Police Department is investigating 56 allegations of misconduct during protests against police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Of the 56 investigations, 28 involve alleged uses of force, the LAPD said Wednesday in a statement. Seven officers have been taken out of the field.

The agency has tasked 40 investigators with looking into allegations of misconduct and excessive force, as well as violations of departmental policy, during the protests.

While most protests have been peaceful, there were violent clashes with police and businesses were vandalized.

## 'Ticking time bomb:' Lack of beds slows Delhi's virus fight

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — In New Delhi, a sprawling capital region of 46 million and home to some of India's highest concentration of hospitals, a pregnant woman's death after a frantic hunt for a sickbed was a worrying sign about the country's ability to cope with a wave of new coronavirus cases.

"She kept begging us to save her life, but we couldn't do anything," Shailendra Kumar said, after driving his sister-in-law, Neelam, and her husband for hours, only to be turned away at eight public and private hospitals.

Two and a half months of nationwide lockdown kept numbers of infections relatively low in India. But with restrictions easing in recent weeks, cases have shot up, rising by a record of nearly 10,000 on Thursday, raising questions about whether authorities have done enough to avert catastrophe.

India's tally has reached 286,579, the fifth highest in the world, with 8,102 deaths. In Delhi, which has reported 32,810 cases including 984 deaths, the rate of infection is higher than the national average, doubling every 12 days.

Half of Delhi's 8,200 hospital beds dedicated to COVID-19 patients are already full and officials are projecting more than half a million cases in the city alone by July 31.

"We are sitting on a ticking time bomb," said Dr. Harjit Singh Bhatti, president of the Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum.

"Unless and until the government increases its spending on health care, things won't change. A lot of people will die," he said. "But if some strong policy decisions are made not only in Delhi but across India, we can minimize the damage."

Private hospitals in Delhi — a wider territory that encompasses New Delhi — report that all of their sickbeds and ventilators are in use. Severely ill people have been turned away from public hospitals, too.

Using the Twitter hashtag #SpeakUpDelhi, India's main opposition Congress party has compiled hospital horror stories from relatives of COVID-19 patients complaining of insufficient stretchers and oxygen, and fatal delays in care.

"The surge is clearly visible now so we are in for a tough fight," said Dr. Mukesh Kumar, a neurologist at Delhi's private Max Hospital who, like most of his colleagues, has been pulled in to care for COVID-19 patients.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has come under fire for imposing a 10-week nationwide lockdown that crippled the economy and triggered a humanitarian crisis as tens of suddenly unemployed migrant workers fled for their ancestral villages on foot. Government officials defended the measures as the cost of protecting India's 1.3 billion people from a devastating loss of life. In a national televised address, Modi said Indians' sacrifice had "saved the nation."

But in recent weeks, the government has eased lockdown restrictions, resulting in nearly 10,000 new infections per day.

Nurses at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, India's premier public hospital in Delhi, have threatened to go on strike over ever-lengthening shifts and crowded personal protective equipment changing rooms. And an AIIMS doctor resorted to an appeal on WhatsApp to seek plasma donations for patients.

Delhi's government is now mulling over taking luxury hotels and sports stadiums to turn into field hospitals. But some sites are controlled by the central government, and Delhi's efforts to reserve resources for its residents have already been hamstrung by interference from the center.

Earlier this month, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the city's top elected official and the head of the Aam Aadmi Party, announced that hospital beds for COVID-19 patients would be exclusively for Delhi residents and testing limited to those with symptoms of the disease.

But Modi's government, ruled by the rival Bharatiya Janata Party, strongly objected. The Delhi government set the rules aside on Monday, with Kejriwal tweeting that "making arrangements for treatment for people from across the country during the Covid-19 pandemic is a major challenge. But maybe it's God's will that we have to serve everyone in the country."

Kejriwal's deputy, Manish Sisodia, then made the dire prediction of 550,000 cases in Delhi by the end

of July.

"By July 15, we will have 2.25 lakh (225,000) cases for which 33,000 beds will be required. By July 31, 5.5 lakh (550,000) cases are expected and 80,000 beds will be required," Sisodia said at a news conference Tuesday.

Dr. Anant Bhan, a bioethicist, said the rules restricting hospital care to residents of Delhi weren't acceptable, particularly because of how many people across north India depend upon health facilities in the capital for anything beyond primary care.

But Bhan said it was "certainly not ideal" for the central government and the Delhi government to be at odds amid a public health crisis.

"What one would like to see instead of this bickering is the governments working together to take charge of the situation," he said.

In the meantime, people are dying in Delhi and its outskirts because hospitals are full.

Delhi's predicament reflects India's fraught response to the pandemic, experts said, from delays with screening incoming travelers before the nationwide lockdown began in late March, to the lack of personal protective equipment for health workers, limited testing and denials of local transmission of the virus.

The explosion of cases has made it far more difficult for patients with other life-threatening diseases to receive care, Bhan said, a problem as India enters the monsoon period, which brings malaria, dengue and a host of other mosquito and water-borne diseases.

"That fine balance needs to be talked about," he said.

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Associated Press writers Aniruddha Ghosal and Sheikh Saaliq contributed to this report.

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Follow Emily Schmall on Twitter: [twitter.com/emilyschmall](https://twitter.com/emilyschmall)

## **Troubled Iran struggles to maintain sway over Iraq militias**

**By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi militia factions expected the usual cash handout when the new head of Iran's expeditionary Quds Force made his first visit to Baghdad earlier this year, succeeding the slain Gen. Qasim Soleimani. Instead, to their disappointment, Esmail Ghaani brought them silver rings.

For his second visit, Ghaani had to apply for a visa, something unheard of in Soleimani's time — a bold step by Baghdad's new government effectively curtailing Iran's freedom of movement inside Iraq.

The episodes, relayed to The Associated Press by several Iraqi officials, illustrate Iran's struggles to maintain sway over Iraqi militias six months after America assassinated Soleimani and top militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a drone strike. Iran at the same time is grappling with the economic fallout from U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak.

Without imposing figures like Soleimani and al-Muhandis to unify disparate factions, divisions have emerged in the Popular Mobilization Forces, the umbrella group of mainly Shiite forces.

Their deaths also disrupted a trajectory to institutionalize the militias, which al-Muhandis had been meticulously planning with Soleimani's blessing.

"With al-Muhandis gone, there is an absence of an anchor around which (PMF) politics revolves," said Fanar Haddad, an Iraq researcher.

### **REDUCED FUNDS AND CLOUT**

Among Iraq's Shiite political and militia factions, Soleimani, a chief architect of Iran's proxy groups across the region, held almost legendary status.

Charismatic and a fluent Arabic speaker, his rapport with Iraqi officials was unmatched. He slipped in and out of Iraq regularly to plan, mediate and give out cash assistance. One surprise visit by him was sufficient to broker agreement between rival factions, officials said.

Since his death, Shiite factions have shown discord, arguing over a premier candidate twice before they settled on Mustafa al-Kadhimi.



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Soleimani's successor as Quds Force commander, Ghaani, is less familiar with Iraqi militia leaders and speaks to them through an interpreter. Meetings in Iraq have increasingly been handled by Iranian Ambassador Iraj Masjedi, himself a former Quds Force member.

Ghaani's gift of silver rings — symbolically important in Shiite Islam — rather than cash came during a meeting in April with leaders of several militia factions, according to three officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

Ghaani told them that, for the moment, they would have to rely on Iraqi state funding, they said, a sign of Iran's economic crisis.

The PMF are paid primarily through the state — \$2 billion in the 2019 budget — but the funds are not dispersed equally. Smaller Iranian-backed groups rely on other informal means of revenue and receive extras from Iran, roughly \$3-9 million, two Iraqi officials close to the militias said.

## GROWING FRACTURES

The PMF was created in 2014 as a framework to organize and pay the thousands who volunteered to fight the Islamic State group after a fatwa by Iraq's top cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Since then, its political and military might has soared. Under the staunchly pro-Iranian al-Muhandis, it became a channel for Tehran's influence.

His death opened the door for factions opposed to that influence — particularly ones associated with al-Sistani — to break from the PMF leadership. Militias complain that Iran-friendly groups receive preferential treatment.

The man seen as al-Muhandis' likely successor, Abdulaziz al-Mohammadawi, known as Abu Fadak, met opposition from factions who saw him as the Iranian-backed choice. He has not been officially recognized by the prime minister, though he has assumed some administrative duties, according to officials.

Some of the most Iran-friendly militias under the PMF have shown signs of splintering.

Attacks against U.S. forces in March were claimed by a purported new group, Ushab al-Thairen, believed to have emerged from the powerful Kataib Hezbollah, which the U.S. accused in previous attacks.

Recently, four militias affiliated with the shrines connected to al-Sistani said they would take orders directly from Iraq's premier, bypassing the PMF leadership.

A senior official from Kataib Hezbollah said the move has weakened the PMF and its legitimacy among the public. For many Iraqis, the group's credibility is derived from al-Sistani's fatwa.

The fissure was plain to see when, weeks into his leadership, Prime Minister al-Kadhimi visited the PMF headquarters. To his right, sat figures friendly with Tehran, to his left, those affiliated with al-Sistani.

It marks a "major wrench" by the Shiite establishment led by al-Sistani into Iran's broader plans, said Randa Slim, director of the Conflict Resolution and Track II Dialogues Program at the Middle East Institute.

"They are basically saying we do not want an organ that takes its orders from Iran," she said.

## UNCERTAIN FUTURE

A larger question looms over the future of the PMF.

Al-Muhandis had been directing plans to transform a band of independent militias into a more professional force. Those plans remain unfinished, said three militia commanders on a recent visit to Mosul.

Under al-Muhandis, the PMF began referring to its units by brigade numbers rather than faction names and made moves toward imposing military rank structures and disciplinary courts. He oversaw the creation of engineering units providing services such as roadworks.

He held immense influence over militias and their supporters.

When protesters attacked the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Dec. 31 in response to American strikes on Kataib Hezbollah targets, it was al-Muhandis and not Iraqi security forces who was ultimately called upon to have them pull back, according to two Iraqi officials.

"Hajj Abu Mahdi made us an official group, it's the most important thing he did," said Mohammed al-Mousawi, a PMF commander. For the years ahead, he had planned greater training for fighters, academies and recruitment to improve management, al-Mousawi said.

Iran appears to be taking a back foot in Iraq. But, experts said, this is likely to be short-lived.

"Iran has proved that it learns and evolves," said Slim. "Now it's in the learning phase."

## Floyd killing finds echoes of abuse in South Africa, Kenya

By GERALD IMRAY and TOM ODULA Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Collins Khosa was killed by law enforcement officers in a poor township in Johannesburg over a cup of beer left in his yard. The 40-year-old black man was choked, slammed against a wall, beaten, kicked and hit with the butt of a rifle by the soldiers as police watched, his family says.

Two months later, South Africans staged a march against police brutality. But it was mostly about the killing of George Floyd in the United States, with the case of Khosa, who died on April 10, raised only briefly.

"We also lost our loved one. South Africa, where are you?" Khosa's partner, Nomsa Montsha, asked in a wrenching TV interview Friday, eight weeks after she held his hand as he died while waiting for an ambulance.

Her words, in a soft, steady voice, were a searing rebuke of the perceived apathy in South Africa over Khosa's death. The army exonerated the soldiers in a report that concluded he died from a blunt force head injury that was no one's fault. His family is still seeking a criminal case.

Floyd's death also emboldened a small number of people in Kenya to march and tell their own stories of injustice and brutality by police.

Despite racial reconciliation that emerged after the end of the apartheid system, poor and black South Africans still fall victim to security forces that now are mostly black. The country is plagued by violent crime, and police often are accused of resorting to heavy-handed tactics.

Journalist Daneel Knoetze, who looked into police brutality in South Africa between 2012 and 2019, found that there were more than 42,000 criminal complaints against police, which included more than 2,800 killings — more than one a day. There were more than 27,000 cases of alleged assault by police, many classified as torture, and victims were "overwhelmingly" poor and black, he said.

"It is clear that in South Africa, 26 years of democracy have not as yet ensured that black lives matter as much as white lives," said a statement last week from the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which promotes the vision of the anti-apartheid leader and the country's first black president.

Angelo Fick, who researches issues of human rights and equality, said white people are policed differently from blacks in South Africa in what he calls "the echoes of apartheid."

Khosa's family said his beating death followed accusations by the soldiers that he was drinking a beer in his yard, which was not illegal even though buying alcohol was prohibited at the time because of South Africa's strict coronavirus lockdown.

The sale of tobacco also is illegal during the lockdown, and middle-class whites discovered buying cigarettes have gotten off with a warning from police.

Montsha described how the soldiers, while beating Khosa, struck her with sjamboks, the heavy whips wielded by security forces during the apartheid era. Police and soldiers still carry the notorious weapons.

"The old house. You put new furniture in but it's still the old house," Fick said of the security forces.

In Kenya, the police force has for two decades been ranked the country's most corrupt institution. It's also Kenya's most deadly, killing far more people than criminals do, according to human rights groups.

In the last three months in Kenya, 15 people, including a 13-year-old boy, have been killed by police while they enforce a curfew, according to a watchdog group. Human rights activists put the figure at 18.

The boy, Yasin Hussein Moyo, was shot in the stomach by police in March as he stood on the balcony of his home. Police have blamed a "stray bullet," but witnesses say the officers deliberately started shooting at the boy's apartment building as they patrolled the neighborhood during the curfew.

Kenya's culture of an oppressive colonial police force is still intact, said Peter Kiama, the executive director of the Independent Medico Legal Unit, which tracks police abuse. There also is a security system that has sought to subdue opposition to the government and, in turn, has become corrupt.

"There is a symbiotic relationship," Kiama said.

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When Kenya created two organizations nearly a decade ago to monitor and hold police accountable, the members of one of them found a severed human head in their new offices on the first day of work. Just in case the message wasn't clear, there also was a piece of paper with the words: "Tread carefully."

Kiama's organization says 980 people have been killed by police in Kenya since 2013, and 90 percent of those were execution-style slayings.

Despite the decades of injustice and brutality, activists say there is no groundswell of public support for change in South Africa and Kenya, two of the biggest economies in Africa.

"I gave up on police violence being an issue around which one could get any kind of attention from politicians, or anyone," said David Bruce, an expert on South African law enforcement for 20 years.

In her interview on national TV, Montsha looked at the camera and asked South Africans why no one was standing up for Khosa.

"We are crying out loud," she said.

Odula reported from Nairobi, Kenya.

## As protests grow, Belgium faces its racist colonial past

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

TERVUREN, Belgium (AP) — When it comes to ruthless colonialism and racism, few historical figures are more notorious than Leopold II, the king of the Belgians who held Congo as his personal property and may have been responsible for the deaths of millions of Congolese more than a century ago.

Yet across Belgium, the monarch's name is still found on streets and tunnels. Cities are dotted with his statues and busts, even as evidence of his misdeeds has piled up over the decades.

Now a reckoning seems to be at hand.

The protests sweeping the world after George Floyd's death in the U.S. have added fuel to a movement to confront Europe's role in the slave trade and its colonial past. Leopold is increasingly seen as a stain on the nation where he reigned from 1865 to 1909. Demonstrators want him removed from public view.

In just the last week, a long-running trickle of dissent that resulted in little more than occasional vandalism has turned into a torrent, with statues of Leopold defaced in a half-dozen cities. In the port town of Antwerp, where much of the Congolese rubber, minerals and other natural riches entered the nation, one statue was burned and had to be removed for repairs. It is unclear whether it will ever come back.

"When you erect a statue, it lauds the actions of who is represented. The Germans would not get it into their head to erect statues of Hitler and cheer them," said Mireille-Tsheusi Robert, president of the Congolese action group Bamko-Cran, which wants all Leopold statues removed from Belgian cities. "For us, Leopold has committed a genocide."

On Wednesday, an internet petition to rid the capital, Brussels, of any Leopold statue swept past 70,000 signatures. Also this week, regional education authorities promised history course reforms to better explain the true character of colonialism. And at the University of Mons in southern Belgium, academic authorities removed a bust of the king, saying they wanted to make sure "nobody could be offended by its presence."

Similar efforts are unfolding in Britain, where at least two statues of prominent figures connected to the slave trade have been taken down by protesters or city officials. London's mayor has promised a review of all monuments.

Leopold ruled Congo as a fiefdom, forcing many of its people into slavery to extract resources for his personal profit. His early rule, starting in 1885, was famous for its brutality, which some experts say left as many as 10 million dead.

After his ownership of Congo ended in 1908, he handed the central African country over to the Belgian state, which continued to hold sway over an area 75 times its size until the nation became independent in 1960.

Leopold has come to symbolize the racism and inequality citizens of Congolese descent have had to endure. Next to the royal palace stands an equestrian statue with Leopold gazing solemnly toward the

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horizon. On Wednesday, his hands and eyes were covered with red paint, and expletives were spray-painted on the side of the monument.

Maximilian Christiaens, an architect with a Congolese mother and Belgian father, who came to see the statue after the defacing, realizes the issue is part of his identity. Since Congo achieved independence, Belgium's Congolese population has swelled to about 230,000 in a nation of 11 million.

"You know, we feel at home here, but seeing symbols like this in the city and all over the country gives us the opposite signal," Christiaens said. He would like to see them torn down.

A similar struggle is playing out in the majestic woods east of Brussels in Tervuren, where the palatial Royal Museum for Central Africa stands. It was built over a century ago to glorify Leopold's colonial exploits and to convince Belgium citizens that their country was delivering civilization to the heart of wild Africa.

Museum Director Guido Gryseels fully understands the challenges and the sensitivities, especially after a Leopold statue was defaced in the gardens outside the museum last week. He has sought to shift the museum's views on colonialism into a contemporary reassessment of a flawed past. This week, the Black Lives Matter logo was displayed on digital screens at the museum entrance.

As part of a major renovation he oversaw, Gryseels consigned the racist statues of Congolese and the glorifying busts of the Belgian military to the "depot" of outdated sculptures in the museum's cellars.

"We wanted to keep them somewhere so that the visitors could still see, so that we could explain: 'This is how we looked at Africa before,'" Gryseels said.

Upstairs, in the grand rooms, the only bust of Leopold on display is made of ivory and aims to explain how the plunder of the country extended to the wholesale slaughter of elephants.

As a listed architectural treasure, Leopold's royal double L monogram is still plastered all over the building. But Congolese artists have been asked to make a counterpoint, and in the main hall now stands a sculpture of a skull of a Congolese chief who was beheaded by a Belgian. In front of statues that could not be moved because they were protected, there are now transparent drapes with images criticizing Belgian actions in Congo.

"It would have been impossible 30 years ago, but there is a step forward," Robert said. Still, she said the changes do not go far enough and the museum needs to better embrace Congolese in its management structure.

Just about everybody acknowledges that Belgian society needs to take a hard look at its past. The Catholic church, the dominant force in education during much of Belgium's existence, was at worst an active participant in colonialism, at best a passive bystander. And since many Belgians had family members who went to Congo to seek their fortunes, there is a sense of unease in confronting the history of racism and exploitation.

"The amnesia is linked to the money the Belgians made in Congo," Robert said.

For many years, Belgian colonial authorities peddled the idea that the king went to Congo to stop the slave trade, Gryseels said, when it was really "a pretext to make big economic gains."

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Read all AP stories about protests against racism and police brutality at <http://apnews.com/GeorgeFloyd>

## Companies touting Black Lives Matter face workforce scrutiny

By SALLY HO Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — After hitting the streets to protest racial injustices, Sharon Chuter was disillusioned by the number of corporate brands posting "glossy" messages spouting support for black lives.

The 33-year-old founder of Uoma Beauty, a cosmetics company that caters to black women, came up with a social media challenge to test the sincerity of the companies: She launched the #pulluporshutup campaign on Instagram to push brands to reveal the racial makeup of their corporate workforce and executives.

The hashtag has since gone viral, amassing nearly 100,000 Instagram followers in a week. Chuter said it's a wake-up call for many businesses who couldn't see or didn't take seriously enough the silent racism



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and prejudices that hold black people back in their own workplaces.

"Reflection is painful," Chuter said. "The truth hurts and I just felt like brands didn't want to do it."

As protests over police brutality have erupted across the country over the past two weeks, The Associated Press reviewed the diversity reports of some of the biggest companies pledging solidarity with their black employees as well as the black community, and found that their efforts to recruit, maintain and promote minorities within their own ranks have fallen short.

Microsoft has been posting powerful quotes on Twitter from black employees describing how systemic racism takes a toll on their lives. One employee, Phil Terrill, talked about the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes, sparking protests around the globe.

"It should not take the death of Black people at this magnitude to inspire everyone to be an ally," Terrill is quoted as saying.

Only 4.4% of Microsoft's global workforce across all brands, including retail and warehouse workers, identify as black, and less than 3% of its U.S. executives, directors and managers are black, according to the company's 2019 diversity and inclusion report.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella addressed the issue in an email to employees, saying the company "must change first" if it wants to help change the world, and that it's investing in its talent pipeline by expanding connections with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"In order to be successful as a business in empowering everyone on the planet, we need to reflect the world we serve," Nadella said.

Amazon is prominently displaying "Black lives matter" on its platforms and its CEO Jeff Bezos has been posting on Instagram racist emails he's received from consumers who are unhappy with the company for taking a stance.

But the company itself has been accused of hypocrisy for the troubling conditions reported by warehouse workers during the coronavirus pandemic. An AP analysis found that more than 60% of warehouse and delivery workers in most cities are people of color. Amazon's 2019 workforce data shows about 8% of its managers in the U.S. are black, compared to nearly the 60% of managers who are white.

Courtenay Brown, 29, who sorts packages at the Amazon fulfillment center in Avenel, New Jersey, said she feels that Amazon's messages supporting justice and equal opportunity for blacks are not genuine. She said that most of the employees she works with at the center are people of color, but the higher-ups are white.

"As a black woman, I feel like it is empty words," she said. "They don't help our struggles. Everyone wants to join in and profit from us."

In the U.S., black people account for 12% of the overall workforce, but only 8% of management jobs, said University of Virginia professor Laura Morgan Roberts. The number of black CEOs of Fortune 500 companies peaked in 2002 with 12. Today there are just four.

Roberts' research looking at the careers of Harvard business school graduates found black alums got fewer prime opportunities, such as global assignments, than white graduates with the same degree.

"They're saying, 'We've got the qualifications but we can't get into the inner circle,'" Roberts said.

Adidas, which responded to Floyd's death and subsequent protests by crossing out the word "Racism" on an Instagram post, acknowledged its own shortcomings after a growing group of employees called out the company for its lack of diversity.

On Tuesday Adidas unveiled several moves to fight racial inequality, including a pledge to fill at least 30% of all new positions in the U.S. at Adidas and Reebok with black and Latino people. It said it will also be announcing a goal aimed at increasing representation of black and Latino people within its workforce in North America.

"The events of the past two weeks have caused all of us to reflect on what we can do to confront the cultural and systemic forces that sustain racism," said Adidas CEO Kasper Rorsted in a statement. "We have had to look inward to ourselves as individuals and our organization and reflect on systems that dis-



advantage and silence black individuals and communities.”

The Germany-based company didn't provide a breakdown on the race or ethnicity of its workforce.

Nike has long been viewed as an “insider” brand among black consumers because of its lucrative and high-profile sponsorship deals with prominent African American athletes.

The Portland, Oregon-area company famously took on the racial injustice issue head-on with its ad campaign featuring former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick. Last week, it revealed a new video ad in response to the protests that bore the words: “For once, don't do it.” The ad, a twist on its “Do it” motto, urged viewers not to “pretend there's not a problem in America.”

Yet a look at who is leading the corporate business shows a disconnect between what the brand projects and how it actually operates.

Though whites make up less than half — 43% — of its total U.S. workforce, 77% of its high-ranking vice presidents company-wide are white, according to Nike's 2019 numbers on representation in its leadership. Meanwhile, just under 10% of vice presidents are black. But that is still a nearly 2% improvement from the previous year.

CEO John Donahoe acknowledged that such progress wasn't enough, saying in a memo to employees that its “most important priority is to get our own house in order.”

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AP writer Anne D'Innocenzio contributed from New York.

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Follow Sally Ho on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/\\_sallyho](http://twitter.com/_sallyho).

## Jefferson Davis statue torn down in Richmond, Virginia

**Associated Press undefined**

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Protesters tore down a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis along Richmond, Virginia's famed Monument Avenue on Wednesday night.

The statue in the former capital of the Confederacy was toppled shortly before 11 p.m., news outlets reported.

Richmond police were on the scene and videos on social media showed the monument being towed away as a crowd cheered.

About 80 miles (130 kilometers) away, protesters in Portsmouth beheaded and then pulled down four statues that were part of a Confederate monument on Wednesday, according to media outlets.

Efforts to tear one of the statues down began around 8:20 p.m., but the rope they were using snapped, The Virginian-Pilot reported.

The crowd was frustrated by the Portsmouth City Council's decision to put off moving the monument. They switched to throwing bricks from the post that held the plaque they had pulled down as they initially worked to bring down the statue.

The Pilot reports that they then started to dismantle the monument one piece at a time as a marching band played in the streets and other protesters danced.

A protester in his 30s was hit in the head as the monument fell, causing him to lose consciousness, Portsmouth NAACP Vice President Louie Gibbs told the newspaper. The crowd quieted as the man was taken to a hospital. His condition was not immediately clear.

A flag tied to the monument was lit on fire, and the flames burned briefly at the base of one of the statues.

The actions come amid national protests over the death of George Floyd who died after a police officer knelt on his neck.

A statue of Christopher Columbus in Richmond was torn down by protesters, set on fire and then submerged into a lake on Tuesday. News outlets reported the Columbus statue was toppled less than two hours after protesters gathered in the city's Byrd Park chanting for the statue to be taken down.

The death of Floyd, who was black, has prompted similar Confederate monument removals around the nation. Some people say the tributes inappropriately glorify people who led a rebellion that sought to

uphold slavery. Others say their removal amounts to erasing history.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam last week ordered the removal of an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which is four blocks away from where the Davis statue stood. A judge on Monday issued an injunction preventing officials from removing the monuments for the next 10 days.

## Family: Kids missing since September found dead in Idaho

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The bodies of two children uncovered in rural Idaho are a boy and his big sister who have been missing since September, relatives said, and their mother and her husband are in custody in connection with the complex case that spans several states.

Authorities have not released the identities of the bodies discovered on the property of Chad Daybell, who married the children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, a few weeks after the kids were last seen. But Joshua "JJ" Vallow's grandfather Larry Woodcock on Wednesday told the Post Register in Idaho Falls that "both children are no longer with us."

Relatives of JJ, who was 7 when he vanished, and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan sent a joint statement to Phoenix television station KSAZ-TV confirming the deaths and asking for privacy.

It's another gruesome turn in a case that had dragged on for months without answers and grew ever stranger with its ties to the couple's doomsday beliefs and the mysterious deaths of their former spouses.

But developments were rapid this week: Investigators searched Chad Daybell's property for evidence, they found children's bodies, and prosecutors charged him with destroying or concealing two sets of human remains. Then finally, relatives reported that the children they have been fighting to find for months were dead.

Daybell's attorney, John Prior, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. A judge set bail at \$1 million during a short court hearing Wednesday.

In court documents, Madison County Prosecutor Rob Wood said he believes Chad Daybell either concealed or helped hide the remains knowing that they were about to be used as evidence in court. Wood said the first body was hidden or destroyed sometime on or after Sept. 8 — the last known day that Tylee was seen — and the second on or after Sept. 22, the last known day that JJ was seen.

A document that details the reasons behind the charges was sealed after Wood said it could compromise the criminal investigation. The prosecutor also noted how much media attention the case has received and said keeping the document secret would help preserve Daybell's right to a fair trial.

Lori Daybell already has been charged with child abandonment and obstructing the investigation and is in jail on \$1 million bond. Her attorney has indicated she intends to defend herself against the charges, and she is scheduled for a preliminary hearing next month.

Police began searching for Tylee and JJ in November after relatives raised concerns. Police say the Daybells lied to investigators about the children's whereabouts before quietly leaving Idaho. They were found in Hawaii months later.

The case spans several states and began with Lori Daybell's brother shooting and killing her estranged husband, Charles Vallow, in suburban Phoenix last summer in what he asserted was self-defense. Vallow was seeking a divorce, saying Lori believed she had become a god-like figure who was responsible for ushering in the biblical end times. Her brother, Alex Cox, died in December of an apparent blood clot in his lung.

Shortly after Vallow's death, Lori and the children moved to Idaho, where Chad Daybell lived. He ran a small publishing company, putting out many fiction books he wrote about apocalyptic scenarios loosely based on the theology of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also recorded podcasts about preparing for biblical end times, and friends said he claimed to be able to receive visions from "beyond the veil."

He was married to Tammy Daybell, who 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

## California deputy shot in 'ambush' attack at police station

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California sheriff's deputy was shot in the head but survived an "ambush" by a gunman intent on harming or killing police and authorities said Wednesday they were investigating whether there was a connection to two recent deadly attacks on officers.

Authorities were looking for Mason James Lira, 26, a transient from the Monterey area of the Central Coast, and he was considered armed and dangerous, the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office said in an announcement late Wednesday night.

After wounding the San Luis Obispo County deputy in the small city of Paso Robles, police believe the shooter killed a transient and then eluded an intense manhunt. Police sought the public's help and released photos from surveillance video showing the suspect — a young dark-haired, bearded man.

The shooter opened fire around 3:45 a.m. on the back side of the police station in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson said. Officers were inside at the time and windows and a door were shot out but no one was injured.

A dispatcher monitoring security cameras saw the attack unfold and called for help.

The deputy was struck while responding and his partner dragged him to safety and returned fire, Parkinson said. The wounded deputy was in serious but stable condition with a bullet lodged in his head, he said.

"We feel that this was an ambush, that he planned it, that he intended for officers to come out of the police department and to assault them," Parkinson said.

While searching for the suspect investigators found the body of a man near railroad tracks several blocks away. The 58-year-old, unidentified transient was shot once at close range in the back of the head, police said.

Paso Robles is an unlikely spot for such violence. The bustling community 175 miles (282 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles is a tourist destination and centerpiece of the wine industry on California's Central Coast.

The violence came just five days after another unlikely location, the community of Ben Lomond in Santa Cruz County farther north on the California coast, was the scene of an ambush on police.

Santa Cruz sheriff's Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, 38, was killed and another deputy injured Saturday in an attack allegedly carried out by an Air Force sergeant armed with homemade bombs, an AR-15 rifle and other weapons. Santa Cruz County Sheriff Jim Hart said the suspect, Steven Carrillo, was intent on killing officers.

The FBI is investigating whether Carrillo, 32, has links to the killing of a federal security officer who was shot outside the U.S. courthouse in Oakland during a protest against police brutality on May 29.

The FBI also is assisting the San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles departments with their investigation of the shooting that left the two-year deputy in serious condition.

"He's not out of the woods, as the doctors have explained to me," Parkinson said.

He said there's no clear link between the latest shooting and the other two but that over time the investigation could lead there.

The deputy, who was not identified, and his partner heard gunfire as they approached the station and got out of the car to search but didn't see the suspect "until they started taking fire," Parkinson said.

The deputy's partner managed to get him to safety behind a patrol car. The wounded deputy was conscious and managed to radio that he'd been shot.

Parkinson said there was no local event or imminent arrest that might have prompted the violence. He also said investigators didn't know if the attack was connected to anger swelling nationwide at police over the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis officers. He called Floyd's death unjust and horrific.

"You see what's happening nationally, you see the riots, you see the looting, you see the acts of violence occurring ... there's naturally fear as a result of that," he said. "So trying to calm the community has been our goal."

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Associated Press writers John Antczak and Robert Jablon in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Truex ends 2020 winless skid with victory at Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (AP) — Martin Truex Jr. used a trip to NASCAR's shortest track to end a lengthy losing streak on the day the stock car series at long last banned the Confederate flag.

Truex cruised down the stretch and won his first NASCAR Cup race of the season on Wednesday night in the first race under the lights at Martinsville Speedway.

Truex, the 2017 Cup champion, has been one of NASCAR's biggest winners over the last three years, but failed to find victory lane for Joe Gibbs Racing over the first 10 races of this season. He won 19 times from 2017-2019.

"I knew we were going to get one soon," Truex said. "Hopefully we can get on a roll."

Tick tock. The time ran out on the losing streak.

Truex won the Martinsville grandfather clock on the paperclip-shaped track at just 0.526 miles. He won for the first time with new crew chief James Small.

"It's huge for him and his confidence and for the way people look at him," Truex said. "I think it's huge. I knew all along that he was capable, I know he's going to be an amazing crew chief for a long time to come."

Ryan Blaney, Brad Keselowski, who has two wins this season, and Joey Logano made it a 2-3-4 finish for Team Penske.

The race started shortly after NASCAR said the Confederate flag would be prohibited from all NASCAR events and properties.

The issue was pushed to the fore this week by Bubba Wallace, NASCAR's lone black driver and an Alabama native who called for the banishment of the Confederate flag and said there was "no place" for it in the sport. Wallace drove the Richard Petty Motorsports' No. 43 Chevrolet with a #BlackLivesMatter paint scheme. Wallace, wearing an American flag mask, clapped his hands when asked about the decision before the start of the race.

"It's been a stressful couple of weeks," Wallace said on FS1. "This is no doubt the biggest race of my career tonight. I'm excited about tonight. There's a lot of emotions on the race track."

Wallace wore a black "I Can't Breathe" T-shirt but did not kneel during the national anthem. His Chevy had "Compassion, Love, Understanding" emblazoned on the hood. He finished 11th at Martinsville.

"Our Black Lives Matter Chevrolet — that's so good to say, right — was so good on the long runs," Wallace said.

The 26-year-old Wallace, who finished second in the 2018 Daytona 500, also had a dose of newfound fame. Already outspoken on social causes in NASCAR, Wallace denounced the flag and his message spread throughout sports. Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James tweeted a "BIG S/O" to Wallace and retired NFL star Deion Sanders tweeted he was proud NASCAR "recognized the sensitivity of our country while confronting the racial injustices."

Wallace even made some new NASCAR fans — for a night, at least — out of other athletes. New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara replied to NASCAR's statement with a tweet asking "when the next race??" with a popcorn emoji. He followed along on social media, as did Carolina Panthers safety Tre Boston. Boston tweeted questions about the race and seemed to enjoy the action at Martinsville: "Do y'all be pinned to the TV. I'm watching the standing more than the drivers I feel. Is this ok? Am I doing this right? Do y'all flip channels?"

Former NFL safety Bernard Pollard Jr. joined in on the social media action and had a question on cautions answered on the FS1 broadcast.

But NASCAR's decision angered a contingent of flag loyalists, who stewed on social media. NASCAR helmet artist Jason Beam, who paints designs for some of the sports biggest stars, was among the loudest critics. He unleashed a string of tweets blasting the move, writing "You can't erase history by picking and choosing what parts you want to keep and don't want to keep."

Oh well, Reese Witherspoon gave the ruling a high-five emoji on Twitter, and that alone might be enough



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to outweigh the haters.

Martinsville capped a stretch of seven straight Cup races since it resumed without fans at the track. That streak ends Sunday when 1,000 Florida service members, representing the Homestead Air Reserve Base and U.S. Southern Command in Doral, are allowed to attend the Cup race at Homestead-Miami Speedway as honorary guests and view the race from the grandstands. The following week at Talladega Superspeedway, up to 5,000 fans will be allowed to attend the race. NASCAR says all fans will be screened before entering, required to wear face coverings, mandated to social distance at six feet, and will not have access to the infield.

"I want to say hi to all the fans at home, we definitely miss you," Truex said. "This just doesn't feel right, but exciting to win for sure."

Austin Dillon, the 2018 Daytona 500 champion, was helped from the car because of overheating after the crush panels in his No. 3 Chevrolet were damaged earlier in the race. Dillon's wife is expecting their first child any day now.

"I don't know if I got dizzy or what," Dillon said. "I just pulled in, had to stop, and thank all the medical staff that got me back."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **NASCAR bans Confederate flag from its races, venues**

**By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer**

For more than 70 years, the Confederate flag was a common and complicated sight at NASCAR races. Through the civil rights era right on through the season opener at Daytona in February, the flag dotted infield campsites and was waved in grandstands by fans young and old.

As the nation — and at last, NASCAR — comes to grips with race relations in the wake of the death of George Floyd, it was time: The flag is no longer welcome in the stock car series.

NASCAR banned the flag at its races and all its venues Wednesday, a dramatic step by a series steeped in Southern tradition and proud of its good ol' boy roots. It must now convince some of its most ardent fans that it is truly time to keep the flag at home, leave those T-shirts in the drawer, scrape off the bumper stickers and hit the track without a trace of the longtime symbol to many of racism and slavery. Policing the policy may prove challenging and NASCAR did not offer details.

The issue was pushed to the forefront this week by Bubba Wallace, NASCAR's lone black driver and an Alabama native who called for the banishment of the Confederate flag and said there was "no place" for it in the sport.

The ban was announced before Wednesday night's race at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia, where Wallace drove Richard Petty Motorsports' No. 43 Chevrolet with a #BlackLivesMatter paint scheme. Wallace, wearing an American flag mask, clapped his hands when asked about the decision before the start of the race.

"It's been a stressful couple of weeks," Wallace said on FS1. "This is no doubt the biggest race of my career tonight. I'm excited about tonight. There's a lot of emotions on the race track."

He finished 11th and shifted straight to an interview on ESPN's "SportsCenter."

Wallace wore a black "I Can't Breathe" T-shirt but did not kneel during the national anthem.

His Chevy had "Compassion, Love, Understanding" emblazoned on the hood. Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., tweeted "#NASCAR, family" after the announcement, and scores of athletes followed the race on social media. The NAACP applauded NASCAR for taking the necessary step to "remove symbols of hate, racism, and discrimination from their events."

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests that have roiled the nation for days, and Confederate monuments are being taken down across the South — the traditional fan base for NASCAR.



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"The presence of the Confederate flag at NASCAR events runs contrary to our commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all fans, our competitors and our industry," NASCAR said. "Bringing people together around a love for racing and the community that it creates is what makes our fans and sport special. The display of the Confederate flag will be prohibited from all NASCAR events and properties."

Enforcing the ban could require added security in the often rowdy, booze-fueled infield filled with fans who may be intent on thumbing their nose at NASCAR. The series declined additional comment.

Fans have not been allowed back at races yet amid the coronavirus pandemic. It won't be long: NASCAR plans to welcome a small number of fans at a race Sunday near Miami and more later this month in Alabama.

The decision had Confederate flag loyalists howling in protest and vowing to swear off the sport.

Truck Series driver Ray Ciccarelli posted on Facebook he would quit the sport, writing: "I could care less about the Confederate Flag but there are ppl that do and it doesn't make them a racist."

NASCAR helmet artist Jason Beam tweeted "ignorance wins again, NASCAR you realize the North had slaves too, lol not just the South, you want to remove the American Flag as well, idiots." And a publicist for one NASCAR driver tweeted the decision was "a joke."

It almost didn't matter with an A-list show of support from actress Reese Witherspoon.

Five years ago, the flag issue was front and center for NASCAR after nine black churchgoers were slain in Charleston, South Carolina. The man currently on death row for the murders, Dylann Roof, had embraced Confederate symbols before the attack, prompting a reappraisal of the role such symbols play in the South.

The NASCAR chairman at the time, Brian France, said the series was "working with the industry to see how far we can go to get that flag to be disassociated entirely from our events." Tracks offered to exchange Confederate flags for American flags, but there were few takers and flags have continued to be seen at the events.

NASCAR's checkered history with race took another blow when driver Kyle Larson was fired in April after he uttered a racial slur during a live-streamed virtual race. Led by Wallace, some of NASCAR's stars have forged ahead ready to create what they hope is a new legacy in the sport. Several drivers — including two-time Daytona 500 champion Denny Hamlin — said they supported Wallace in his quest to rid the sport of the flag.

Ryan Blaney, one of Wallace's best friends, said after he finished second at Martinsville that he stood by Wallace.

"I'm really proud of what he's doing, the effort he's putting in and wanting to kind of lead the charge," Blaney said. "I stand behind him. A lot of guys stand behind him. Not only the drivers, but a lot of teams, as well. Crew members. The car he ran tonight was great. I loved that he was able to do that and come up with that idea."

The predominantly white field of drivers united over the weekend for a video promoting social change. A black NASCAR official, Kirk Price, took a knee before Sunday's race near Atlanta in what may have been a first for the series. NASCAR President Steve Phelps addressed the drivers before that race and vowed to do a better job of addressing racial injustice in the wake of Floyd's death.

"Phelps and I have been in contact a lot just trying to figure out what steps are next," Wallace said. "And that was a huge, pivotal moment for the sport. Lot of backlash, but it creates doors and allows the community to come together as one, and that's what the real mission is here. So I'm excited about that."

## Amazon bans police use of its face recognition for a year

By JOSEPH PISANI and MATT O'BRIEN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon banned police use of its face-recognition technology for a year, making it the latest tech giant to step back from law-enforcement use of systems that have faced criticism for incorrectly identifying people with darker skin.

The Seattle-based company did not say why it took action now. Ongoing protests following the death of

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George Floyd have focused attention on racial injustice in the U.S. and how police use technology to track people. Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into the handcuffed black man's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped moving and pleading for air.

Law enforcement agencies use facial recognition to identify suspects, but critics say it can be misused. A number of U.S. cities have banned its use by police and other government agencies, led by San Francisco last year. On Tuesday, IBM said it would get out of the facial recognition business, noting concerns about how the technology can be used for mass surveillance and racial profiling.

It's not clear if the ban on police use includes federal law enforcement agencies. Amazon didn't respond to questions about its announcement.

Civil rights groups and Amazon's own employees have pushed the company to stop selling its technology, called Rekognition, to government agencies, saying that it could be used to invade privacy and target people of color.

In a blog post Wednesday, Amazon said that it hoped Congress would put in place stronger regulations for facial recognition.

"Amazon's decision is an important symbolic step, but this doesn't really change the face recognition landscape in the United States since it's not a major player," said Clare Garvie, a researcher at Georgetown University's Center on Privacy and Technology. Her public records research found only two U.S. agencies using or testing Rekognition.

The Orlando police department tested it, but chose not to implement it, she said. The Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon has been the most public about using Rekognition, but said after Amazon's announcement Wednesday that it was suspending its use of facial recognition indefinitely.

Studies led by MIT researcher Joy Buolamwini found racial and gender disparities in facial recognition software. Those findings spurred Microsoft and IBM to improve their systems, but irked Amazon, which last year publicly attacked her research methods. A group of artificial intelligence scholars, including a winner of computer science's top prize, last year launched a spirited defense of her work and called on Amazon to stop selling its facial recognition software to police.

A study last year by a U.S. agency affirmed the concerns about the technology's flaws. The National Institute of Standards and Technology tested leading facial recognition systems -- though not from Amazon, which didn't submit its algorithms -- and found that they often performed unevenly based on a person's race, gender or age.

Buolamwini on Wednesday called Amazon's announcement a "welcomed though unexpected announcement."

"Microsoft also needs to take a stand," she wrote in an emailed statement. "More importantly our lawmakers need to step up" to rein in harmful deployments of the technologies.

Microsoft has been vocal about the need to regulate facial recognition to prevent human rights abuses but hasn't said it wouldn't sell it to law enforcement. The company didn't respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

Amazon began attracting attention from the American Civil Liberties Union and privacy advocates after it introduced Rekognition in 2016 and began pitching it to law enforcement. But experts like Garvie say many U.S. agencies rely on facial recognition technology built by companies that are not as well known, such as Tokyo-based NEC, Chicago-based Motorola Solutions or the European companies Idemia, Gemalto and Cognitec.

Amazon isn't abandoning facial recognition altogether. The company said organizations, such as those that use Rekognition to help find children who are missing or sexually exploited, will still have access to the technology.

This week's announcements by Amazon and IBM follow a push by Democratic lawmakers to pass a sweeping police reform package in Congress that could include restrictions on the use of facial recognition, especially in police body cameras. Though not commonly used in the U.S., the possibility of cameras that could monitor crowds and identify people in real time have attracted bipartisan concern.

The tech industry has fought against outright bans of facial recognition, but some companies have called for federal laws that could set guidelines for responsible use of the technology.

"It is becoming clear that the absence of consistent national rules will delay getting this valuable technology into the hands of law enforcement, slowing down investigations and making communities less safe," said Daniel Castro, vice president of the industry-backed Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, which has advocated for facial recognition providers.

Ángel Díaz, an attorney at New York University's Brennan Center for Justice, said he welcomed Amazon's moratorium but said it "should have come sooner given numerous studies showing that the technology is racially biased."

"We agree that Congress needs to act, but local communities should also be empowered to voice their concerns and decide if and how they want this technology deployed at all," he said.

O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

## Primary chaos puts Georgia in race to fix voting by November

By KATE BRUMBACK and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Coronavirus infections sidelined some poll workers and scared away others. New workers were trained online instead of in person. And when Election Day arrived, trouble with new voting equipment and social-distancing precautions forced voters to wait in long lines, sometimes for hours.

The resulting chaos during Tuesday's primary elections in Georgia resulted in a national embarrassment and for the second time since 2018 raised questions about the state's ability to conduct fair elections. It also set off a scramble to identify and fix problems before the high-stakes November general election.

"It scares me," said Cathy Cox, a Democrat who oversaw Georgia elections as secretary of state from 1999 through 2007. "But hopefully it was such a traumatic experience for so many people, and appears to be such a black eye for Georgia, that it will ring the bell for elected officials to make significant changes."

Tuesday's breakdown drew the second round of stinging criticism for Georgia election officials since 2018, when the state's closely watched gubernatorial election was marred by hourslong waits at some polling sites, security breaches that exposed voter information and accusations that strict ID requirements and registration errors suppressed turnout. That led to lawsuits and changes to state law that included the \$120 million switch to a new election system.

Much of the outcry over the 2018 election targeted Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who still served as secretary of state when he ran for governor two years ago. Asked what went wrong in Tuesday's election during an interview with WSB-TV, Kemp said "I think we'll have to wait and see. I mean, certainly I think what happened in many areas of the state is unacceptable."

"It will be up to those in the election community to get those fixed," Kemp said.

Like two years ago, activists say voting problems seemed to disproportionately affect areas with large numbers of minority voters in cities such as Atlanta and Savannah.

"We saw those overwhelming issues in black and brown communities predominantly," Aklima Khondoker, state director of the advocacy group All Voting Is Local told reporters.

Votes were still being counted Wednesday, including absentee ballots that topped 1 million — the result of many voters trying to avoid trips to the polls because of the virus.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a Republican, blamed local election officials. He said he plans to ask lawmakers to give state officials greater oversight of county election offices, including "authority to directly intervene and require management changes."

Metro Atlanta appeared to have the worst voting delays, with some voters reporting five-hour waits and others giving up and leaving in frustration when confronted with long, slow-moving lines. Voting hours were extended, and the last voters didn't cast their ballots until around midnight.

"I did expect long lines. I wasn't expecting it to be so unorganized," said Kiersten Berry, 34, of Atlanta, who waited more than 3 1/2 hours to vote Tuesday morning.

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Georgia was in the midst of an ambitious statewide effort to replace outdated voting equipment when the coronavirus hit in March.

Fulton County Elections Director Rick Barron largely blamed the pandemic. Two poll managers tested positive for COVID-19 in recent days, and other election workers simply did not show up, Barron said.

In-person training on the new voting system was held early in the year, but recent refresher sessions were held online because poll workers weren't comfortable attending in person as the virus surged in Georgia. The threat also meant many polling sites — such as at senior centers — could not be used, forcing consolidations. The county had 164 polling places instead of the planned 198.

On Election Day, poll workers who had not put their hands on the new machines in months got confused, Barron said, and their calls overloaded the county election office. There were instances of scanners powering down or jamming, he said, and in some places too many voting machines were plugged into the same circuit, causing them to flicker.

Barron's elections office was also flooded with 92,000 absentee ballots — compared with fewer than 1,000 in the 2016 primaries. Many voters have said they requested mail-in ballots and never received them.

Georgia had delayed its primary twice — presidential primary votes had initially been scheduled for March 24 — to give more time to prepare. While there were reports of equipment failures, only about 20 components such as scanners, printers and touchscreens were replaced by Tuesday evening out of 30,000 voting machines in use statewide, said Kay Stimson, vice president for government affairs for Dominion Voting Systems, the vendor for Georgia's new system.

State election officials said a few polling places in metro Atlanta's Gwinnett County opened late because officials didn't realize the new machines were bigger than the old ones and delivery trucks had to make extra trips. In Fulton County, some workers couldn't get machines to work because they were inserting voter cards upside-down.

County election officials countered that the state should have provided more resources for staffing and training. Cox, who held Raffensperger's job more than a decade ago, agreed that state officials share in the blame.

Cox oversaw the rollout of Georgia's first electronic voting system in 2002. Now the dean of Mercer University's law school, she said the state needs to fund more election workers, additional training and voter education to ensure voting goes smoothly in the fall.

"I would not be trying to pick a fight with the counties," Cox said. "I would be rolling up my sleeves and saying, 'Let's all of us in the election community figure out every step that had a problem and how we can make this work for November.'"

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. Associated Press writers Ben Nadler, Sudhin Thanawala, Jeff Martin and Christina Cassidy in Atlanta also contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the presidential primary vote was initially scheduled for March 24, not March 9.

## Trump: No change at bases named for Confederate officers

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday said his administration will "not even consider" changing the name of any of the 10 Army bases that are named for Confederate Army officers. Two days earlier, Defense Secretary Mark Esper indicated that he was open to a broad discussion of such changes.

"These Monumental and very Powerful Bases have become part of a Great American Heritage, a history of Winning, Victory, and Freedom," Trump wrote. "The United States of America trained and deployed our HEROES on these Hallowed Grounds, and won two World Wars. Therefore, my Administration will not even consider the renaming of these Magnificent and Fabled Military Installations."



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Name changes have not been proposed by the Army or the Pentagon, but on Monday, Esper and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy indicated in response to questions from reporters that they were "open to a bipartisan discussion" of renaming bases such as Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Benning in Georgia.

Supporters of disassociating military bases from Confederate Army officers argue that they represent the racism and divisiveness of the Civil War era and glorify men who fought against the United States.

To amplify Trump's view, his press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany, read his tweets to reporters in the White House briefing room. She said he is "fervently" opposed to changing the base names and believes that doing so would amount to "complete disrespect" for soldiers who trained there over the years.

The possibility of renaming the bases, McEnany said, is "an absolute non-starter" for Trump.

If Congress were to pass legislation requiring name changes, he would not sign it, she said.

The U.S. military recently began rethinking its traditional connection to Confederate Army symbols, including the Army base names, mindful of their divisiveness at a time the nation is wrestling with questions of race after the death of George Floyd in police hands. The Navy and the Marine Corps are now banning public displays of the Confederate Army battle flag on their installations, casting their decision as necessary to preserve cohesion within the ranks.

Ten major Army installations are named for Confederate Army officers, mostly senior generals, including Robert E. Lee. Among the 10 is Fort Benning, the namesake of Confederate Army Gen. Henry L. Benning, who was a leader of Georgia's secessionist movement and an advocate of preserving slavery. Others are in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana. The naming was done mostly after World War I and in the 1940s, in some cases as gestures of conciliation to the South.

Few voices in the military are openly defending the link to Confederate symbols, but some of the bases named for Confederate officers are legendary in their own right. Fort Bragg, for example, is home to some of the Army's most elite forces. Any decision to change the name at Bragg or other bases likely would involve consulting with officials from the affected states and localities.

Paul Eaton, a retired two-star Army general and a former commanding general of Fort Benning, said Trump's statements go against ideals the Army stands for.

"Today, Donald Trump made it official. Rather than move this nation further away from institutionalized racism, he believes we should cling to it and its heritage, by keeping the names of racist traitors on the gates of our military bases," Eaton said.

Peter Mansoor, a retired Army colonel and veteran of the Iraq war, said in an email exchange that renaming these bases is long overdue.

"Most serving soldiers know little about the history behind the Confederate leaders for whom these bases are named, or the political deals that caused them to be honored in this fashion," he said. "There might be some pushback from a small segment of soldiers from the South, but this is what we like to call a 'teachable moment.' Now is the time to finally bring about a change that will speak volumes as to what the U.S. Army stands for."

David Petraeus, a retired four-star Army general, said the renaming move, which he supports, amounts to a "war of memory," and that before deciding to rename bases like Fort Bragg, where he served with the 82nd Airborne Division, the Army must be ready to follow its own procedures for such change.

"The irony of training at bases named for those who took up arms against the United States, and for the right to enslave others, is inescapable to anyone paying attention," Petraeus wrote in an essay published Tuesday by The Atlantic. "Now, belatedly, is the moment for us to pay such attention."

Fort Bragg was named for Braxton Bragg, a native North Carolinian and Confederate general with a reputation for bravery and mediocre leadership. His forces were defeated at the Battle of Chattanooga in November 1863.



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## The Latest: SKorea reports 45 new COVID cases, most in Seoul

By The Associated Press undefined

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea is reporting 45 new cases of COVID-19, all but two of them in the capital region, continuing a weeklong resurgence that health authorities fear could develop into a huge wave.

The figures announced Thursday bring national totals to 11,947 cases and 276 deaths. The capital of Seoul has 21 new infections, while 22 other cases are in nearby Incheon and Gyeonggi.

South Korea has been reporting around 30 to 50 new cases a day since late May, mostly in the densely populated Seoul area where about half of South Korea's 51 million people live.

Despite expressing concern over the steady rise in infections, government officials are resisting calls to reimpose stronger social distancing measures. They cite concerns over hurting a fragile economy.

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

- Police in Brazil raid governor's home for investigation of faulty ventilators
- U.S. expert Fauci explains where World Health Organization expert got it wrong
- British 'support bubbles' will allow couples not living together to get together
- America's Black Belt is an agricultural region first known for the color of its soil and then for its mostly black population. Life can be tough even on a good in the crescent-shaped slice of the southern U.S. that stretches from Louisiana to Virginia. It's where some of the poorest people in America live. They are, as usual, depending on each other to survive with unemployment intensifying and coronavirus infections raging.
- More than 30,000 indigenous people live in the Brazilian state capital hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Many among them are sick with fever, straining for air and dying. Just how many, no one knows. The AP interviewed and photographed more than a dozen indigenous people in and around Manaus. They wore the traditional dress of their tribes and masks they made to protect themselves from the virus.
- An unemployed mother of three used whatever money her family had to help out the countless number of other Filipinos in Dubai who have lost jobs during the coronavirus pandemic. Feby Dela Peña saw people lining up for free meals and founded a project she calls Ayuda. Each day, she offers 200 free meals to the hungry of Dubai, all of them foreigners. She is driven by their stories and determined to keep going.

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

### HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING TODAY:

BEIJING — China has reported a small spike in imported confirmed cases of coronavirus to 11. There were no new deaths or cases of local transmission in Thursday's report.

Chinese officials say just 62 people remain in treatment for COVID-19.

In addition, 130 people are under observation and isolation for showing signs of the illness or testing positive for the virus without showing any symptoms, as a safeguard against them possibly spreading it to others.

China has reported a total of 4,634 deaths from COVID-19 — a figure that hasn't changed in weeks — among 83,057 cases recorded since the virus was first detected in the central industrial city of Wuhan late last year.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says he's planning to hold his first rally of the COVID-19 era next Friday in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And he says he's planning more events in Florida, Texas and Arizona as well.

Trump made the announcement during a roundtable with African American supporters Wednesday afternoon that did not appear on his public schedule.

His signature rallies often draw tens of thousands of people but have been on hiatus since March 2 because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has now killed more than 110,000 people in the U.S.

Trump's campaign has been planning to resume rallies as it tries to move past the pandemic, even as

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cases continue to rise in some parts of the country.

A Trump campaign spokesperson tweeted a movie trailer-style video earlier Wednesday that advertised: "This month we're back."

**SAN JUAN**, Puerto Rico -- As Puerto Rico considers lifting pandemic quarantine restrictions, health officials say the U.S. territory passed its peak of coronavirus cases and related deaths more than two months ago. However, independent experts said those numbers are in doubt.

Health Department consultant Miguel Valencia said at a news conference Wednesday that Puerto Rico's confirmed COVID-19 cases peaked at 84 cases on March 31 and deaths at six on April 6. Overall, Puerto Rico has reported more than 5,300 confirmed cases and at least 143 deaths on the island of 3.2 million people.

Health Secretary Lorenzo González says the data will be taken into account when Gov. Wanda Vázquez decides whether to allow curfew and quarantine restrictions to expire on Monday. Those orders bar everyone except essential workers from being outside from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.

But critics complain the island has done too little testing and most of what has been done used the wrong sort of tests.

Roberta Lugo, a Puerto Rico-based epidemiologist and consultant, told The Associated Press that the official statistics are based on a very limited number of reliable molecular tests that look for current infections.

She says most confirmed cases were detected by serological testing, which checks for antibodies and indicate someone was exposed at some undetermined point. She said 80% of detections should come from the tests for a current infection.

**SAO PAULO** -- Retail shops reopened on Wednesday after a two-month pandemic shutdown in Brazil's biggest city, leading to crowded buses and subways from early in the day — and with many people ignoring social distancing rules.

Sao Paulo Mayor Bruno Covas authorized the restart of commerce between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. as long as shops required customers to use masks and limit the number allowed inside. Stores in malls were to remain closed until Thursday.

Brazil is among the Latin American countries hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic, with about 38,000 deaths. Sao Paulo state is approaching 10,000 COVID-19 deaths, about half of which took place in the metropolis of 12 million residents.

On Wednesday, the state reported a record 24-hour death toll increase of 340 people, surpassing a record set the previous day.

Sao Paulo city has seen a slight decrease in its intensive care unit bed occupancy rate, to around 70%. But many health specialists advised against the reopening, saying contagion is still growing in the city, though at a slower rate.

**MILAN** — Dozens of hospital nurses have protested in downtown Milan to demand better pay and the hiring of more colleagues.

Nurses have been hailed as Italy's heroes during the country's COVID-19 outbreak. Organizers of the protest on Wednesday noted that nurses in Italy are among the lowest paid in Europe.

Recently, three nurses, including one who collapsed on a keyboard from exhaustion while caring for infected patients, were among those honored by the Italian president for special service to the nation. At least 40 nurses with the virus have died in Italy.

**SKOPJE**, North Macedonia – North Macedonia has recorded its highest number of COVID -19 deaths in more than a month, as authorities warned that citizens were ignoring warnings to wear masks and to observe social distancing.

The European nation's Health Ministry said Wednesday it recorded 125 new infections and seven deaths

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in the past 24 hours. The total number of confirmed cases in the country with about 2.1 million people now stands at 3,364, including 164 deaths.

Health authorities said that the new spike is related to mass gatherings three weeks ago, during the celebrations of religious holidays, particularly in the capital of Skopje and three other regions.

The government says new movement restrictions are unnecessary but it ordered police to be strict in enforcing remaining controls and to issue fines, when merited. .

Police said Wednesday they fined a total 1,143 people in 24 hours who were found without protective masks.

**GENEVA** — The head of the World Health Organization says he and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar have discussed cooperation in responding to a new Ebola outbreak in Congo even as the Trump administration has announced plans to pull the United States out of the U.N. health agency.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday he had a "very good discussion" with Azar last week and the American official "assured me of U.S. continued commitment" to support the fight against Ebola.

The hopes for continued cooperation between the U.S. and the WHO come in the wake of President Donald Trump's repeated criticism of the health agency over its handling of the coronavirus outbreak. Late last month, Trump said he was "terminating" the U.S. relationship with the WHO.

Tedros' comments to reporters in Geneva suggested joint work was continuing, a least in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He said: "We have discussed with Secretary Azar to cooperate in helping DRC, but ... we're not receiving funding directly from the U.S."

Tedros added: "But I have said it many times: I think in our relationship with the U.S., it's not about the money."

**RIO DE JANEIRO** — Brazilian federal police raided the government palace of Para state in the Amazon region as well the governor's home as part of an investigation into alleged fraud in the purchase of ventilators for COVID-19 patients.

A police statement issued Wednesday said the alleged fraud stemmed from the acquisition of ventilators worth millions of dollars, done so without a call for bids as allowed by state of emergency protocols during the pandemic. The equipment was delayed and ultimately useless for treating people with COVID-19.

The statement says police are investigating alleged money laundering and corruption.

Para Gov. Helder Barbalho is the second governor to be investigated in relation to suspect medical expenditures during the pandemic.

Like Rio de Janeiro's governor, whose residence was raided last month, Barbalho has been a critic of President Jair Bolsonaro's rejection of quarantine measures to contain spread of the virus.

Both governors have denied any wrongdoing.

**BERGAMO**, Italy — Some 50 families who lost loved ones in the coronavirus epidemic have presented formal legal complaints to Italian prosecutors to seek clarity about whether there was wrongdoing in any of the cases.

Stefano Fusco, who helped organize a Facebook group at the peak of Italy's epidemic to collect stories of loss, said Wednesday that the complaints involve cases where facts surrounding the deaths remained unclear.

He said that they are not seeking the prosecution of individual health care workers but to reveal where the system might have failed.

Lawyer Consuelo Locati said about 50 complaints were presented to prosecutors in Bergamo and another 150 were being evaluated.

Bergamo prosecutors are separately investigating whether there is criminal liability in the decision not

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to create a red zone around the towns of Nembro and Alzano after an outbreak was discovered in the Alzano hospital on Feb. 23. The area was closed down on March 8, with the rest of the Lombardy region. Prosecutors have questioned the Lombardy governor and top health official.

ROME — Both the number of people infected with COVID-19 in intensive care or otherwise hospitalized in Italy continued to decline, according to daily figures released on Wednesday by the Health Ministry.

In the nation of more than 60 million, 249 coronavirus patients occupied intensive care beds, while during the height of the pandemic in Italy, several thousand infected patients needed ICU treatment on any given day. Italy registered 202 new cases in the 24 hours ending Wednesday evening, all but a couple dozen of those occurring in northern regions.

The latest cases raised the overall number of known coronavirus infections in the outbreak to 235,763. In the same one-day period, there were 71 known deaths of infected persons, bringing the death toll to 34,114. Authorities say both the number of cases and deaths in the pandemic are certainly much higher, but many in nursing homes or with mild symptoms never received testing.

LONDON — A scientist whose modelling helped set Britain's coronavirus strategy says that the country's death toll could have been cut in half if lockdown had been introduced a week earlier.

Neil Ferguson, an epidemiologist at Imperial College London, told lawmakers that when key decisions were being made in March, scientists underestimated how widely the virus had spread in the U.K.

He told Parliament's Science and Technology Committee that "the epidemic was doubling every three to four days before lockdown interventions were introduced," rather than the five to six days estimated at the time.

Britain went into lockdown on March 23. Ferguson said that "had we introduced lockdown measures a week earlier, we would have reduced the final death toll by at least a half."

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that adults living alone or single parents adults can form "support bubbles" with another household in England starting Saturday.

Members in the same two-household bubble can meet, indoors or out, without remaining two meters (6 ½ feet) apart. It's an exception to social distancing rules that will allow some grandparents to hug their grandchildren again and couples that don't live together to be intimate without breaking the law.

MOSCOW — Moscow officials have updated the number of coronavirus-linked deaths in the Russian capital last month, reporting a total of 5,260 in May.

Moscow's Health Department said in a statement on Wednesday that 2,757 deaths were caused by COVID-19, including 433 cases in which a test didn't confirm the presence of the virus. The department said 2,503 other people who tested positive for the virus died from other causes.

Russian officials have started giving detailed reports on virus-related deaths in an effort to dispel doubts about the country's low pandemic death toll and to counter allegations numbers were manipulated for political reasons.

Russia currently has the third-highest number of 493,000 confirmed virus cases and only 6,358 officially reported deaths. According to experts, only deaths directly caused by COVID-19 and confirmed by a positive test make the official count.

BRUSSELS — The European Union's top diplomat says travel restrictions implemented during the coronavirus pandemic at the EU's external borders should be partially lifted as of July 1.

Josep Borrell said Wednesday that the European Commission will discuss a coordinated plan with member nations and "put forward an approach for the gradual and partial lifting of these restrictions as of the 1st of July, with certain third countries."

All but essential travel from outside Europe is restricted until June 15. Many ministers from the 27-nation EU suggested earlier this month that they wanted this deadline extended until early July.

As for the EU's internal borders, Borrell said the executive commission took note that several countries



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are in the process of lifting internal border controls imposed to keep out people from other member states.

**PARIS** — Contract workers from France's all-important food, catering and events industry have held a protest between the Louvre Museum and Champs-Elysees to spread the message that the virus pandemic is killing their jobs.

The flash mob-style demonstration included about 30 people dressed in black simulating strangulation with their ties and putting signs reading "sentenced to death" into a coffin.

France's government spent billions on temporary unemployment benefits for workers, but contract workers in the food, catering and special events industry were not included.

Although restaurants and national borders are gradually reopening in France, tourism is expected to remain muted. Large gatherings are banned until at least the end of the summer, making it difficult for people in the hospitality industry to find employment.

**WASHINGTON** — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert, says the World Health Organization had to backtrack on its statement about asymptomatic spread of the coronavirus being rare because that simply "was not correct."

WHO's technical lead on the pandemic has tried to clear up "misunderstandings" about comments she made that were widely understood to suggest that people without COVID-19 symptoms rarely transmit the virus. Maria Van Kerkhove insisted Tuesday that she was referring only to a few studies, not a complete picture.

Weighing in on Wednesday, Fauci said the range of ways symptoms manifest is "extraordinary" but "there's no evidence" to suggest that individuals with the virus but no signs of illness can't infect others.

Fauci said on ABC's "Good Morning America": "And, in fact, the evidence that we have, given the percentage of people, which is about 25, 45% of the totality of infected people, likely are without symptoms. And we know from epidemiological studies that they can transmit to someone who is uninfected, even when they're without symptoms. So to make a statement — to say that's a rare event — was not correct. And that's the reason why the WHO walked that back."

**MAKASSAR, Indonesia** — Indonesian authorities have arrested dozens of people suspected of snatching the bodies of COVID-19 victims from several hospitals so the dead could be buried according to their wishes.

Provincial police spokesman Ibrahim Tompo said Wednesday that at least 33 suspects have been detained by police in South Sulawesi province in the past week. Tompo said charges against 10 of them will proceed to prosecutors.

He says if convicted, the suspects face up to seven years in prison and \$7,000 in fines for violating health laws and resisting officers.

Videos of several incidents have circulated widely on social media in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

In one instance, a mob is seen breaking into a hospital's isolation room and taking away a body on a stretcher.

Tompo said religious faith and funeral traditions are motives for people who see public health restrictions on burials as unacceptable.

The arrests came as Indonesia's Health Ministry reported the highest single-day increase in confirmed coronavirus cases Wednesday. The 1,241 new cases bring the country's total to 34,316. The figures include 36 people who died in the last 24 hours, taking the country's COVID-19 death toll to 1,923.

This item has been corrected to show that spokesman's surname is Tompo, not Ponto.

## Trump picks Tulsa for return of signature campaign rallies

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is planning to hold his first rally of the coronavirus era on June 19 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And he says he's planning more events in Florida, Texas and Arizona as well.

Trump made the announcement as he met with a handful of African American supporters Wednesday afternoon for a roundtable discussion.

Trump's signature rallies often draw tens of thousands of people but have been on hiatus since March 2 because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has now killed more than 110,000 people in the U.S.

"A beautiful new venue, brand new. We're looking forward to it," Trump said during a White House event. "They've done a great job with COVID, as you know, the state of Oklahoma."

The rally will take place on Juneteenth, the commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Tulsa has its own troubling history on race. Its once-thriving African American business community was decimated in 1921, when a racist white mob killed hundreds of black residents. Black residents attempted to rebuild in the decades that followed, only to see their work erased during urban renewal of the 1960s.

Trump's campaign has been eager to resume rallies as it tries to move past the pandemic, even as cases continue to rise in some parts of the country. He has focused most of his rallies this year on battleground states, although Oklahoma is reliably Republican.

Trump carried Oklahoma by more than 36 percentage points in 2016, more than doubling the vote the total of his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Oklahoma was among the earliest states to begin loosening coronavirus restrictions, with salons, spas and barbershops reopening in late April. Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt's most recent reopening phase places no limits on group gathering sizes as of June 1 and leaves the decision about how closely to adhere to social distancing guidelines up to business owners and local officials.

Stitt said the state was honored that the president was visiting.

"The President is making Oklahoma his first campaign stop since March 2, and his visit here confirms Oklahoma is the national example in responsibly and safely reopening," Stitt said in a statement issued Wednesday by his office.

State health officials say 47 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Tulsa County on Tuesday, the most recent county data available. That brought the overall total of cases reported to the county to 1,308. The number of current active cases was put at 274, an 13% increase from Monday. One new death brought the county's COVID-19 death toll to 973.

In a statement, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum said the city was still working to confirm details about the Trump visit and the rally venue.

Campaign officials did not respond to questions about why Tulsa was chosen and what safety precautions would be taken for those who attend.

Trump's reelection prospects will greatly turn on how the country grades his administration's response to the coronavirus as well as its response to the death of George Floyd, a black man who died while in police custody after an officer pressed his knee onto Floyd's neck for more than 8 minutes.

A Trump campaign spokesperson tweeted a movie trailer-style video earlier Wednesday that advertised: "This month we're back."

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Associated Press writers Kat Stafford in Detroit and Terry Wallace in Dallas contributed to this report.

## Relatives: Bodies found are 2 kids missing since September

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The bodies of two children uncovered in rural Idaho are a boy and his big sister who have been missing since September, relatives said Wednesday, bringing a grim end to a search that captivated people worldwide but no fewer questions about a case that has put their mother and her husband behind bars.

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Authorities have not released the identities of the bodies discovered on the property of Chad Daybell, who married the children's mother, Lori Vallow Daybell, a few weeks after the kids were last seen.

But Joshua "JJ" Vallow's grandfather Larry Woodcock told the Post Register in Idaho Falls that "both children are no longer with us."

Relatives of JJ, who was 7 when he vanished, and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan sent a joint statement to Phoenix television station KSAZ-TV confirming the deaths and asking for privacy.

It's another gruesome turn in a case that had dragged on for months without answers and grew ever stranger with its ties to the couple's doomsday beliefs and the mysterious deaths of their former spouses.

But developments were rapid this week: Investigators searched Chad Daybell's property for evidence, they found children's bodies, and prosecutors charged him with destroying or concealing two sets of human remains. Then finally, relatives reported that the children they have been fighting to find for months were dead.

Daybell's attorney, John Prior, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. A judge set bail at \$1 million during a short court hearing Wednesday.

In court documents, Madison County Prosecutor Rob Wood said he believes Chad Daybell either concealed or helped hide the remains knowing that they were about to be used as evidence in court. Wood said the first body was hidden or destroyed sometime on or after Sept. 8 — the last known day that Tylee was seen — and the second on or after Sept. 22, the last known day that JJ was seen.

A document that details the reasons behind the charges was sealed after Wood said it could compromise the criminal investigation. The prosecutor also noted how much media attention the case has received and said keeping the document secret would help preserve Daybell's right to a fair trial.

Lori Daybell already has been charged with child abandonment and obstructing the investigation and is in jail on \$1 million bond. Her attorney has indicated she intends to defend herself against the charges, and she is scheduled for a preliminary hearing next month.

Police began searching for Tylee and JJ in November after relatives raised concerns. Police say the Daybells lied to investigators about the children's whereabouts before quietly leaving Idaho. They were found in Hawaii months later.

The complex case spans several states and began with Lori Daybell's brother shooting and killing her estranged husband, Charles Vallow, in suburban Phoenix last summer in what he asserted was self-defense. Vallow was seeking a divorce, saying Lori believed she had become a god-like figure who was responsible for ushering in the biblical end times. Her brother, Alex Cox, died in December of an apparent blood clot in his lung.

Shortly after Vallow's death, Lori and the children moved to Idaho, where Chad Daybell lived. He ran a small publishing company, putting out many fiction books he wrote about apocalyptic scenarios loosely based on the theology of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also recorded podcasts about preparing for biblical end times, and friends said he claimed to be able to receive visions from "beyond the veil."

He was married to Tammy Daybell, who 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.

## 'Stop the pain,' George Floyd's brother pleads with Congress

By LISA MASCARO and ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Floyd's brother challenged Congress on Wednesday to "stop the pain" as lawmakers consider a sweeping law enforcement overhaul, so the man he looked up to won't become just "another name" on a growing list of black Americans killed during interactions with police.

Philonise Floyd's appearance before a House hearing came a day after funeral services for his older brother, the 46-year-old African American whose death has become a worldwide symbol in demonstrations calling for changes to police practices and an end to racial prejudice.

"I'm here today to ask you to make it stop. Stop the pain," Philonise Floyd told the silenced hearing room.

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Choking back tears, he said he wants to make sure that his brother, whom he called "Perry," is "more than another face on a T-shirt, more than another name on a list that won't stop growing."

Floyd challenged lawmakers to be leaders: "Our country, this world needs the right thing."

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler gavelled in the session, with many lawmakers and witnesses masked during the COVID-19 outbreak, as Democrats review the Justice in Policing Act, a far-ranging package of proposals amid a national debate on policing and racial inequality.

Repercussions after the weeks of protest continued nationwide.

President Donald Trump ruled out changing the names of Army bases named for Confederate Army officers, NASCAR announced it is banning the Confederate flag from its races and venues, and Amazon said it will suspend police use of its facial recognition technology for a year.

In Washington, lawmakers also heard testimony from civil rights and law enforcement leaders as Congress considers changes to police practices and accountability after Floyd's death in police custody in Minnesota and the mass protests that followed.

"Today we answer their call," Nadler said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi watched from the audience, and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy also joined.

Republicans are criticizing activists who want to "defund the police" — a catch-all term for shifting law enforcement resources — though the Democratic bill does not call for that. Trump and allies have seized on the phrase to portray Democrats as extreme as GOP lawmakers rush to come up with their own proposals.

"The American people understand that it's time for a real discussion," said Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the ranking Republican on the panel. But he said they also understand "it is pure insanity to defund the police."

For hours, witnesses described what what happened to Floyd on May 25 — one called it a "lynching." Others placed his death alongside those of other African Americans, an ever increasing tally that has become difficult for lawmakers in Congress to ignore.

Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, which is leading the legislative effort, said the proposed changes reflect a nation coming to grips with a history of racial injustice.

"This is about the kind of America we all want to see," said Bass.

The Democrats' legislation would create a national database of police misconduct, ban police choke holds and loosen "qualified immunity" to make it easier for those injured to seek damages in lawsuits, among other changes. The proposals don't go as far as some activists want to defund police departments for other community services. They do, however, make available grant money for states to reimagine ways of policing.

Republicans as well as Democrats have called for a national registry of use-of-force incidents, so police officers cannot transfer between departments without public awareness of their records.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said the "depravity" he said he saw in the video of Floyd's death "burned in my soul." He welcomed a new database and called for police chiefs to get rid of "bad apples."

There is also growing bipartisan support for increasing the use of police body cameras, ending no-knock warrants — police used one to enter the home of Breonna Taylor, who was killed in Louisville, Kentucky — and making other changes to police practices and oversight.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Wednesday that Trump was still looking at different options. She said the administration was making "final edits" on a proposal for release "in the coming days."

Philonise Floyd's testimony captivated the room as he recounted what he saw in the widely viewed video as an officer pressed a knee into George Floyd's neck while other police stood by. The one officer, Derek Chauvin, who is white, is now charged with murder, and three others also face charges.

"He called all of the officers 'sir,'" said Philonise Floyd. "He still called them 'sir' as he begged for his life."

"His life mattered," the brother said. He broke down at one point over the images. At another, he said he wonders every day if he will be "next."

Within the wrenching testimony were many of the core issues being debated as part of the police overhaul. Those include questions about whether it's appropriate to have police officers respond to minor



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offenses — Floyd was accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a neighborhood market — and the use of force to detain suspects.

"I am asking you, is that what a black man's life is worth? Twenty dollars?" Philonise Floyd asked.

Asked if he could think of any reason for the incident, Floyd told Nadler his brother and Chauvin both worked at the same place.

"I think it was personal," Philonise Floyd testified.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said Wednesday investigators are looking into a report from CBS News that the men had "bumped heads" working at the El Nuevo Rodeo nightclub in Minneapolis.

Rev. Darrell Scott, who is part of Trump's national diversity coalition, blasted activists' push to dismantle police departments as "one of the most unwise, irresponsible proposals" ever.

Scott noted he, like many black men, has been pulled over by police for "driving while black," as he put it.

"I could very easily have been George Floyd," he testified. "However, I do not recommend throwing out the baby with the bathwater."

The committee also heard from Angela Underwood Jacobs, the sister of a black law enforcement officer, Dave Patrick Underwood, who was shot and killed while guarding a federal courthouse in California during the protests that followed Floyd's death.

Underwood Jacobs, a former Republican candidate for Congress, called for justice for Floyd and for her brother. She said the idea of defunding the police was "ridiculous." But she also urged the lawmakers to find answers.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Zeke Miller in Washington and videojournalist Carrie Antfinger in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

## Disney plans to reopen California theme parks in July

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Disney is proposing to reopen its Southern California theme parks in mid-July after what will be a four-month closure due to the coronavirus, the company said on Wednesday.

Disney Parks, Experiences and Products said in a statement that the goal is to reopen Disneyland and Disney California Adventure on July 17. A nearby Disney-themed shopping area would reopen on July 9.

Advance reservations will be required for theme park visitors and capacity will be limited, the statement said. Events that draw large crowds, such as parades and nighttime spectaculars, won't return immediately and Disney characters will be in the parks but not available to meet with visitors, the statement said.

The plan to reopen the parks, which have been closed since March 14, is still pending government approval.

Disneyland fans normally can bank on the park being open regardless of what's going on in the world around it. The park closed only a handful of times in 65 years and never for more than a day, according to Jason Schultz, supervisory archivist at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum and unofficial Disneyland historian who wrote "Jason's Disneyland Almanac." The last closure was after the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

The proposed reopening date is 65 years after Disneyland first opened its gates in 1955.

California — which recently announced plans to let many of its counties reopen gyms, bars and museums — hasn't yet set a timeline for amusement parks to reopen. More than 4,700 people have died in the state from the virus, which causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, can cause pneumonia and death.

Mike Lyster, a spokesman for the city of Anaheim, welcomed news of the reopening after such a long closure, and said local officials are confident Disney can manage attendance and keep the surrounding community safe.

"Next to saving lives, recovery is the most important part of any incident," he said. "It will be a major morale boost as we all look to go into a period of recovery."

## Amid tears and laughter, visits resume in nursing homes

By RODRIQUE NGOWI Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — She wore a mask and sat across the nursing home patio from her elderly mother, but Marcie Abramson's emotions were on full display as the two connected in person for the first time in nearly three months.

Like many states, Massachusetts in mid-March limited visits to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities to protect those most vulnerable to the coronavirus, which has exacted a heavy toll among older Americans. More than 60% of the state's nearly 7,500 COVID-19 deaths have involved nursing home residents.

Nationally, over 35,500 people have died from coronavirus outbreaks at nursing homes and long-term care facilities, about a third of the national toll, according to a running tally by The Associated Press.

But in Massachusetts, in-person visits resumed Wednesday with masks, social distancing — and plenty of tears and laughter.

"You wanna give me a kiss?" Abramson called out to her 89-year-old mother, Cynthia Abramson, at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Boston in the pair's first encounter since the pandemic began.

Kisses were strictly off-limits, so the pair exchanged an "air hug."

"Oh, Ma! I love you so much! I really, really missed you," the daughter gushed, choking back tears. "The day finally came. The day is here. I get to visit you."

Under strict Massachusetts guidelines aimed at avoiding a spike in coronavirus cases, visits must be scheduled and take place in designated outdoor areas, with the exception of end-of-life situations.

Nursing home residents are allowed only two visitors at a time, and everyone must wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart. Residents with confirmed or possible cases of the disease cannot have visitors, although those who have recovered can.

Abramson and her husband, Jeffrey Hunt, had their temperature taken and were screened for symptoms — additional steps that all visitors must take. Facilities also are taking care to disinfect chairs and other objects that visitors have used or touched.

"I have to say that I was nervous to see my mom today," she said. "I was really, really nervous. I didn't sleep because she had been thinking that today may never come, that no one would ever be able to visit again and that's where she would end up. ... The emotional and mental toll on people has been extremely difficult."

Hunt said his mother-in-law developed some major health challenges just as the pandemic began.

"So her ability to just process information and understand what's happening to her, what's going on around her, was significantly compromised. And that just made the whole quarantine situation exponentially more difficult for her," he said.

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Associated Press writer William J. Kole contributed to this report.

## Minneapolis police chief takes on union, promises change

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minneapolis Police Department will withdraw from police union contract negotiations, Chief Medaria Arradondo said Wednesday, as he announced initial steps in what he said would be transformational reforms to the agency in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Faced with calls from activists and a majority of City Council members to dismantle or defund the department, Arradondo also said he would use a new system to identify problem officers early and intervene.

"We will have a police department that our communities view as legitimate, trusting and working with their best interests at heart," he said at a news conference more than two weeks after Floyd died after a white officer pressed his knee into the handcuffed black man's neck even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

Activists have pointed to racial inequities and brutality, as well as a system that rarely disciplines problem

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officers. The officer who had his knee on Floyd's neck, Derek Chauvin, had 17 complaints against him and had been disciplined only once.

Arradondo said "taking a deliberate pause" to review the union contract is the first step toward change. He said it's debilitating for a chief when an officer does something that calls for termination, but the union works to keep that person on the job.

Advisers will look for ways to restructure the contract to provide more transparency and flexibility, he said. The review will look at critical incident protocols, use of force, and disciplinary protocols, including grievances and arbitration, among other things.

"This work must be transformational, but I must do it right," Arradondo said.

The union's contract expired on Dec. 31 but remains in effect until there is a new one. Talks began in October and eventually included a state mediator; the last discussion was in early March, when the coronavirus led to talks breaking off.

Union President Bob Kroll didn't immediately return messages.

Arradondo sidestepped a question about whether he thought Kroll, often seen as an obstacle to changes, should step down. He also didn't directly answer a question about whether residents should worry about a slowdown in police response time as a pushback against attempts to transform the department. Some City Council members have said in the past that their wards saw such slowdowns when they complained about police action.

In an interview later, Arradondo said it's up to the union's members to decide whether Kroll should resign. But he said he hopes the union leadership takes to heart "the fierce urgency of now." He said he doesn't believe rank-and-file officers are an obstacle to change. He also said citizens "should not be concerned or worried" about any slowdown in service.

"Our men and women continue to show up," he said. "They're showing up on their shifts. They're showing up out there in the community. They're answering the calls."

Arradondo fired the four officers who were at the scene of the encounter with Floyd the day after his death. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter, and the other three officers are charged with aiding and abetting.

One of those officers, Thomas Lane, posted bail of \$750,000 and was released Wednesday with conditions. Chauvin, J. Kueng and Tou Thao remained in custody.

Arradondo's predecessor, Janee Harteau, and Mayor Jacob Frey are among those who have complained that the police union is a roadblock to change. Frey, who praised Arradondo's announcement, said this week that the city has difficulty terminating and disciplining officers because of the union. Bob Bennett, an attorney who has sued the department many times over police misconduct allegations, has said that the union has more sway over police conduct than chiefs do.

While a majority of City Council members called for dismantling the department, they provided no clear plan on how that would happen. Frey has said he would not support abolishing the department.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who is prosecuting the four officers, told The Associated Press in an interview earlier Wednesday that he's not calling for dismantling or defunding the department but that the people who are "should be listened to rather than dismissed."

He said it was fair to question whether community groups that fight against gun violence should get more money, for example, and whether schools with officers should also have more nurses and counselors.

"Nobody's saying defund safety," Ellison said. "What they're doing is they're challenging the 19th, 20th century model of how we deliver safety ... how it's not really working very well and coming up with alternatives."

Arradondo, the city's first African American police chief, joined the Minneapolis Police Department in 1989 as a patrol officer, working his way up to precinct inspector and head of the Internal Affairs Unit, which investigates officer misconduct allegations. Along the way, he and four other black officers successfully sued the department for discrimination in promotions, pay and discipline.

He was promoted to assistant chief in early 2017, then became chief later that year, after Harteau was

fired for the way she handled the fatal police shooting of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, an Australian native who had called 911 to report a possible sexual assault behind her home.

Many hoped Arradondo could alter the culture of a department that critics said too frequently used excessive force and discriminated against people of color. Arradondo made some quick changes, including toughening the department's policy on use of body cameras. But critics have said more needs to be done.

## Fed to keep providing aid and sees no rate hike through 2022

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confronted with an economy gripped by recession and high unemployment, the Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday that it expects to keep its key short-term interest rate near zero through 2022.

At the same time, the Fed said it will keep buying about \$120 billion in Treasury and mortgage bonds each month to maintain low longer-term borrowing rates in an effort to spur spending and growth.

The Fed's message Wednesday, in a statement after its latest policy meeting and in a virtual news conference by Chair Jerome Powell, was that it's ready to do more to help support a shaky economy that faces significant uncertainty. Powell acknowledged that he and other Fed policymakers have only a hazy view of how the economy will fare in the coming months, largely because no one knows how quickly businesses may regain their health or resume a normal pace of hiring.

By pegging its short-term rate to zero for the next two-plus years, the Fed is seeking to induce consumers and businesses to spend more to sustain an economy depressed by the coronavirus. Its benchmark rate influences a range of loans, including for homes, autos and credit cards.

"It is clear that the Fed does not anticipate a V-shaped economic recovery and is positioned to move forcefully to support the economy," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM, referring to an economy that snaps back as quickly as it shrank.

Stock prices initially rallied modestly after the Fed issued its latest policy statement at 2 p.m. Eastern time before most indexes closed in negative territory.

Powell noted that the job market "may have hit bottom" last month, when employers added a surprise 2.5 million jobs, according to a government report last Friday. But he underscored that nearly 21 million Americans remain unemployed and that one solid jobs report was hardly enough to ensure that the economy is back on track — or alter the Fed's intention to keep rates ultra-low.

"We're not going to overreact to a single data point," he said. "We're not thinking about raising rates. We're not even thinking about thinking about raising rates."

In the statement, the Fed also credited its emergency lending programs for reviving the flow of credit to households and businesses, after markets had locked up in March when investors sold a range of securities to boost their cash holdings.

The central bank noted that the viral outbreak has caused a plunge in economic activity and surge in job losses. Fed officials estimate that the economy will shrink 6.5% this year, in line with other forecasts, before expanding 5% in 2021. They foresee the unemployment rate at 9.3%, near the peak of the last recession, by year's end. The rate is now 13.3%.

The projections suggest that the Fed doesn't see the economy fully recovering from the recession until 2023.

"My assumption is that there will be a significant chunk — well into the millions — of people who don't get back to their old jobs," Powell said. "It could be some years" before they find work.

Earlier Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he thought the economy would need more aid to emerge from the recession but said the next round of congressional support should be targeted to the hardest-hit areas of the economy.

Testifying to the Senate Small Business Committee, Mnuchin said the administration planned to review the measures that the next relief bill should include. Congress has already approved nearly \$3 trillion to help counter the impact damage from virus. New support will need to encourage employers, especially in



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industries like restaurants and travel, to rehire workers.

At his news conference, Powell began by acknowledging the widespread protests in the aftermath of George Floyd's killing that have called attention to racial injustices.

"I want to acknowledge the tragic events that have put a spotlight on (issues of racism)," Powell said. "There is no place at the Federal Reserve for racism, and there should be no place in our society."

Since March, the Fed has slashed its benchmark short-term rate, bought \$2.1 trillion in Treasury and mortgage bonds to inject cash into markets and rolled out nine lending programs to try to keep credit flowing smoothly.

Powell said Fed policymakers now want to take some time "to get a better understanding of the economy's trajectory" and how they might do more to bolster the economy.

One possible move, he said, would be to provide more specific guidance about how long the Fed will keep short-term rates low. This guidance could help the economy by reducing the likelihood that investors will send borrowing costs higher before the Fed intends.

The policymakers could, for example, announce at a future meeting that they will put off any rate hike until inflation returns to its 2% target.

Another option the Fed discussed, Powell said, is to peg more rates at nearly zero, such as those on two-year or three-year Treasury notes, to underscore their determination to keep rates very low for that length of time. Australia's central bank has adopted such a policy.

But Powell said it is still an "open question" as to whether the Fed would take that approach.

The chairman pushed back at a question about whether the economy could sink into something resembling the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"I don't think the Great Depression is a good example or a likely outcome or a model for what's happening here," he said. "First, the government response has been so fast and so forceful. The origin was quite different. This was an economy that was in a healthy place. The financial system this time was in very good shape, much better capitalized."

Over the past few weeks, the Fed's actions are credited with having helped fuel an extraordinary rally in the stock market, which has nearly regained its pre-pandemic high after a dizzying plunge in March. By committing to buy corporate bonds, for example, the central bank has ensured that corporations can continue to borrow. Its initiatives also include a first-ever program through which the Fed is buying state and local government debt to support the municipal bond market.

Many economists say those steps have prevented the downturn from worsening, by keeping credit flowing. This week, the National Bureau of Economic Research, the official arbiter of recessions, declared that the U.S. economy entered a recession in February.

AP Economics Writer Martin Crutsinger contributed to this report.

## 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.

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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 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

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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 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

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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.

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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.

## **Anna Wintour apologizes for race-related 'mistakes' at Vogue**

**By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Vogue's Anna Wintour has apologized in an internal email for "mistakes" made in her 32-year tenure in not doing enough to elevate black voices on her staff and publishing images and stories that have been racially and culturally "hurtful or intolerant."

The fashion doyenne wrote in the June 4 email: "I take full responsibility for those mistakes."

The magazine's editor in chief, who is also Conde Nast's artistic director and global content adviser, had no further comment Wednesday on the email obtained by The Associated Press. It was first revealed Tuesday in the New York Post.

Wintour's mea culpa surfaced soon after Adam Rapoport, the editor in chief of another Conde Nast title, Bon Appetit, resigned after a photo surfaced of him in brownface, amplifying outrage over how the food magazine treats employees of color.

On Monday, the top editor and a co-founder of the lifestyle site Refinery29, Christene Barberich, resigned after former employees complained on social media of a toxic culture and unfair treatment of staff members of color over the years.

Meanwhile, Samira Nasr on Wednesday was named the first editor in chief of color in the 153-year history of U.S. Harper's Bazaar.

In her email, Wintour referenced the country's "historic and heartbreaking moment" after the death of George Floyd and other black people at the hands of police, events that sparked rage and grief in protests playing out for more than two weeks around the world.

"I want to start by acknowledging your feelings and expressing my empathy towards what so many of you are going through: sadness, hurt, and anger too. I want to say this especially to the Black members of our team — I can only imagine what these days have been like. But I also know that the hurt, and violence, and injustice we're seeing and talking about have been around for a long time. Recognizing it



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and doing something about it is overdue," Wintour told her staff.

She called for the tumult to be a "time of listening, reflection, and humility for those of us in positions of privilege and authority. It should also be a time of action and commitments."

Wintour didn't specify what content she was referring to as offensive, or what steps will be taken to rectify hiring and bring on a new creative approach. She pledged, "On a corporate level, work is being done to support organizations in a real way. These actions will be announced as soon as possible."

She wrote: "Meanwhile, I want to say plainly that I know Vogue has not found enough ways to elevate and give space to Black editors, writers, photographers, designers and other creators. We have made mistakes too, publishing images or stories that have been hurtful or intolerant. I take full responsibility for those mistakes."

Wintour said her staff includes "too few" black employees. She didn't say how many there are.

"I know that it is not enough to say we will do better, but we will — and please know that I value your voices and responses as we move forward."

## HBO Max removes 'Gone With the Wind,' will add context

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — HBO Max has temporarily removed "Gone With the Wind" from its streaming library in order to add historical context to the 1939 film long criticized for romanticizing slavery and the Civil War-era South.

Protests in the wake of George Floyd's death have forced entertainment companies to grapple with the appropriateness of both current and past productions. On Tuesday, the Paramount Network dropped the long-running reality series "Cops" after 33 seasons. The BBC also removed episodes of "Little Britain," a comedy series that featured a character in blackface, from its streaming service.

In an op-ed Monday in the Los Angeles Times, the filmmaker John Ridley urged WarnerMedia to take down "Gone With the Wind," arguing that it "romanticizes the Confederacy in a way that continues to give legitimacy to the notion that the secessionist movement was something more, or better, or more noble than what it was — a bloody insurrection to maintain the 'right' to own, sell and buy human beings."

In a statement, the AT&T-owned WarnerMedia, which owns HBO Max, called "Gone With the Wind" "a product of its time" that depicts racial prejudices.

"These racist depictions were wrong then and are wrong today, and we felt that to keep this title up without an explanation and a denouncement of those depictions would be irresponsible," said an HBO Max spokesman in a statement.

The company said that when "Gone With the Wind" returns to the recently launched streaming service, it will include "historical context and a denouncement of those very depictions, but will be presented as it was originally created, because to do otherwise would be the same as claiming these prejudices never existed."

Based on a 1936 book by Margaret Mitchell, "Gone With the Wind" is a historical epic about a romance between Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh), the daughter of a Georgia plantation owner, and Rhett Butler (Clark Gable), a gambler who joins the Confederacy.

"Gone With the Wind" has long been denounced for featuring slave characters who remain loyal to their former owners after the abolition of slavery. It remains the highest-grossing film of all time when adjusted for inflation. It won eight Academy Awards including best picture and best supporting actress for Hattie McDaniel, the first black actress to be nominated or win an Oscar.

The move by WarnerMedia prompted widespread debate on social media Wednesday, especially among those who didn't realize HBO Max planned to return "Gone With the Wind" to its platform.

"I'm told that no longer can you find on HBO 'Gone with the Wind' because somehow that is now offensive," said Kayleigh McEnany, White House press secretary. "Where do you draw the line? Is it to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and James Madison? (Should they) be erased from history? What about FDR and internment camps? Should he be erased from history?"

"Gone With the Wind" remains widely available for digital rental and purchase. On Wednesday, it rose

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toward the top of movie charts on Amazon and Apple's iTunes.

Associated Press' Amer Madhani contributed to this report from Washington

## **Pandemic hampers raising rare whooping cranes for the wild**

**By JANET McCONNAUGHEY Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The COVID-19 pandemic is drastically reducing the number of young whooping cranes to be released this fall to help bring back the world's rarest cranes. Zoos and other places where the endangered birds are bred have had to cut not only staff size but use of two techniques to boost the birds' numbers: artificial insemination and hand-rearing -- or, rather, costume-rearing -- chicks.

Whooping cranes are North America's tallest birds, 5 feet (1.5 meters) high from their black feet to the little red caps on their heads. They're white with black tips on wings spanning 7 feet (2.1 meters). They mate for life.

Only about 825 exist. All are descended from 15 that had survived habitat loss and hunters in 1941, breeding in Canada's largest national park and wintering in Aransas, Texas.

Biologists are trying to establish two more flocks to mitigate disaster should anything happen to the original flock, now 500 strong. There are 75 birds based in Louisiana and 85 in a flock taught to migrate from Wisconsin to Florida by following ultralight aircraft.

In a normal year, breeders in various areas and wildlife agents in Louisiana and Wisconsin would collect some eggs for incubation, knowing the parents will lay a second and even a third clutch. That both increases the number of chicks per year and, in Wisconsin, helps keep wild chicks from hatching during the worst of the bloodsucking black fly season, which has proven dangerous to them.

Some incubated chicks get captive whoopers as surrogate parents, but there aren't enough for all. To keep the rest from viewing people as their flock, keepers don baggy white "crane costumes" that cover them from head to ankles, and manipulate crane-head hand puppets to teach chicks to forage for insects.

Audubon Nature Institute's Species Survival Center in New Orleans usually costume-raises a number of chicks. But COVID-19 is expected to cut revenues \$21 million — nearly 37% of the year's planned budget — at the institute, which also includes a zoo, aquarium, insectarium and nature center. That has meant staff cuts -- mostly in maintenance — which means keepers are doing some of that work and have less time overall, curator Michelle Hatwood said.

She said costume-rearing is expensive and will be used only if a crane couple turns out to be poor parents. The center's 21 birds include eight pairs, some unmated birds and a few that would normally be housed next to growing chicks as behavior models.

The birds were moved to Audubon two years ago after the federal breeding center at Patuxent, Maryland, closed down, she said. "Most are brand-new -- they've never raised a chick."

No chicks at all are expected at the species' largest breeding center. All 41 whooping cranes at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, require artificial insemination. One person holds a bird while another collects or injects sperm.

"That doesn't really go with the social distancing guidelines," aviculturist Kim Boardman said.

The technique is needed for a variety of reasons -- old injuries, arthritis, or because their mates aren't the best genetic match in a highly inbred species.

The big birds mate standing up, and a male with a bad wing or leg can't do the job, Hatwood said.

Each center sets its own policy, and Audubon decided the procedure was brief enough to let keepers in masks and eye shields work with the most genetically valuable birds.

A third person is often needed to fend off a bird's mate during the operation, Hatwood said: "They have very sharp nails and very poky beaks."

Other breeding centers are at the Calgary Zoo in Alberta, Canada (27 birds), the White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee, Florida (10) and the Dallas Zoo and Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Virginia (9 each), with another 25 birds too old or otherwise unsuited for breeding living at zoos for display only.

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The Dallas Zoo's birds, which arrived at a 2½-acre off-site breeding facility last August, were chosen as both genetically well suited and likely to breed on their own, said Matt James, senior director of animal care. "We're going to try for the first couple of seasons to do this naturally," he said.

Wild whooping cranes are hatching chicks, but those don't get counted as members of the flock until they can fly. And even then, it isn't easy being free. In Louisiana, 21 chicks hatched from 2016 through 2019. Seven lived to fly. Three have avoided perils such as predators, power lines and people who shoot at birds, and are still alive.

Follow Janet McConnaughey on Twitter: @JanetMcCinNO

## Top officials at Poetry Foundation resign amid criticisms

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two top officials at one of the country's leading poetry organizations have stepped down amid criticism over its response to the protests against police violence and racism.

The Poetry Foundation announced Wednesday that its president, Henry Bienen, and board chairman, Willard Bunn III, had resigned, effectively immediately. CFO Kathleen Coughlin will oversee the foundation while it searches for a new president and the board's current vice chair, Caren Yanis, will serve as acting chair "through this process as the staff and board listen to the community and develop a plan of action."

Last weekend, more than 1,000 poets and foundation supporters issued an open letter calling for Bienen and Bunn to leave and be replaced by someone with "a demonstrated commitment to both the world of poetry and the project of creating a world that is just and affirming for people of color, disabled people, trans people, queer people, and immigrants." Endorsers vowed not to contribute any more work to the foundation's Poetry magazine until it made a "significantly greater allocation of financial resources toward work which is explicitly anti-racist in nature."

Earlier this week, more than 1,000 publishing employees staged a "day of action" in support of the protests following the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police and to call attention to the industry's acknowledged lack of diversity.

The poets' June 6 letter came in response to a statement issued three days earlier by the Chicago-based foundation, saying that members "stand in solidarity with the Black community, and denounce injustice and systemic racism." Signers of the letter, among them Ocean Vuong, Sam Sax and Erika L. Sanchez, denounced the statement as vague and lacking any commitment to concrete steps.

"It is an insult to the lives of your neighbors who have been targeted, brutalized, terrorized, and detained by the Chicago Police Department in the past week, including many Black youth," the letter reads.

Poetry magazine was started in 1912 and has published work by T.S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams and other leading poets of the 20th and 21st centuries. The foundation was established in 2003 after Ruth Lilly, heir to the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical fortune, donated \$100 million to the magazine, which at the time had an annual budget of under \$1 million. The foundation, which for years debated how to manage its exponential increase in money, currently offers a wide range of awards, workshops, readings and podcasts.

## 'We need help': Small cities face fiscal calamity from virus

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Unfilled potholes, uncollected trash, unmown grass and, most significantly, fewer police on the street are some of what Allentown says it's contemplating unless Washington helps it plug a multimillion-dollar budget hole left by the coronavirus pandemic.

Pennsylvania's third-largest city, with a population of over 120,000, Allentown has largely fended for itself amid sharply falling tax revenue. It's one of thousands of smaller cities and counties across the U.S. that were cut off from direct aid in the \$2 trillion coronavirus relief package passed by Congress in late March. Local officials in those left-out places are now pleading for a massive cash infusion from the federal government to help them stave off financial calamity.

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"We represent the average city. If cities like Allentown begin to crumble, that's how America crumbles," said City Council member Ce-Ce Gerlach. "So something needs to be done. We need help."

The federal CARES Act sent \$150 billion to states and the nation's most populous cities and counties to help them pay for expenses related to the virus outbreak. But only 36 cities met the population threshold of 500,000 or more to qualify for the money. With the next round of aid stalled in Congress — and no guarantee of a federal bailout anytime soon — Allentown and other local governments are facing tough choices about what to cut and what to keep.

Already, cities are dipping into reserves, canceling road projects, postponing routine maintenance, cutting parks and recreation programs, and furloughing staff. State and local governments have shed more than 1.5 million jobs since the beginning of March, the U.S. Labor Department reported last week. The National League of Cities says municipalities could be looking at \$360 billion in red ink through 2022.

"I am hearing from our members all across the country that every day that goes by, the situation is increasingly dire," said Irma Esparza Diggs, the group's chief lobbyist.

That's especially true in Pennsylvania, where cities and towns could see a 40% revenue shortfall — the most of any state, according to a League of Cities analysis.

Allentown predicts a budget deficit of over \$10 million, a number officials say could go higher if the economy doesn't rebound quickly. Like other local governments, Allentown has already been paring back. The city furloughed as many as 87 people out of a work force of 783, and all city department chiefs were ordered to slice another 7% from their budgets, including for police, fire and emergency medical services.

Tax hikes, for now, appear to be off the table. City leaders raised property taxes by 27% two years ago and say residents can't bear another increase, especially in the middle of a pandemic and historic unemployment.

"It wasn't fair," Mayor Ray O'Connell said of the lack of federal support. "The cities are the backbone, the heart of the state and the nation, and to get nothing ... we're scrambling."

A \$3 trillion relief bill passed in May by the U.S. House, where Democrats have the majority, included nearly \$1 trillion for state and local governments. It has no chance of passing in the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate, where prospects for future aid to states and cities remain uncertain.

Allentown, a former industrial center about an hour north of Philadelphia, had been revitalizing its moribund downtown before the pandemic struck. State tax incentives contributed to development that included a new hockey arena, gleaming office buildings and upscale apartments. Yet Allentown remains a poor city, with over a quarter of its residents living in poverty, more than twice the rate of surrounding Lehigh County and Pennsylvania as a whole.

The pandemic hit the city hard. About 2,300 people in Allentown have tested positive for the virus — an infection rate higher than Philadelphia's — and 67 have died. The economy has suffered, too, with businesses deemed nonessential forced to close their doors for 2 1/2 months. Allentown's main street was virtually devoid of pedestrians and auto traffic on a recent Friday afternoon, though some pandemic restrictions have since been lifted and retailers were allowed to reopen last Friday.

"One of the things that's most disheartening right now is we had a lot of really good momentum going," said Santo Napoli, owner of assembly88, a men's clothing store downtown. "You have all this great momentum and then, March, the sky falls with corona."

"This is not a downtown Allentown problem," Napoli added. "This is a Main Street everywhere problem."

Other virus impacts have been less visible than an empty downtown, but no less troubling.

The city was forced to cancel a popular summer playground program that many parents lean on while they're at work. A major homeless shelter lost nearly all its volunteer workforce because of virus restrictions.

At Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, an Allentown community group, executive director Hasshan Batts and his colleagues began buying up all the diapers they could find — 60,000 and counting — and have been going door to door to distribute them to families in need.

"The city's been limited in the role that they can play, because they didn't get the support and resources from the federal government," Batts said. "Our city was set up for failure by the lack of federal support."

Meanwhile, some of the region's cultural institutions, shuttered for months and heavily reliant on ticket



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sales to stay afloat, are at risk of going under, according to the Cultural Coalition of Allentown, an umbrella group.

The Alternative Gallery, a nonprofit arts organization located in an old cigar factory, is holding an online fundraiser "just to keep our doors open through September," said Brandon Wunder, the founder and gallery director.

He criticized the federal response as inadequate to the task.

The pandemic "got politicized, which never should've happened. And because of that, it's been a battle when we should've been working together," he said.

Some states are sharing the money they received from the earlier congressional relief package with local governments. Pennsylvania plans to distribute \$625 million to counties that did not get direct aid from the federal government, including \$33 million for Lehigh County, of which Allentown is the seat. A committee will decide how the money will be distributed, but it's too soon to say whether Allentown will get a cut, or how much. In any case, there will be a lot of competition for the money.

"When everybody holds their hand out, not everybody is going to get the amount of M&Ms they were hoping for," said Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong, the county's top elected official. "When you look at the needs, it's probably going to be short."

Republicans in the U.S. Senate have said they want to see how the money they previously approved is being spent so they can get a better idea of the needs before negotiating another massive aid bill. The Allentown region, for instance, has received nearly \$90 million in federal funding for hospitals, public transit, the airport and the Allentown School District.

Republican Sen. Pat Toomey, who helped start an Allentown-area restaurant chain before his 1998 election to Congress, "believes we should take a pause on the massive spending bills and switch gears to helping states safely reopen their economies," said a statement from his office. "Government spending can never be a substitute for a functioning economy."

Gerlach, the Allentown City Council member, said it's already clear to him that the federal government needs to do more.

"We're on fire right now, literally," said Gerlach, noting the violence that ravaged other cities following George Floyd's death in Minnesota. "So the last thing we need is for midsize cities, the majority of the country, to not be able to sustain themselves and provide for the people."

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Associated Press reporter Marc Levy in Harrisburg contributed to this report.

## 'Legendary' heralds loud, proud ball culture

By AMANDA LEE MYERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — FX's fictionalized hit show "Pose" introduced many to the underground world of ballroom culture, in which historically black and Latino LGBT youths compete in elaborate performances on a runway.

Now "Legendary" on HBO Max is serving up real ballroom battles to the mainstream, with competitors in eight "houses" vying to be declared the best and take home \$100,000. Judging the competition are recording artist Megan Thee Stallion, actress and activist Jameela Jamil, stylist and TV personality Law Roach, and ballroom legend Leiomy Maldonado.

During battles, competitors wear elaborate costumes, makeup and wigs. They vogue, dance like acrobats and spin like ice-skaters.

"It's like if ballet and break-dancing had a baby," said Jamil, best known for her role on "The Good Place."

But "Legendary" is not just about being fierce. It's about overcoming.

In the first episode, one of the competitors opens up about being ostracized from his family when he came out, a sad truth for many who turned to the ballroom community for acceptance.

"Growing up I already knew my mother wasn't accepting of my sexuality," Xa'Pariis Ebony says. "When I did decide to finally come out to her, I was put out. Like, I had to sleep in parks sometimes. But ballroom

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just really gave me a family. It really did teach me to be comfortable with who I am.”

The ballroom community not only offers a place where LGBT youth of color feel welcome but also powerful, Jamil said.

“These are people who are living a lifestyle that so much of our ignorant society shuns,” she said. “The fact that they are doing it as boldly, as loudly, as colorfully as possible, is so empowering.”

Although widely viewed as a big step by the ballroom community, “Legendary” has been criticized for allowing Jamil and Megan Thee Stallion to be judges, as opposed to others who are a part of the community.

Jamil in particular was singled out when HBO sent out a news release about the show that incorrectly identified her as the emcee. The competition’s emcee is Dashaun Wesley, a ballroom legend.

The backlash grew so much that Jamil worried that too much attention was on the controversy.

“I said to the show, I was like, ‘Do you think it would be better if I leave?’” she said. “And it was the ballroom community and it was Dashaun and Leiomy who got straight on the phone with me and they were like, ‘You’re not going anywhere.’ And the contestants like, grabbed one of the producers and were like, ‘Don’t let her leave,’ and it was because they don’t believe in ostracizing people. They believe in inclusion and not exclusion.”

And that, she said, was her “first big lesson of really experiencing the heart of ballroom.”

She defended her and Megan as judges, saying the show needed Hollywood names to get the proper attention it deserves.

“You need to make sure that you’re going to have eyeballs on a show and therefore you need people who have big followings,” she said. “And unfortunately, because of how our society is set up, the people with those big followings are often cis privileged people. So we are just here to try and do our service as good allies and open the door to let everyone else in.”

The show’s message of acceptance is so strong, one of the eight houses competing is comprised entirely of cis women.

Wesley said he was involved in making that decision, which also has faced criticism among the ballroom community.

“The powerful thing is that you get to see a house that’s filled cisgender women. You get to see a house that’s filled with nothing but gay men. You get to see a house that’s filled with a cisgendered woman, a Hispanic man, a black man, a drag queen and a trans woman,” Wesley said. “You get to see all genres of everything.”

The message: It doesn’t matter who you are as long as you can bring it to the runway.

Those involved with the show say they hope introducing ballroom culture to a broader audience leads to more understanding and acceptance of LGBT culture.

“There are two different types of people that I’m really looking forward seeing (the show),” Jamil said. “One, are the young kids who might be queer or trans themselves, who haven’t seen themselves reflected back on mainstream television being glamorized and glorified. I think it’s important for them to know that like, ‘Oh, maybe not in my hometown, but somewhere there is a place for me and there’s a community for me where I would be accepted.’”

Next, she said she can’t wait for parents of such children and “people who maybe feared this culture or thought there was something wrong or dirty or shameful about it” to see the show.

“They can see the beauty and the joy of it,” Jamil said. “And, you know, I think that a lot of ignorance and bigotry just comes from fear of the unknown. And so let’s get to know these people.”

## AP Exclusive: Police officers’ personal info leaked online

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Personal information of police officers in departments nationwide is being leaked online amid tense interactions at demonstrations across the U.S. over the police custody death of George Floyd and others, according to an unclassified intelligence document from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, obtained by The Associated Press.

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The document warns that the effort, known as "doxxing," could lead to attacks by "violent opportunists or domestic violent extremists" or could prevent law enforcement officials from carrying out their duties.

Multiple high-ranking police officials in a number of cities, including Washington, Atlanta, Boston and New York have had their personal information shared on social media, including their home addresses, email addresses and phone numbers, the report warns.

"At least one of the police commissioners was targeted for his alleged support of the use of tear gas to disperse protests," it says.

Police officials nationwide have spoken out lately saying they feel caught in the middle of trying to stop violent protests, and feel abandoned by lawmakers in the demand for police reform. Some have said they fear for their lives.

"Stop treating us like animals and thugs, and start treating us with some respect! We've been vilified. It's disgusting," New York State police union official Mike O'Meara said as lawmakers in New York State repealed a law known as Section 50-a that keeps police records secret.

But the demonstrations around the country have centered on the police use of excessive force in the killings of minorities. George Floyd, whose funeral was Tuesday, cried out that he couldn't breathe as a white officer in Minneapolis pressed his knee into the man's neck.

Floyd's death, caught on video, sparked widespread demonstrations and the debate over force.

The same words were used by Eric Garner in 2014 after he was placed in a choke-hold by police and later died.

Federal officials also identified posts that include specific personal information of several law enforcement officers in Kentucky and their family members, and included a link to a website that contained their full names, the names of their family members, home addresses, specific information about the vehicles they drive and online account login information, the report says.

A 26-year-old EMT, Breonna Taylor was killed by police who had served a no-knock search warrant at her Kentucky home on March 13 as part a of drug investigation. She was not the suspect they were seeking.

The personal information of another officer from San Jose, California, and his family was also posted online in a post that called for others to "do with this information what you will," the report said.

It is not illegal to post the personal information of law enforcement officers online, though many social media companies specifically prohibit its sharing as part of their terms of service.

The report warns that some of the information may be coming from officers' compromised email and other accounts, but some of the information may be from publicly available databases based on public records and social media sites.

Officers are being encouraged to increase their security settings on their accounts, like using multi-factor email authentication and strong passwords. The report also suggests avoid taking online quizzes or games that elicit personal information, to be wary of suspicious emails and not to post phone numbers online.

The report says the Department of Homeland security has "medium confidence that cyber actors will possibly continue to target law enforcement officers" with doxxing tactics "to undermine law enforcement's response to ongoing lawful protests."

## Friends say Gugino is a Catholic peace activist, not Antifa

By YONAT SHIMRON Religion News Service

(RNS) Is Martin Gugino an Antifa provocateur?

Or a beloved Catholic peace activist who was the victim of police brutality in Buffalo, New York?

A Tuesday morning (June 9) tweet from President Donald Trump suggested the former, drawing a wave of shock and outrage from friends of the 75-year-old activist who was shoved to the ground by Buffalo police during a protest last Thursday outside City Hall.

The incident, captured on video, went viral and has become symbolic of the kind of police brutality that has sparked calls for fundamental reforms to American policing. In the video, an officer is seen shoving Gugino, who falls to the sidewalk, hitting his head. As Gugino lies unmoving and bleeding, the officer who

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pushed him is seen hurrying away.

Gugino remains in the Erie County Medical Center in serious condition, though he is no longer in intensive care, a friend said.

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Buffalo's police commissioner suspended two Buffalo police officers involved in the incident without pay, prompting dozens of other officers to step down from the department's crowd control unit in protest. On Saturday two of the officers were charged with felony assault.

The president referred to the conservative news site One America News Network in making his unfounded claim.

"Buffalo protester shoved by Police could be an ANTIFA provocateur," Trump wrote. "75 year old Martin Gugino was pushed away after appearing to scan police communications in order to black out the equipment. @OANN I watched, he fell harder than was pushed. Was aiming scanner. Could be a set up?"

Friends of the retired computer programmer described Gugino as a devout Catholic and a graduate of Canisius High School, a private Jesuit school in Buffalo, who is a passionate advocate for multiple causes on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised. Gugino spent his retirement lending a hand to multiple causes, among them Black Lives Matter.

"Martin has a passion for social justice," said Mark Colville, who runs Amistad Catholic Worker in New Haven, Connecticut, and has known Gugino for years. "When he sees wrong he wants to be involved in making it right."

Colville said Gugino made multiple trips from his home in the Buffalo suburb of Amherst to New Haven — a six-and-a-half-hour drive— to help prepare and serve meals at Amistad, a house of hospitality that describes its mission as "follow(ing) Jesus in seeking justice for the poor."

Gugino never wanted to draw attention to his work, Colville said. He's a private person who lived alone. He cared for his mother until she died, and he recently lost his sister, too.

On Saturday, Colville drove up to Buffalo to see if he could visit his friend in the hospital. He was not allowed past the reception desk but instead did the next best thing. He went downtown to take Gugino's place at a protest on the street where videos had captured police knocking Gugino to the ground while clearing protesters away from City Hall.

"Martin is shy and reserved," Colville said. "He likes his privacy. He doesn't make a spectacle of himself. He likes to show up and be present. He likes to be involved in these movements for justice. But he doesn't do it in a self-promoting kind of way."

The two have worked for years to advocate for the closing of Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. detention camp in Cuba where terrorism suspects could be detained without process.

Gugino is active in Witness Against Torture, an organization formed in 2005 to protest the treatment of detainees on the base. Each January, group members travel to Washington, D.C., to fast and hold vigil outside the Department of Justice.

Much of the work was done on behalf of Muslim prisoners, many of whom were picked up by the CIA and taken to Guantanamo after the 9/11 terrorist strikes.

"People, including Martin, made connections between their own faith and the faith of people detained because of their own faith," said Matt Daloisio, a New York state public defender and one of the organizers of Witness Against Torture.

Daloisio and several others say they've been texting Gugino in the hospital and he's been responding with emoji hearts rather than texts.

Gugino's Twitter account and YouTube videos have been deactivated. He is represented by lawyer Kelly Zarcone, who said Tuesday, "We are at a loss to understand why the President of the United States would make such dark, dangerous, and untrue accusations against him."



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Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden tweeted in response to Trump that "there's no greater sin than the abuse of power," and Biden mentioned that he, like Gugino, is a Catholic.

Tom Casey, a retired civil engineer from Buffalo and a local coordinator for Pax Christi, an international Catholic peace movement, said the idea that Gugino is a provocateur is ludicrous. Gugino was certainly opinionated, Casey said, but always respectful of others.

"I have never heard him use a vile or angry word against anybody and I spent a lot of time talking to him," Casey said.

Gugino was also active on behalf of Black Lives Matter. After the 2014 killing of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old African American boy who was shot by a police officer, Gugino traveled to Cleveland to meet with Rice's parents. In 2016, Gugino participated in a protest in front of the Justice Department in which demonstrators called for murder charges against the officer who shot Rice.

Gugino's presence at the Black Lives Matter protest last week was typical of his activism. He is also active with the Western New York Peace Center and PUSH Buffalo, a coalition working on affordable housing.

This fall, Jericho Road, a community health clinic in Buffalo, featured Gugino in its newsletter's "donor spotlight." Asked why he gives, Gugino wrote: "In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said to clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and give drink to the thirsty."

"Martin is consistent," said Mary Anne Grady Flores, an Ithaca New York Catholic Worker who participated with Gugino in multiple protests against Hancock Field Air Force Base's use of remotely piloted drones to kill insurgents in Afghanistan and elsewhere. "He's a gentle giant, who is so articulate, so thoughtful

## Ex-judge says push to dismiss Flynn case is abuse of power

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former federal judge appointed to review the Justice Department's motion to dismiss criminal charges against President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn said there was evidence of a "gross abuse" of prosecutorial power and that the request should be denied.

Former U.S. District Judge John Gleeson said in a filing Wednesday that the government "has engaged in highly irregular conduct to benefit a political ally of the President." He urged the judge handling the case to deny the motion and argued that Flynn had committed perjury.

Gleeson was appointed by U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan in a special role to weigh in on the case, but it will ultimately be up to Sullivan and potentially an appeals court whether to accept the Justice Department's motion to drop the case.

Flynn pleaded guilty, as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, to lying to the FBI about conversations with the Russian ambassador to the United States during the presidential transition period.

In January, Flynn filed court papers to withdraw his guilty plea, saying federal prosecutors had acted in "bad faith" and broken their end of the bargain when they sought prison time for him.

Initially, prosecutors said Flynn was entitled to avoid prison time because he had cooperated extensively with the government, but the relationship with the retired Army lieutenant general grew increasingly contentious in the months before he withdrew his plea, particularly after he hired a new set of lawyers who raised misconduct allegations against the government.

But the Justice Department filed a motion last month to dismiss the case, saying the FBI had insufficient basis to question Flynn in the first place and that statements he made during the interview were not material to the broader counterintelligence investigation into ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Officials have said they sought to dismiss the case in the interest of justice, upon the recommendation of a U.S. attorney who had been appointed by Attorney General William Barr to review the handling of the Flynn investigation.

Gleeson slammed the Justice Department's motion to dismiss the case, saying the arguments from prosecutors were "riddled" with legal errors.

"The Government's ostensible grounds for seeking dismissal are conclusively disproven by its own briefs

filed earlier in this very proceeding,” Gleeson wrote. “They contradict and ignore this Court’s prior orders, which constitute law of the case. They are riddled with inexplicable and elementary errors of law and fact. And they depart from positions that the Government has taken in other cases.”

Sullivan also asked Gleeson to explore whether he should hold Flynn in “criminal contempt for perjury.”

As part of his plea, Flynn had to admit in court, under oath, that he lied to the FBI and violated federal law. It is a crime to lie under oath in court.

In the filing, Gleeson said it was clear that Flynn had committed perjury and should be punished but that it should be a factor considered at his sentencing, as opposed to additional charges being brought against him.

“This approach — rather than a separate prosecution for perjury or contempt — aligns with the Court’s intent to treat this case, and this Defendant, in the same way it would any other,” Gleeson wrote.

Gleeson was a federal judge in New York for more than two decades. Before becoming a judge, he had been a federal prosecutor and handled numerous high-profile cases, including the case against late Gambino crime family boss John Gotti. He’s been in private practice since 2016.

A federal appeals court is set to hear arguments Friday about Sullivan’s refusal to immediately dismiss the case. Flynn’s attorneys have asked the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to step in and force Sullivan to end to the case. They have also accused the judge of being biased, arguing he overstepped his authority when he did not immediately grant the Justice Department’s request to dismiss the case.

Sullivan has separately scheduled arguments on the dismissal motion for July 16.

## 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 21,600 have tested positive for the virus, and more than 730 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 .

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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 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>.

## Grammys make awards changes, address conflicts of interest

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Recording Academy is making changes to several Grammy Awards categories, including the often-debated best new artist title, and having nomination review committee members sign disclosure forms to prevent conflicts of interest.

The new rules announced Wednesday will affect the 63rd annual Grammy Awards, which will air live on Jan. 31, 2021.

The best new artist award has been criticized for decades, and the academy has tried to evolve with the ever-changing music industry by continually updating the category's rules. In recent years, the award has been scrutinized because the academy placed a song and album limit, disqualifying certain performers. But the new rules say, "there is no longer a specified maximum number of releases prohibiting artists from entering" the category.

The change will benefit younger artists, specifically rappers, who tend to release many singles and therefore did not qualify in recent years because they surpassed the 30-song limit. Whitney Houston and Lady Gaga missed out on being best new artist nominees because of the category's rules in the years they marked their breakthroughs.

The academy also said musicians invited to participate in a nomination review committee — in place to safeguard a specific genre's integrity and to serve as additional checks and balances — will have to agree

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to the terms of a conflict of interest disclosure form. Committee participants will have to reveal if they would benefit from an artist's nomination for that category, whether the ties are financial, familial or creative.

If a conflict is discovered, that person would not be allowed to sit on that committee that year.

Some of the new changes could be a response to former Recording Academy CEO Deborah Dugan, who was fired only months into her job and days before the 2020 Grammys, held in January. Dugan had said the awards show was rigged and muddled with conflicts of interest. Questions have loomed for years around the nominations process for the Grammys, but the doubts reached a new level following Dugan's comments.

The academy has said that nominees are selected from contenders voted into the top 20 in each category. But critics have called the voting less than transparent, because the choice of finalists happens behind closed doors. That has stirred claims that members of key nominating committees promote projects they worked on or projects they favor based on personal relationships.

The academy's board of trustees approved the new changes last month. The organization also said it is making its 66-page rules and guidelines book public for the first time, at Grammys.com, starting Wednesday.

Billie Eilish won five honors at the 2020 Grammys, including album, song and record of the year, along with best new artist. Songs and albums released between Sept. 1, 2019 and Aug. 31, 2020 will be eligible for nominations at the 2021 Grammys. There are 84 categories.

Other changes approved by the board:

— The best rap/sung performance Grammy will now be called best melodic rap performance. The category was originally titled best rap/sung collaboration and was established at the 2002 Grammys for collaborations between rappers and R&B or pop singers. For the 2017 Grammys, the academy renamed it and allowed solo artists who sing and rap on a song — from Drake to Chris Brown — to compete. The newly titled category, available to solo performances or collaborations, now "requires a strong and clear presence of melody combined with rap cadence, and is inclusive of dialects, lyrics or performance elements from non-rap genres including R&B, rock, country, electronic or more."

— The best urban contemporary album award, which debuted at the 2013 Grammys and represented R&B albums that fused elements of other genres, from rock to dance, has been renamed to best progressive R&B album. Qualified albums should "include the more progressive elements of R&B and may include samples and elements of hip-hop, rap, dance, and electronic music."

— The Latin pop album Grammy has expanded and been renamed to best Latin pop or urban album, while the best Latin rock, urban or alternative album will now be called best Latin rock or alternative album.

## 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 Stockholm, saying the 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 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 to rogue Swedish police with right-wing sympathies to 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 Wednesday in Stockholm.

"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 to the



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murder — 29 directly to 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 (Pettersson) 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."

Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lovin said the unsolved killing "is still a wound" in Sweden.

"The fact that a country's prime minister was murdered is a national trauma. I now have a hope that the wound can heal," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, a Social Democrat like Palme, told a separate news conference later Wednesday. "A thorough work has been carried out by the prosecutors and they have gone to the bottom of it. ... The best thing would have, of course, been through a conviction."

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.

Despite his aristocratic background, Palme 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 by some.

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 a drinking problem, Pettersson 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 thought they were describing the killer had in fact been describing him as he ran to catch up with police officers in pursuit of the assassin.

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

"To me, he was a calculating person. It was very smart of him to appear in the media because he could then say people who thought they saw him at the crime scene only had recognized him because they had seen him in the media," Pettersson told The Associated Press.

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.

Melander, the chief investigator, labeled the police effort into finding Palme's killer "one of the world's largest investigations" and compared it to probes into the 1963 murder of John F. Kennedy and the 1988 Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland.

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.

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A previous version of the story corrected the spelling of the prime minister's wife to Lisbet, not Lisbeth.

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Jan M. Olsen reported from Copenhagen.

## '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, said "the blame rests solely and squarely on the shoulders of the secretary of state." 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.

"Georgia has seen this before," Abrams told "CBS This Morning" on Wednesday. "Yesterday was the most egregious example."

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.

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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, he pushed unprecedented no-fault absentee access, paying to send an application to every Georgian on the active voter rolls. But no additional money was provided 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."

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

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 11, the 163rd day of 2020. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

On this date:

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, "discovered" the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1864, German composer Richard (REE'-hard) Strauss was born in Munich.

In 1936, Kansas Gov. Alfred "Alf" Landon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Cleveland.

In 1947, the government announced the end of sugar rationing for households and "institutional users" (e.g., restaurants and hotels) as of midnight.

In 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

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In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1970, the United States presence in Libya came to an end as the last detachment left Wheelus Air Base. (The anniversary of this event is celebrated as a holiday in Libya.)

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit "hate crimes" motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment; the court also ruled religious groups had a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services. The Steven Spielberg science-fiction film "Jurassic Park" opened in wide release two days after its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2007, Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, was arrested at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in a restroom sex sting. (Craig, who denied soliciting an undercover police officer, later pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and paid a fine.)

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

Ten years ago: Twenty campers in a southwestern Arkansas gorge died in a pre-dawn flash flood of the Little Missouri River. The FIFA World Cup opened in South Africa to the joyous sound of vuvuzelas; it was the first World Cup to be played in Africa.

Five years ago: Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. military's reach could extend even further into Iraq if the anti-Islamic State campaign were to gain momentum, and held out the possibility of a greater role for U.S. troops on the ground. "Free jazz" pioneer Ornette Coleman, 85, died in New York. Country singer-songwriter Jim Ed Brown, 81, died in Franklin, Tennessee. Actor Ron Moody, 91, best known for playing Fagin in the 1968 film "Oliver!," died in London.

One year ago: Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese man and permanent U.S. resident, was released after spending years in an Iranian prison on espionage charges; his release came amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program. At a House committee hearing, comedian Jon Stewart scolded Congress for failing to ensure that a victims' compensation fund set up after the 9/11 attacks never runs out of money. (A measure ensuring that the fund would remain permanent won final approval the following month and was signed into law by President Donald Trump.) In a landmark case for Africa, Botswana became the latest country to decriminalize gay sex; the country's High Court rejected laws punishing it with up to seven years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., is 90. Comedian Johnny Brown is 83. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 81. Singer Joey Dee is 80. Actor Roscoe Orman is 76. Actress Adrienne Barbeau is 75. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 71. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 71. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 70. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 68. Actor Peter Bergman is 67. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 64. Actor Hugh Laurie is 61. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 60. Singer Gioia (JOY'-ah) Bruno (Expose) is 57. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 54. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 54. Actress Clare Carey is 53. Actor Peter Dinklage is 51. Country musician Smilin' Jay McDowell is 51. Actor Lenny Jacobson is 46. Rock musician Tai Anderson (Third Day) is 44. Actor Joshua Jackson is 42. Americana musician Gabe Witcher (Punch Brothers) is 42. Christian rock musician Ryan ShROUT is 40. Actor Shia LaBeouf (SHY'-uh luh-BUF') is 34.

Thought for Today: "Forgetfulness is a form of freedom." — Khalil Gibran, American poet and artist (1883-1931).

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